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JUNE 15, 2023

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Turley photos by Kristin Rivers

(L to R) Danielle Bellefeuille and Laura Ross Gucik check out books during the Friends of the Library Book Sale at Wilbraham Public Library. Bellefeuille and Ross Gucik have attended book sales in the past and enjoyed the affordable prices and connecting with people at the library.

Friends of the Library Book Sale supports funding for programs

The event had huge turnouts throughout its duration

By Kristin Rivers
Staff Writer
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WILBRAHAM - Residents stopped by the library's Brooks Room from June 7 - 10 for the Wil-

braham Friends of the Library Book Sale.

The annual event is the Friends' biggest fundraiser of the year and supports funding for library programs.

Throughout the four-day event, residents purchased various books including fiction and nonfiction books, children's books, classics, cookbooks, self-help books, history books and many more.

Jen Banker serves on the Friends'

Board as a co-chair with fellow member Sue Magee and was "really grateful to the community" for their book donations and the turnouts.

Additionally, she appreciates the community-oriented, small-town feel of Wilbraham.

"It's just so great to see everyone looking at books, and then they run into a neighbor and they sit and talk for 10 minutes. I think this is

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New book shines light on maternal mental health

The proceeds support Empty Arms Bereavement Support

By Kristin Rivers
Staff Writer
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HAMPDEN - Jessica Petit, owner of The Restorative Wellness Center, is shining a light on maternal mental health awareness through her new book.

"A Woman's Journey: Postpartum Healing," shares stories from Petit and 15 other women about navigating deep heartache and emotional landscapes

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Submitted photo Jessica Petit

Jessica Petit, licensed mental health counselor and owner at The Restorative Wellness Center in Hampden, poses with her book "A Woman's Journey: Postpartum Healing." The book was released in May 2023 and is available for purchase on Amazon or Kindle.

Board of Selectmen presents employee certificates of appreciation

Also, updates on the new senior center project

By Kristin Rivers
Staff Writer
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WILBRAHAM - The Board of Selectmen presented employee certificates of appreciation on June 12 to three individuals for their years of outstanding service to the town.

The recipients were Karen Ball for 30 years as library director, David Graziano for 10 years as the town's tree warden and Roger Roberge II for 10 years serving on the Board of Assessors.

Chairman Theresa Goodrich presented the certificates to Ball, Graziano and Roberge II.

Next, Matt Villamaino from the Friends of the Senior Center

returned with updates on the new senior center.

He said "the senior center is coming along really, really well."

"We're on target for a spring 2024 grand opening," Villamaino said.

Villamaino then provided an update on the capital fundraising campaign.

"When I spoke with you at the end of the first quarter, we raised \$100,000 for the capital campaign and, as of this morning, we have \$170,000 in cash and pledges, so we're doing very well. It's a marathon," Villamaino said. "We will get there."

Villamaino shared additional fundraising numbers: \$233,000 raised in the last 12 years through various fundraisers organized by the Friends including dine-outs, craft fairs, raffles and more and \$50,000 earmarked from the state.

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Turley photo by Kristin Rivers

(L to R) Board of Assessors member Roger Roberge II, Wilbraham Public Library Director Karen Ball and Town of Wilbraham Tree Warden David Graziano hold up their employee certificates of appreciation alongside Wilbraham Board of Selectmen Clerk Michael Squindo and Chairman Theresa Goodrich during the June 12 meeting.

Hampden to adopt new meeting rules after Southborough Selectboard case

By Dalton Zbierski
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HAMPDEN – On Monday evening, Town Administrator Bob Markel announced that he would be updating the town's board and committee handbook to reflect the "Southborough case."

"The Southborough case set new rules for public meetings," Markel said, referring to a March ruling that upheld free speech in the public speaking portion of public meetings.

During a December 2018 Southborough Selectboard meeting, the board found Louise Barron out of line when she spoke, accusing Selectmen of violating the Commonwealth's open meeting laws and misappropriating funds like "drunken sailors," according to WBUR Boston.

Selectman Daniel Kolenda described her words as slanderous, as she had violated the town's meeting policy, which demanded "all remarks and dialogue in public meetings be respectful, courteous and free of rude, personal or slanderous remarks."

The policy also condemned use of shouting or inappropriate language.

In 2020, Barron, and two others, filed suit against the Board of Selectmen, the Selectmen themselves and the town of Southborough. The complainants noted that Kolenda turned off his microphone that evening and verbally attacked Barron and threatened to have her removed from the meeting space.

In early March, Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court justices ruled that "such civility restraints on the content of speech at a public comment session in a public meeting are forbidden."

It also noted that civility is encouraged but cannot be required.

Markel said that Hampden must now respond to the groundbreaking case.

"What we're trying to do is to provide instructions to boards and committees as to how to conduct their meetings in the light of the Southborough case where certain amount of rude behavior, which caused a woman to be ejected, was reversed by the supreme judicial court," he said.

Markel noted that the language will certainly encourage good and peaceful behavior, but he said encouragement is all that can be given.

"That's as far as you can go unless someone takes action as opposed to speech," he said. "Action is not covered by this case. If you are disruptive to a meeting by some action you take that doesn't count. You can be ejected from the meeting and a police officer can be summoned."

Markel said the Massachusetts Municipal Association is adjusting to the guidelines and will inform municipalities of what is acceptable and what isn't.

"Essentially, these are the guidelines that are being considered by the Mass Municipal Association and will be conveyed to all the cities and towns with their recommendation," he said.

Robert Sessions, Boston Tea Party participant, to be honored June 25

His grave lies in Old Cemetery, Hampden

By Dalton Zbierski
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HAMPDEN – A total of 116 people are documented to have participated in the Boston Tea Party on Dec. 16, 1773, although an accurate count may never be known given the nature of the event.

One of those men, Robert Sessions, came to rest in Hampden's Old Cemetery. On June 25 at 11 a.m., local town and elected officials will join the Boston Tea Party Ships & Museum in placing a brass marker on his grave.

"The Cemetery Commission was asked by the Boston Tea Party Ships & Museum if it would be alright to place a brass marker on Robert Sessions' grave. Robert Sessions was a participant in the Boston Tea Party, and there were only about (116) total participants. He was working in Boston at the time," Connie Witt said.

Witt presented to the Board of Selectmen on the evening of June 12. Witt is Chair of Hampden's Historical Commission but was acting independent of the commission when she requested that the Selectmen be present in the cemetery on June 25.

"I thought it would be nice if there were some town representatives there, and I would like to have one of the Selectmen speak," she said.

Sessions was born in Pomfret, CT in 1752 and later served in the Revolutionary Army, earning the rank of Lieutenant, according to the museum. Following the war he moved to Western Massachusetts, settling in an area that was then Wilbraham and is today Hampden.

Sessions served as a justice of the peace, town clerk, treasurer and town meeting moderator for the town of Wilbraham, the museum said.

"He served in just about every office, and continuing generations of Sessions were quite prominent in town and served the town and state," Witt said, noting that Elizabeth Sessions funded the construction of Hampden's Town House nearly a century ago.

Given Robert Sessions' close ties to Wilbraham, Witt believes it is appropriate to invite Wilbraham's elected officials on June 25.

"I was also thinking that it might be a nice gesture to invite the Wilbraham Selectmen because this was a part of Wilbraham then, and he served the town of Wilbraham as town clerk and five terms as rep. on the general court. He was a hard-working man," she said.

Witt noted that Sessions' home at 300 Wilbraham Road still stands today.

Sessions passed away in 1836 in present-day Hampden, and his grave site at Old Cemetery was recently revisited.

"Using CPA money, we restored many of the stones (in Old Cemetery) with a stone conservator who was approved by Mass Historical Commission," Witt said. "(Sessions') stone was marble, which was popular in the 1830s, and it had just crumbled. There were five pieces of it maybe, and the conservator said it is irreparable."

Molly Pruitt, 93, of Texas, a descendant of Sessions, paid to have the monument replicated and approved the brass marker that the museum will leave in several days.

"There's a nice stone there now, and he has an essay on the marker and all of that," Witt said.

The public is encouraged to attend the ceremony at 11 a.m. on June 25.



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School Committee hears presentation on leadership practices

Topics include subcommittees and public input policies

By Kristin Rivers
Staff Writer
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WILBRAHAM - The School Committee heard a presentation from the Massachusetts Association of School Committees on June 1 on best leadership practices.

The presentation was conducted by Liz Lafond, field director for MASC.

MASC is a member-driven association helping Massachusetts school leaders through programs and services including professional development workshops, superintendent search services, education and school advocacy support and more.

Throughout the presentation, Lafond shared a range of topics from guidelines for agendas and subcommittee roles to suggestions for public input and best leadership practices for the committee.

"We're doing an important job on behalf of the young folks, the students who attend the school district that live in your two communities," Lafond said.

Secretary and Clerk Sean Kennedy asked about policies that have never been enforced, implemented or reflect current changes.

Lafond said this is where the policy subcommittee comes in.

"I think that when you recognize that you have a policy that's severely out of date and something different is happening, the best thing you can do is get it in front of policy and start to work on something that best reflects what actually happens," Lafond said.

Vice Chair Maura Ryan asked Lafond about best practices for residents identifying themselves during public input.

"I know in the past that the requirement is if you're going to make a public comment, you identify your name and I believe it's your address," Ryan said. "Is there a requirement for the address or is that what we set forth as our policy?"

Lafond said the committee sets



Turley photo by Dalton Zbierski

The School Committee met with representatives of MASC on June 1.

forth the requirement.

"Because public comment is not required under the Open Meeting Law, you can set sort of those grandeurs under which somebody can speak. You might say name and town of resident, name and affiliation to the school district is another way that you don't have to give away somebody's address or the town that they live in," Lafond said.

Sherrill Caruana asked about the role of emails.

"Does policy for public input include emails from individuals?" Caruana said.

Lafond said the committee can accept emails if people attend meetings virtually, adding the policy needs to be clear in the agendas.

"If you also want to accept emails, in your agenda you would clearly state a public comment period and that public comment could be accepted by email to a certain person, likely Erin Dowding, by a certain time on a certain date. Then those public comments that come via email would either be read into the record or attached into the record," Lafond said.

On subcommittees, Kennedy also asked about minutes approval.

"So I'm in a subcommittee. We have the minutes. Do we have to approve the minutes to bring it back to the full committee?" Kennedy asked.

Lafond explained "some committees do that" but they don't have to "because they're going to get approved at the full board level where those subcommittee members sit."

She added they may need to assign a subcommittee member to make sure minutes get completed, citing a School Committee that did not have executive session minutes done for 15 years.

The policy is within 30 days or after three meetings for approvals.

"It's the body's responsibility to complete minutes, not a staff person, is what the Attorney General says," Lafond said.

For meeting minutes, Lafond also suggested the School Committee post the packets online for the community.

"People care about the work that you're doing and it is more transparent to folks to understand what you're talking about so they know if they might want to comment on it," Lafond said. "It's just a matter of being transparent with the community."

Correction

In last week's edition, a story regarding a Hampden dog hearing misspelled the name of Jim Gillen. It also misspelled Wehr Road. These are the proper spellings. Thank you for your patience.



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\$45 per year pre-paid
(\$50 out of state)

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(L to R) Wilbraham Friends of the Library Board Members and Co-Chairs Jen Banker and Sue Magee hold boxes of donated books for sale during the Friends of the Library Book Sale at Wilbraham Public Library.



Cookbooks, crafts and hobby books were some of many offerings for residents to purchase during the Friends of the Library Book Sale at Wilbraham Public Library.



Residents peruse boxes of books during the Friends of the Library Book Sale at Wilbraham Public Library. The books were donated by residents from June 2-5 ahead of the event.



A close-up of children's books available for purchase sale during the Friends of the Library Book Sale at Wilbraham Public Library.

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what people love about the small-town feel of Wilbraham and the community feel," Banker said.

Banker joined the Friends when a friend posted about the group on social media a couple of years ago. She was curious as she visited the library all the time with her family.

She explained the Friends has single, couple and family memberships.

"I then went to a meeting or two and I started volunteering at some of the events, got to know them and they asked me to come to a couple of meetings, so I decided it was a really great cause," Banker said.

Danielle Bellefeuille and Laura Ross Gucik have attended book sales in the past.

Bellefeuille looked at fiction and romance books while Ross-Gucik checked out medicine and science books.

Ross Gucik lives in Wilbraham and comes to the library often.

"I try to get all of my books (here) instead of paying for them. I always try the library first," Ross-Gucik said.

Bellefeuille also checks out books at the library, appreciating the connections between it and the libraries in South Hadley and Mount Holyoke College.

She enjoys the book sale's affordable prices.

"I'll try to look for books I see at Barnes & Noble that cost a lot more. It's nice some of them are like hardcover, really good condition, so they're just as good as new," Bellefeuille said.

Ross-Gucik wants the community to know the library "is amazing" and "they put on so many great community events."

"There's a lot more going on at the library than you would think. I think everybody can find some-



A collection of paperback fiction books in varying genres were on sale during the Friends of the Library Book Sale at Wilbraham Public Library.

thing to enjoy," Ross Gucik said.

Bellefeuille added the book sales "are worth checking out" if you don't read a book more than once as she does.

"Books now are so expensive. I go to Barnes & Noble and it's like \$20 or \$30 a book. If you're only just going to read it once, it's not really worth it. This is a really fun hobby for me now," Bellefeuille said.

Bellefeuille and Ross Gucik also encourage young people to visit their local libraries.

"It's also a great place to meet people and come to events," Ross Gucik said. "There's just a lot of ways to connect."

"It's definitely a great way to immerse yourself in your local community. At Wilbraham & Monson Academy we would come here for senior tech help," Bellefeuille said. "So it's just a good way to know the people that are all different ages in your community, not just necessarily high school or college."

Banker wants the community to know the Friends and library do these events for them and are always looking for more members.

Additionally, she hopes to spread the word about the Friends.

"If you love your library, come and support it," Banker said.

To learn more about the Friends, visit <https://www.wilbrahamlibrary.org/friends.asp>.

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BOARD from page 1

“So we’re at \$453,000. We still have a little ways to go, and we’re cautiously optimistic,” Villamaino said.

Villamaino next broke down the list of donors and supporters from mid-April, including Country Bank, Mr. and Mrs. Erickson and Polish National Credit Union.

The biggest donation was \$25,000 from Monson Savings Bank.

“I’d like to thank Dan Moriarty from Monson Savings Bank for your partnership in helping us to reach our goal that is going to help the town provide much-needed equipment, furniture and supplies and so forth for the senior center,” Villamaino said.

Villamaino added the community will have the opportunity to learn more about the capital campaign and how they can support the project.

“We have scheduled two informational meetings for all town residents and businesses to come and hear about the capital campaign, why we’re doing it, what we hope to raise and so forth,” Villamaino said. “Paula Dubord is going to be there as well to talk about the senior center itself and what is going on there and the different rooms and so forth.”

Villamaino said there is a poster in the town hall’s foyer and another going up in the library to help spread the word.

“Awareness is a huge thing in accomplishing our goal,” Villamaino said.

The two informational meetings will take place on June 26 at 6 p.m. at the senior center and on June 27 at 2 p.m. in the library’s Brooks Room.

Lastly, an item presented at the June 5 meeting was rescheduled.

This week, the board planned to meet with Manuel Amusements LLC for a follow-up meeting on the upcoming Wilbraham Carnival for July 21 - 23 regarding their updated name change and a letter of permission for the use of a private property.

The proposed event takes place in front of the Scantic River Valley YMCA.

Town Administrator Nick Breault provided the update before the discussion took place.

“To date, we have not received the letter of permission from the owner of the property, so if the board goes forward with it, we don’t have that permission letter,” Breault said.

Breault presented the board with two suggestions: table the meeting for June 26 and see if the letter of permission is received at that time or approve the proposal pending receiving the letter.

The board motioned to table the follow-up meeting for June 26.

The food truck annual license proposal was not on this week’s agenda.

Informational meetings planned to raise funds for new senior center accessories

WILBRAHAM – The Friends of Wilbraham Seniors have undertaken a major Capital Fundraising Campaign to purchase essential items and accessories needed for the new Senior Center, which is planned to open in Spring 2024.

Sponsored by FWS, two public informational meetings will be held to explain the campaign and how individuals and businesses can support the new Senior Center. Meetings will be held Monday, June 26, 6 p.m. at the Wilbraham Senior Center, and Tuesday, June 27 2 p.m. at the Library Brooks Room. Because seating is limited at both locations, advanced registration for both dates is suggested. You may register at the Senior Center or call 596-8379. Coffee and dessert will be provided. The FWS have set an ambitious goal of \$750,000 to purchase fixtures, furnishings, equipment and accessories like tables, chairs, desks, furniture, bookcases, kitchen supplies, exercise equipment, benches, elevated planters, TV monitors, rocking chairs, games and more.

In addition, the Friends are looking to raise funds for new and expanded programs at the Senior Center.

According to Matt Villamaino, president of FWS, “Your support is vital in not only helping the Friends reach our goal to help make our new home a truly meaningful and comfortable destination, but also to create a lasting legacy that you or your business wholeheartedly support our seniors in Wilbraham!” Donors who contribute to the Capital Campaign will have naming opportunities with plaques for different Senior Center rooms and various items like benches, furniture, planters, bricks, rocking chairs, to name a few. All recognition plaques will be personalized with the donor’s inscription such as “In Memory of”, or simply “your name(s)”, and will be affixed to the items.

If your group, club or organization would like a meeting on a different date, contact the Friends. For more information, email Friends01095@gmail.com or visit their new website at www.FriendsOfWilbrahamSeniors.com

Founded in 1985, the FWS is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) corporation whose mission is to support the seniors in Wilbraham and their programs.

Friends of Wilbraham Seniors to sponsor Arts and Craft Fair June 17

LUDLOW – The Friends of Wilbraham Seniors will sponsor an Arts and Craft Fair at The Ludlow Elks Club on Saturday, June 17 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Over 30 artisans and crafters with loads of gifts ideas like handmade cards, sewing projects, wreaths, jewelry, pottery soaps and much

more. Plus over 25 raffles. You do not need to be present to win. Hot dogs, hamburgers and refreshments are available. The Ludlow Elks is located at 69 Chapin St. All proceeds to benefit the Friends Senior Assistance fund. For more information, contact Ann Marie Gaudette at 599-4803

Soil testing to occur at the Wilbraham Farmer’s Market

WILBRAHAM – On June 28, pH soil testing is being conducted by the Western MA Master Gardeners from 2-4 p.m. at the Wilbraham Main Street Farmer’s Market, 500 Main St., Wilbraham. (in front of the United Church).

Provide one cup of dry soil collected from four corners of your garden in a plastic bag that is labeled with the garden location,

your name and phone number or email. This is a pH test to determine alkalinity with recommendations for amendments. A \$2 donation is requested for each test.

BBB Scam Alert: Shoppers beware of Facebook Marketplace cons

By Paula Fleming
pffleming@boston.bbb.org

Facebook Marketplace can be a great place to find deals on items for sale in your neighborhood. But like any online classified site, watch out for warning signs before handing over money. BBB is seeing reports of Facebook Marketplace scams in BBB Scam Tracker, especially for big-ticket items like used cars and RVs.

How the scam works

You are shopping on Facebook Marketplace and spot a listing that looks like a good deal, so you contact the seller. The seller replies by saying that she or he is out of the country, in the military, or otherwise unavailable. Instead, the person tells you they are using eBay, Amazon, or another reputable third-party company to sell and ship the item.

The seller assures you that you will have a chance to see and test drive the vehicle before committing to a purchase. However, you must first wire money or send funds via pre-paid debit card to “Amazon” or “eBay.” They will act as an escrow service. If you are unhappy with your purchase, you can simply return it for a full refund. Since you have confidence in the site being used for escrow, you agree.

Unfortunately, both the third-party service and the seller are a con. The car or other item doesn’t exist. Some scammers have even gone as far as creating fake invoices from “Amazon” or “eBay,” stealing their logos to make the invoices look real.

How to avoid scams on Facebook Marketplace:

Always meet the seller and see the item for sale before purchasing. This will help you avoid most scams on Facebook Marketplace. This is also true for housing rentals. If you can’t tour the house or apartment before renting it, it’s likely not available.

Avoid deals involving shipping or escrow services. This scam is only one take on this trend. Avoid them by purchasing directly from the seller.

Report scams to Facebook. If you’ve encountered a scam on Facebook Marketplace, report them to Facebook.

Check BBB Tips: Many sales scams use similar techniques. Check out tips on BBB.org/scamtips to learn more.

For more information

For more ways to protect yourself from social media shopping scams, see BBB’s tips for smart shopping online. You can also find more general tips at 10 Steps to avoid scams.

If you’ve been the victim of a social media ad scam, share your experience at BBB Scam Tracker. Your report could help other consumers avoid falling victim to similar scams.

Note: eBay and Amazon are BBB Accredited Businesses.

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VIEWPOINTS

The dialogue of democracy needs tending

There are so many things I worry about these days. Are we going to default on our debts? Can we adapt to the accumulating impact of climate change? How are we going to handle the dangers posed by China and Russia?

But bigger than all of those is this: Can we as a nation confront those challenges by arriving, together, at reasonable solutions? Or to put it another way, do we even know any more how to carry on a public dialogue about the issues we face and how to resolve them?

Because I worry – a lot – that we’re losing our ability to engage in the reasoned dialogue that democracy demands of us. The evidence surrounds us: the hot-tempered dogmatism that’s rampant on social media, the take-no-prisoners rhetoric of cable commentators, the shallow political debate carried on by everyone from pundits trying to gin up an audience to politicians who should know better, the widespread impatience with others’ viewpoints, the shrill and even offensive language that permeates public debate – you know the problem as well as I do.

And it is a problem.

If Americans lose faith that our democracy is up to the task of addressing our challenges because we’re incapable of holding a discussion that isn’t distorted by spin, misleading studies, grassroots manipulation, untrustworthy media and political leaders who wouldn’t publicly recognize a fact if it smacked them in the forehead, then the travails of the last few years will seem like a cakewalk.

So, I have some suggestions. Because in the end, if we want the quality of public dialogue to improve, then it’s up to us to improve it – and



then let our political leaders know that we expect more than political posturing that produces inadequate solutions to difficult problems.

Living in a democracy takes work, and that applies to all of us, from voters who cast their ballot every few years to neighbors who roll up their sleeves and try to improve their communities to elected officials whose job it is to decide the course of their town or state or country.

Here are basic principles we need to keep in mind:

Don’t fear differences or dissent. They’re inevitable, and they are vital to looking at challenges from all sides.

Advocacy and even conflict have their place in a democracy, but in the end, we resolve differences and break gridlock through discussion and deliberation.

Which means that the goal is not to highlight or inflame our political differences, but to resolve and reconcile them. The highest good should be to search for compromise, where everyone is at least a partial winner.

Remember that political differences may be stark, but that doesn’t mean they’re irreconcilable.

Focus on facts. They’re the starting point for level headed debate and effective policy. As

citizens, it’s our job to find trustworthy sources of information, question our own biases, and discern when we’re being misled; as politicians, to strive always to seek the truth about the facts.

View one another as neighbors, fellow community members or colleagues who all want the same thing: what’s best for our country and for where we live. Find common ground and build trust from there.

It is always worth the time to understand others’ viewpoints – and to talk. You may not just find common ground, but ways to improve your own ideas. And when you do search for commonalities, talk about common concerns first and differences second.

Focus on the common good. Do not speculate on rivals’ motivations or demonize them. Focus on their ideas – and see them as just as human as you are.

Sometimes drama can be effective, but always maintain civility and convey respect for people who think differently from you.

Finally, always keep in mind that you may be wrong. The world is complicated and solutions to its challenges are never perfect or straightforward.

Lee Hamilton is a Senior Advisor for the Indiana University Center on Representative Government; a Distinguished Scholar at the IU Hamilton Lugar School of Global and International Studies; and a Professor of Practice at the IU O’Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs. He was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 34 years.

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The Wilbraham-Hampden Times is published every Thursday by Turley Publications, Inc., 24 Water St., Palmer, Mass. 01069. Telephone (413) 283-8393, Fax (413) 289-1977.

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Correction Policy The TIMES will gladly correct factual errors that appear in this paper and can be substantiated. Corrections or clarifications will always appear on the editorial pages. To request a correction, send information in an e-mail or mailed communication to the editor at the above address listed above.

The Wilbraham-Hampden TIMES is published every Thursday by Turley Publications, Inc. One year out of town subscriptions are available at \$45, out of state \$50 by calling 800-824-6458 Ext. 201. The deadline for submission of news material, letters to the editor and photos is Monday at 12 p.m. The TIMES is not responsible for submitted photos.



The ovenbird gets its name from the type of nest it builds, which looks like a Dutch oven.

They place the nest on the ground and it has a domed roof over the nest of grasses and rootlets. The entrance is a small slit.

The female lays three to six white eggs with brown and gray marks. They inhabit mature deciduous or mixed forests. They eat insects, worms and spiders. They walk on the ground and fall on branches and poke under leaves looking for food.

An Oakham resident has ovenbirds in her yard. She hears them making a sharp “chip” call.

The ovenbird is six inches long and has an olive-brown back. Its breast and belly with white with heavy dark stripes. The ovenbird crown is orange bordered by two dark brown stripes.

Barred owl

An Oakham resident saw a barred owl in her yard on April 28. She said in an email, “I had a surprise visitor this evening, a beautiful barred owl sat on my deck railing for quite a while. He looked all around before flying up to a maple tree. He sat in the tree for several minutes before going into the woods at the edge of my yard. I finally saw what he was after. He was tracking a squirrel.” The owl and squirrel went tree to tree.

Other birds

The same resident sent me an email on May 3 to say she got her first hummingbird on May 2. A friend in Barre told her that her neighbors already had hummingbirds so the Oakham resident put out feeders.

She was glad she already had

her feeder up when the first hummingbird appeared.

She said, “For the first time in 31 years of living here, I got my first bluebirds. I bought mealworms and set up my first tray feeder ever. I cannot get over all the birds who have gone to the tray feeder who have been ground eaters, morning doves, juncos and even a robin.

Leucistic rose breasted grosbeak

A Palmer resident sent a photo of a Leucistic rose breasted grosbeak at her feeder. The grosbeak, a

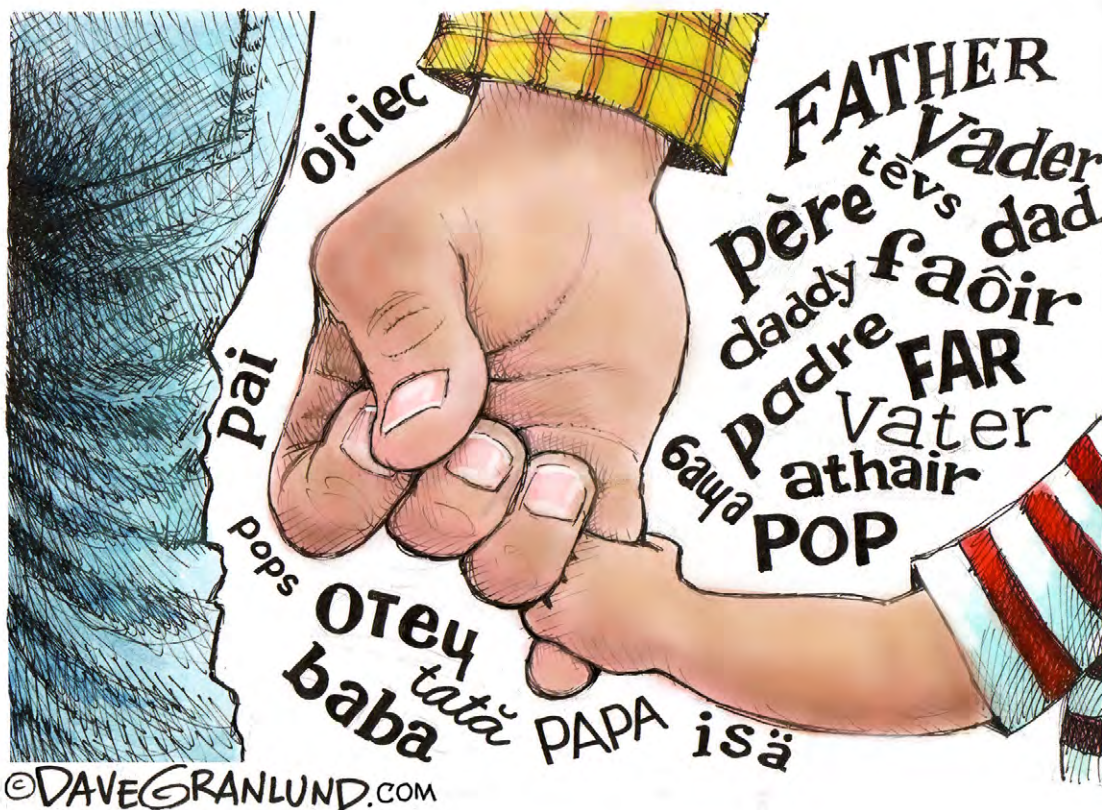
Please see BACKYARD, page 15

Letters to the Editor Thank you sponsors!

The 11th annual Run for Rice’s 5k Road Race was held June 3 in Wilbraham. We had 161 runners complete the course and everyone enjoyed this traditional community event, which serves as the sole fundraiser for maintenance and stewardship of the Rice Nature Preserve under the guidance of the Minnechaug Land Trust. We couldn’t put on this event without our runners, walkers, and, most importantly, our sponsors. The Run for Rice’s 5k Race Committee would like to thank the following for their support and encourage everyone to patronize their businesses – they are all the best at what they do. Christ the King – Episcopal Church opens their doors to us every year for parking, registra-

tion, starting line and use of their facilities; Rice Fruit Farm and the Maloni Family offer us the use of their property for our beautiful finish area and a free ice cream to all registered participants; NEPM provides the locally-famous classic race t-shirts. We also thank the offices of David G. Carlson, Attorney-at-Law; Luso Federal Credit Union; Louis & Clark Medical Supply; Raymond R. Houle Construction, Inc.; Jeffrey C. Russo, DMD; PeoplesBank; Marisol Franco, Coldwell Banker Realty; Bright Sails Consulting; BLTees Inc.; and Timbrebrook Lodge. We’ll see you next year!

Run for Rice’s 5k Road Race Committee



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Monthly highlights for June at the Hampden Senior Center:

HAMPDEN – Reservations for special events and Grab & Go Dinners will be taken on the first business day of the month, on a first-come, first-serve basis. All other reservations will be accepted anytime.

HELP US STOCK OUR SHELVES with Toilet Paper!

Thank you to those that donated shampoo last month. Every month we will target a different item to fill our shelves.

D & R FARM:

Winter Farm Share, PICK-UP is Wednesday, June 28 at 9:30 a.m.

Summer Farm Share, Starts Wednesday, July 5 at 9:30 a.m.

FREE with SNAP/HIP if you qualify! If you do not qualify for SNAP/HIP you may purchase a share for \$40 cash per month. If interested, contact Wendy ASAP to get your application in! Shares are limited. Please call Wendy at 566-5588, or email outreach@hampdenma.gov to sign up.

Drumming & Movement with Tara Six-week session on Wednesdays

starting Wednesday, June 14 through July 19, 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Cost is \$25 per person if paid in full and includes one free class. Or, \$5 per class as a drop-in, space pending. Call ahead to schedule a drop-in class. Space is limited.

The Longest Day, June 21

The Longest Day is the day with the most light — the summer solstice. On June 21, people from across the world will fight the darkness of Alzheimer's through fundraising activities. For a donation of \$5 or greater, you will receive a lantern to shine a light for a loved one living with Alzheimer's. We invite you to bring your lantern to our Longest Day events to remember and honor those we fight to find a cure for.

Lanterns are available now at the Hampden and Pleasant View Senior Centers.

Events will be held at the following two locations:

Hampden Senior Center at 7:30 p.m. Pleasant View Senior Center at 8 p.m. 104 Allen Street, Hampden, MA 328 North Main Street, East Longmeadow, MA Please call to sign up: Hampden at 566-5588, Pleasant View at 525-5346

Donations for the lanterns support the Tri Town Walk to End Alzheimer's Team consisting of Hampden, East Longmead-

ow, and Longmeadow Senior Centers.

Summer Kick-Off Luncheon, Thursday, June 22 at noon

Hot Dog with Bun, Baked Beans, Italian Pasta Salad, and Dessert!

Lunch is provided by Greater Springfield Senior Services: Suggested donation of \$2.00 per meal.

Music with audience participation performed by: Gary & Natalie Jones/Father & Daughter Duo!

Sponsored by the Polish National Credit Union and Bluebird Estates

Please call 566-5588 to sign up. Taking reservations beginning June 1st.

Introduction to Ukulele Workshop, Friday, June 23 at 1 p.m.

Instructor Chris Foe from The Community Music School of Springfield will begin to teach you the necessary skills to master this accessible and charming instrument. This workshop is relaxed, but highly engaging, and designed to start you on the path of making music. The cost is \$5 per person. Please call 566-5588 to reserve your spot now. Space is limited.

Grab and Go Dinner, Thursday, June 29, pick up is 2 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Sweet Sausage Grinders with Peppers and Onions, Pasta Salad, and Dessert. \$5 per person. Please call 566-5588 to order your dinner. Taking reservations beginning June 1st.

Liz from the Hampden County Sheriff's Department will be here Friday, June 30 at noon

Lunch and learn session to discuss the following programs and why they are important for you and first responders:

File of Life Program

Is Your Number Up? (Is your house # visible from the street?)

Lock Box Program

Lunch is provided by GSSSI. Shrimp Fried Rice, Oriental Blend Vegetables, Whole Wheat Roll, and Mandarin Oranges. Suggested donation of \$2.00 per meal. Please call 566-5588 to reserve your spot.

The Friends of Hampden Senior Citizens is looking to fill two openings on the Board of Directors. If you are interested in joining the group, or you have any questions, please call Claudia Kapinos at 566-8896.

The Friends is a non-profit organization established to assist in fundraising efforts to support programs and activities of the Hampden Senior Center.



Summer is here and it is time to talk about dehydration. Not the most happy topic, I know, but our risk increases dramatically at this time of year due to increased temperatures and more outdoor activities to enjoy. As we age, we are prone to dehydration for several reasons. A study found that up to 40% of older adults may be chronically underhydrated, meaning our liquid intake is never quite enough to make our bodies work efficiently.

What is dehydration? It means not taking in enough fluids to meet the body's needs. Our bodies need water to digest food, lubricate our joints and muscles and keep our nerves functioning well. Risks of dehydration include urinary tract infections, heart problems, kidney failure and heat stroke due to the inability to sweat and so regulate body temperature. We can also include risk of falls since dehydration can cause weakness and dizziness.

Why are we prone to dehydration? First, both thirst and appetite tend to diminish with age. That means you might not feel thirsty even if your body is craving water, or you may drink less than you need. Many of us confuse hunger and thirst, eating when we really just need fluids. Our body composition changes over time, so we have less water in our bodies to start. And many of us are on medications for blood pressure, heart disease and other conditions that cause us to lose water from our bodies more easily. If you have diabetes, high blood sugars cause your body to make more urine to flush it out. Some folks drink less in summer because their feet or ankles swell; this can actually be a sign of dehydration since your body is holding onto water because it isn't getting enough. It sounds strange, I know, but our bodies actually release more of that swelling when we drink more water.

How do we know if we are getting dehydrated? The earliest sign is urinating less frequently or having dark colored urine. Your urine should look clear or almost clear

most of the time (think pale lemonade not apple cider). Tiredness or feeling weak is another very common sign along with headaches and dizziness. In fact, if you often feel as if you need an afternoon nap, you may simply need to drink more water during the morning. As it progresses, folks get irritable, confused and can get muscle cramps. If you are doing any outdoor activities from gardening to walking you should drink an extra glass of water for every hour or so you are active outside, especially when temperatures get over 80 degrees.

How to stay hydrated? There are many ideas about how much water to drink daily. I think the color of your urine, your energy level and how often you use the bathroom are the best rules. It is not one size fits all. There are simple ways to keep your fluid intake adequate. Choose foods high in water content such as watermelon, cucumbers, berries and tomatoes. Keep a water bottle with you and take sips whenever you think of it, or during commercials if watching TV. Reduce alcohol intake; alcohol is a diuretic which means it causes your body to eliminate water. Make drinking water a part of your routine- before breakfast, after every meal, after each change in activity. Make the water interesting by adding lemon, apple, cucumber, mint or berries. There are also additives in the supermarket to flavor water. Watch for added sugar or other ingredients though. I have recently found some teabag style flavoring with little to no calories made from dried fruits and herbs in the tea aisle at the supermarket. I simply drop a bag into my water bottle and it is good for several refills. Or add a little juice to your water bottle to flavor it. I find a bit of cranberry juice and a lime slice tastes pretty fancy!

As always, feel free to email at seniorinfo2021@gmail.com or call at 596-2800 ext 315 if you have any questions.

Diane Weston, RN BSN

Senior Center Building Committee

Genealogy series at the Wilbraham library

WILBRAHAM – Have you already searched Ancestry and want to know what else the Wilbraham library has to offer in your family history research? Join Assistant Library Director Mary Bell in discovering the genealogy resources available, both in-library only and at home.

Each session will cover a different product, and participants can come to one or all three. Here are the dates:

Fold 3 (military), Newspapers.com, and HeritageQuest - Friday, June 30 at 3 p.m.

FamilySearch.org - Friday, July 7 at 3 p.m.

American Ancestors - Friday, July 14 at 3 p.m.

The sessions are designed to give a broad overview of searching records in each database, and be interactive with searches that Bell will perform based on the audience's

questions as well as her own research.

"Ancestry Library Edition has by far been our most popular genealogy research database," said Bell. "I designed this series to dig into more of what we offer, whether it be a War of 1812 pension through Fold 3 or Mayflower descendant research in American Ancestors. Each product has its own unique features and records."

All of the products covered are available in-library during regular library hours; HeritageQuest and FamilySearch are accessible remotely.

This program is free and open to the public. Sign-ups are going on now.

For more information or to register, contact the Wilbraham Library at 413-596-6141 or visit the Event Calendar online at www.wilbrahamlibrary.org.

AUTHOR from page 1

in their post-partum journeys.

The book, released last month, can be found on Amazon or Kindle, with paperback copies also available at The Restorative Wellness Center.

A licensed mental health counselor since 2006, Petit has also specialized in prenatal mood and anxiety disorders for eight years.

Petit explained she originally wanted to write about her experiences with post-partum depression after having her daughter, post-partum PTSD after a miscarriage and pre-natal anxiety while pregnant with her son.

While writing her story, Petit had a realization.

"There's so many women that need to tell their own story. Why

am I just going to write about my own story?" Petit said.

Petit then presented her idea to see who would be interested in sharing their story.

The response was tremendous. "So many women came forward. It literally brought tears to my eyes. It was incredible," Petit said.

Petit said the book process started in January 2022 with a goal date of May 2023 to coincide with Maternal Mental Health Awareness Month.

"I tried to hit a broad range of topics, categories within it, so we're hoping when one woman picks it up, at least one story can resonate with them," Petit said.

Petit also hopes to tackle the stigma around maternal mental health.

"Not only did I want to offer support, hope and validation to all these other women who may be struggling, but I also wanted to be like, 'Hey this is a real thing and hear our stories because this is real.' Just to kind of debunk the stigma behind maternal mental health because it is truly, truly real," Petit said.

Petit said the women "did a beautiful job telling their stories."

"Our goal is to offer hope to other women who are trying to get pregnant, hope to women who are in the thick and dark of it and that there is a community out there willing to support them, that their feelings are valid and that we hope we can provide some level of comfort for them," Petit said.

Petit explained the profits go towards Empty Arms Bereave-

ment Support in Florence, a non-profit organization providing support groups for stillbirths, in-vitro fertilization, single parents and more.

Additionally, support to hospitals and training for nurses, doctors, mental health professionals and more.

The organization was founded by Carol McMurrich, who lost her daughter, Charlotte, hours after she was born.

"They're just fabulous," Petit said. "100% of profits of the book is going directly towards Empty Arms so Carol can continue offering her wonderful services in the local area."

Since the book's release, Petit has had so many women come forward to share their stories and even people approach the women

who contributed their stories to the book to share their own.

"That's the point of the book. Tell your story. We want to hear your story," Petit said.

Petit wants residents to know her practice is also here to offer support.

"We're here to support you in any fashion, so if you need any support or any help please reach out to the Wellness Center," Petit said.

Petit had this message for women trying to conceive, having a hard time with their pregnancy or post-partum depression.

"Please reach out because you are not alone and we are here to help you," Petit said.

To learn more about Petit's work, visit <https://www.therestorativewellnesscenter.com/>.

A COMMUNITY GALLERY



Photo courtesy of Sue Agnew

The Saint Cecilia Women's Club inducted the following officers for the 23-24 club year. They are (left to right): Treasurer Norma Bandarra, Recording Secretary Cheryl Wesolowski, President Jackie Pahl, Vice President Darlene Willey Sliwa and Corresponding Secretary Kim Lawler.

Life in & HAM

Readers are encouraged to send in medium to high resolution photos for this page by e-mail to dzbierski@turley.com or mail to TIMES, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069. Please note that if you send us a photo of the Times in different parts of the world, please include a recognizable landmark in the background. Examples: Eiffel Tower; castle in Spain.

WILBRAHAM



Photo courtesy of Shelley Dos Santos

A banner at the entrance of the Red Gap neighborhood in Wilbraham honors the five Class of 2023 Minnechaug graduates.



Photo courtesy of Heidi Kane

This picture is of Bailey Gomez, who finished her 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten challenge! She received a new book and certificate and her photo will be put on the Wilbraham library's display with all the other finishers.



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WILBRAHAM HAMPDEN



Photo courtesy of Elaine Holdsworth
The Middle School Ensemble of the Hampden Wilbraham Strings and Friends played a concert for the residents of Reed's Landing in Springfield on Friday May 19 at 4 p.m. After the concert they gathered around Helen Kidess, a former teacher at the Wilbraham Middle School, who played viola with the students in the ensemble up until 2020 – when she stopped playing at the age of 92. Standing beside Mrs. Kidess is Denise Gendron, the director of the Strings and Friends Program and on the right side of the group is Elaine Holdsworth, the founder of the program.

Community Bulletin Board

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Happy 10th Birthday!

Jake and Kayla Vanderleeden!

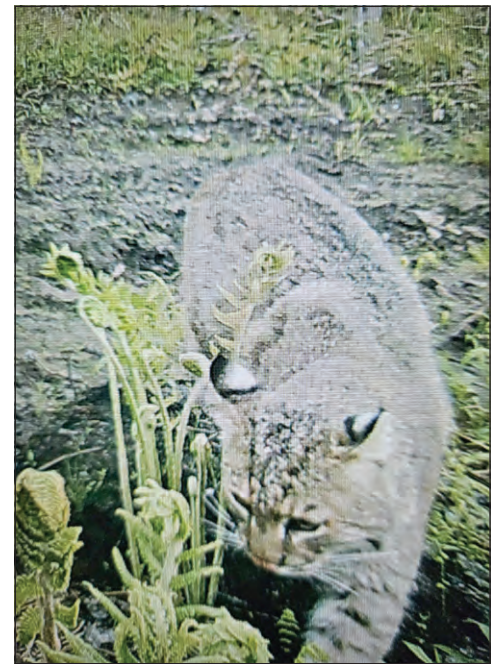
*We are so proud of you!
 Love you to the moon and back,
 Love, Mom, Dad, EJ, Niko, Aleks,
 Maisy and family*



.....

Send us in your announcements!

Happy Birthdays, Anniversaries, etc.
 We will pick one each week to run here free of charge, please keep it to less than 50 words. Please send to dzbierski@turley.com



Peter Manolakis of 17 Brookside Circle submitted these images of a bobcat near his home last month.



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SPORTS

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Tristen Hottin gets a hit near the net.



Ryan Olread gets ready to set.



Jonah Rost goes for a low bump.

Falcons fall in state tournament

WILBRAHAM – The Minnechaug Regional High School boys volleyball team was defeated by O’Bryant High school in the Round of 16 last Tuesday afternoon. Minnechaug did take one match in the tournament, beating Abbey-Kelley Foster Regional 3-0 in the Round of 32 to open the tournament. The Falcons were finalists in Western Mass and finish with a 10-10 record overall.



Amar Gamidov gets the set over the net.



William St. John and Ryan Olread attempt to block.



Ellie Gaudreau gets a hit.

Girls tennis reaches quarterfinals

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW—At the end of the regular season, the Minnechaug Regional girls tennis team made a couple of changes to their starting line-up, which paid off during the postseason tournament.

The fifth-seeded Lady Falcons wound up advancing to the round of eight in the Division 2 state tournament.



Kristina Aguilar gets set to make a return shot.

Minnechaug junior captain Lillianna DiGrande switched from third singles to first doubles where she was paired up with senior captain Kristina Aguilar.

Senior captain Audrey Streeter also made the move from first to second doubles. She was paired up with junior Rose Caltabiano.

“Everything worked out very well with our two doubles teams,” said Minnechaug head coach Lauri Doleva. “All of the players get along very well with each other.”

The outcome of the Lady Falcons round of 16 match against the 12th seeded Bishop Fenwick Crusaders came down to the first doubles match.

“I have all the faith in the world in our first doubles team,” Doleva said. “I knew that they would be able to pull it out. We did have to come from behind to win today’s match, which feels great. This is a special group of kids. All of them are hard workers, but they also have a lot of fun.”

In that match, the duo of DiGrande and Aguilar

Please see **TENNIS**, page 12

Registration open for 2023 Bay State Games

WOBURN – Registration for the 41st annual Bay State Summer Games is now open. The 2023 Summer Games will include thirty sports with competitions from June 3 to July 29 at venues throughout eastern and central Massachusetts including Game On in Fitchburg, Boston Sports Institute in Wellesley, Union Point Sports Complex in Weymouth, and New England Sports Center in Marlborough. Bay State Games participants range in age from 5 to over age 75 and represent more than 300 Massachusetts communities as well as surrounding New England States in some sports. From grassroots participants to accomplished amateur athletes,

the Bay State Games provide opportunities for the athlete in all of us.

Eight high school showcase sports will take place for a variety of sports, including baseball, basketball, field hockey, ice hockey, lacrosse, soccer, softball, and volleyball. Athletes currently in grade 8-11 who live or go to school in Massachusetts are eligible to attend regional tryouts during the month of June. These tryouts will determine teams representing the various regions of the Commonwealth that will compete against each other in July. Check each sport page for specific eligibility requirements.

The Summer Games include a wide variety of individ-

ual sports including swimming, track & field, figure skating, pickleball, wrestling, weightlifting, archery, judo, badminton, and more. These sports are open to a wide range of ages and skill levels from youth participants to masters-aged athletes. Adaptive sport divisions in archery, swimming, and track & field are offered, as well. Bay State Games also organizes tournaments for pre-existing teams in girls lacrosse, rugby, and 6v6 field hockey.

The 2023 Summer Games will feature Game On in Fitchburg as the host venue for 8 sports. Bay State Games expects 1,500 athletes and their families to attend competitions at Game

On during the second week of July. “We are excited to expand the roster of sports being held at Game On this year,” said Kevin Cummings, Executive Director of the Bay State Games. “This state-of-the-art facility allows us to enhance the athlete and spectator experience and provide a true Olympic-style multi-sport atmosphere for our participants.”

An additional feature in 2023 is that in over a dozen sports, athletes who win a gold, silver, or bronze medal at the 2023 Bay State Games will qualify to participate in the 2024 State Games of America in San Diego, California. The State Games of America feature more than 8,000 athletes from over 30 dif-

ferent state games programs nationwide. To see the list of qualifying sports, please visit www.stategamesofamerica.com.

In addition to sports programming, Bay State Games offer college scholarships, a sportsmanship initiative, college internship opportunities, and a High School Ambassador program.

For more information on all sports in the 2023 Summer Games, links to online registration, and information on other programs, go to www.baystategames.org.

For questions, email info@baystategames.org or call 781-932-6555.



HONOR ROLL

Winter Season

MINNECHAUG

BOYS BASKETBALL
Jordan Hall
Chris Moreno

GIRLS BASKETBALL
Lylah Jeannotte
Jayla Comes

ICE HOCKEY
Drew Van Zandt
David Noel
Dominic Fiorentino

BOYS INDOOR TRACK
Hunter Corthell
Sam Mantera
Nik Supczak

GIRLS INDOOR TRACK
Natalia Clarke
Allyson Santos
Caleigh Wall

BOYS SWIMMING
Benjamin Latourelle
Alex Parent
Joshua Parent
Jackson Pouliot
Dawson Rice
Zavier Villanueva

ALL STARS

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BOYS CENTRAL/
WESTERN MASS. TEAM
CHAMPIONS

Minnechaug Swimming
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RELAY TEAM
MIAA runners-up, Boys 400
freestyle relay team, Boys 200
medley relay team – Central/
West Champions

Minnechaug swimming
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RELAY TEAM
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runners-up

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state champion, Western Mass.
D2 champion

ELLIOTT HUMPHRIES
MIAA all-state champion, D2
state champion, Western Mass.
D2 champion

CALVIN STILES
D2 state runner-up, Western
Mass. D2 champion

SAM DEAN
Western Mass. D2 champion

LIAM MEEKER
D2 state runner-up

SAM DEAN
D2 state runner-up

GIANNA DANIELE
MIAA girls champion






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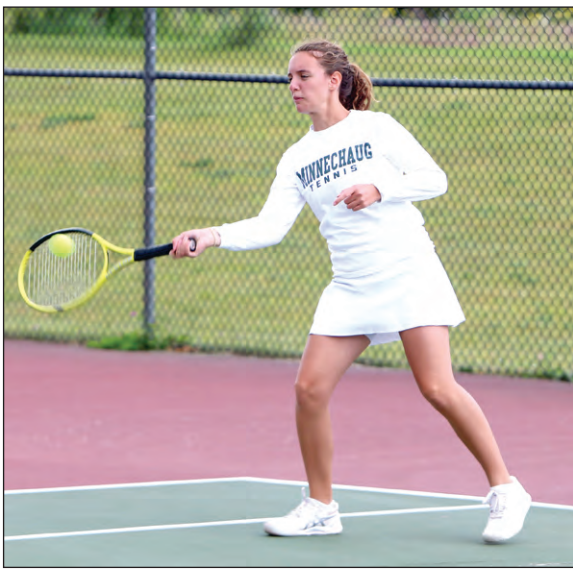
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Lili DiGrande socks a return shot during doubles action.

TENNIS from page 10

posted a 6-1, 6-3 victory over Bishop Fenwick senior's Aoife DeClerq and Liz Champagne. It gave the Lady Falcons a 3-2 victory at the Ludlow Tennis Club on June 6.

"It was a very stressful match," said Aguilar, who'll be a freshman at the University of Michigan in the fall. "We knew that our match would decide the final outcome. I really didn't want my high school tennis career to end today. Lilli and I work very well together."

"It was just a great match," DiGrande added. "We just played very well as a team."

The contest was originally scheduled to be held at the Minnechaug tennis courts, but it was moved indoors due to the weather.

The other two seniors listed on the Minnechaug girl's tennis roster are Ella Edwards and Kacey Tranghese.

"We only have two senior starters this year," Doleva added. "Our other two seniors are exhibitions players. They did get to play in a couple of regular season matches. We're very happy to be moving on in this tournament."

The Lady Falcons (18-3) season came to an end a couple of days later following a 4-1 road loss to Masconomet Regional, which is located in Boxford, in the round of eight.

"This is our best season in the five years that I've been coaching the girls' tennis team," Doleva said. "We have a very strong line-up."

Junior Norah Dumala, who captured the Western Mass. title, is the Lady Falcons first singles player.

In the round of 16 match against the Crusaders (14-3), Dumala posted a 6-1, 6-1, win over Nora Elenbaas.

"Winning a match in the state tournament is very exciting," Dumala said. "Our regular season matches are a little more relaxed."

Freshman Ellie Gaurdeau, who finished in second place at the Western Mass. tournament, defeated Bishop Fenwick's senior Madelyn Leary 6-0, 6-1 in the second singles match.

"Ellie has a very bright future," Doleva said. "Her racket is like a magic wand. She just tells the ball where to go and it goes. She's an amazing tennis player."

Minnechaug junior Marina Ford lost to sophomore Gwen Schroeder, 6-0, 6-2 in the third singles match.

"Marina is only a junior," Doleva said. "She's our raising star."

In the second doubles match Streeter and Caltabiano lost to Bishop Fenwick juniors Lacey Murphy and Ari Summa, 6-2, 6-4.

Pioneers get another draw

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW—The last two Western Mass. Pioneers home matches have ended in draws. It's something that hasn't taken place at historic Lusitano Stadium since 2018.

Four days after playing a scoreless draw against Black Rock FC, the Pioneers had to settle for a 1-1 home tie versus the Boston Bolts, last Wednesday night.

"Another tie really doesn't help us very much," said Pioneers head coach Federico Molinari. "We've been having trouble putting the ball into the net during the past couple of games."

At the beginning of the 2018 regular season, the Pioneers posted back-to-back 1-1 home draws against the Boston Bolts and the GPS Portland Phoenix.

The Pioneers also played a road tie against the Seacoast United Phantoms and a home tie against the



Photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

Lucio Berron dribbles up the field.



Connor Hicks makes a throw-in.



Tomas Duben socks a corner kick away.

Westchester Flames in back-to-back matches at the end of the 2018 regular season.

The good news is the Pioneers haven't lost a regular season match at Lusitano Stadium since June 22, 2018, when they suffered a 2-1 setback to Black Rock FC.

The Western Mass. squad had a 3-0-3 overall record after their first six matches of this season. Their other tie came in the first meeting of the regular season with the Phantoms, which took place away from the friendly confines of Lusitano Stadium on May 25.

The Pioneers posted a 3-0 road victory over the Bolts in the season opener on May 16.

Western Mass. was trailing 1-0 at halftime of last Wednesday's home contest.

The Bolts (0-3-3) took a 1-0 lead following a header by Harry Sankey, which was assisted by Tanner Barry, during the 21st minute.

The home team, who played much better during the second half, had several very good chances to put the ball into the net past Bolts goalie Nikola Antich.

Alec Hughes, Jared Smith, Lucio

Berron, and Khalid Rose had shots on goals for the home team.

Augustine Boadi, who's a first-year member of the Western Mass. Pioneers squad, finally got the job done during the 84th minute.

Boadi, who'll be entering his sophomore season as a member of the Boston College men's soccer team in the fall, received a pass from Hughes before firing a shot off the post into the right corner of the net for the game tying the goal.

"It was the third goal that I've scored as a member of the Western Mass. Pioneers," said Boadi, who was born in Accra, Ghana. "I scored my first goal of the season in a home match against Pathfinder. The second one came at Boston City, which was a 10-1 win. Another tie wasn't the result that we really wanted in tonight's match, but it's one of those games we need to learn from."

Boadi also does a very good job in the classroom at Boston College. He was recently selected to the ACC All-Academic Team.

Prior to playing soccer for Boston College, Boadi attended Northfield Mount Hermon where he was named as the Massachusetts Gatorade Player of the Year as a senior.

Frankie D'Agostino, who's a former Pioneers player and is currently the associate head coach of the B.C. men's soccer team, recommended Boadi to Molinari.

"Frankie played a key role in getting me to play for the Pioneers

this year," Boadi said. "Vermont and the Bolts also wanted me for them. Frankie told me about this team and stadium, so I decided to come here. It has been a lot of fun so far. This is a very special place and I'm hoping to come back here next year."

D'Agostino, who grew up in Longmeadow, had the chance to watch Boadi play a soccer match at Lusitano Stadium for the first time last Wednesday night.

It looked like the Pioneers would take a 2-1 lead with a stoppage time goal, but the referee never called it a goal.

"From my point of view, I thought the shot by Andrew Serafino did go into the net," Boadi said. "It was either a goal or we should've been given a penalty kick because of a hand ball."

Molinari gave his thoughts about the no goal call.

"All of the players told me it was a goal," he said. "If it was a goal, it's disappointing that the referee didn't allow it, but there isn't anything we can do about it now. We now must win the rest of our games if we want the chance to make the playoffs."

Nicholas Oberrauch, who's the Pioneers captain, didn't play in the Pioneers home match against the Bolts because of an injury.

After playing a couple of road matches, the Pioneers will be returning home to battle rival Seacoast United at 7 p.m. on June 23.

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and conditioning program from June 27 to Aug. 10, Basketball from July 10 to 14, High School and Beach Volleyball June 20 to Aug. 15, Volleyball Basics July to Aug. 16, and Wrestling July 10 to Aug. 16. All clinics are held on the campus of Ludlow High School and are geared

toward the development of fundamental skills. For more information log on to lionspridesc.wix.com/lpsc or contact Tim Brillo TBrillo1723@gmail.com. Registration is now online at <https://www.familyid.com/organizations/lions-den-sports-clinics>



Submitted photo

Geoff Rollins got a victory at Monadnock Speedway last Saturday evening.

Rollins takes win in Late Model race

WINCHESTER, N.H. – Veteran wheelsman Geoff Rollins rocketed to victory Saturday at Monadnock Speedway, gobbling up the competition as he won the first round of the 2023 Teddy Bear Pools NHSTRA Late Model Triple Crown series at the storied high-banked speedplant.

The Bay State hot shoe was one of four drivers scoring his first win of the year Saturday on the high banks. Nate Wenzel, NHSTRA Modifieds, Louie Maher, Mini Stocks, and Michael Yeaton, Six Shooters, each earned his first victory lap of the summer, while Pure Stocker Chris Davis and Young Gun Adrian Smith both won for the second time.

Starting up front in the 50-lap main event after dominating his heat race, Rollins never looked back en route to running away with the \$1,000 top prize. Strongman Chris Buffone stayed with him the first ten laps but when Buffone suddenly dropped out on lap 11, it was all Rollins. Behind him, though, the competition was fierce for spots two through five.

With only one caution, on lap 47, slowing the rapid-fire event, gains were hard to come by as the sizzling field blasted through the fog. Kenny Thompson claimed the deuce at Buffone's demise, but had Tim Wenzel glued to his bumper.

Matt Sonnhalter, charging from row four, took second on lap 35, but Wenzel stayed just inches behind. With three to go, Rollins lost his half-lap lead, while the two top contenders set up for a furious finish. Sonnhalter's last-lap backchute dive netted him second, with Wenzel, Thompson, and Hillary Renaud rounding out the potent top five.

Sophomore speedster Nate Wenzel led all the way in the NHSTRA Modified 40-lapper, keeping defending track champ Tyler Leary in his shadow to score his first victory of the summer. Brian Chapin edged Aaron Fellows for third, while JT Cloutier, spun on lap five, stormed back through the field to come home fifth.

The crowd held its breath in this one, as the red waved on lap five when Kimmy Rivet's open-wheeler took a wild ride in turn two, landing on top of the backstretch wall. Something appeared to have broken in Cole Littlewood's car, sending him into Rivet and then into the wall, but both drivers fortunately walked away from the carnage.

Louie Maher made the move of the night on lap three of the Mini Stock feature to take the lead from Skyler Shippee and then hold strong to score his first win of the season in the caution-free 25-lapper. Shippee finished at his bumper, with Kevin Clayton strong in third.

Chris Davis held second-generation pilot Nolan McClay in his shadow for all 25 laps to win his second Pure Stock feature in a row. Reigning Claremont champ Chris Chambers was third, taking the checkers just ahead of Kodi Sabins and CJ Johnson.

Week one winner Steve Miller and son Steve Jr. brought the Six Shooters to the green but, if this one was supposed to be a Marvelous Millers show, Michael Yeaton hadn't read the script. Yeaton took over on lap three and never looked back. Miller Jr. was strong in second, with Renegade Robert Shaw coming home third.

Markus O'Neil led the first eight laps of the Young Guns feature before giving way to event winner Adrian Smith. Owen Zilinski got up for second on lap 11 but couldn't reel in the speedy Smith, while O'Neil stayed strong to earn the third podium spot.

After a weekend off, Monadnock Speedway will return to action on Saturday, June 24, when it hosts the 50-lap Pure Stock Shoot Out. The NHSTRA Modifieds, Pro 4 Modifieds, Mini Stocks, and Young Guns, along with the NELCAR Legends and Bandaleros, will all be in action too.

Monadnock Speedway June 10 Unofficial Top Tens:

TEDDY BEAR POOLS TRIPLE CROWN LATE MODEL 50: Geoff Rollins, Matt Sonnhalter, Tim Wenzel, Rupert Thompson, Hillary Renaud, JD Stockwell, Erik Smith, Isabella Minchella, Gordon Farnum, Chris Castor.

NHSTRA MODIFIED: Nate Wenzel, Tyler Leary, Brian Chapin, Aaron Fellows, JT Cloutier, Cory Plummer, Joel Belanger, Eric Leclair, Adam LaPoint, Kevin Pittsinger.

MINI STOCK: Louie Maher, Skyler Shippee, Kevin Clayton, Cam Sontag, Erin Aiken, Jon Fultz, Chris Sontag, Robert Williams, Jake Puchalski, Pat Houle.

PURE STOCK: Chris Davis, Nolan McClay, Chris Chambers, Kodi Sabins, CJ Johnson, Colton Martin, Jimmy Zellman, Andrea St. Amour, Colton Hull, Ricky Melcher.

SIX SHOOTER: Mike Yeaton, Steve Miller Jr., Robert Shaw, Steve Miller Sr., Andrew Scott, Ethan Meyette, Mike Comtois, Zach Zilinski, Jacob Scott, Russell Mason.

YOUNG GUN: Adrian Smith, Owen Zilinski, Markus O'Neil, Madison Cousino, Addison Brooks, Cambri Hubbard, Kailyn Hubbard, Sofia Rego, Jordan Higbee.

Blue Sox open regular season

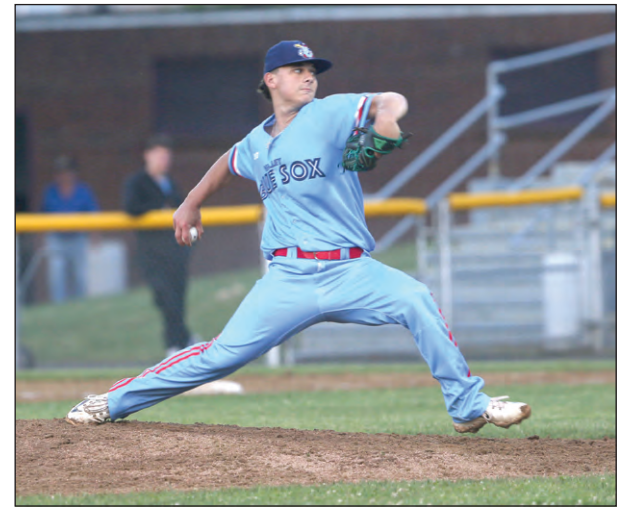


Photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

Matthew Garcia ranges to pick up the grounder.



Eliot Dix makes a play.



Nick Callano winds and fires.

HOLYOKE – The Blue Sox dropped their final game of their four game homestand, losing to the Martha's Vineyard Sharks by a score of 11-4 on Sunday afternoon. The Blue Sox tallied three hits on the day, and all their runs came in the third inning. The team fell to 2-3 on the season.

The Sharks scored 11 runs off of nine hits, with Clemson's Nathan Hall going 3-5 on the day with two triples. The Blue Sox allowed nine stolen bases and seven advancements on wild pitches or passed balls, and will hope to limit the traffic as they head on the road for their next game.

In one of the most peculiar innings of play so far this season, the Blue Sox were able to score four runs while not tallying a hit the entire inning. The runs all came from walks and hit batters, allowing four runners to score thanks to the Blue Sox excellent plate discipline. Martha's Vineyard walked eight batters today and hit two.

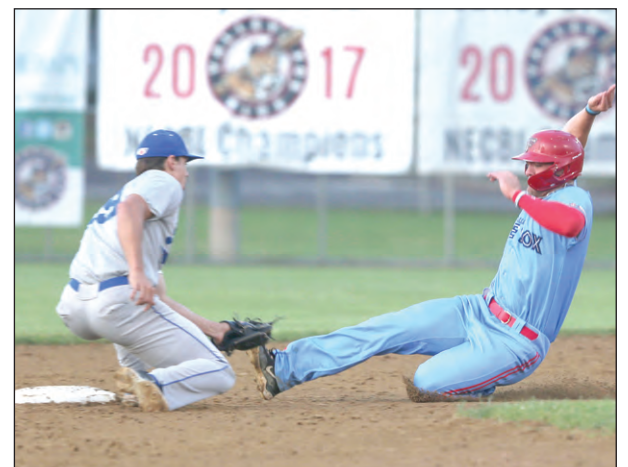
Matt Bergevin was able to produce quality at-bats in each of his plate appearances today, going 1-3 with two walks. With strong plate discipline Bergevin worked three consecutive at-bats to a full count.

EJ Kreutzmann stayed hot at the plate, going 1-5 with an RBI.

The Blue Sox opened the regular season on the road, then had four-games from Thursday to Sunday.



Miachel Zarrillo fires to first.



Matthew Bergevin slides safely into second.

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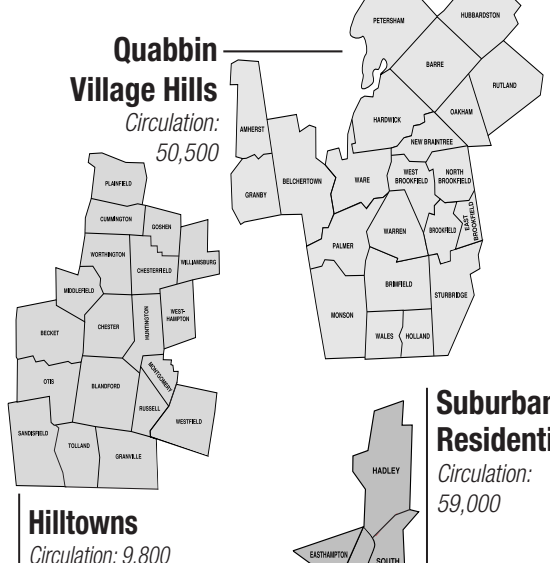
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WILBRAHAM PLANNING BOARD

The Wilbraham Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on **Wednesday, June 28, 2023, at 6:00 PM** in the Town Office Building, 240 Springfield Street, on the application of Marcel Verdon for a Special Permit to exceed the size limitations in Sections 3.9.2.2 and 4.4.8 of the Wilbraham Zoning By-Law to allow the construction of a 1,500 square foot accessory building on property owned by the applicant at 23 Pine Drive as shown on plans on file in the Planning Office and posted for public viewing on the Planning Board page of the Town of Wilbraham website at www.wilbraham-ma.gov/123/Planning-Board. Both in person and virtual participation are available. To participate virtually go to <https://meet.goto.com/591126677> or call 866-899-4679 (Access Code: 591-126-677).

John McCloskey
Chair

06/08, 06/15/2023

WILBRAHAM PLANNING BOARD

The Wilbraham Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on **Wednesday, June 28, 2023, at 5:45 PM** in the Town Office Building, 240 Springfield Street, on the application of Mathew Peters for a Special Permit to exceed the size limitations in Sections 3.9.2.2 and 4.4.8 of the Wilbraham Zoning By-Law to allow the construction of a 1,536 square foot accessory building on property owned by the applicant at 25 Bennett Road as shown on plans on file in the Planning Office and posted for public viewing on the Planning Board page of the Town of Wilbraham website at www.wilbraham-ma.gov/123/Planning-Board. Both in person and virtual participation are available. To participate virtually go to <https://meet.goto.com/591126677> or call 866-899-4679 (Access Code: 591-126-677).

John McCloskey
Chair

06/08, 06/15/2023

TOWN OF HAMPDEN CONSERVATION COMMISSION NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

In accordance with the provisions of the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act, (MGL CH 131, S 40), it's implementing regulations (310 CMP 10.00) and the Town of Hampden's Wetlands Protection Bylaws, the Hampden Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on **Tuesday, June 27, 2023 at 6 PM** at the Town House, 625 Main Street, Hampden, for a Notice of Intent file by WJF GEO Consultants on behalf of Gutierrez Trucking Corporation for DEP File Number WE 173-026; the roadway near 357 Glendale Road also known as Assessor's Map 24, to treat soil and groundwater contamination in a drainage swale from a diesel fuel truck spill using remedial additives.

Additional information relating to this request is on file in the Conservation Commission office and available for review by the public by contacting the Commission. Anyone interested in or wishing to be heard on the request may appear at the time and place designated.

On Behalf of the
Conservation Commission,
Judy McKinley-Brewer
Ted Zebert
co-chairs

06/15/2023

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758

Docket No. HD23C0168CA

In the matter of: Jorge Luis Mendez, Jr. CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME

A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by **Jorge Luis Mendez, Jr. of Wilbraham, MA** requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:

Junior Luis Mendez IMPORTANT NOTICE

Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: **Hampden Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day**

of 07/06/2023.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.

Date: June 08, 2023

Rosemary A Saccomani
Register of Probate
06/15/2023

TOWN OF WILBRAHAM NOTICE OF TAKING

To the known and unknown heirs of James M. Pease and Fred S. Pease, Under Sections 7B and 8A of Chapter 79 of the Massachusetts General Laws, the Board of Selectmen of Town of Wilbraham, awarded Three Hundred Eighty Thousand and 00/100 (\$380,000.00) Dollars as damages for the eminent domain taking, to Anthony Carnevale, holder of a mortgage on the real property described below and Anthony Carnevale, Trustee of the Berkshire Funding Realty Trust, the current identified record owner of the real property described as

Parcels B, C, D, and E on a plan recorded at the Hampden County Registry of Deeds entitled "Plan of Land in Wilbraham, MA prepared for Mile Oak Land Holdings, LLC" dated June 21, 2010 prepared by Sherman & Frydryk Land Survey and Engineering 3 Converse Street Suite 203 Palmer, MA 01609 recorded in the Hamden County Registry of Deeds in Plan Book 358, Page 48 and;

Parcel G-2 as shown on a plan of land entitled "Plan of Land in Wilbraham, MA prepared for Berkshire Funding Realty Trust" dated May 26, 2022 prepared by Sherman & Frydryk Land Surveying, Engineering & Scientists A Division of Hancock Survey Associates, Inc. 3 Converse Street Suite 203 Palmer, MA 01609 recorded in the Hamden County Registry of Deeds in Plan Book 395, Page 64;

as further described in an Order of Taking dated June 5, 2023 and recorded on June 8, 2023 with the Hampden County Registry of Deeds at Book 25035 Page 466.

If you believe you are entitled to an award, you may petition the superior

court of said county under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 79 Section 14 within three years after the rights to such damages has vested, per Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 79 Section 16. 06/15, 06/22, 06/29/2023

PUBLIC NOTICE

This ad is pursuant to MA Gen. Law Ch.255, Sec. 39A as of **June 23, 2023** the following motor vehicle will be for sale to satisfy a garage keepers lien:

2017 Hyundai Elantra
VIN: 5NPD74LF8HH212762
COLOR: Silver
LKO: Deborah Magill
53 Champlain Ave
Indian Orchard MA
R & S Assoc. Inc.
Wilbraham MA
413-596-4374
06/08, 06/15, 06/22/2023

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758
Docket No. HD23P0593EA
Estate of: Robert L Sweeney
Date of Death: 06/20/2022

CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:

A Petition for **Formal Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Vantage At Wilbraham of Wilbraham MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Susan A Mccoy of Springfield, MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **With Corporate Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration.**

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court

before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 06/23/2023.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M. Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.

Date: May 26, 2023
Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
06/15/2023

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Town of Wilbraham Date: 06/15/2023

The owner or occupants of the following described parcels of land situated in the TOWN OF WILBRAHAM in the County of Hampden and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and the public, are hereby notified that the taxes thereon, severally assessed for the year(s), hereinafter specified, according to the list committed to me as the Collector/Treasurer for the TOWN OF WILBRAHAM by the Board of Assessors of said Town, remain unpaid and that said parcels of land will be taken for the TOWN OF WILBRAHAM on the **29th day of June, 2023 at 10AM** for the principal and interest, if any, with all legal costs and charges thereon, unless the same shall be previously discharged. All plans referred to are on file in the Assessor's office.

Barbara J. Hancock, CMMC, CMMT
Collector/Treasurer

Property Location: 1059 Tinkham Road
Assessed to: Wilbraham Conservation Trust

Levy Year	Taxes	Asses.	Liens
2022	\$3,055.59	0.00	0.00
Grand Total: \$ 3,055.59			

Description of Parcel: A parcel of land with any buildings, thereon, containing about 10.55 acres being described as MAP: 11500 BLOCK: 144 LOT: 5308 listed in BOOK: 3661 on PAGE: 557 at the Hampden County Registry of Deeds.

06/01/2023

BACKYARD from page 6

male had a lot of white feathers, but it did have the rose colored splash on its breast. This phenomenon causes the partial loss of all types of pigmentation and causes white coloration, white patches, spots or splotches.

Baltimore orioles

An Oakham couple had Baltimore orioles at their suet feeder this week. They were going to get some oranges to put out for the orioles as well. I put out an orange this week.

The next morning I found one half of the orange on the ground and another on a rock about ten feet from the holder where I put the orange halves. I think it was the work of a grey squirrel or squirrels as I have lots of them.

Wood stork

I received a note in the mail from a Palmer resident, who saw a wood stork. She wrote, "Two mornings in a row, I saw a wood stork fly and land in some bushes on the cove at Lake Thompson in

Palmer. Imagine my surprise – white bird with black wing tips – wood stock is from Florida." She said she opened her "Journal" to she who the bird person was and there was a picture of a heron and my address.

Other birds

The Oakham resident, who has the oven birds, saw two hooded mergansers on Long Pond a few weeks ago.

Originally, I planed to put out my hummingbird feeder the weekend of April 29 and 30, but it was so cold I decided to wait. Instead, I put the feeder out this past Saturday and I spotted hummingbirds on Sunday.

This Monday I saw a catbird. I also have not seen any dark-eyed juncos lately. I think they have all headed north to their nesting grounds.

People may report a bird sighting or bird related experience by calling me at 413-967-3505, leaving a message at extension 100, emailing mybackyard88@aol.com or edowner@turley.com or mailing to Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005.



Ovenbird

EARLY DEADLINES

In observance of July 4th,
PUBLIC NOTICES
EARLY AD DEADLINE
Place your public notice
no later than NOON

Thursday, June 29

– Thank you!

Events & announcements schedule

Adult Summer Reading Challenge at the Wilbraham Library

WILBRAHAM – This summer, the Wilbraham Public Library will be offering its Adult Summer Reading Challenge entirely on-line. Readers can register to take part in this challenge by going to www.wilbraham.beanstack.org. It is recommended that readers also download the free Beanstack app onto their device.

All that readers need to do for the eight week program (June 17 to Aug. 12) is read one book per week. After each book, readers can log into their Beanstack account and submit the title of the book, the book's author, and a brief review. A badge and raffle ticket will be earned for each entry (one per week). Drawings for prizes will be done on a weekly basis.

There will also be four "extra" challenges, one every two weeks. Readers can choose one of the four challenges or all four. Complete the challenge for a raffle ticket, allowing for another chance to win a prize! All raffle prizes were made possible by the Wilbraham Friends of the Library and LUSO Federal Credit Union.

Contact tsymington@wilbrahamlibrary.org for answers to any questions.

Old Post Road Orchestra to perform on June 16, 18

SPRINGFIELD – The Old Post Road Orchestra will be holding its final concerts of the season titled "Tales As Olde As Time". Conductor Alexandria Black will delight audiences with selections from well-loved Disney movies, classic Looney Tunes and Studio Ghibli. Rounding out the program will be tried and true patriotic favorites. Concerts will be held on FRIDAY, JUNE 16, 7:30 p.m., Memorial Hall, 198 Main St., MONSON and on SUNDAY, JUNE 18, 3 p.m., Loomis Lakeside at Reed's Landing, 807 Wilbraham Road, SPRINGFIELD.

Funding for the Monson concert provided in part by a grant from the Town of Monson Regional Economic Development Organization and a grant from the Monson Cultural Council, a local agency, which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

Celebrate the Dads in your life and join OPRO for an entertaining musical experience.

Rotary Club is holding a Calendar Raffle

WILBRAHAM – The Wilbraham-Hampden Rotary Club is holding another Calendar Raffle throughout the months of May and June to raise money for local community projects. Calendars will be on sale now through the end of June for \$10 each and are available from any club member.

The raffle is different from the one held last fall in that only cash prizes will be awarded. Prizes will be awarded every day of the month of June. "There will be a winner every day. That gives every entry many chances to win," announced club president Tracey Perry of Country Bank. To purchase a calendar contact Perry at 413-627-2571 or email Happytr16@gmail.com. All proceeds will be given back to the community through various service projects and scholarships.

Hampden Senior Center Trips

HAMPDEN – A tribute to Garth Brooks at the Log Cabin will entertain us on Wed, July 12 with your choice of Lobster or Prime Rib for lunch all for only \$85/pp. Payment deadline June 23. No bus, Self-Drive.

A great trip to The Aqua Turf Club on Tuesday, Aug 15th for "Come Fly with Me", a musical journey through the decades; coffee/donuts, free drink, lunch, show & door prize, all for only \$119/pp. Payment deadline Aug 1.

On Tuesday, Sept. 12, start the day with a great lunch a Maggiano's Little It-

aly in Boston; the Fun begins when you board your Boston Duck Boat for a fascinating tour, including background info on the Ducks, Free Time in Quincy Market, all for only \$140/pp. Payment deadline Aug. 29.

Any questions/for more info call Bobbi at 413-566-8271.

Newport Playhouse on Thursday, Sept. 28 is offering a Hilarious play "Ghost of a Chance", along with an All-u-Can-Eat Buffet and a second Cabaret Show, all for only \$142/pp. Payment deadline Sept. 14.

Above prices based on a minimum of 35 passengers; any questions/for more info call Bobbi at 413-566-8271

Healing Touch Spiritual Practices at Federated Community Church

HAMPDEN – Healing Touch Spiritual Practices will be offered on Wednesday evenings from 7-8 p.m. at Federated Community Church, 590 Main St. in Hampden. First come, first served. Donations are accepted. Come and experience intentional prayer so that the spirit of healing may flow freely through your body. Please enter through the door in the back of the church – the group will meet on the second floor.

St. Gregory Armenian Apostolic Church to hold Father's Day Picnic June 18

INDIAN ORCHARD – St. Gregory Armenian Apostolic Church will hold its annual Father's Day Picnic on Sunday, June 18, 2023 from noon to 5 p.m. on the church grounds at 135 Goodwin St, Indian Orchard, MA.

Visitors are invited to enjoy many favorite Armenian dinners including shish kebab and rice pilaf. Baked goods will also be available for purchase. The picnic will also feature a raffle, Armenian music and dancing and outdoor activities.

Admission and parking are free. For more information, please call the Church office at 543-4763.

Wilbraham Planning Board vacancy announced

WILBRAHAM – The Wilbraham Planning Board currently is seeking candidates for the position of Associate Planning Board member. The Associate Member serves on the Board as an alternate voting member on special permit applications in the case of absence, inability to act, or conflict of interest on the part of a regular Board member, or in the event of a vacancy on the Board.

The Planning Board is responsible for overseeing land use planning and development in the Town of Wilbraham. Working in close cooperation with the Planning Director and the Building Commissioner/Zoning Enforcement Officer, the Planning Board studies the resources and needs of the Town, particularly conditions affecting public welfare and safety related to land use and development. The Board is responsible for conducting public hearings and making recommendations on Zoning By-Law amendments. The Board also regulates the subdivision of land and the construction of new roadways, and reviews permit applications for various land-use proposals as required by the Town's Zoning By-Laws.

Interested residents who would like to be considered for appointment are invited to submit a Volunteer Form (available at <https://wilbraham-ma.gov/612/Volunteer>) along with a resume and letter of interest to Heather Kmelius at hkmelius@wilbraham-ma.gov with priority given to applications received by June 22, 2023. Candidates must be registered voters and be willing to attend regular meetings of the Planning Board on Wednesday evenings. For more information, please contact the Planning Office at 413-596-2800 x203 or mbuck@wilbraham-ma.gov



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