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Turley photo by Kristin Rivers

It was a very special day when Deb Nickerson, school nurse at Soule Road Elementary School, was surprised with the Gina Kahn MVP Award on June 4. Nickerson is pictured here with her fellow staff members at the school.

Nickerson receives Gina Kahn MVP Award

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
krivers@turley.com

WILBRAHAM - Soule Road Elementary School Nurse Deb Nickerson has received the Gina Kahn MVP Award for June.

Nickerson received the

award on June 4 when members of the Hampden-Wilbraham Partners For Youth Coalition and school staff surprised her and Jackie Hafner, the community engagement/communications coordinator for HWP4Y, presented Nickerson with the award and gifts from the coalition. Also, several pages of comments from

the school expressing their appreciation for her.

Nickerson is also retiring this year after over 30 years.

HWP4Y is a coalition with community members and agencies working together to reduce youth substance use by promoting physical health, mental health and safety for students at HWRSD. It is

coordinated with the school district.

The Gina Kahn MVP Award, meanwhile, was renamed this year in honor of Gina Kahn, the late founder of HWP4Y who had passed away in January, and recognizes community members

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Selectboard continues discussion of police chief replacement

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
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HAMPDEN - The Selectboard continued their discussion of how to replace the police chief during their June 9 meeting.

The discussion comes after the announcement of current Police Chief Scott Trombly slated to retire from the police department on July 17.

Chair Don Davenport asked how the board will proceed on this plan.

"I mean, I know we got a new Selectboard member coming," Davenport said. "But still, you're talking, that's eating up two weeks."

Selectboard Member John Flynn explained how the board asked Trombly if he was willing to serve as interim chief "which there's some advantage, because that interim person was not interested in taking over the job."

"It's a tough thing because that person thinks you have a lot of leg up on," Flynn said.

"And everyone who's applying thinks he has a leg up too," Davenport said.

"Exactly," Flynn said. "Although Scott did share

he has a planned vacation as well."

"But even so, he would be on vacation anyhow," Davenport said. "He would go on vacation during the summer anyhow and one of the sergeants would be in charge, right?"

After Flynn affirmed yes to Davenport's question, he noted seeing a lot of turnover at the police department.

"Is it time to bring somebody else in to bring us some guidance and I think are there opportunities for that and I think that's something we should definitely task the town administrator to give us some options on what happens there," Flynn said. "Scott did talk about that before. There are different groups that provide these types of things."

Flynn added this plan is due diligence.

"This isn't a one-year job we're looking for. We're going to fill somebody who wants to make a career out of this," Flynn said.

Town Administrator Brian Domina said two different discussions are happening, which are the first meeting of the new Select-

Please see **CHIEF**, page 2

School Committee discusses fall meeting capital projects

By Kristin Rivers
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WILBRAHAM - The School Committee discussed fall capital projects for Fall Town Meeting consideration on June 12.

Superintendent Dr. John Provost explained while the committee went through the process for the spring capital projects proposed at this year's Annual Town Meetings, a decision was made to take off two items: new bleachers for the stadium at Minnechaug Regional High School due to the cost involved "in addition to the rest of the capital projects that we were requesting in the spring"

and upgrades to the HVAC system at Wilbraham Middle School due to the mold issues discovered last year.

Provost added the Capital Planning Committee had not approved the upgrades for the middle school and later had conversations with a member of the committee on what to do next.

"I said, 'Really, I think it's up to the committee now to decide what their priority for the fall is. Is it bleachers or is it air quality at the middle school?'" Provost said. "So, that's why this is on the agenda tonight."

Timothy Collins shared he was unaware of a study done 9 years ago at WMS which found 50% of class-

rooms had CO2 ratings that were too high and after the mold last year, another evaluation yielded the same result.

"As far as I'm concerned, this is unconscionable. The students and our employees who are working in this situation should not be subjected to high CO2. It does affect cognitive abilities. We're a school for crying out loud," Collins said.

Collins suggested going to the Select Boards for both towns or Finance Committee to have people and the towns step up "and correct this situation."

"It's dangerous," Collins said.

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Turley photo by Noelle Hisgen

P.L. Purr, Deb and Pete Rollend and Natalie and Karl Jurgen sit together and enjoy their pizza.

Puppolo hosts pizza event at WSC

By Noelle Hisgen
Correspondent

WILBRAHAM - On June 10, the senior center hosted a "Pizza with Puppolo" event, where members of the senior center were able to talk to State Representative Angelo Puppolo Jr. (D-Springfield)

over a slice of pizza courtesy of Pafumi's.

At the event, people were able to talk to the state representative while they enjoyed slices of pizza with a cup of soda.

Puppolo also gave everyone who attended a blue tote bag, as well as a little rubber

duck, for everyone to take home.

It was a question-and-answer session, as attendees asked Puppolo about education, transportation, auxiliary dwelling units and housing, the millionaire's tax and the

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WMS students host cell phone presentation

By Kristin Rivers
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HAMPDEN - Students from Wilbraham Middle School visited the senior center on June 2 for a presentation on how to use your smartphone.

The presentation provided seniors the opportunity to learn more about what they can do with their phones, how to use certain features and what available resources there are.

Some of the tips included how to delete a photo, how to download an app to your phone, how to play music through apps like Spotify, creating passwords or a Fa-

Please see **CELL PHONE**, page 5



Turley photo by Kristin Rivers

From the left, Emma Landry, Brynn DeForest, Ella Gagliarducci and Madelyn D'Amore in a group photo after presenting their civics project at the Hampden Senior Center.

Hampden-Wilbraham Partners 4 Youth in need of funding

The coalition only has enough funding to last through next October.

By Dalton Zbierski
Correspondent

WILBRAHAM - The clock is ticking for the future of the Hampden-Wilbraham Partners 4 Youth Coalition, which is dedicated to keeping local children safe, healthy and drug-free.

Coalition Director Bee Berneche joined the Wilbraham Select Board meeting on June 2 to explain that the

group's funding is running out.

"We currently have been funded for the last 10 years from the Drugs Free Coalitions Grant, which is a CDC grant that the school district passes," Berneche said. "This year, we are actually in our 11th year, which is a no cost extension. Our grant is actually over, and we're utilizing money that has been rolled over through the last five years to kind of keep us going through this last year."

Berneche said that the Drug-Free Communities Grant has annually provided

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School Committee receives update on WMS mold remediation

By Kristin Rivers
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Turley photo by Kristin Rivers

The School Committee received updates on mold remediation at Wilbraham Middle School on June 12.

WILBRAHAM - The School Committee received an update on Wilbraham Middle School mold remediation during their June 12 meeting.

The item concerned mold that was discovered at the middle school before the first day of classes in August 2024, leading to a delay of two days to address the issue. A book drive was later held the following month by the Wilbraham Parent Teacher Organization to help replace damaged books from the school's library.

Assistant Superintendent for Finance, Operations and Human Resources Dr. Douglas Slaughter explained they were hopeful when the incident occurred "that would be eligible to be covered by insurance."

An initial claim, he said, was rejected and a subsequent claim was then provided with details.

"We have been working with our insurer and providing details about what we spent money on and what kinds of things that we got," Slaughter said. "After considerable consideration on their terms and on their part, they have reimbursed us \$365,437.30. The check has been received,

it's been applied into our accounts--which you can see on another (page)."

Slaughter added there was a \$5,000 deductible which was reduced "from our all asked," but some items were rejected including ceiling fans.

"One thing that I think I mentioned here a little bit, but I also want to really stress is the effort that were done by our own staff. We hired a third-party contractor to come in to do some cleaning and that sort of thing and it's really expensive to have so they do that," Slaughter said. "But, there was a ton of work that our staff did, both repair work as well as sort of deep cleaning, that type of stuff. If

you look at the laundry list of what we sent to the insurers, outside of that one very large thing for the third party, the rest of the stuff we're buying were things like buckets and cleaning supplies and some equipment like fan motors that got replaced and some of those kind of things. But, really, the lion share of those other expenses outside of that third party were stuff our staff had to then take and use and take their time and effort to clean up and prepare the school for students to come and I think they did in a very short period of time, and so we really appreciate and wanted to sort of note the appreciation of that effort by our staff to make school ready

as quickly as they could, even with the help of a third party."

Slaughter said how you sometimes have to use insurance and this is one of those circumstances.

"We're glad that we were able to make a successful claim and I want to thank my predecessors in this role because they're the ones that really put most of the details together and the folks in the main department put some details together for the adjusters to make decisions about our reimbursement," Slaughter said. "So, I appreciate their work on our behalf for that."

Dr. Michael Tirabassi asked what plan is in place to make sure this doesn't happen

this coming summer.

"Since they didn't do the HVAC, people are going to be doing weekly walkthrough inspections?" Tirabassi said.

Slaughter replied yes, having had preliminary conversations with maintenance staff and that "they're putting a plan of preventive maintenance as well."

"Regular checks to try to prevent this as best we can. There are some things we can do to help and it will still be a challenge," Slaughter said. "And so, it's going to require a high level of monitoring--probably more than what would typically be the case--but again, once bitten twice shy kind of situation, I think, relative to this. So, I think we're going to try to be proactive in being in those spaces and making sure we're noticing if things are changing."

He added some of it would depend "on what kind of summer we have too."

"But, I think we're going to be very proactive in being in those spaces and trying to be on top of and remediating and preventing whenever possible those situations," Slaughter said.

Chair Michal Boudreau asked about materials lost due to the mold.

"For staff or anyone in the building that lost materials due to this issue, were they

made whole? Did any of this cover that or were they made whole before?" Boudreau said.

Slaughter clarified, "None of the things the insurance company covered were, to my understanding, any personal items with that regard."

"If we've had any personal items or more often it was a lot of things we had purchased, we had to purchase them again, that would be any other regular sort of purchasing that you see in the budget report," Slaughter said. "So, it's my understanding I believe we covered all of that and we've taken care of that. I don't know of any outstanding things for anybody, but we did go through and try to make whole as best we could."

Superintendent Dr. John Provost noted the key phrase from Slaughter's explanation of "as best we could" as some of the things lost were "of sentimental value that really can't be replaced."

"There were photographs, there were documents that were important to people that just were destroyed that may not have had a lot of monetary value, but had a lot of personal value to the staff," Provost said. "And so, I just want to acknowledge that we were not able to make them whole in that way."

Old Post Road Orchestra holding summer shows

WILBRAHAM - Under the musical direction of Alexandria Black, the Old Post Road Orchestra will present our summer program titled, "The 100 Best Movies of All Time."

You'll hear lots of favorite movie themes as well as

some less familiar ones. Also featured with the orchestra is a young vocal soloist, Jerome Begley (age 8). We are excited to have him with us!

OPRO will return to Memorial Hall, 198 Main St, Monson at 7:30 pm on Friday, June 20. This concert is in

collaboration with the Monson Arts Council and sponsored in part by a grant from the Monson Cultural Council, a local agency, which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

On Sunday, June 22 at 3 pm, OPRO will return to Loomis Lakeside at Reed's Landing, 807 Wilbraham Rd, Springfield. This concert is dedicated to the memory of longtime OPRO member and Reed's Landing resident, Helen Kiddess.

Generously supported in part by Loomis Communities, the concert will take place outdoors and is therefore weather dependent with no rain date.

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board member after the June 23 special election will take place June 24 and the other is Trombly retiring two weeks after this.

Davenport added the current sergeant will also be retiring on July 5.

"So, the first question is--to me--this seems like that's too short of a window to replace the chief. It's essentially a week and a half, two weeks," Domina said. "So, what would the board want in terms of do we want--do you--want an interim chief after July 17? Give us time, because it'll give it time for the search to happen."

Domina's next question was how the board wanted

to go about finding that successor to Trombly, which led Davenport to ask if Trombly would appoint a new sergeant.

"I believe so," Domina said.

"So, whoever the new chief is we'll have, that'll be his team," Davenport said.

Davenport added he wants an interim chief.

"I think we should talk to the current chief about the way we could work it out that he'd stay on the interim," Davenport said. "And in the meantime, look for a chief search firm and see what they want for money and time. How long they think it would take. Because it is a little bit of a compressed timeframe."

Flynn said the timeframe is and isn't a compressed timeframe "if we're fortunate enough to get Scott to agree to be interim chief."

"That allows us more latitude and bringing somebody in," Flynn said.

"So, he's going to have to figure that out with his retirement because he can only work a certain amount of hours and make a certain amount of money," Davenport said. "We're going to have to have a contract to that effect."

Discussions will now continue and the interim chief firms will be contacted as the process moves along.

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Upcoming WPL Teen Events in July

WILBRAHAM – Check out these upcoming teen events coming to the Wilbraham Public Library.

On Tuesday, July 1 from 4 to 5 p.m., students entering grades 6-12 can join us for “Pop-Up Greeting Card: Colorful Petals” at the Wilbraham Public Library. This workshop is an introduction to pop-up art, taught by Kulina Folk Art, where teens will learn about 3D art, and use stencils and step-by-step instructions to create their own greeting card.

Using an assortment of papers, scissors, and glue, flat paper will be transformed into 3D forms. Each teen will take home a greeting card, complete with its own envelope, ready for gifting.

Starting on June 14, online registration is required at wilbrahamlibrary.org or call 413-596-6141. This program is sponsored in full by a grant from the Wilbraham Cultural Council, a local agency supported by the Mass Cultural Council.

On Thursday, July 10 from 3 to 4 p.m., students entering grades 6-12 can join us for “Learn to Play the Ukulele” at the Wilbraham Public Library. Do you want to try an instrument that is fun and easy to play?

Join Julie Stepanek as she shows the fundamentals of ukulele playing. No experience necessary. Ukuleles provided or bring your own.

Starting on June 14, online registration is required or call 413-596-6141. This program is sponsored in full by a grant from the Wilbraham Cultural Council, a local agency supported by the Mass Cultural Council.

Events & announcements schedule

Hampden Community Garden accepting plot reservations

HAMPDEN - Hampden Community Garden is now accepting plot reservations for 2025.

The 20'x20' plots are tilled, staked, and ready for your flower and vegetable seeds and plants. For the \$20 fee, gardeners will enjoy having water and hoses on site, ample parking and easy access.

The garden is located beyond the parking lot at Green Meadows School on North Road. To secure your plot, contact Clark Kadis at ckadis13@gmail.com.

Gardening is a family and friends activity with tasty and money saving rewards. Join us!

Civics Action Project

WILBRAHAM – Tegan Haluch, an eighth grader at

Wilbraham Middle School, is working on a civics action project called “Dangers to Be Aware of on Your Property.”

Do you know what kind of hazards might be on your property? Your backyard could cause injuries such as sprains, breaks and even death!

You could trip in a broken sidewalk or even have a dead tree fall on your house during a storm.

Here are some ways that you could help prevent injury:

Regularly check your trees for decay. Check for dead limbs or branches, browning, dust or powder. If you see signs of decay, call a licensed professional to take a look.

Check your sidewalks and walkways for cracks that someone could trip on. Get cracks fixed and repaired.

Look for holes in your lawn that you could fall in. If you find any holes, fill them in!

Put all chemicals in proper holding containers and

store in a safe place that little children and pets can't get to.

Created by Tegan Haluch
You can contact me at thaluch2011@gmail.com.

Hampden Transfer Station Sticker Sales

HAMPDEN - The Hampden Selectmen voted on April 28, 2025 to increase the price of the Transfer Station permits.

The increase started May 23, 2025.

For Seniors over 65 the price will be \$40 for the first permit and \$20 for any additional permits for those residents meeting those criteria and car registered to that person or person.

For those residents that are under 65 the cost is \$70 for the first permit and \$35 for any additional permits for those residents meeting the criteria.

The Transfer Station is located at Cross Road.

Hampden Board of Health and Selectmen

Kick off school vacation with Rock into Summer

HAMPDEN - Celebrate the official start of summer with an evening of music, food, and family fun at Rock into Summer on Thursday, June 19, 2025, featuring a live performance by local favorite General Gist at Thornton Burgess Middle School.

Grab your blankets, lawn chairs, and friends for a community celebration under the open sky. Enjoy an energetic

live show, delicious food offerings, and a great cause—all in one evening.

Thanks to our Sponsors:
Richard Green Insurance Agency, Monson Savings Bank, Polish National Credit Union, Gio's Pizzeria, McNamara Waste Services and Village Food Mart.

Event Details:
Location: Thornton Bur-

gess Middle School, Thursday, June 19, 2025. The parking lot opens at 5 p.m. Live music begins at 6 p.m. Food and refreshments will be available from Ferrindino Maple, Batch Ice Cream and Mountain View Restaurant.

This event is free to attend – donations accepted on site to support the Recreation Association of Hampden (RAH).

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the coalition with \$125,000, but that time is over.

The coalition also benefits from a STOP Act Grant that offers \$50,000 per year. However, Berneche said that it is in line to be cut by the administration of President Donald Trump.

In that case, the coalition would lose the funding this October.

Lastly, the coalition has been funded by a Mental Health Awareness Training Grant that has provided \$125,000 per year. Unfortunately, the coalition is set to lose that funding at the end of September 2026.

Berneche asked the Select Board if it could provide the coalition with funding that the town received from a national opioid settlement with pharmaceutical companies. The town only has approximately \$35,000 available, and the Se-

lect Board members said they would only feel comfortable providing the coalition with less than half that amount, although they decided to hold off a month to make their final decision.

Town Administrator Nick Breault noted that the opioid settlement money must be spent a specific way and asked if the coalition would be able to align with that.

“The one question I had here is the opioid funds are supposed to mitigate use of opioids, which I would expect is certainly a part of what the mission is for this group, but I would want to make sure that's what the focus would be only because that's what we're told those uses must be. That may be something to consider,” Breault said.

Citing a specific section of the guide on how to spend the opioid settlement money, Berneche assured Breault that the coalition would use the

funding responsibly and as mandated.

Despite this, Breault emphasized that \$15,000 would not be enough to save the program by itself. He asked the board to consider the idea that other groups would ask for the opioid settlement money as well.

“I appreciate the position the coalition is in, and those funding cuts are drastic, but these funds are not going to save the program, unfortunately,” Breault said. “If the coalition has to suspend its operation, at least we may still have some funds as a community to run programming through our Board of Health and Health Department.”

When asked if the coalition could wait a month or two for the board's decision, Berneche confirmed that it could. However, if no action is taken by next fall, the coalition could shut down for good.

“Any amount of funds we will utilize fully in the programming. For this year coming up, we are able to supplement it with our other two grants. As of Oct. 1, 2026, that will be a very different story,” Berneche said. “If we don't secure additional funding then the school district has already noted that they won't be able to continue funding the coalition efforts. So, if we were in that place right now, I would be saying something different, but right now, we have a cushion for the next year or so.”

Berneche said she will continue to look for industry, state and nonprofit grants, as federal grant funding is being cut down.

Breault noted that the Health Department could assume responsibility for a smaller version of the coalition if the situation doesn't improve by next fall.

OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$275, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph.

Death Notices & Paid Obituaries should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.



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Action Ambulance renews contract with the town of Hampden

WILMINGTON - Action Ambulance Service is proud to announce the renewal of its ambulance service contract with the Town of Hampden, Massachusetts for an additional three years, reaffirming its commitment to providing high-quality emergency medical services to the communi-

ty. The renewed agreement, which will extend through June 2028, ensures the continued delivery of 24/7 emergency medical response, advanced life support, and patient transport services by a team of experienced and highly trained EMS profes-

sionals. "We are honored by the trust Hampden has placed in us once again," said Mike Woronka, President and CEO of Action Ambulance Service. "This contract renewal reflects the strong working relationship we've built and our shared commitment to public

health and safety. We look forward to continuing to serve the residents of Hampden." Over the past five years, Action Ambulance has responded to thousands of emergency calls in Hampden with professionalism and compassion. The new contract includes ongoing strong

system oversight and financial benefits for Hampden taxpayers, including a rebate on the town's subsidy award to Action. The contract renewal represents a continued investment in the health and safety of the area's residents and reflects both parties' dedication to excellence in emer-

gency medical care. Don Davenport, Select Board Chair for the Town of Hampden, added: "We're pleased to continue this partnership with Action Ambulance Service. Their proven record of reliable and responsive service makes them a valued asset to our community."



By Barb Turcotte

Keystone Commons, an Independent/Assisted Living Facility in Ludlow was at it once again! The residents put cheerful smiles on the faces of shoppers at the Holyoke Mall on Friday, May 16th with gorgeous flowers! Because of the generosity from some local florists, we were able to repeat this event from two years ago and it was another huge success. We gave away over 500 flowers and the array of colors were brilliant!

A family of four came in and as we gave each a flower, one confided that her brother had just died and expressed how much our kindness meant to them all. Others claimed we had restored their faith that there are nice people still in the world. A couple of young women graciously accepted our flowers, then returned with bottles of water for us! Riding home, we discovered they had bought water for all ten participating in this project. It was such an incredible feeling knowing we had touched so many people and helped improve their day.

their full cart. Everyone is in such a rush, but a driver allowed you go before them. How about even something smaller, like holding a door open for another. A cute story I heard was about a mom trying to teach her young son manners by holding the door open for the next person. As she was walking to her car she looked back and there was her 6-year-old son, still holding the door as the next ten people or so walked through it. She couldn't help but laugh, but noticed her son's kindness was met with a smile from each person as well as a big thank you! As you can see, kindness doesn't have to cost money and is something we can all do. But I've also been the recipient of someone ahead of me paying for my small grocery order as well as another diner paying for our tables lunches, so if you find yourself with a little extra, why not? I do my own Random Acts of Kindness and I can honestly tell you, it brightens my day just knowing I've made a difference in someone else's.

We didn't just give the flowers to women, though it seems that's the typical recipient of flowers, we gave to the male shoppers as well and their faces just lit up. One saying he'd never received flowers before and what a nice surprise. The young kids just felt so special as they walked away with their flower tightly clutched in their little hands. We also gave the shoppers a small flyer saying they were that day's recipient of our Random Act of Kindness and hoped they'd continue our mission by doing their own kind gestures. Hopefully they kept that flyer as a reminder of the day and will inspire them to continue creating and passing along positivity every day.

Holyoke Mall asked permission to put our efforts on their website and of course we said yes, but you can also see all the smiling faces on Keystone Commons website. We love sharing the good things we are doing within our local communities. They've ranged from donating to animal shelters, supplying lunch for fire and police departments, donating 'wish list' items to non-profits just to mention a few. Don't be afraid to be kind to a stranger, who knows, you might even make a new friend!

We put the Keystone residents to work before enjoying the pleasure of dispersing positivity. Each flower was tagged with a list of the donating florists including addresses and phone numbers with hopes that the recipients will support these generous businesses who so willing wanted to help with our event. Our donors were, Big Y-Ludlow store ~ Flowers, FLOWERS ~ Sixteen Acres Garden Center ~ Springfield Florist Supply ~ The Flower Box, all in Springfield ~ The Flower Stop and Willow & Moss, both located in West Springfield.

The smiles on the resident's faces were priceless and the shoppers, well in a time of so much negativity and turmoil, their smiles said it all. They were grateful for a little reprieve from it and enjoyed witnessing positivity being spread! The comments were incredible as they explained what we were doing meant to them. One unfortunate woman had just gone to the registry and came out to find her car had been smashed into, needless to say the single flower put a smile on her face.

Kindness is truly all around us but so often we don't take the time to notice these small gestures, such as someone pointing out a parking spot to you in a crowded lot. Or perhaps a shopper told you go ahead of them when you only had a couple items compared to

If you'd like to share a Random Act of Kindness story or if this one has touched you, please contact me at bdt514@aol.com or 413-575-9385. Who knows, you might see your story, 'Just Cause' you witnessed, you did or maybe received something nice being done for you. See you soon with another Random Act of Kindness! ~ Barb

Rock 102's Steve Nagle hosts family fun event to support Rick's Place

Saturday, June 21
Noon to 3 p.m.
Vanished Valley
Brewing Co.

WILBRAHAM - Steve Nagle and Rock 102 are hosting a lively, family-friendly fundraiser on Saturday, June 21, from Noon to 3 p.m., to benefit Rick's Place, a non-profit organization offering free grief support to children, teens, and their caregivers.

It's a chance for families, friends, and neighbors to enjoy time together while making a meaningful difference in the lives of those who've experienced deep personal loss.

Organized by Rock 102's Steve Nagle, and supported by Arrha Credit Union, Aqua Pump Co, and

Dave Miner Exterior Home Improvements, with a generous donation from listener Steve "the Hawkman" Hawk, the event features activities for all ages, including:

Free face painting, tie-dye station, a magician, raffle, prizes, live music, Mad EatZ Food Truck and Moolicious Ice Cream.

Tickets are just \$10.21 (plus a small processing fee), and food and beverages will be available for purchase from Vanished Valley, the Madd EatZ food truck, and Moolicious. Proceeds go directly to Rick's Place to help keep its peer grief support programs free for families across Western Massachusetts.

"This event is a chance for our community to show up with joy, generosity, and

compassion," said Therese Ross, Executive Director of Rick's Place. "We're so thankful to Steve Nagle and Rock 102 for creating an opportunity to raise awareness and support for children and teens who are grieving the death of someone important in their lives."

If you're unable to attend but would still like to support the work of Rick's Place, donations can be made at <https://ricksplace-ma.org/donate/>. Every gift helps sustain programs that offer connection, hope, and understanding during one of life's most difficult experiences.

Join us on June 21 - bring your family, bring your friends, and be part of something meaningful.

WPD announces new Minnechaug School Zones

WILBRAHAM - The police department has announced new school zones at Minnechaug Regional High School.

"The Town of Wilbraham, Massachusetts, USA has created two new school zones immediately surrounding Minnechaug and Mile Tree School driveways. These 20 mph zones are effective immediately and enforcement will begin to-

morrow June 2, 2025 during the posted hours 7 to 8:30 a.m. and 2 to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday. Flashing lights have been ordered and will be installed in the near future," they said. "The Main Steet zone extends from Willobrook Drive to Fern Valley Farms LLC Market. The Tinkham Road zone encompasses the area immediately East of Mountainbrook Rd to Fairview Rd."



Theatre Guild of Hampden seeking male actors

HAMPDEN - The Theatre Guild of Hampden is looking for male actors for their spring production of "The Wisdom of Eve." Auditions are Sunday,

June 22 at the Hampden Town Hall at 2 p.m. promptly. For more information, contact Mark Giza at 413-204-5333.

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CELL PHONE from page 1

ceID, learning the abbreviations found in text messages and more.

Afterward, Program & Volunteer Coordinator Tina Doran gave attendees an assignment to try out their new skills and also bring their questions about other things they would like to learn.

The presentation was hosted by Brynn DeForest, Emma Landry, Eva Gagliarducci and Madelyn D'Amore, who explained the presentation was a civics project.

After Landry said Gagliarducci thought of the idea and D'Amore thought this would help the community the best, Gagliarducci explained that her love for seniors and seeing her own grandparents struggle with using their phones inspired the project.

"I'm very happy that we get to teach a bunch of people how to use their phone and make it easy for them," Gagliarducci said.

DeForest was happy to see the attendees enjoy the presentation.

"I think the seniors really enjoyed this. I hope that we can do this at least one more time with maybe some more advanced things about phones so they can get a better understanding of certain apps," DeForest said. "I felt this was really fun. They had a good time too."



Brynn DeForest and Emma Landry go around helping seniors learn more about their smartphones.

The girls shared what they enjoyed about presenting the project to the seniors.

"I liked that I actually got to help people," Landry said. "This is something that I actually know and I can help with."

"I agree with Emma," Gagliarducci said.

"I thought it was nice to be able to help people, give back to the community," D'Amore said. "She was right, we definitely do take it for granted and there's definitely people we could help and we probably don't help enough."

"I enjoyed talking about the apps that I know so much about and just sharing it with them and showing them how to use them," DeForest said.

Gagliarducci said a presentation like this helps connect the older and younger generations together, especially if they live far away.

"I think for all of us it was really important because we have grandparents who live kind of far away that grandchildren actually get to talk with their grandparents and be more connected to them," Gagliarducci said.

D'Amore agreed.

"Personally--my grandpa--he does not really know how to use his phone. We don't often hear from him, I guess, because he lives kind of far away," D'Amore said. "So, to be able to help others learn how to use their phones so they can stay in contact with their family, that's definitely something that I'm really happy that we got the chance to do."

This was the girls' message to the community and attendees.

"I hope you all had a great



Brynn DeForest explains how to download an app to your smartphone.

time. We hope you really enjoyed the slideshow and we hope you enjoyed hearing everything that we said about certain apps," DeForest said.

"I really hope we got the basics down and it was easy for them to understand and they would be able to just know their phone better," Landry said. "I think that would be useful if people just want to get together to do something for the town."

"I think it's very important for people to be able to use their phones because not only is it very, very frustrating and complicated to use your phone, but I think the more you know, the better you are and even if you just know a

little bit of information on your phone and stuff, it's like a minute and a mile because it goes a long way," Gagliarducci said.

"I think that this was a very good experience. I don't want people to feel discouraged. Like the people who came here today, I don't want them to be frustrated because the way I see it, phones are like a second language," D'Amore said. "To us, the phones are like a second language because we've had these since we were little, so for them not to understand is completely natural and one day there will be something we don't understand."

MVP from page 1

who go above and beyond for youth of all ages in the community.

Messages from the School

Principal Mistie Parsons is forever grateful to Nickerson.

"Deb is a skilled and thoughtful nurse, who gives tirelessly to ensure not only are we all safe and healthy, but deeply cared for and seen. We are ever grateful for her legacy, and will work hard to emulate of values of comfort, integrity and humor," Parsons said.

Teacher Danielle Gagnon said Nickerson's impact "goes far beyond thermometers, ice packs and band-aids."

"You've created a space of safety and compassion- where all students (and staff) felt seen, heard, and understood. The kind of heart you have is irreplaceable. Thank you for being a steady light at Soule Road. Your legacy of love, empathy, and strength will live on in the many lives you've touched. You will always have a place in our hearts!" Gagnon said.

Occupational Therapist Mary Howell, meanwhile, called Nickerson the "OG of HWRSD nurses."

"I could always depend on her for knowing the answer to

one of my million questions. Deb always was up to any task anyone asked of her. Your kindness and compassion will be missed by your colleagues, your students, staff and the Wilbraham Elementary Community. Thank you Deb for your incredible dedication," Howell said.

Fellow Teacher Andrew Galaska said he would miss Nickerson when she retires.

"I cannot express how grateful I am to have shared an unofficial department with Deb for the last ten years and call her my friend. I wish her so much joy in retirement but I already miss having her at Soule," Galaska said.

Teacher Isabella Adkins said this.

"It is almost impossible to put into words the impact Deb has had on students and staff within HWRSD. She is first and foremost the most selfless person I know. She puts the needs of others before herself and always is willing to lend a helping hand," Adkins said. "Deb never fails to crack a joke to lighten the mood. She also not only takes care of students but takes care of staff as if we were her own children. Her mark on Soule Road School will never be forgotten. She is truly one of a kind and we are all better people for having known and

worked with Deb."

Nickerson Reflects

Nickerson said receiving the award "was very unexpected" and shared she had fond memories of Kahn from her first day at the school.

"It is very special because she was the hardest worker that I have ever, ever met in my life and I hope that I followed in her footsteps a little bit," Nickerson said.

She also shared she was part of the first class to attend Soule Road School when it opened in the 1970s, with her class having gone to Memorial School until a Christmas Break. By January, Nickerson and her fellow fifth graders came to Soule Road.

"It is a pretty special building to me and I do have the best nurse office in the district," Nickerson said. "It is the nicest and most comfortable for sure!"

Nickerson came to work at the school when she had young children of her own and the Education Reform of 1993 enabled the nurse leader to hire two nurses.

In 2000, she and her fellow nurse went from part-time to full-time.

"I was half day here and half day at Stony Hill because Stony Hill had just reopened--it used to be the Grammar



Jackie Hafner, community engagement/communications coordinator for Hampden Wilbraham Partners for Youth, presents Soule Road School Nurse Deb Nickerson with the Gina Kahn MVP Award.

School--so Wilbraham took Stony Hill back from the Grammar School because the Grammar School was a private school," Nickerson said. "They kind of redid Stony Hill, so I was halftime here

and halftime at Stony Hill and there was an LPN here. We flip-flopped, so I went here, she'd go to Stony."

Nickerson said she enjoyed everything from the kids to the staff, adding she's been

interested in nursing since she was five years old and played nurse with her dolls.

"I just love taking care of all of them, the kids and the staff," Nickerson said. "Wonderful nurse leader, a wonderful principal and administration, so it's easy to come to work every day."

Nickerson looks forward to spending time with her grandsons, taking care of her chickens and enjoying the next chapter in retirement.

"Just time to relax and not have to be somewhere on a schedule all the time, and certainly, I will come back and sub in the district because I'm going to miss them a lot," Nickerson said.

Her message to the community was this.

"Such a huge thank you to everyone and that it certainly was my pleasure to be here and to watch this community grow and go through changes and watch the district go through so many changes since I've been here," Nickerson said. "Just an amazing community to belong to. I'm very proud to be part of it."



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VIEWPOINTS

SOCIAL SECURITY

Matters

By Russell Gloor

Can my husband work part time and collect Social Security?

Dear Rusty:

I am writing to you on behalf of my husband. His intentions are to go part time as of Jan. 1, 2026, working 30 hours a week and take Social Security benefits as supplemental income. How can we determine what his Social Security benefit would be with him still working part time? He will be 63 and 7 months old next January and has not yet applied for benefits. We look forward to hearing from someone very soon.

Signed: Anxious for Information

Dear Anxious:

If he claims Social Security at age 63 and 7 months, your husband's benefit will be about 78% of what it would be if he waited until age 67 to claim.

And, since your husband will not yet have reached his SS Full Retirement Age, he will be subject to Social Security's Annual Earning Test, which limits how much he can earn while working and collecting early Social Security retirement benefits. The amount he can earn without paying a penalty changes yearly but, for reference, the earnings limit for 2025 is \$23,400 per year.

If his work earnings exceed the annual limit, Social Security will take away some of his benefits. Using the 2025 limit as an example, if your husband's annual 2025 earnings were \$40,000, then he would owe about \$8,300 (half of the amount he exceeded the limit by). Social Security would withhold his monthly benefits for enough months to recover what he owes for exceeding the earnings limit. How many months they withhold would be determined by his monthly SS benefit amount.

FYI, the earnings test lasts until your husband reaches his Full Retirement Age (his FRA is age 67), but in the year he attains his FRA the penalty for exceeding the limit is less, \$1 for every \$3 over the limit and the limit is much higher. The annual earnings test no longer applies once your husband reaches his FRA.

When your husband applies for his SS retirement benefit, Social Security will ask about his work plans and how much he expects to earn each year. Based upon that information, if he expects to exceed the annual limit they will pay his benefits for some months of the year depending on

his projected earnings and withhold his benefits for the remaining months. They will also monitor his annual earnings as reported to the IRS and make any appropriate benefit adjustment afterwards.

If SS benefits are withheld because your husband exceeded the annual earnings limit, when he reaches his full retirement age (67), Social Security will give him time-credit for all month's that benefits were withheld. Essentially, they will advance his actual claim date by the number of months benefits were withheld, which will make his monthly benefit higher at his FRA. The higher amount he receives after reaching his FRA will help him recover some of the money withheld as a result of exceeding the earnings limit before his FRA.

Please note that it is always best to inform Social Security up front if your husband plans to work and earn even part time prior to reaching his FRA. The IRS will provide the SSA with your husband's earnings information and SSA will (if his projected earnings weren't disclosed when he applied) issue an Overpayment Notice if he earns more than allowed. He will then be required to repay SS everything owed or have his benefits withheld until Social Security recovers what he owes.

One final point: by claiming his benefits in January 2026, your husband's monthly amount will be reduced by about 22% from the amount he would get at his FRA of 67. Claiming early before FRA always results in a benefit reduction, whereas waiting longer than FRA to claim always results in a higher monthly amount (maximum benefit is reached at age 70).

The Association Mature Citizens Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. This article is intended for information purposes and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the Association Mature Citizens Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association. To submit a question, visit amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org. Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.

Letters to the Editor

Wilbraham Senior Center - What's going on? Nothing! Maybe?

To the Editor,

In complete transparency I was not in favor, nor do I plan on using it, of the new Wilbraham Senior Center in size or the location. I do recognize that the facilities at the Scantic Valley YMCA were woefully inadequate, and something had to be built.

We, the taxpayers, built a \$14M something that required about \$2M in donations to make it operational (FF&E). Now that we have this very large Senior Center, what's going on?

What are we doing with it? It appears - nothing!

That's what it looks like from the outside. The Town of Hampden has a smaller and less bodacious Senior Center; however, it is clearly apparent that they are managing the center better in offering activities and trips to those who frequent the center.

The Times publishes weekly a comprehensive list of activities and items of interest. For example, this week (May 29, 2025) on page 11, their "Monthly Highlights", "Hampden Senior Center Older Americans Month Programming", and "Upcoming HSC Trips".

Since its opening, I have

yet to see or read anything close to what Hampden does. Maybe Wilbraham didn't need such a large facility but maybe it needed to be managed better?

WSC will never attract the numbers or reach all the towns' seniors by word of mouth. Just saying, from the outside it appears that nothing is going on there.

Please someone tell me differently and that we haven't been bad stewards with taxpayer's monies.

Kevin Davis,
Wilbraham

What not to do this last week of spring

By avoiding these common mistakes you'll be well on your way to a wonderful landscape this summer.

Sowing grass seed at the wrong time

Did you know that the end of August/ beginning of September is the best time to get a new lawn off to a good start? It is, first and foremost because crab grass (the arch enemy of real grass!) can't gain a foot hold late in the growing season. Slightly cooler temperatures and adequate rainfall prevalent during that time of year help too.

Scalping the lawn

Healthy turf isn't mown as low, or as often as you might think. Mowing to a height of about three inches will encourage a strong stand of deep-rooted grass that is capable of shading out developing weeds and sustaining itself during periods of drought.

Removing grass clippings

Take the bagger attachment off of your mower and let the clippings fall back onto the lawn! Grass clippings are a valuable source of nitrogen, the nutrient responsible for giving grass its green color. It's silly to remove it, only then to provide it in the form of granular fertilizer.

Watering during the heat of the day

Most gardeners know that early in the day is the optimal time for watering the lawn as well as other plants. Less water is lost to evaporation, and fungal diseases are kept to a minimum since foliage has a chance to dry before darkness sets in.

Choosing the wrong plant for the location

Almost everyone has fall-

en victim to the "I've got to have that plant syndrome." This condition causes even smart gardeners to buy plants that don't fit their particular

plants off to a great start, but only if incorporated correctly.

Peat moss must be moistened before use, otherwise it will wick water away from the plant it is intending to help. Once thoroughly wet, peat moss will aid in moisture retention!

Forgetting to "butterfly" root balls at planting time

Did you ever purchase a tree or shrub, perennial or annual whose root ball was so thick with roots you could barely see the soil in which it was planted? Plants that match this description are "root bound."

If this situation isn't remedied at planting time the roots may never know they have room to sprawl; ultimately, growth may be affected! Let the roots run free by taking both hands and splitting open or "butterflying" the root ball. Root balls of larger specimens can be scored in several places with a knife.

Pruning summer blooming shrubs now

Don't prune your Rose of Sharon or Hydrangea now or you'll take the flowers with your clippings. On the flip side, you have until July 1 to prune your lilacs. Rhododendrons and Azaleas can be deadheaded now for even more flowers next spring.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 33 years she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to pouimette@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.

Not moistening peat moss before use

Most experts recommend adding peat moss to the planting hole when installing trees, roses or other shrubs. Rich in organic matter, it will get your



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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.

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Election letters to the editor welcome

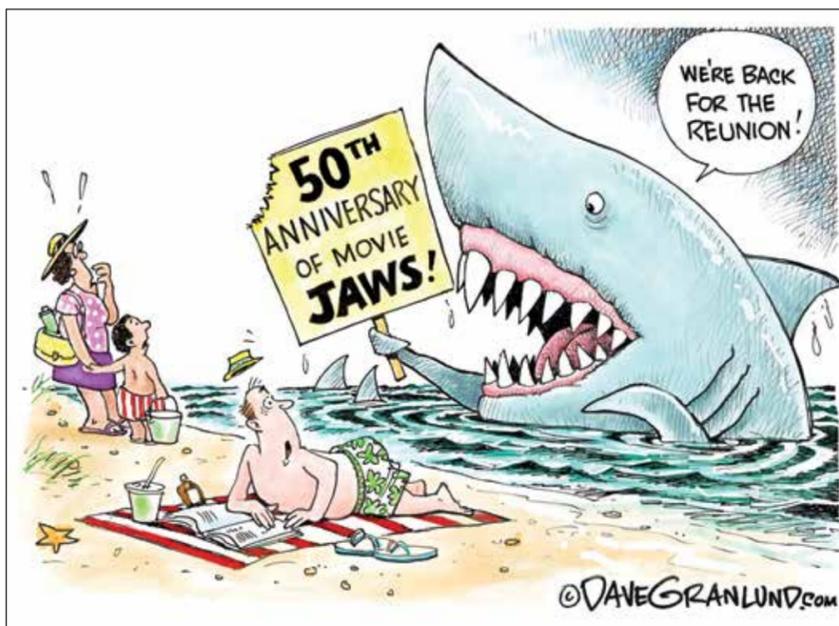
The Wilbraham-Hampden Times welcomes readers to participate in this year's election campaigns by writing letters to the editor for publication on these pages. Letters of up to 250 words from local residents endorsing candidates on the ballot or discussing campaign issues should be sent to Wilbraham-Hampden Times, care of Turley Publications, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069, faxed to 413-289-1977 or emailed to krivers@turley.com. Please include a daytime telephone number for verification purposes (it will not be printed). Letters must be received by noon Monday to be considered for that Thursday's newspaper. No attack letters will be printed. No letters written by candidates supporting their own candidacy will be printed. If the volume of letters received is larger than the space available in the newspaper, or if the letters become repetitive, the newspaper reserves the right to print a representative sample. No endorsement letters will be printed in the last edition before the election.

For more information, call the editor at 413-283-8393.

Campaign news

As part of its election coverage, the newspaper plans to print stories about contested races for Congress, state Senate, state House, district attorney and Governor's Council during the weeks leading up to the election, as well as a question-and-answer voters guide. In order to ensure fairness to all candidates, no political press releases will be printed, nor will reporters cover political rallies or fundraisers.

Candidates who wish to further publicize their candidacy, beliefs and events may contact advertising, 413-283-8393 about paid advertising in Wilbraham-Hampden Times.



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Life in

Readers are encouraged to send in medium to high resolution photos for this page by e-mail to krivers@turley.com or mail to TIMES, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069.

WILBRAHAM HAMPDEN

Rotary Club wishes Mary Cassidy 'Happy Retirement' ...



Photo and caption Charlie Bennett

Wilbraham-Hampden Rotary Club President Peter Salerno wishes Mary Cassidy a happy retirement as she retires as executive director of the Community Survival Center in Indian Orchard. The club meeting took place May 28 at the Country Club of Wilbraham. Rotary has supported the center for years and will continue the effort, said Salerno.

COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD

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 krivers@turley.com



Photo and caption Charlie Bennett

Manning the Gift Shop at Museum...

The Old Meeting House Museum Gift Shop offered historical Wilbraham gift items at the Open House June 8. Vice President of the Atheneum Society Karen Geaghan (right) and Marianne Wagner, Christmas Tree Festival chairwoman (left) manned the shop.



Photos and caption courtesy of Wilbraham Fire Department

WFD attends Trench Rescue Technician Class

This past week, three members of the Wilbraham Fire Department attended the Massachusetts Fire Academy's 4-day Trench Rescue Technician class held in Auburn.



Photo and caption Charlie Bennett

Rotary continues support for Survival Center...

Retiring director (from left) Mary Cassidy and incoming director Cristal Turcotte of the Community Survival Center in Indian Orchard accept a check for \$500 from officials, President Peter Salerno and Secretary Brad Sperry at the Wilbraham-Hampden Rotary Club meeting at the Country Club of Wilbraham May 28. The Center's emergency food pantry serves Wilbraham, Hampden and Ludlow as well as the 16 Acres, and Indian Orchard neighborhoods in Springfield.

HPD takes part in Cruiser Convoy



Photo and caption courtesy of Hampden Police Department
On June 7, Officer Auclair attended the 2025 Cruiser Convoy for Special Olympics at Harvard University.

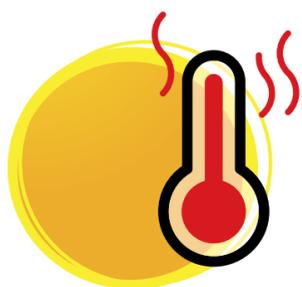


Photo and caption Charlie Bennett

Newspapers still matter...

Times Editor Kristin Rivers (center) was the guest speaker at the Open House of the Old Meeting House Museum June 8, shown here with Joe Cantalini (left) and Bradley Gregory (right). Her message was that in today's media world, print newspapers still matter and it is important to preserve history.

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Wilbraham recognized as a Dementia Friendly Community by the Mass. COA

WILBRAHAM - The Town of Wilbraham is proud to announce its official certification as a Dementia Friendly Community by the Massachusetts Councils on Aging. This significant milestone honors Wilbraham's dedication to building a more inclusive, supportive environment for individuals living with dementia and their caregivers.

To celebrate this achievement, the Town will host a community celebration on Monday, July 7, 2025, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Wilbraham Senior Center (250 Springfield Street). The event is open to the public, and town officials, local businesses, and community members are warmly encouraged to attend. The celebration will include guest speakers from the Massachusetts Council on Aging and the Alzheimer's Association. Light refreshments will be provided.

"A dementia-friendly community is a place where people with dementia and their caregivers are support-

ed, included, and empowered by local residents and businesses," said Katie Krupka. "We focus on education, reducing stigma, promoting awareness, and ensuring access to resources and services that enhance quality of life."

The Dementia Friendly Wilbraham initiative began in the summer of 2023, guided by a passionate committee including Barbara Harrington and Paula Dubord of the Wilbraham Senior Center, Katie Krupka of Assisted Living Locators, Tracey Perry of Country Bank, and representatives from the ERC5 Chamber of Commerce.

Over the past year, the committee has facilitated multiple dementia education efforts, including Dementia Friends training for local businesses and town offices as well as dementia simulation experiences and information and updates on the importance of dementia research. The Wilbraham Senior Center also launched a Memory Café, providing a

safe and engaging space for those living with dementia and their loved ones. In a unique outreach effort, Dementia Friends training was even presented to 4th and 5th grade classrooms at Soule Road School, fostering empathy and awareness among the community's youngest members.

"This recognition is not just a milestone—it's a testament to the compassion and dedication of our entire community," said Katie Krupka, Assisted Living Locators. "We are committed to continuing our efforts to educate, support, and grow as a truly Dementia Friendly town."

Wilbraham will continue working alongside community partners and local businesses to broaden awareness, provide educational opportunities, and enhance quality of life for all residents affected by dementia.

For more information or to RSVP, please contact the Wilbraham Senior Center at (413-596-8370).

PUPPOLO from page 1

state audit. It allowed people to have a conversation and getting an insight onto the present day and what's happening with the budget, education, and various services that the Commonwealth of Massachusetts provides for the community.

Many attendees had expressed concern about the budget, the Rainy Day Fund, and moving forward. Overall, it was a very wide range of discussion topics for Puppulo to respond to.

Puppulo also took a moment to discuss the event himself.

"It's good to see familiar faces, good to see new faces and the dialogue. What I enjoy most about it is the engagement to say, here's what we're doing, you in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts more importantly, here's what your representative is doing from the 12th District," Puppulo said.

Puppulo explained serving constituents is a crucial part of the work.

"To me, the most important part of the job is constituent services. So, I think as policy is big—and I'm a big policy person—the most important thing to me is constituent services and that's what we hear, firsthand, from the constituent, from the residents of my district, what their needs, what their concerns are, but to be here," Puppulo said. "And I think that's a critically important part of it. I'm not in Boston all the time, although I'm there many days of the week. But when I'm here, I'm engaged with my constituents, and I want to make sure



State Rep. Angelo Puppulo Jr. (D-Springfield) speaks to attendees about his position as State Representative and the various topics that have been addressed at the event.



Everyone was able to go home with a rubber duck courtesy of State Rep. Angelo Puppulo Jr. (D-Springfield).

that I'm here, my office is here and we're here to help. Constituent service is a key component to that."

Jen Finnigan, the activity and volunteer coordinator for the Wilbraham Senior Center, was happy to see people in attendance and ask questions.

"He is a great resource for our community to have, and it's a great opportunity for people in town to come out and ask him the questions all at once and get an idea of what is going on in his day to day life," Finnigan said. "Our community gets to come to-

gether and meet someone who is actively engaging in our community and this population to see what is going on in their town, in their city, and their state."

Pizza with Puppulo is annually held at the Wilbraham Senior Center every summer, which is open to all members of the public. Everyone is welcome to attend the event whenever it takes place.

Overall, the event provided an afternoon for a social opportunity with a little bit of lunch, but also engagement with one of the town's State Representatives.

Nomination for Steve Hale for the Gina Kahn MVP Award

WILBRAHAM/HAMPDEN - Steve has been a part of the HWRSD community for over 20 years.

He has served as principal at Soule Rd. School, Wilbraham Middle School, and a Minnechaug Regional. At each of his assignments he has been well liked by parents, students, and staff.

He has always operated the schools under his guardianship with professionalism and effectiveness. His graduation speeches have always been a special recognition of his students and his caring for them.

He is a great example of what and how a principal should be. He has represented the HWRSD District well and his efforts should be recognized.



Steve Hale

PROJECTS from page 1

Dr. Michael Tirabassi agreed with Collins on the air quality concerns being a priority over the bleachers, also expressing concern "that we're going to continue to meet resistance even if there's an infinite amount of money in Wilbraham's coffers because they're really hoping to have Hampden start to contribute to capital expenses" at WMS.

"I definitely think we should push for the fall meeting, but I'm concerned that we're not going to be successful, again, because that issue has yet to be settled as a negotiating point between the towns," Tirabassi said.

He also suggested both items be put forth for Fall Town Meeting due to the safety concerns.

Secretary Lisa Murray said she wouldn't be able to decide between both projects "because both are dangerous" and a plan for the bleachers has been taken on as well.

"So, how much would it cost when something terrible happens with the bleachers and people are on it? So, what's the cost of that?" Murray said.

Vice Chair Sean Kennedy shared how a soccer game his son had was rained out and the venue was changed to play on the stadium and, while sitting on the bleachers, he noticed yellow caution tape.

"At this point, I think we should close the bleachers down. People can watch the games, just have people standing around. There's plenty of room. I'm really worried about that. I've been worried about it for a while," Kennedy said. "Yes, the air quality of the students in the school is paramount, but I don't want anyone on those bleachers where they can get hurt. I know we've spent a lot of money over the years building and rebuilding and replacing and everything like that. I just don't think in good conscience I could allow those bleachers to be used."

After Tirabassi suggested both requests should be separate assessment letters and



separate warrants for both towns, Student Representative Kadence Illig shared students have been shocked the bleachers are still open due to the safety hazard, adding she's also concerned about the air quality at the middle school.

"Because, in a way, you can get hurt physically and yes, it could be long-term depending on the severity, but you can recover quicker than something that can mess up your lungs for life," Illig said.

She also noted when her mother was a teacher at Green Meadows Elementary School and mold was found under the floors, "they just said, 'Nope, it's fine' and just kept putting new floors over it."

"I feel at this point, the mold and the air quality within not just one building but across multiple buildings has been an ongoing issue. It's temporary solutions, but I don't think we ever found a permanent solution to continue fixing it," Illig said. "So, I agree that both are equally important, but I think on a long-term level we really need to do the air quality and I think as he (Kennedy) was saying, we should close the bleachers down as well."

Collins encouraged anyone watching the meeting to step up for the children and adults "to create a healthy, safe atmosphere in our school system."

"We need your help. We need you to write letters. We need you to show up at Select Board meetings. We need you to show up at Finance Committee meetings and demand that our two communities take care of our children and the people we have working with them," Collins said.

After Tirabassi asked if they have accurate and realistic prices and quotes, Assistant Superintendent for Finance, Operations and Human Resources Dr. Douglas Slaughter agreed "That's definitely an area that we need to spend time on."

"I think getting those projects scoped and priced to a level of comfort for them—I'm not sure we'll get as comfortable as they want us to be as far as those prices are concerned—but certainly getting a better level of detail and refinement to those estimates would be beneficial to the process," Slaughter said.

On the timelines for capital submissions, Slaughter added he would review those deadlines and agreed with Kennedy on the impact of tariffs on reviewing the numbers.

Chair Michal Boudreau agreed both items were very important and expressed "It makes me really uncomfortable having to make a choice of which safety item we have to choose."

"I think they're both very important. I don't think either of them is a nice to have. Neither of those things—good air quality and safe and sturdy bleachers—I don't think that's a luxury," Boudreau said. "So, I think it makes me really uncomfortable and I find it very unfortunate that we have to make that choice or that somebody may be asking us to make that choice."

Provost said he would have this meeting be referred to the proper parties and how the School Committee considers both items a priority.

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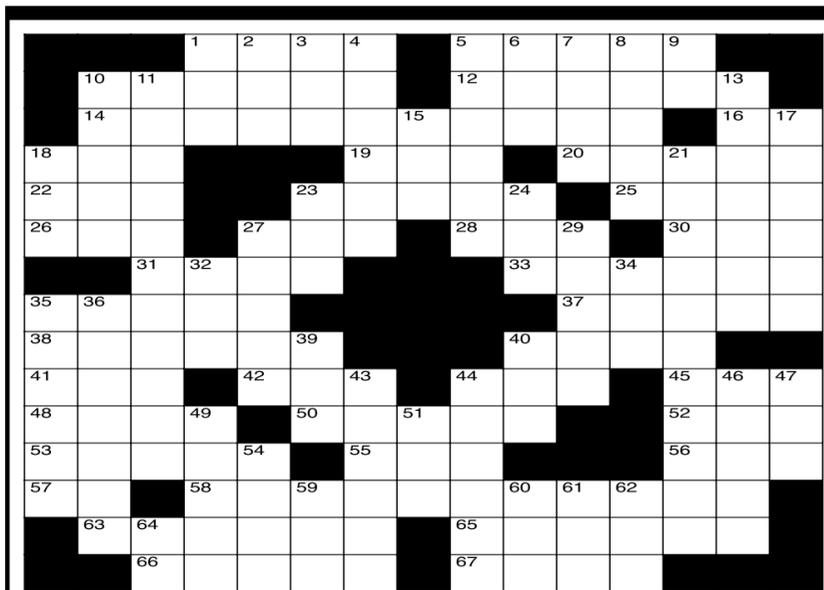
High School of Commerce holding 50th Class Reunion

SPRINGFIELD - The High School of Commerce Class of 75 is holding their 50th class reunion.

It will take place at the Storowton Tavern, West

Springfield, MA, on Saturday August 30, 2025 at 6 p.m.

Contact Janet at jan0826@comcast.net to learn more.



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Type of bread
- 5. Range of mountains
- 10. Ended
- 12. Musical forms with a recurring theme
- 14. On the nature of being
- 16. Law enforcement agency
- 18. Australian flightless bird
- 19. Subway rodent
- 20. More dried-up
- 22. A beaver might build one
- 23. Suggestive of the supernatural
- 25. Art ____, around 1920
- 26. American rocker Snider
- 27. Not or
- 28. Earliest human: __-Magnon Man
- 30. Firearm
- 31. Tough outer skin of fruit

- 33. Alternative form of a gene
- 35. Low shrub some call "fat pork"
- 37. Plants in the chamomile tribe
- 38. Revolutionary War era spy
- 40. Portion of a book
- 41. Hoover's office
- 42. Title of respect
- 44. Tax collector
- 45. Cool!
- 48. Real estate
- 50. Boy's name
- 52. Airborne (abbr.)
- 53. Strongly recommends
- 55. Hit lightly
- 56. Bar bill
- 57. Atomic #54
- 58. Devotes again
- 63. Fish sauce
- 65. French stock market
- 66. Things that consist of two elements or parts

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Retired game show host Sajak
- 2. Equal (prefix)
- 3. Israeli city __ Aviv
- 4. Loved
- 5. A type of analyst
- 6. Ad __
- 7. Gasteyer and de Armas are two
- 8. Ran without moving
- 9. Opposite of yes
- 10. Diffuse clouds of gas
- 11. Mentioning one by one
- 13. Instruments used to dilate
- 15. Freshwater fish
- 17. Remotely-manned flying objects
- 18. Doctor of Education
- 21. Renews
- 23. Not the start
- 24. Pitching stat

- 27. Small water buffaloes
- 29. Ceramic jars
- 32. I (German)
- 34. Something to toss on a fire
- 35. The process of flowing in
- 36. A series of acts at a night club
- 39. Egg of a louse
- 40. Inquire too closely
- 43. Travelers
- 44. Drink
- 46. Behave in a way that degrades
- 47. Electronic music style
- 49. Northern Ireland city
- 51. Upset
- 54. Stiff structure resembling a hair
- 59. Father
- 60. North Atlantic fish
- 61. 8th month (abbr.)
- 62. Make an effort
- 64. Commercial

SPORTS

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Wilbraham Jr. Legion beats B-Town



Frank Morin heads for first base.



Gavin Ladue takes a swing.

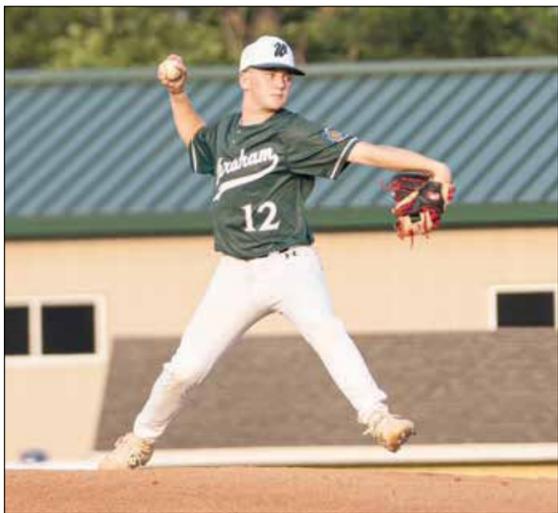
Turley photos by Sofia DiGrande



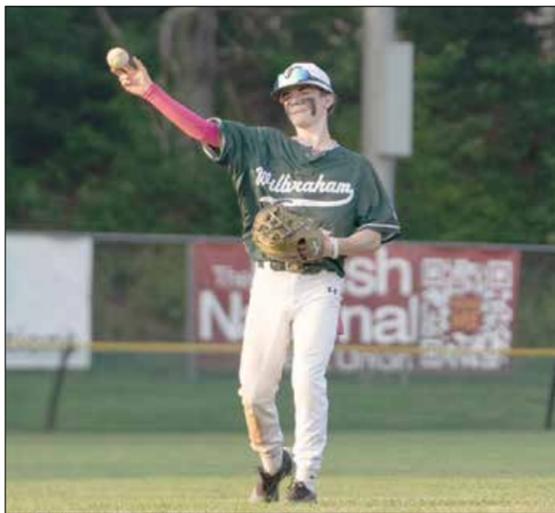
Gavin O'Neill dusts himself off after sliding into third.

WILBRAHAM – Last Thursday evening, Wilbraham Jr. American Legion Post 286 baseball defeated Belchertown 7-3 for its first win of the summer season.

Wilbraham then suffered a pair of losses in a doubleheader against Westfield on Saturday, June 14. The Falcons are 1-3 to start the season.



Peter Appleby delivers a pitch home.



Ryan Donovan sends a throw back to the infield.

Pioneers battle to draw with Black Rock

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW—While the Western Mass. Pioneers haven't lost a home match this season, their faithful supporters have celebrated just one victory at historic Lusitano Stadium.

The only meeting of the regular season between Black Rock FC and the Pioneers ended in a 1-1 draw before a large crowd, last Friday night.

"We do have a lot of quality players, and we always try to strive for excellence," said Pioneers defender Aidan Kelly, who's also the team's first year captain. "It's always disappointing whenever we drop points, especially at home. Hopefully, we can get a result in our next match at Vermont. We just need to keep working hard."

The soccer teams in the USL League Two earn three points for a victory and one point for a tie.

The Pioneers (5-0-2) had a total of 17 points after their first seven matches. They're battling Vermont Green FC (5-0-1, 16 points) for first place in the Northeast Division standings.

The first meeting of the 2025 regular season between the two rivals was scheduled to take place at Virtue Field in Burlington, Vermont on Tuesday night.

The Western Mass. squad

will be hosting Vermont in their final match of the regular season on July 11.

The Pioneers also played a 1-1 tie in the home opener on May 23 against Seacoast United Phantoms, who are the defending USL League Two champions. Their only home win came against New England FC, 4-1, on June 6.

"We dominated tonight's game, but we couldn't put away our chances," said Pioneers head coach Federico Molinari. "Sometimes you can score a goal on four or five shots. Sometimes you take many shots and don't score any goals. It's just part of the game."

Black Rock hasn't celebrated a victory at Lusitano Stadium since the 2018 regular season. The two squads did play a scoreless draw at the old stadium in 2023.

Kelly, who joined the Pioneers a year ago, is from Belfast, Northern Ireland. He'll be a senior on the UMass men's soccer team in the fall. The Minutemen men's soccer coach is Fran O'Leary, who's a native of Dublin, Ireland.

"My college coach is from Ireland," Kelly said. "He's the main reason why I decided to play soccer at UMass. It has been a great three years there and I have one more left. I'm really looking forward to it."

Please see **PIONEERS**, page 10

Mutiny gets shutout of Racing Power FC

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW—Sole possession of first place in the U.W.S. East Conference standings was at stake entering the first ever meeting on the soccer pitch between Racing Power FC USA and the New England Mutiny.

After a scoreless opening half, the Mutiny scored three second half goals en route to a 3-0 shutout victory at Lusitano Stadium, last Saturday night.

"We played very well for the entire game," said Mutiny head coach Federico Molinari. "We finally scored a few goals in the second half."

The Mutiny had a perfect 5-0-0 record following their third shutout win of the season. They only allowed two goals in their first five regular season matches.

The Mutiny are hoping to finish in first place for the fourth time since 2019. They lost to the Santa Clarita Blue

Heat in the United Women's Soccer Championship match a year ago in a shootout. It was their only loss of 2024.

Racing Power FC (4-1-0) outscored their first four opponents, 19-0. They only had four subs for the road match, including the back-up goalie.

Cat Perez, who was born in Bogotá, Colombia, was the Mutiny's starting goalie for the first time this season. She was also a member of her country's soccer team which competed in the 2024 Summer Olympics games in Paris, France. She has also played for Team Boca Blast of the WPSL.

Chloe Laizer, who recently graduated from West Springfield High School, replaced Perez 15 minutes into the second half.

The duo didn't have to make very many saves against Racing Power, who's an affiliate of the Portugal's Pro women's team.

The Mutiny starting defenders were Rachel Marchi-



Avery Klingensmith, of Belchertown, navigates through traffic.

ni, Aida Name, Anna Carson, and Laci Lewis, who's the team captain.

Name, who graduated from Belchertown High School, will be a junior on the University of Rhode Island women's soccer team this

fall.

Another defender listed on the Mutiny roster is Kylie Ray. She played soccer at Minnechaug Regional for legendary head coach Nundi Goncalves. Ray is currently a member of the women's soc-



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

Aida Name of Chicopee gets in action for the Mutiny last weekend.

cer team at Seton Hall University.

Tennessee Murphy, who lives in Monson, scored her first goal in a Mutiny home

match during the 63rd minute.

Please see **MUTINY**, page 10



Anna Carson sends a kick home.



Laci Lewis dribbles toward the goal.

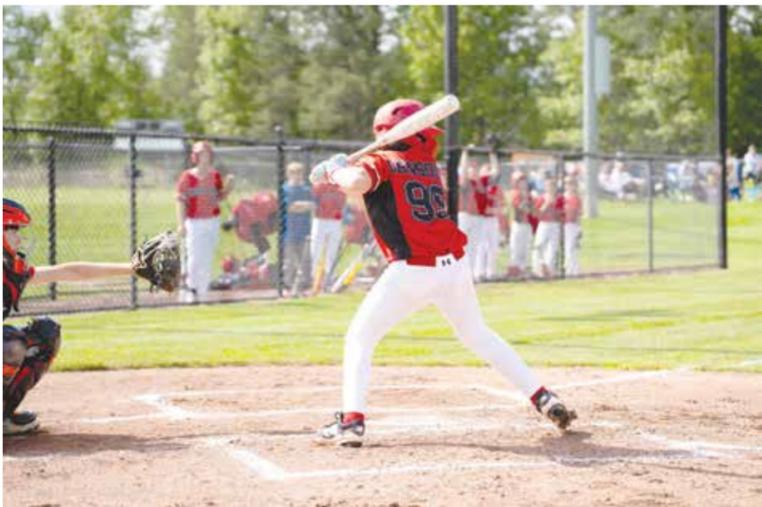


Bella Meadows traps the ball on defense.



Jenna Kalwa pops up a pass forward.

12th Annual Kevin Ambrose Tournament tees off in Wilbraham



A player up at bat ready to swing at the ball.

Photos courtesy of Sawyer Lisowski

WILBRAHAM - The Annual Kevin Ambrose Tournament is a baseball tournament held every year on Memorial Day weekend at Spec Pond in Wilbraham. It features three tournaments: 10U, 12U, and 14U. The tournament honors the late Springfield police officer who was killed in the line of duty. This is the 12th year of the tournament.



Two young players with their gloves at the ready.



This player gets ready to throw the pitch.



Players took part in three tournaments at the event.



An outfield shot during the 12th Annual Kevin Ambrose Tournament in Wilbraham.



The tournament honored late Springfield Officer Kevin Ambrose who died in the line of duty.



An action shot of players at home plate during a play.

MUTINY from page 9

The scoring play began when Lewis launched a crossing pass into the box from the right touchline. After the ball took a high bounce, Murphy headed it into the back of the

net past goalie Riley Melendez.

"We knew that tonight's opponent was a very good team," said Murphy, who scored her first two goals of the season on the road. "It was a perfect cross from Laci. When I saw the ball go over

the defender, I was a little bit nervous because I didn't want to miss a scoring chance. After I headed the ball into the net, it was a very good feeling."

Three minutes later, the Mutiny were given a penalty kick following a foul in the box.

Chioma Okafor, who's a member of the UConn women's soccer team, blasted a shot into the lower left corner of the net giving the home team a 2-0 advantage.

Murphy, who's a first-year

member of the Mutiny, assisted on the third goal in the 79th minute.

After dribbling around a couple of defenders, Murphy made a short pass to Avery Klingensmith, who finished off the play by putting a shot into the right corner.

"I used to play against Avery when we played in the Pioneer Valley Summer Soccer League," Murphy said. "It's been a lot of fun being teammates with her on this soccer team. She's an outstanding player."

Klingensmith, who's from Belchertown, will be a senior on the American University women's soccer team. During her outstanding high school career, Klingensmith was selected to the All-American team by the United Soccer Coaches.

Murphy, who transferred to the Loomis-Chaffee School four years ago, received the same honor last fall.

"My older sister, Brooke, was also an All-American and it was a very special honor for me. I really didn't expect it, but it was a lot of fun celebrating the accomplishment with my family," said Murphy, who's entering her senior year at Loomis. "I've also committed to play soccer at Bucknell University. It's a small school and I really like the soccer team. I think it's a very good fit for me."

The Mutiny are scheduled to play a road match against the Maine Footy on Saturday night before facing the NJ Alliance in the regular season home finale at 5pm on June 29.

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PIONEERS from page 9

Kelly replaced Nicholas Oberrauch as the Pioneers captain.

"I learned a lot from Nicholas last year," Kelly added. "I was honored when Federi-

co told me that I was going to be the captain of this year's team. I'm very glad to be leading this group of players."

Kelly is also a starting defender, along with Jared Smith, Jaiden Willems, and Juan Hermoso.

Kelly and Smith combined to score what turned out to be the only Pioneers goal against Black Rock following a corner kick two minutes into the opening half.

Israel Neto booted the ball into the box from the left corner. Kelly tapped the ball over to Smith, who fired a wide open shot into the back of the net for his first career goal with the Pioneers.

"We've been working on set pieces at practice," Kelly said. "I got my foot on the ball and luckily Jared was there to take a shot. I'm very glad that he scored his first career goal in tonight's match."

Black Rock scored the equalizer on a header by Koki Hamada in the 10th minute.

Western Mass. goalie Cam Hall didn't have to make very many saves during the final 80 minutes of the match.

At the other end of the field, the Pioneers had seven more corner kicks during the

final 35 minutes of the opening half, but they were unable to score.

With 15 minutes remaining in the half, Mamadi Jiana, who's a former member of the Chicopee High School boys' varsity soccer team, stole the ball away from a Black Rock player. He then took a shot from inside the box, which sailed high over the crossbar.

The score was deadlocked 1-1 at halftime.

The Pioneers had several more scoring chances in the second half, but they could put the ball into the net past goalie Benjamin Difley.

With less than two minutes remaining in the contest, Kelly made a sliding tackle breaking up a breakaway opportunity for Black Rock.

The visiting team didn't have any other shots on goal, and the score was still tied when referee Fabio Cardoso blew his whistle for the final time.

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Monthly Highlights for June at the Hampden Senior Center:

HAMPDEN - The following programs will occur at the senior center on Allen Street in the coming weeks.

Summer Basket Raffle sponsored by the Friends of Hampden Seniors & Inspired by our friend Cindy O'Sullivan

This raffle basket is centered around a beautiful new summer hat that belonged to Cindy and contains cookies, sunscreen, a teapot with tea & honey, a beautiful quilt, sunscreen, sunglasses and so much more.

The basket is on display in the senior center lobby, and tickets are available for purchase at the desk.

\$2 for one ticket and \$5 for three tickets.

Cindy was a great supporter of the Hampden Senior Center, and we are happy to keep her legacy alive with this summer basket raffle. All proceeds from the summer basket raffle will go towards future programming at the senior center.

D & R Farm, Winter Farm Share COMING SOON, SUMMER FARM SHARE from July through October

New applications for Summer Farm Share are required.

If interested, contact Wen-

dy at 566-5588 to get your application in! Shares are limited.

Pickleball, Anyone?

The Hampden Senior Center is partnering with the town's Parks & Recreation Department to offer a pickleball court time for seniors 60 and older.

Mary Grassetto is coming to explain the game and tell you what all the hype is about! Please join us for an info session with Mary on **Wednesday, June 25 at 9:30 a.m.**

Please call 566-5588 to let us know you'll be joining us.

Introducing the Lobby Learning Program

Don't have time to come in and sit for a long presentation? We understand! Lobby Learning welcomes businesses and organizations to provide you with helpful information. You are welcome to stop in to pick up information and speak one-on-one with representatives in the senior center lobby and stay for as long as you need to get your questions answered. Perhaps there is an organization you would like us to welcome? Please let us know.

• Friday, June 27; 12:30 to 2 p.m.: MassEDP program (this table will be set up in the great room)

A state program under the

911 Department offers specialized phone equipment for anyone who lives in MA and has a permanent disability, including but not limited to hearing & vision impairments and mobility issues. Come and learn about iPhones and equipment that may be FREE to you.

Do you have Parkinson's Disease or know someone who does?

Mondays from 9 to 10 a.m.

PWR! Moves Group Exercise Classes with Lisa Kern, OT, Reiki Master| Holistic Therapist

A Parkinson-specific exercise class that "makes function, exercise" to keep you moving and doing more of what you want to do! As you practice, you will be challenged physically and cognitively while working on fitness goals: strength, balance, agility, aerobics, and flexibility.

Exercises are designed to improve your fitness, counteract your PD symptoms, and increase your daily activity. This whole-body function-focused exercise class will push you to do more than you think you can in a fun, empowering, and enriched environment!

Cost is \$10.00 per class. Please call 566-5588 to register.

Common Threads Led by Joan Tompkins, PhD Mondays, from 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Come join our friendly group... We share memories and learn new coping skills on how to deal with loss, loneliness, and adapting to life changes.

Please call 566-5588 to let us know you're coming. There is no charge to join this group. All are welcome.

Ukulele with Amy - New Students Welcome! New 8-week session begins June 2 through July 28. (No class on 6/23.)

Mondays, 12:15 to 1:15 p.m. - Beginner Lessons

Mondays, 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. - Advanced Lessons

Cost is \$50 the session if paid in full or \$7.00 per class for drop-in students.

Please pay cash or make checks payable to: Friends of Hampden Senior Citizens

Please call 566-5588 to reserve your spot now.

Choral Group

Are you interested in singing in a choral group? Please let us know by calling 566-5588.

Crafts with Kim

Scrapbooking Class - All are welcome!

Tuesdays, from 10 a.m. to Noon

Stop procrastinating and plan ahead! Memory books make great gifts for family and friends! Please bring 7-8 photographs, scissors, a tape runner, and any stickers you may wish to use.

Cost is \$10 per class. Kim will provide scrapbooking paper and all the tools necessary to make your book gift-worthy.

Seashell Mirror Craft Tuesday, June 24 from 1 to 3 p.m.

Cost is \$15.00 per project. All materials provided.

Projects are on display in the lobby.

Please call 566-5588 to reserve your spot for each class you are interested in. Space is limited.

Living Stronger... Longer... with Lamar Moore - New Students Welcome! Tuesdays, 2:15 to 3 p.m.

Learn about balance and how it impacts overall health and wellness. Get tips on strength training and cardiovascular endurance to increase mobility and flexibility.

Cost is \$6 per class for drop-ins. Please call 566-5588 to reserve your spot.

"African Drumming" with Jason - New students welcome!

14-week session through July 25. (No class on 7/4.)

Fridays, 2:15 to 3:15 p.m. Cost is \$7 per class for drop-ins. Please call 566-5588 to reserve your spot.

"Come What May"

Boutique... is open in our lobby for all to shop during normal business hours.

Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

We accept donations of new or gently used clothing, outerwear, accessories, and footwear.

All proceeds from Boutique sales will benefit the needs of the Senior Center.

HELP US STOCK OUR SHELVES with Dish Soap!

Thank you to those who donated sunscreen last month. Every month, we will target a different item to help fill our shelves to provide non-food items to SNAP recipients.

Did you know we offer the following services....

Anyone is welcome to schedule appointments for these services.

Please call 566-5588 to schedule your appointments.

Manicures with Cat

Please call Cat directly at 413-335-7422 for an appointment and pricing.

Upcoming Hampden Senior Center Trips

HAMPDEN - The following trips are being arranged at the Hampden Sr Ctr, 104 Allen St, Hampden; prices include the driver's tip.

Mon, July 14 - The Newport Playhouse, "It's Your Funeral" a traditional comical farce, All you can eat buffet, Show and Cabaret - \$132pp.

Tues, Sept 30 - Lakeside Turkey Train (Lake Winnepesaukee) Harts Turkey Dinner on board, Country Farm Store stop (on own) & NH Liquor

Store - \$140pp.

Mon, Dec 8 - The Aqua Turf Club "Rock This Town Orchestra" - Coffee on arrival, delicious family-style lunch, Swinging '50s and '60s tunes - \$127pp.

Flyers are available at the Senior Center or via email. Full Payment Deadlines are approximately two weeks before the event.

Questions/comments, please call Bobbi at 413-566-8271 or email bobbi-jg2@charter.net.

Freedom Credit Union collecting cash, food donations for the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts

'Month of Giving' campaign extends from June 1 through August 31

REGION - Food insecurity continues to affect families across western Massachusetts, with inflation driving up the cost of everyday essentials. That's why Freedom Credit Union is again rallying support for its summer campaign benefiting the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts. From June 1 through August 31, the community

is invited to contribute to a stronger community by donating nonperishable food, personal care items or monetary gifts at any Freedom branch.

"Thanks to the generosity of our members, staff and entire community, this campaign has grown annually, and so has its impact," said Freedom Credit Union President Glenn Welch. "Last summer, we collected more than \$3,350 in donations, along with nearly 1,435 pounds of food and personal care items. This year, we're aiming even higher. By simply adding

an extra item or two to your grocery cart each week, you can make a lasting difference-without stretching your budget."

Suggested donations of non-perishable food and personal care items include:

- Baby formula
- Beans in cans or dried in bags
- Bread mixes
- Canned chicken, fish and meat
- Cereals
- Coffee and tea
- Cooking oils and spices
- Diapers, wipes and toilet paper

- Dried or canned fruit
- Evaporated/powdered milk
- Granola bars and crackers
- Feminine sanitary products
- Instant potatoes
- Pasta and noodles
- Peanut butter and nuts
- Rice and grains
- Sauces
- Shampoo and body wash/soap
- Soups, stews and chili in cans
- Toothpaste and toothbrushes
- Vegetables in cans

HOMETOWN SPOTLIGHT

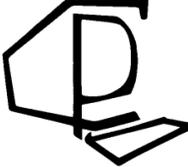
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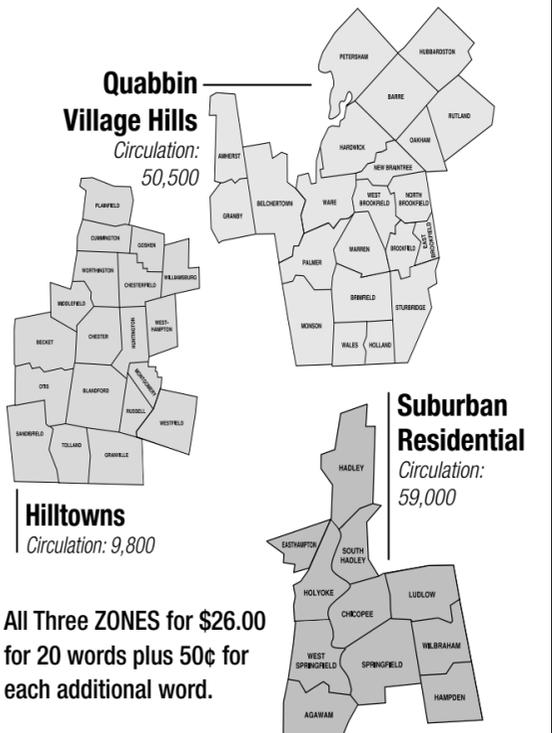
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PUBLIC NOTICES

**LEGAL NOTICE:
TOWN OF WILBRAHAM
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
(RFP)**

**AMBULANCE BILLING
SERVICE**

The Town of Wilbraham is soliciting Requests For Proposals (RFP) for ambulance billing and collection service for the Wilbraham Fire Department. The RFP packet is available on June 18, 2025 at 12:00 p.m. on the Town's website: www.wilbraham-ma.gov "Government", then "Bids"; on COMMBUYS, and from the Town of Wilbraham, Attn: Nick Breault, Town Administrator/CPO, 240 Springfield Street, Wilbraham, MA 01095, Phone: 413-596-2800 ext. 103; nbreault@wilbraham-ma.gov. Proposers shall be solely responsible for understanding any addenda issued. Addenda will be posted on the Town's website and COMMBUYS. Questions for addenda may be asked no later than July 1, 2025. The Town shall post Addenda up to and no later than July 7, 2025.

Proposals must be received in the Wilbraham Select Board Office at the address stated above, no later than the proposal deadline of **Thursday, July 10, 2025**

at 2:00 p.m. Late proposals will be rejected. Separate sealed Technical and Price proposals must be labeled and delivered as instructed in the RFP document. Proposals received will be logged publicly in the Select Board's Meeting Room in the same building immediately following the proposal deadline. Proposals are subject the provisions of Massachusetts General Law 30B as amended. The contract will be a one year contract with renewal option for up to two additional one year terms at the sole discretion of the Town. The Town of Wilbraham, acting by and through the Select Board as the awarding authority, reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, waive minor informalities, and to award the contract in the best interest of the Town. 06/19, 06/26/2025

**Commonwealth of
Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Probate and
Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
Docket No.
HD21P2069GD**

**In the interests of:
Josephine Carabello
formerly of Wilbraham, MA
now of: Amherst, MA
RESPONDENT
Incapacitated Person/
Protected Person
CITATION GIVING NOTICE
OF PETITION TO EXPAND
THE POWERS OF
A GUARDIAN**

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by **Alison M Bartlett-O'Donald** of Holyoke, MA in the above captioned matter requesting that the court:

Expand the powers of a Guardian of the Respondent.

The petition asks the court to make a determination that the powers of the Guardian and/or Conservator should be expanded, modified, or limited since the time of the appointment. The original petition is on file with the court.

You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 a.m. on the return date of **07/09/2025**. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline

date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.

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

Date: June 04, 2025
Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
06/19/2025

**TOWN OF WILBRAHAM
PUBLIC HEARING:
PROPOSED INCREASE TO WATER RATES**
The Wilbraham Board of Water Commissioners, will hold an open public hearing on **July 18, 2025 at 9:15 a.m.**, at the Town Office Building, 240 Springfield St, Wilbraham, MA to hear public comment on the proposed increase to water rates, as recommended by the Water Commissioners, to be effective November 2025.

CURRENT WATER RATES
\$4.12 Commercial Rate
\$4.12 0-10,000 Cubic Feet (Single Family Home Residential)
\$4.32 10,001-20,000 Cubic Feet (Single Family Home Residential)
\$4.52 20,0001 Cubic Feet and Greater (Single Family Home Residential)

PROPOSED WATER RATES
\$4.80 Commercial Rate
\$4.80 0-10,000 Cubic Feet (Single Family Home Residential)
\$5.25 10,001-20,000 Cubic Feet (Single Family Home Residential)
\$5.50 20,0001 Cubic feet and Greater (Single Family Home Residential)

All those wishing to comment on the proposed updated water rates will be heard. This hearing will be conducted in person only.
Board of Water Commissioners
05/29, 06/05, 06/12, 06/19, 06/26/2025

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<p>YOUR AD COULD BE HERE ON</p> <p>Local HOME PROs</p> <p>Email Jocelyn Walker at jwalker@turley.com</p>	<p>TREE WORK</p> <p>INSURED AND CERTIFIED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Tree Removal ■ Structural Pruning ■ Crane Service ■ Storm Damage ■ Stump Grinding <p>DL&G TREE </p> <p>Give us a call for your free estimate and tree evaluation 413-478-4212</p>	<p>HOME IMPROVEMENT</p> <p>Walker Home Improvement Repairs & Renovations INTERIOR & EXTERIOR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finish Carpentry • Framing • Windows & Door Replacement • Drywall • Painting • Decks <p>413.687.5552 Competitive Pricing • Licensed • Insured</p>

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Tree Removal



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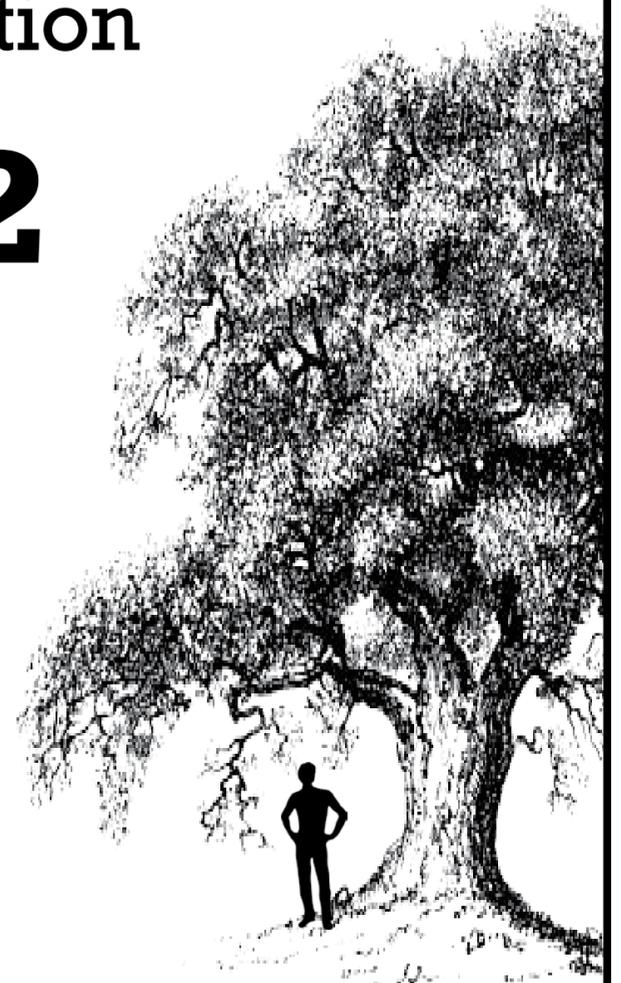
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