

TIMES

PSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PALMER, MA
PERMIT NO. 22

ECR-WSS
LOCAL POSTAL CUSTOMER

Dedicated to Improving the Quality of Life in the Communities We Serve

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

JUNE 26, 2025

www.wilbrahamhampdentimes.turley.com

EVENTS
Drama Club dazzles with Peter Pan
Page 8

SPORTS
Falcons summer soccer undefeated
Page 11

3.3 Miles for Change Walk *honors Sima and Dylan Pariseau*

\$112K raised for YWCA

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
krivers@turley.com

WILBRAHAM - Several hundred residents, community members, family and friends and many more gathered at Fountain Park on June 14 for the 3.3 Miles for Change Walk.

The walk honored Sima and Dylan Pariseau, two community pillars taken too soon in June 2024 and also raised awareness for domestic violence, with proceeds going towards the YWCA of Western Massachusetts to support its domestic violence assistance and awareness programs.

The total number came out to \$112,000.

In addition to the walk, attendees enjoyed a community raffle with over 30 raffle items including a Sima's favorite things basket donated by Melissa Sullivan and Jill Antico and raffle items from Wilbraham Funeral Home, Euro Coiffure Salon & Day Spa, The Nest Gift Boutique, Simply Electrifying, Monson Savings Bank, La Cucina and



Turley photo by Kristin Rivers
Sophie Pariseau, her father Mark Pariseau, Tiera Wright, communications director for the YWCA of Western Massachusetts, and Diana Guzman, vice president of Human Resources at the YWCA of Western Massachusetts, pose for a group photo. 3.3 Miles for Change over \$80,000 for the organization.

many more, lunch served by the Hampden County Sheriff's Office, performances by Avalon Red, jewelry from

Kendra Scott including signature pieces such as a necklace with the number "33" to represent Dylan Pariseau's base-

ball jersey number and birthstones for others representing Please see **CHANGE**, page 4



Turley photo by Patricia Sullivan
Beau, Eden and Shelby Wilkinson of Hampden are ready to Level Up their summer reading.

'Level Up' with Summer Reading

By Patricia Sullivan
Correspondent

HAMPDEN - The kickoff party for the Hampden Public Library's summer reading program, themed Level Up, was held on June 21, and the library will host many exciting activities and entertainment events for readers of all ages through-

out July. The library offers a slew of incentives for summer reading. Adults who review the books they read have a chance to win \$50 gift cards to seven local businesses.

Teen in grades five through 12 can enter raffles to win baskets full of prizes

Please see **LEVEL UP**, page 9

Community 'slides into summer' on last day of school

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
krivers@turley.com

WILBRAHAM/HAMPDEN - Hundreds gathered at Spec Pond on June 18 to celebrate the last day of school at the "Slide into Summer Safety" event.

The event, now in its third year in Wilbraham, was sponsored by PV Financial Group with community partners including the fire and police departments from both the towns of Wilbraham and Hampden, the Parks & Recreation Department and Rice Fruit Farm. Throughout the after-

noon, families enjoyed free ice cream and popcorn, free t-shirts, water slides, raffle prizes, getting wet under the Hampden Fire Department's fire hose, information from Pop Orthodontics and learning about upcoming summer programming from Stony Brook Acres through the Scantic Valley YMCA.

Kelly Haber, partner and CEO at PV Financial Group, said holding the event on the last day of school "is a way to get the kids out having fun, but also thinking about summer safety."

Please see **SUMMER**, page 13



Turley photo by Kristin Rivers
A shot of the gigantic crowd at the Slide into Summer Safety event on June 18 at Spec Pond in Wilbraham.

Wilbraham Farmers Market opens for the 2025 season

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
krivers@turley.com

WILBRAHAM - The Wilbraham Farmers Market is officially open for the season, kicking off on June 18 in the Scantic Valley YMCA parking lot.

The Wilbraham Farmers Market runs from now through Aug. 27 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. with a variety of vendors selling handmade soaps and essential oils to local farms selling plants, maple syrup and flowers to community groups and delicious treats and food trucks and many more.

Also, the youth entrepreneurs showing off their crafts and works every Wednesday.

Please see **MARKET**, page 13



Turley photo by Kristin Rivers
Kellie Hummel, farm manager at Wilbraham Farmers Market and owner of Wild Roots Farm—formerly named Lettuce Beet Farm—beams in this photo as opening day for the Wilbraham Farmers Market kicked off on June 18.

HISTORICAL WILBRAHAM

Residents of Wilbraham didn't always like its name

The last days of Rev. Merrick

By Charles F. Bennett
Times Editor Emeritus

When Civil War veteran Chauncey Peck wrote his "History of Wilbraham" in 1913 he said no one, 150 years later after its incorporation, had a resentment against the name "Wilbraham" supposedly named after the anti-Puritan Baronet Sir Thomas Wilbraham (a politically unpopular stance) in 1763 when the town was incorporated.

Peck wrote that folks in town in 1913 had changed

their mind. They, then "had a kindly feeling towards the English villages of "Great Wilbraham" and the smaller "Little Wilbraham" of Old England who the town was also supposedly named after.

Peck also wrote, "We can afford to laugh at the supposed meaning of "Wild Boar's Home" who we also might be named after, but, he said, "but we are glad that the name of our dear old town is WILBRAHAM."

In that vein Peck reminded his 1913 readers that the inhabitants of Wilbraham, when it was first incorporated, vainly did not like the fact

Please see **HISTORICAL**, page 10

64 Years Ago 104 to Graduate Thursday Night

Here is a news clipping reported by my mom, Ethel M. Bennett, who was the Wilbraham correspondent for the Springfield daily newspaper The Morning Union from the 1940s through 1970s. From a June 1961 edition. "The theme of the graduation class of 1961, the first to receive diplomas from Minnechaug Regional High School, will be, "An enlightened approach to some problems of modern civilization."

Exercises will be held at 8 p.m. Thursday in the school auditorium. There are 104 students in the class."

CodeRed System implementation coming July 1

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
krivers@turley.com

WILBRAHAM - A CodeRed System will be implemented on July 1.

Fire Chief Michael Andrews shared this announcement during the Select Board's June 16 meeting, explaining currently, the town uses one vendor for town-wide notifications versus 911.

"Earlier this year, we explored our options. We found CodeRed, we worked with them. They have the same capabilities as what BlackBoard does at almost half the cost, so other surrounding towns and communities use it as well. We've been going through the training with them. It's very similar. It works the same way, we could do all the same features," Andrews said.

Andrews added how "we're able to bring in some of the information that we can put in" for CodeRed.

"If somebody put in their own information, we're able to get that. That's technically our information, so that's about 500 contacts. It may not be 500 different people, but it's 500 contacts," Andrews said. "Every system has access to public records and public numbers that are out there, so right now, we haven't put anybody's information in there, but if we highlighted Wilbraham, there's about 7,500 contacts that we would reach right now."

Andrews said after the training is complete, a campaign will be shared with the community.

"We have literature to hand out to the public with a QR Code, new messaging in the

Wilbraham-Hampden Times, the various departments, social media and the senior center to make sure that we get the word out there so people can enroll in it," Andrews said. "We do have a lot of bad numbers that are in our current system, so it's probably not the worst thing that we're doing--right?--campaign to get people to resign up or update their information."

Andrews expects the fire department to be ready July 1 and final trainings will be held the next week with Police Chief Ed Lennon and Town Administrator Nick Breault.

"Then we should be ready to go," Andrews said.

When Vice Chair Marc Ducey asked if CodeRed would replace BlackBoard, Andrews replied yes.

"Will we still have the ability to use it in non-emergen-

cy situations?" Ducey said.

Andrews confirmed yes. Clerk Sue Bunnell asked this.

"So, in the event that there was something that was deemed as an emergency, do we have the option of using those 7,500 public numbers to extend the reach?" Bunnell said.

Andrews said yes.

"Absolutely. We do that now. Nothing is changing as far as how we reach people," Andrews said. "We want to make sure we do a campaign that gives them the opportunity to make sure (if) their information is not in already is updated."

After Chair Michael Squindo asked if residents would be able to opt-in to calls from Breault versus a different department one may not want to hear from, Andrews said there's a way to do so.

"We have the ability to override that if it's an emergency. Town government updates," Andrews said. "Even if they didn't check that off, we can override that."

Squindo then asked this.

"My only other question then--it's probably more of a personal one--but if somebody moves out of town, how do they unenroll from the system?" Squindo said.

Andrews said it's on the person to unenroll.

"It's on them to do it. Unless they notify us, then we can probably do it," Andrews said. "That is an issue."

Ducey then brought up "complicity with schools" in terms of the systems they have.

"I mean, we have a system, they have a system. Can't we combine that?" Ducey said.

Bunnell noted that was "an interesting question."

"I would assume that there is a paired set-up in Hampden," Bunnell said. "Hampden has a system as well."

"I don't know what they use," Andrews added.

"I mean, you could segment it," Ducey said.

"You can segment it," Bunnell said.

"You could segment the list, I mean, why wouldn't we just combine forces?" Ducey said.

On the cost, Andrews said CodeRed would be at least \$5,000 a year, compared to almost \$14,000 a year being paid right now.

After further discussion on possibly combining the two systems of the town and schools answering and questions on access, the board moved on to the next agenda item. More information on this as it develops.

Upcoming Wilbraham Public Library 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.

Paint Sip Fun for teens and adults at the WPL

WILBRAHAM- Two paint and sip classes will be held at the Wilbraham Public Library on Tuesday, July 15. Erin Boughamer of Paint Sip Fun will instruct teens in grades 6-12 at 1:30 p.m. and adults ages 18+ at 5 p.m. in painting two unique designs on glass. No experience is necessary, all supplies will be provided, and each participant will take their completed artwork home.

Registration for each class is required and space

is limited. Registration for teens begins June 21, and registration for adults begins July 1. To sign up, please contact the library at 413-596-6141, or visit the Event Calendar at www.wilbrahamlibrary.org. These programs are sponsored in part by the Wilbraham Friends of the Library, and by a grant from the Wilbraham Cultural Council, a local agency supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

Chain Reactions and Creative Contraptions: A hands-on workshop for kids and teens

WILBRAHAM - This summer, the Wilbraham Public Library invites children and teens to get hands-on with science, creativity, and a whole lot of fun at Chain Reactions & Creative Contraptions, an interactive STEM workshop led by Playful Engineers.

On Tuesday, July 22, participants will dive into the exciting world of chain reactions, levers, pulleys, and more as they design, build, test, and play with their very own contraptions. From whimsical machines to classic Rube Goldberg-style devices, this Make & Break Workshop is a hit with budding inventors and curious minds alike.

Workshop Sessions:
Children's Program (Grades 3-5): 2 to 3:30 p.m.
Teen Program (Grades 6-12): 5 to 6:30 p.m.

Online registration is required and begins Monday, July 1. To sign up, visit our website or call the library at 413-596-6141.

This event is free to attend and is generously sponsored in part by the Wilbraham Friends of the Library and a grant from the Wilbraham Cultural Council, a local agency supported by the Mass Cultural Council.

Don't miss your chance to build something amazing, and maybe even a little ridiculous! We hope to see you there.

ROBERTS ROOFS
SPECIALIZING IN
Slate • Copper • Architectural Shingles • Gutters
Historical Restoration • Flat Roofing
Snow Removal
Snow/Ice Damage Repair
Tel. 413-283-4395
Cell 413-237-9434
www.RobertsRoofsInc.com
Trusted Name Since 1982

CAMERON PAINTING
Painting, Staining & Restoration
Superior preparation for a long lasting job
Quality Workmanship-Reliable & Fully Insured
Owner Supervised
cameronpainting.com **265-0263**
don@cameronpainting.com

ROZELL'S LANDSCAPING & Bobcat Service
413-636-5957
• Overgrown property?
• Excavator Services • Extreme Brush Cutting!
• Shrub, Stump, Tree Removal • Lawn/Arborvitae Installed
• Loam, Stone, Mulch, Sand • Storm Clean-up • Small Demo • Insured
JOSH ROZELL 413.636.5957

It's Our Anniversary!
Celebrating 60 Years of Success,
One Client At A Time!

at
TROMBLEY ASSOCIATES
Investment and Retirement Planning

- Located in Post Office Park, Wilbraham
- Helping clients live their best financial life since 1965
- Accomplished, Friendly and Professional
- Contact us for a no-fee consultation

Mike Trombley, Financial Advisor, Former MLB Player;
Barbara Trombley, CPA, Financial Advisor

85 Post Office Park • Suite 8524
Wilbraham, MA 01095
Phone 413-596-6992
trombleyassociates.com

Securities offered through LPL Financial. Member FINRA/SIPC. Advisory services offered through Trombley Associates, a registered investment advisor and separate entity from LPL Financial.

3 EASY WAYS TO REACH US

PHONE
413.283.8393
Fax: 413.289.1977
Subscriptions: 413.283.8393

EMAIL
Advertising Sales
Jocelyn Walker
jwalker@turley.com
Editor
Kristin Rivers
krivers@turley.com
Subscriptions
\$45 per year pre-paid
(\$50 out of state)

WEB
www.wilbrahamhampdentimes.turley.com
@ Wilbraham-Hampden Times

The Wilbraham-Hampden Times is published by Turley Publications, Inc. • www.turley.com

Wilbraham-Hampden Times
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.

Knights of Columbus 10195 swears in newly elected council officers

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
krivers@turley.com

WILBRAHAM - The Knights of Columbus 10195 officially swore in their new council officers during their June 17 meeting.

The ceremony was overseen by Outgoing Grand Knight Mike Mazzuca, District Deputy Robert Chartier and Deacon James Ziemba, who all thanked the retiring officers for their leadership, support and efforts during their terms.

Prior to the swearing-in, the Knights also welcomed a new member in a special ceremony at the small chapel of St. Cecilia Parish.

The new officers are Grand Knight Josh Mitchell, Deputy Grand Knight Jared Demetri, Chancellor Frank Barbaro, Financial Secretary Jim Rooney, Warden Dennis Coite, Recorder Fred Ferrero, Treasurer Jean-Guy Belisle, Advocate Eric Forni, Trustees John Guerin, Ralph Abbott and Mike Mazzuca, Lecturer John Hegarty and Guards Matt Villamaino and Bob St. Martin.

Mazzuca began the ceremony by thanking his fellow knights for their support during his tenure as Grand Knight.

"I offer my sincerest thanks to my brothers, who during the past year have given me the benefit of their prayers and advice, and the strength of their arms and our actions and the invaluable support of their confidence. You've demonstrated that a small group of people united in a common cause can be a powerful force for good and then by working together as a team, we can make a difference in our parishes, our communities and the world," Mazzuca said. "On behalf of the officers who are retiring from their posts, I extend to our worthy successors our warmest congratulations, assurance of continued cooperation and prayerful wishes for a most successful administration."



Turley photos by Kristin Rivers
Deacon James Ziemba presents a blessing.



Eric Forni and Matt Villamaino hold up their right hands as they take the oath to become new council officers for the Knights of Columbus 10195.



A full shot of the new officers of the Knights of Columbus 10195.

After Ziemba invoked the blessing, Chartier offered congratulations to the retiring officers "for work well done."

"My gratitude to each of you for the devotions which you have exemplified our principles of charity, unity, fraternity," Chartier said.

Then, a blessing to the incoming successors.

"To you, the council officers I am about to install, my confidence that you will add blessing to your council's good works, making them even more beneficial to the church and thereby enhancing our order's proud name. In the life of every man, there arises many opportunities to

take stock of events both in the spiritual, material sense, to repair omissions, to correct our errors and to plan a brighter future," Chartier said. "Likewise, in the life of the council, a commencement of each fraternity provides similar opportunity. It is a time of inventory that must be taken, as to persuade and evaluate it, future plans to proceed and praise. These plans must always be considered in terms of how they will enable your council to serve the parish, to strengthen your members and their families in the faith and

Please see **OFFICERS**, page 8

THE BEST FRESH FOR JULY 4TH!

Locally Grown Strawberries!
PICKED FRESH! Red, Ripe & Delicious!

Locally Grown Vegetables Arriving Daily!

Just In Time For The 4th!
Flowering Hanging Baskets
Beautiful Mixed Combinations
10-inch Pots \$19.99
FOR INSTANT GARDEN COLOR

Jumbo Annual Plants
8-inch Pots \$12.99
2 For \$20.00
MARIGOLDS, COLEUS, CELOSIA AND LANTANA

Perennial Of The Week
Butterfly Weed
One Gallon Pots \$12.99 Save \$2
Clusters Of Bright Orange Flowers
SUN-LOVING BUTTERFLY & BEE MAGNET

PICNIC FAVORITES from RANDALL'S KITCHEN

"Homemade" Summer Salads
Red, White & Blueberry
Desserts
USDA 80% Lean Ground Beef Patties & Sliders
Kielbasa & Hot Dogs

GREAT SELECTION OF ICE COLD BEER

Hard Ciders, Hard Seltzers
Featuring Local Breweries

Elsie's Creamery
The Best Homemade Ice Cream
Stop In For A Red, White & Blue Sundae!
Open Every Day Until 9PM

ALWAYS FRESH AT

RANDALL'S FARM & GREENHOUSE

631 CENTER ST., Route 21, Mass Tpke Exit 54
LUDLOW • 589-7071 • www.randallsfarm.net
OPEN EVERY DAY 7AM - 8PM
Find us on Facebook and YouTube

FIVE ISLANDS

Georgetown, Maine
2 Bedrooms, 2 Bathroom
Washer/Dryer, Fully Equipped

- Walk to Five Islands Wharf and Ledgewood Preserve Beach
- Close to Reid State Park

\$1200/week
207-607-9333

HELP WANTED

Wilbraham, MA-based co. seeks
EXEC. VP OF TECH., BUS. ANALYSIS

to provide strategic insights for biz decisions, improve ops efficiency, enhance svc quality, & direct high-level ops to implement co.-wide tech policies to meet objectives. Position is 100% remote (may work anywhere in U.S. mainland and/or territories). Travel: 20% to offices across central U.S. & east coast. Two roles avail.
REQ'D: U.S. Master's in Data Analytics, Bus. Analytics, or Eng. (any field) + 2 yrs of transp. industry-spec. exp.: dev. processes, policies, workflows for data mgmt. & tech integration org.-wide amid high acquisition activity; creating programs to ensure end-user adoption of new tech; developing/implementing custom fleet systems-mgmt. code to boost efficiency; overseeing financial perf. drivers, KPI dev., & dashboard creation. F/T; pay \$230,300-\$262,000/yr.

To apply with Van Pool, visit:
https://gobeacon.wd1.myworkdayjobs.com/en-US/beaconmobilitycareers/details/Executive-Vice-President-of-Technology--Business-Analysis_REQ-2025-2733-1

Visit us on the web
www.turley.com

THE DOCTORS ARE IN...

NOW ACCEPTING NEW PATIENTS!

Call our office to learn more about our practice

Pediatric & Adolescent Medicine

Gary J. Nielan, M.D.
Thirza C. Lareau, M.D.
Amy C. Kasper, M.D.
Kimberly A. Dewey, M.D.
Kimberly J. Martins, M.D.
Priya S. Malik, M.D.
Julia Komatsu, M.D.

Melissa Maciborski, M.D.
Shatabdi Pinky, M.D.
Rachel McKenna, N.P.
Solmaz Masoudi, P.A.
Nicole Santos, LMHC
Rachel Kluk, MHC

2 Convenient Locations! Most Insurances Accepted

2207 Boston Road, Wilbraham • 35 Turkey Hill Road, Suite 205, Belchertown
(413) 599-1201 • Fax: (413) 596-2940 • www.pamcares.com

EARLY DEADLINES

In observance of July 4th, there will be an **EARLY AD DEADLINE**
To advertise, place your ad no later than **NOON Thursday, July 3**
- Thank you!

A TURLEY PUBLICATION
www.turley.com



From the left, Chrissy Plumb, Sherri Assad and Deb Baker wave purple pom-poms to walkers at one of the coffee pit stops during the 3.3 Miles for Change Walk.



Turley photos by Kristin River
From the left, Tina Bazarian, Erin Dowding and her husband, Bill, checked in attendees at one of the registration booths.



Kaylie Harlow and Gabrielle Catrim from Kendra Scott Jewelry show off the event-themed pieces attendees could purchase, including a "33" necklace to represent Dylan Pariseau's number 33 baseball jersey number.

CHANGE from page 1

mother and son and flowers from Willow Barn Designs.

Nearly 100 sponsors had lent their support as well.

Event remarks were provided by Sophie Pariseau, the event organizer and Sima's daughter and Dylan's sister, her father, Mark Pariseau, YWCA Board President Eileen Leahy, YWCA Communications Director Tiera Wright and a blessing led by Peter Setian, with Dawn Bourbeau from the Hampden County Sheriff's Office singing the National Anthem. Theresa Finnegan, general counsel at the Hampden County Sheriff's Department, served as ceremony emcee.

Sophie Pariseau later received from Wright a frame with Sima and Dylan's photo and the quote "Those we love don't go away, they walk beside us every day" on behalf of the YWCA and the Gina Kahn MVP Award from Jackie Hafner of the Hampden Wilbraham Partners For Youth Coalition.

The Daily Pint also opened early after the event for post-walk drinks, with purchases made from 2 to 3 p.m. matched by a donation to the YWCA.

Leahy thanked Finnegan for connecting the YWCA and Sophie Pariseau to help them "make a difference together."

"Sophie, your dedication over the past six months has been nothing short of extraordinary. Relentless hard work and unwavering commitment have transformed this event into a remarkable success. It's truly inspiring that you managed most of this from California, demonstrating incredible resilience and passion," Leahy said.

Leahy had this message for the Pariseaus family and friends.



Along the walk were signs with messages, including this one from the Foley Family.

"Your presence and support speak volumes. It's evident that Sima and Dylan were deeply loved and missed every day. Your participation honors their memory beautifully. There's a saying that goes, 'There's no greater treasures than the highest human qualities: compassion, courage and hope. Not even tragedy or disaster could diminish these treasures of the heart.' Today, we witness these qualities shining brightly," Leahy said.

Wright also praised Sophie Pariseau, saying "it has been incredible to work with her."

"It has been such a joy and honor to learn more about her and her relationship with her brother and her mother, Dylan and Sima. So, thank you again for participating," Wright said.

Photo courtesy of Chris Tranghese
A photo of Dylan and Sima Pariseau, two community pillars of Wilbraham who will never be forgotten.

Sophie Pariseau said the turnout is "a true testament of how many lives my mom and my brother have touched and continue to touch, even in the beyond."

"As people learned about this event through the last six months, I would always get the same question, 'What made you want to do something like this?' I always dreaded this question. I knew it was coming, yet somehow I never had an answer. My real answer is selfish," Sophie Pariseau said. "While the thought of anyone ever forgetting my mom and my brother is impossible to me, I wanted to make sure that no one would. I wanted their names to be everywhere. I wanted people to be talking about them. I didn't want them to go away just because they've physically gone away. I wanted to create something that left no room for anything but remembering."

She said the walk wasn't just about honoring her mother and brother's memories, but raising awareness for domestic violence and her way "of standing up not just for my mom and my brother, but for every family, every survivor and every victim who has not yet found their voice and

every life we still have the power to protect."

Through research, she also learned the National Institute of Health refers to domestic violence as "a pandemic, but not just any pandemic; an invisible pandemic."

"The phrase 'invisible pandemic' highlights the fact that domestic violence is often hidden and underreported, making it difficult to grasp the extent of the problem," Sophie Pariseau said.

After the walk, she hopes more people know about the YWCA's name, mission and who they are.

"If even just one of you out there is suffering in silence, hear me as I say to you: you matter and you don't have to do this alone. I'm not naive enough to think that we can change the landscape of domestic violence, but I do know that by coming together, raising awareness and talking about Sima and Dylan, we might help even just a few find a way out or avoid the heartbreak that families face in their wake," Sophie Pariseau said.

After stressing her mother and brother "are not and will not be defined by what happened to them and nor should any other victim or survivor of domestic violence," she



Julie and Dan Noel were among the many walkers during the event, with Julie Noel also having purchased a bracelet with birthstones representing Sima and Dylan Pariseau.



Gus the dog was among the 70 plus furry friends taking part in the walk, also sporting a 3.3 Miles for Change bandanna.

encouraged walkers to talk to one another about Sima and Dylan and also share what they learn.

"I task you all today with talking. Do anything but be silent. Be seen, for today we are anything but invisible," Sophie Pariseau said.

Mark Pariseau said he would never forget the community's support and all those who touched his life, his daughter's life and Sima and Dylan Pariseau's lives.

"I have a lot of good friends here --they've been friends my whole life--they're here. Dylan's friends--I call them the boys--you guys know who you are, they're here," Mark Pariseau said. "I never thought in my lifetime that I'd be speaking at some-

thing like this. It's affected me deeply, it's affected everybody here a lot."

He also had praise for his daughter.

"I think you can see she's doing as fantastic a job as she possibly can. I cannot tell you how proud I am to be able to say, 'Yeah, Sophie's my daughter.' I'm utterly blown away by what she's accomplished here," Mark Pariseau said.

He also echoed his daughter in saying this: "Don't be afraid to speak up."

"Somebody's always going to be there to help you. Speak up," Mark Pariseau said. "So, I want to thank everybody again. I truly, truly appreciate this."

NEED A PICK-ME-UP?

DELANEY'S MARKET
-READYMADE MEALS-
FRESH, LOCAL, HEAT-AND-SERVE MEALS

WILBRAHAM
2030 BOSTON ROAD
Route 20 across from Home Depot & Big Y

Available evenings and Saturdays.
Scan today to book a consult!

pop
ORTHODONTICS

75 Post Office Park
Wilbraham
413-675-7570
www.mypoportho.com

Dr. Ana Serrenho
100% locally owned and operated

DL&G TREE

Tree
Removal



Structural
Pruning



Crane
Service



Storm
Damage



Stump
Grinding



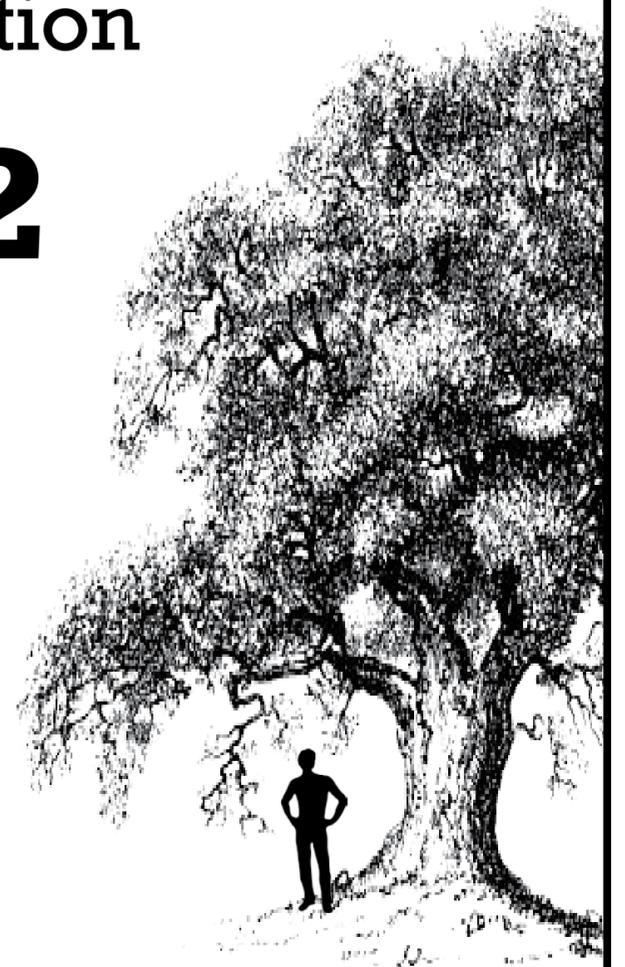
Lot
Clearing



Give us a call for your free estimate
and tree evaluation

413-478-4212

DL&G TREE



INSURED AND CERTIFIED

VIEWPOINTS

SOCIAL SECURITY Matters
By Russell Gloor

What about non-career Veterans and their VA healthcare?

Dear Rusty:

In your answer to the retired U.S. Navy veteran about why he is forced to enroll in Medicare, you focused on military TriCare's requirement for the member to enroll in Medicare. But you said nothing about regular VA health care. If a non-career veteran is eligible for VA health care, couldn't that be used in place of Medicare?

Signed: Veteran Advocate

Dear Veteran Advocate:

Thank you for your feedback. FYI, I have previously explained numerous times that veterans who rely on the VA for 100% of their healthcare can, indeed, disenroll from Medicare Part B (thus saving the monthly Part B premium). I don't personally recommend it because of my personal experience, but it certainly is possible to do so.

Personally, I use the VA for some of my healthcare needs usually an annual checkup and optometry services at my local VA clinic, which is only a mile away from where I live. But for any extensive treatment needs medical tests, etc., I must travel about 40 miles to the nearest VA hospital facility.

For contrast, I have numerous private healthcare services, specialists and hospitals very near where I live, but to use them under the VA I must get VA preapproval and use only certain VA approved providers, which is inconvenient for me.

Personally, I prefer the freedom to go to any healthcare service provider I choose, without restriction, at any time I need to. So, I use my VA coverage when it is convenient for me, but rely also on non-VA, Medicare-approved specialists who I can choose to use or not at will. For me, it's a matter of convenience and the freedom to use whichever healthcare provider I want.

That said, I fully understand that some veterans rely exclusively on the VA for their healthcare needs,

and I have explained to many who have written to me that they have that option. I have also published several public articles about this as well. Here is one such article:

<https://socialsecurityreport.org/ask-rusty-why-should-a-veteran-pay-for-medicare/>

So, please rest assured that we regularly advise our veterans about their healthcare options under Medicare, including the ability to decline Medicare Part B coverage if they have full VA healthcare coverage. FYI, free Medicare Part A (inpatient hospitalization coverage) is mandatory to collect Social Security after age 65, but Medicare Part B coverage is always optional because there is a premium associated with Part B.

A veteran can decline Medicare Part B coverage and save that monthly premium, but they would need to contact Social Security to do so. Social Security will want to interview the veteran to ensure they are aware of the potential financial consequences of not having Medicare Part B. And they may need to file form CMS-1763 Request for Termination. But a non-career veteran can opt out of Medicare Part B if they get all of their healthcare services through the Veterans Administration.

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 ssadvisior@amacfoundation.org. Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.

Renovate your strawberry patch and divide those irises, too

I started over with new strawberry plants this year, but for those of you who are completing your harvest, it's high time to renovate your patch so that it will remain productive.

Sure, it will be hard work, but it's absolutely necessary if you want to keep the berries coming!

First, get up the courage to run the lawnmower over your row of strawberries. Yes, you heard correctly. This will give you an opportunity to see what you have to work with in a dense planting, as well as cut down on foliar diseases.

Set the mower at a height of two and a half to three inches and use the bagger attachment if you have one. Small plantings can be clipped away by hand. Compost the leaves away

from your patch.

Now, assess your surroundings and think back to when you were doing all that picking. Was your back sore from reaching in to a very wide row? Were most of your berries on the small side? If you answered yes to both of these questions, then serious renovation is in order.

Use the tiller or a shovel to shrink your row back to a manageable width. Fourteen inches is about as wide as the experts recommend. Choose the healthiest part of your row and measure out fourteen inches. Then, remove all the runners that have emerged outside of the boundaries.

Please see **GARDEN**, page 8



Letters to the Editor
Do not judge a book by its cover

To The Editor:

I am responding to Mr. Kevin Davis regarding his Letter to the Editor suggestive that our Wilbraham taxpayer monies may have been spent in error with the Wilbraham Senior Center. Understandably everyone has an opinion regarding the Senior Center, your transparent comment that you were not in favor and do not plan to use it is certainly your prerogative on the subject.

You question "what's going on?" and in response I would politely suggest that you need to go inside the Center to answer your question versus a drive-by. To name a few activities, exercise classes during the week

are packed, appointments for Medicare assistance are booked three to four weeks out, community groups meet, friends socialize, and many other events along with medical/social needs for seniors occur at this centrally located Center. One may not know this by a view from the street.

It is easy to criticize from the outside, and as my Mom always explained, "Honey, everyone is entitled to their own opinion." On this matter, clearly you certainly are entitled to yours, though respectfully I suggest that you might be better informed if more time was taken to investigate the interior activities happening daily at this facility.

I have lived in Town for over fifty years, commend

those who spent countless volunteer hours in planning, design, fundraising and completion of the facility. This project did not happen overnight, was welcomed by the majority in our Town, and certainly appears to be well utilized by many now when one is inside the facility.

To answer your question, "No" the taxpayers in Wilbraham were not "bad stewards" regarding this project. There is another saying which I suggest might be helpful, "Don't Judge A Book By Its Cover," check it out you might be pleasantly surprised.

Claire Clini, Wilbraham

Impact of Wilbraham Senior Center

To The Editor:

I wanted to weigh in on the article published in the Times about the Senior Center Wilbraham. It is a very positive environment.

I take two Healthy Bones and Balance classes and Chair Yoga. I cherish these classes as do all the people who attend and those classes are full and rewarding.

I am a 74-year-old retired air flight attendant. I find these instructors dedicated

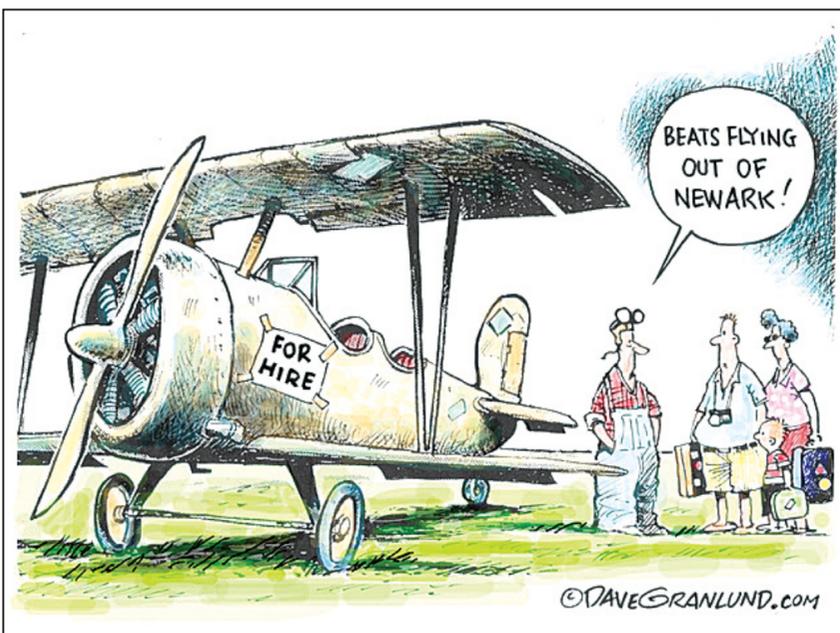
and helpful to the issues of the participants, explaining as they teach every move matters as we age.

I found it disrespectful of the people who wrote in about high taxes and the building of this facility. I went for years to the post office center area and I find that most of the senior population has tripled in the new facility, giving people a reason to get out of their home and engage, which is so healthy not only for their mind, but also for their well-

ness of their bodies and the social aspect is rejuvenating.

So for people to complain by writing negative views obviously don't come to the center, which I find so typical of our negative society, criticize something is much easier than being positive. The center and every aspect should receive flowers every day for the positive environment and classes they provide.

Anne Theocles, Wilbraham



in my BACKYARD
By Ellenor Downer



Western bluebird

I received an email in May from a woman, who had a couple of Western bluebirds nest in her backyard birdhouse.

Western bluebirds are small thrushes, who usually perch upright. They are 6 to 7 inches long, larger than a sparrow and smaller than a robin. These bluebirds have thin, straight bills and short tails. The male Western bluebird is shiny blue above with rust orange on the breast and back. The throat is blue in males and the lower belly is whitish. Females are gray-buff with pale orange on the breast. Their throat is gray-buff. They have a blue tint on the wings and tail.

They inhabit open woodlands, both coniferous and

deciduous and burned areas. They commonly use bird baths. The female lays two to eight pale to bluish white eggs per clutch. They pounce on the ground when looking for worms and berries. They also catch insects. Their primary diet is insects and berries and will come to feeders for mealworms.

Compared to the Eastern bluebird, the male Western bluebird has a blue rather than the bright white belly like the Eastern bluebird. The orange also extends to the shoulders. Western bluebirds are not typically found in Massachusetts.

Eastern bluebirds

A Barre resident puts out mealworms for the Eastern bluebirds. He has a pair coming to feast on the mealworms.

Mute swans and cranes

A Barre woman reported seeing a pair of mute swans on Long Pond in Rutland. I saw one of the swans this week on the same pond. She also reported seeing a sandhill crane. An Oakham resident thinks a pair of sandhill cranes have nested. He now only sees one in his field

or flying overhead between Adams Pond and the Wolf Swamp area of Oakham. The last time I saw a sandhill crane in my hayfield, there was only one. Earlier this spring I saw a two cranes in the field, which is near Wolf Swamp.

Titmouse and robin

An Oakham resident reported, "There was a lot of commotion at the robin nest and I went to the window to see what was going on. A titmouse was gathering the soft fuzzy from under the three eggs. Dad robin came along and drove the titmouse off." She said, "I put out lots of nesting materials, but as always, someone else's looks better."

Loon fact

The Loon Preservation Committee offer loon facts in their newsletter. The newsletter said, "Generally, loons will remain on the ocean until they reach adulthood at age three. This is not always the case, each year here in New Hampshire, the committee volunteers observe the presence of five to ten immature loons on the lakes during the breeding season. Upon their return as adults, these loons begin to look for a breeding territory of their own."

They will acquire their first territory in one of three ways: by passively replacing

Please see **BACKYARD**, page 8

The Wilbraham-Hampden TIMES TEAM



EDITOR
Kristin Rivers
krivers@turley.com



ADVERTISING SALES
Jocelyn Walker
jwalker@turley.com



SPORTS EDITOR
Greg Scibelli
sports@turley.com

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



@Wilbraham-Hampden Times

WEB

www.wilbrahamhampdentimes.turley.com

PATRICK H. TURLEY
CEO

KEITH TURLEY
President



www.turley.com

Turley Publications, Inc. cannot assume liability for the loss of photographs or other materials submitted for publication. Materials will not be returned except upon specific request when submitted.

Editorial Policy

Letters to the editor should be 350 words or less in length. No unsigned or anonymous opinions will be published. We require letter writers to include his or her town of residence and home telephone number. We must authenticate authorship prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit or withhold any submissions deemed to be libelous or contain unsubstantiated allegations, personal attacks, defamation of character and offensive language. All unknown or alleged facts and quotations offered by the author need to cite credible, unbiased sources. Send letters to: Editor, Wilbraham-Hampden Times, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069, faxed to 413-682-0013 or via e-mail to krivers@turley.com. The deadline for submissions is Thursday at noon.

Correction Policy

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

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

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.

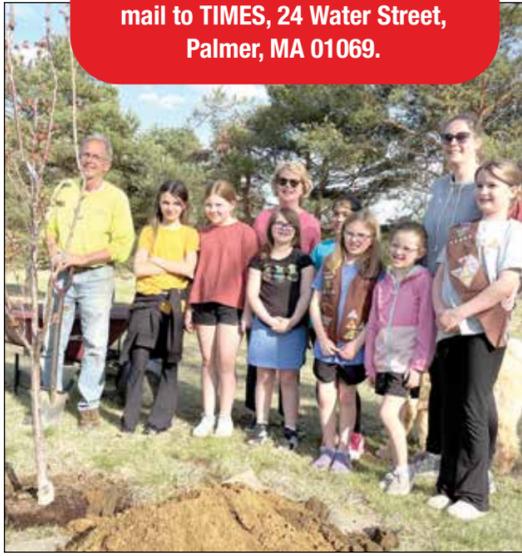
Campaign news As part of its election coverage, the newspaper plans to print stories about contested races for Congress, state Senate, state House, district attorney and Governor's Council during the weeks leading up to the election, as well as a question-and-answer voters guide. In order to ensure fairness 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.

A COMMUNITY GALLERY

WILBRAHAM HAMPDEN

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.



Submitted photos and captions Sue Agnew Back row left to right Dave Graziano tree warden, Cheryl Wesolowski commemorative tree program chair, Meghan Harrigan girl scout troop leader. Front row girl scouts.

Girl Scout Troop 65269 plants Commemorative Tree

On Earth Day April 22, Girl Scout Troop 65269 planted a Kwanson Cherry tree at Fountain Park through the Wilbraham Women's Club Commemorative Tree Program. The girl scouts assisted Dave Graziano, tree warden, in the planting and watering of the tree as part of earning a

'tree promise' badge. Keep Wilbraham Beautiful granted the funds for the troop to gift the tree to the town. For additional information about gifting a tree through the Wilbraham Women's Club Commemorative Tree Program contact Cheryl Wesolowski at 413-538-1178.



Digging a hole for the tree.



Planting the tree.

St. Cecilia Women's Club announces scholarship recipients



Submitted photo and caption Sue Agnew The St. Cecilia Catholic Women's Club awarded two \$1,500 scholarships at the club's scholarship dinner and meeting on May 13 in the Parish Center. Left to right are: Jackie Pahl, club president, Ryan Oldread, son of Rosemary & David Oldread, who will attend UConn majoring in Political Science, Joshua Lawrence, son of Lorna & Richard Lawrence, who will major in Business at STCC, and Linda Hitas, Scholarship Committee chairman.

End of the Year Concerts for Strings and Friends

Strings and Friends held their end-of-the-year concerts at the three elementary schools in the district over the past week. The students at Green Meadows in Hampden played for their peers and teachers on Friday, June 6, at 8:45 in the morning.

The students at Soule Road School in Wilbraham played for their peers and teachers on Monday, June 9 at 8:50 and 9:30 a.m., and the students at Stony Hill School played for their peers and teachers on Wednesday June 11 at 8:50 and 9:20 a.m.

All three of these groups joined the older middle school string musicians of Strings and Friends on Thursday Evening June 12 2025 at Minnechaug High School at 6:30 p.m. for a large concert featuring all district Strings and Friends students.

Strings and Friends was founded by Elaine Holdsworth in 2006, and is currently directed by Denise Gendron with the assistance of Mrs. Holdsworth.



Submitted photos and caption Elaine Tyron Holdsworth The students at Green Meadows Elementary School perform.



The students at Soule Road Elementary School perform.



The students at Stony Hill Elementary School perform.

THIS PAGE IS BROUGHT TO YOU AS A COMMUNITY SERVICE BY:

Advertisement for Via Appia Ristorante featuring live music, dine out options, and special events like Happy Hour and Pizzeria nights.

MRHS Drama Club dazzles audience with 'Peter Pan'

By Noelle Hisgen
Correspondent

WILBRAHAM - On June 11, the Minnechaug Drama Club performed their annual play, and this year they took on the classic "Peter Pan."

I happened to be just one part of something truly magical for the community.

This was my fourth production with the Drama Club. Past shows include Farrah the Faerie in "She Kills Monsters" (2022), Leanne in "Puffs" (2023), and Abigail in "It's a Madhouse!" (2024). This year, I took on the very fun fairy that is Tinkerbell, a full circle moment as I once started my Minnechaug theater career as a fairy my freshman year.

The cast and crew of "Peter Pan" gave this show nothing but their full 110%. Despite many hardships to even put on a show throughout the school year, they all pushed through and were able to put on a fantastic show for the community.

Minnechaug has a phenomenal group of actors always ready to take the stage. Each and every one of them has a passion to put on some-

thing great for the community.

Around 30 students participated in the show, whether it was performing onstage or working backstage as tech.

This year, the Drama Club said farewell to four seniors, myself included: Angelina Cross as Peter Pan, Cailin McEwan as Harry and Makenzie McEwan as Terry. They have been so dedicated to the club throughout their high school careers.

Knowing them in and out of the club has been an absolute joy, and as we all close this chapter of our lives, the memories that we have made through the plays we've done together will last a lifetime.

This play wouldn't have been possible without the work of the new Drama Club advisors, Mr. Justin Bullard and Mr. Gracen Moriarty. They stepped into an advisor position in the midst of the school year, and were able to help keep the club together, helping the students put on "Peter Pan."

The Drama Club has showed me that despite everything that gets thrown our way, the show always goes on. It's given me a much

more positive outlook on life.

As I leave Minnechaug, I know that the Drama Club is in amazing hands not just with the advisors, but the talented group of underclassmen that inhabit it and the students that will join the Club in the future.

"Peter Pan" created magic. To me, this is a collective representation of my high school career and what I have worked so hard for.

This is something that I can look back on and be proud of.

Our productions wouldn't have been possible without the grants by the Wilbraham Cultural Council. Through their ongoing support of the arts, they have helped us in so many ways and we are so appreciative of their contributions.

The Minnechaug Drama Club is currently in the works for choosing their next production for the 2025-2026 school year. Please continue to support everyone involved in the Minnechaug Drama Club and theater in the Hampden-Wilbraham Regional School District by attending their productions.



The pirates start their song "A Pirates Life."

Photos courtesy of the Elcin Family



The seniors take their final bow.

OFFICERS from page 3

benefit your neighbors."

After the blessing of the medals by Ziemba, Chartier stressed how the officers were "chosen by their brothers to guide the destiny of your council during the coming year."

"Your brothers have demonstrated their confidence because you are capable of outstanding leadership, proof that they were correct. Remember, it is through their cooperation that the past achievements have been made possible," Chartier said. "Continue to merit that co-operation by measuring all of your decisions in the light of what will be fair, just and beneficial to them. Solicit their advice, consider it carefully, but remember always that the good of the order is paramount."

Under the Grand Knight's leadership, Chartier said "of-



Grand Knight Josh Mitchell is congratulated by Outgoing Grand Knight Mike Mazzuca on his new role on the council.

ficers must function as a united team, for so powerful is the light of unity that it can illuminate the world."

"As your district deputy, I offer you this advice: your council will be judged on its actions. According-

ly, as fraternal leaders, you should focus your energies on strengthening parish and family life, growing your council in membership strength, ensuring protection for the families, charitable outreach and fraternal activities," Chartier



Deacon James Ziemba shakes hands with John Hegarty after he receives the medal for Lecturer.

Turley photos by Kristin Rivers

said. "This will build a lasting legacy for your council. In the spirit of Father Michael McGivney, our founder, remember your council's greatest assets are its members and its many gifts and talents."

After reading the promises to the incoming officers, with each one swearing to them by oath, Chartier then had them come up one by one to receive their medal of office, followed by Ziemba blessing

them.

Mazzuca's final message as Grand Knight was this.

"Thank you everybody. It has been my honor to be a part of this, to be able to lead as the Grand Knight and I can't wait to hand this off to Josh," Mazzuca said.

Mazzuca then shared this message with Mitchell as he passed the gavel to him.

"Josh, I am so excited for your tenure coming up. I've been excited for the last year and a half, trust me on that," Mazzuca said. "But more importantly, the fact that you're bringing in faith and leadership to our council, I just can't wait for the next two years. Thank you."

After the closing prayer led by Ziemba, Mitchell concluded the meeting by banging the gavel, beginning his first duty as Grand Knight for the Knights of Columbus 10195.

GARDEN from page 6

Those of us in the business of growing things usually find this part difficult. "Can't just this one stay?" Ease your guilt by giving away the extras; or, use them to start another patch.

Next, get rid of any "mother" plants that are four years or older. Unfortunately, they have aged beyond their productivity. Simply dig them up and send them off to the compost pile.

Finally, remove daughter plants that are spaced closer than four inches from one another - another difficult task, but one that must be accomplished if we want large, healthy berries. As you work within the row, be sure to eradicate any and all weeds

that you come upon, since these will compete with your strawberry plants for moisture and nutrients.

Now that your patch has been renovated, it's time to reinvigorate. Add an inch or two of compost or aged manure to the row, along with a sprinkling of balance organic fertilizer.

Water at least every other day for the next couple of weeks or until a healthy stand of leaves has returned to the plants. Keep up with weeding, and continue to pinch back runners until frost hits.

Managed in this fashion, a strawberry patch can remain productive for five years or more.

Another favorite plant that may be in need of reinvigoration is your iris. If once upon

a time they bloomed strong and now there is barely a blossom to be seen, chances are they are overcrowded. It's time to divide them and replenish their soil.

In our climate, this should be accomplished every three or four years. Surprisingly, and unlike most other perennials, division of irises should take place no later than July or August.

This will give them ample time to take hold in their new location prior to the ground freezing.

At first glance the act of dividing irises may appear to be difficult. An overgrown iris patch does look like a maze of thick roots, but take heart, the rhizomes are shallow rooted and come out of the ground with relative ease.

Start digging at the outer edge of the clump, lifting as you go. Once the entire clump is removed, rhizomes can be pried apart by hand. The healthiest "fans" of foliage are those the furthest from the center. Leave about two inches of rhizome attached to each fan for replanting.

If you are changing your site altogether, keep in mind that irises need at least six hours of full sun a day for optimal flowering. They despise "wet feet," so plant where drainage is good.

If your soil is lean, compost can be added to richen it up. While you're at it, add a sprinkling of lime as well; irises prefer a soil near neutral. Dig a shallow hole wide enough to fit the rhizome. Make a ridge of soil in the hole for it to sit on so that its fibrous roots can hang down. The top of the rhizome

should be level with the soil surface and exposed, not buried. This goes for bark mulch as well, keep it clear or blooms may be sacrificed. If your irises hardly flower but aren't overcrowded and are planted where they receive enough sun, assess your planting depth and adjust if necessary.

Examine your rhizomes closely when replanting. If you notice a lot of soft, rotten tissue, your iris patch could be infected with the iris borer.

Usually by midsummer, one to one and a half inch larvae have made their way from the leaves into the rhizomes. They hollow out the fleshy roots causing foliage to collapse and rot to take over. Control this pest by proper sanitation.

In the fall, after a hard frost, cut iris foliage back to the ground as low as possible.

Throw it and any nearby debris or mulch away. With any luck, overwintering eggs will be removed by your efforts.

In the spring, about the time that the tulips are blooming, inspect iris foliage for chewn edges, small holes, or tan colored water marks running down the leaf. If these are present, tiny larvae can be crushed inside the leaf before they burrow into the rhizome.

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.

BACKYARD from page 6

a territory owner that has died or is otherwise missing, by establishing a new territory on a lake that is not currently occupied by loons or by fighting and evicting another loon from its territory and taking its place.

One of the ways a loon can acquire a breeding territory is to intrude upon an already-occupied territory and engage in territorial battles with the member of the pair that is the same sex. If the intruder wins, it will evict the resident loon and take its place as a pair member on that territory.

The article said, "Research has shown that while selecting their first breeding

territory, loons tend to look for lakes and ponds that are similar, at least in terms of size and pH, to the lake they hatched on. This may be a result of increased chance of survival due to familiarity, if, as a chick, a loon learned to forage and evade predators on a lake with certain characteristics, it makes sense that it would seek out those same characteristics, to which their skills are well suited, to breed on."

Another factor that has been shown to influence territory selection is previous chick production. Territorial intrusions tend to increase following successful hatches, indicating that loons without a territory of their own may use

the production of chicks as an indicator of territory quality and target those successful territories for takeover.

Because they stay on the ocean for the first years of their lives and then must spend time, sometimes many years, acquiring a breeding territory of their own, most loons will not hatch chicks of their own until they are six-seven years old.

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



Professional - Reliable - Fully Insured

**Tree Trimming and Removal
Emergency Tree Work • Stump Grinding
Crane Service • Firewood Delivery**

*All Major Credit Cards Accepted
100% Financing Available*

**162 Sturbridge Road, Brimfield, MA 01010
508-641-5249 • office@robinsontreeservice.net
www.robinsontreeservice.net**

Scantic River Artisans presents 'Reflective Musings' – A Community Art Project

HAMPDEN – Scantic River Artisans invites artists of all levels and ages to participate in a unique and inspiring community art experience: "Reflective Musings."

This inclusive project encourages participants to tap into their memories, emotions and thoughts to create a personal work of art based on the theme of reflection.

Artists are encouraged to work in any medium—painting, collage, drawing, mixed media, photography or even something unexpected. A list of optional "musings" is available to spark inspiration, but participants are also welcome to follow their own creative path.

FREE Demo Sessions will be held to offer guidance and spark ideas:

July 17 and Aug. 28
6 to 8 p.m.

Location details available on our website

"This project is about more than making art," Nan Hurlburt, special assistant to the board. "It's about connection, expression, and celebrating the diverse, creative voices within our community."

Completed works must be submitted by Sept. 18 to be included in the "Reflective Musings Showcase Exhibit and Sale" on Oct. 11 and 12. All submitted pieces will be on display and available for purchase.

Proceeds from the event will support the Scantic River Artisans Scholarship Fund and local arts programming, helping to foster the next generation of creative talent.

Spots are limited—don't miss your chance to be a part of this powerful community collaboration.

Sponsored in part by the Mass Cultural Council and Dick Blick Art Supplies and local generous members of the community.

For more information, visit scanticriverartisans.com.

Questions? Email us at info@scanticriverartisans.com

Follow the journey on social media.

Facebook: Scantic River Artisans

Instagram: @scanticriverartisans

Reflect. Create. Connect.

Your voice belongs here.



Reese Jordan



Derek Beston



Chris Capen



Zachary Capen

Wilbraham United Church announces scholarship recipients

WILBRAHAM - The Wilbraham United Church recently awarded scholarships to a graduating High School Senior and three current college students.

Scholarship funds were created over the years by family members of deceased church members and were designed to be awarded to students who have been active in the church.

The following individuals were the recipients:

Derek Beston will be a freshman at Holyoke Commu-

nity College. At Minnechaug he was always involved in the music program. In his senior year he was a member of the Honors Wind Ensemble and the Marching Band. In 2023 he received the Rotary Youth Leadership Award. He is currently a member of the Confirmation Class at church. Derek received Scholarships from the Fountain and the Green families.

Chris Capen will be a sophomore at the University of St. Joseph, majoring in Health Science. His goal is

to become a Physician's Assistant. He is a member of the swimming and diving team at college, and was chosen to be a captain in the fall. He is also a member of the Young Adult Fellowship Group at church. Chris received the Byam and the Dinnie Scholarships.

Zachary Capen begins his senior year in the fall at the University of Rhode Island, majoring in Supply Chain Management. This summer he will be an Intern with T.J. Maxx for the second year. He has been an active member of

the Swim Club at college and qualified for and participated in the National Championships this year. Zachary received the Howes Scholarship.

Reese Jordan will be a junior in Nursing at Westfield State University. She is an Honors Member of the Nursing Club there. She also tutors and does some substitute teaching. Reese was a Camp Nurses' Aide and a volunteer for the Town of Wilbraham Rec Program last year. Reese received the Cohn, Neelans, and Flathers Scholarships.

Wilbraham United Church Vacation Bible Camp

WILBRAHAM - Registration is now open for Wilbraham United Church's Vacation Bible Camp. Join us for a week of fun, learning, music, service!

This year's theme is Messengers of God. Campers will learn about God's messengers from the Bible and what it takes to bring God's message to the world today.

VBC will run July 28-August 1, 2025 from 9 a.m. to Noon. Registration is open to children age four through rising sixth graders.

Cost per child is \$50.

Please visit <https://wilbrahamunitedchurch.org/vacation-bible-camp/> or call the Church Office 413-596-2511 for more information and to register!

LEVEL UP from page 1

and a \$100 Barnes and Noble gift card.

Children in pre-K through fifth grade can earn beads to build a read and bead necklace as well as coupons for ice cream and pizza.

Beau Wilkinson, age 7, of Hampden, is eager to earn beads for every 15 minutes he reads this summer. He'll also sign up for some of the summer activities at the library.

Wilkinson said he is "always reading, every day, at school and at home."

Among his recent favorites is E.B. White's classic "Charlotte's Web."

His mother, Shelby Wilkinson, likes how the program ties the community together and keeps Beau excited about reading.

Library Director Ellen Moriarty couldn't be more excited about reading.

"Reading is the number-one indicator for success in life. Period. That's all. Everybody should read all the time—from kids to grandparents," Moriarty said.

Moriarty notes that many of Hampden's large senior population are avid readers.

"We have super-seniors in their 90s who are sharp as a tack and they read all the time. I think the two might be related," Moriarty said.

Adults submitted more than 400 book reviews through last summer's reading program.

"We pull all the five-star reviews and put them in a pink binder in the library," Moriarty said. "Some people go straight to that binder for



Turley photo by Patricia Sullivan

The Cozy Reading-themed basket, one of many in the library's raffle, features a pillow pet, a reading journal, reading light, bath bombs, books and more.

their book recommendations throughout the year. It's really cool."

Moriarty says that having a summer reading program is crucial for children because it prevents summer learning loss and fosters a love of reading.

She adds that the Hampden library is "a wonderful, warm, inviting place for kids and teens to meet with friends, face to face."

Almost all of the library's summer events for teens are screen-free, encouraging kids to get off their devices and be creative. Teen events include a spa day, faux stained glass making and water day.

Kids events include story times with a pony and chickens from East Longmeadow's Cloverbrook Farm, a juggling performance and yoga.

"All this is because of community donations," Moriarty said. "The library does not have a programming bud-

get—everything comes from generous local donors and state and local organizations."

Space is limited for most events and pre-registration is required by calling the library at 413-566-2151, ext. 112.

The library will also host a finale dinner party with food donated by the Village Mart for young readers on July 31. There will be a Teen Finale Party on Aug. 2 as well as an Aug. 2 Adult Reading Social. Raffle prizes will be drawn at the social.

Teens can sign up for summer reading online at <https://tinyurl.co/HPLTeen2025> and then pick up their reading log at the library. Kids, parents and other adults can sign up anytime at the circulation desk.

Next week, the Times will share what's going on at the Wilbraham Public Library for their summer reading offerings.

Holyoke Community College celebrates 78th Commencement

HOLYOKE - In his Commencement remarks to the Holyoke Community College class of 2025, President George Timmons told a story about an experience he'd had during spring break that "truly captures what makes our HCC community so special."

Walking down the nearly empty hallways, he noticed a student sitting alone in a study lounge. Curious, he asked why the student was on campus during spring break.

"This place has always felt like a sanctuary to me," the student said. "No matter what's happening in my life, I know I can come here and feel welcome."

"This moment reminded me of something foundational and unique about an HCC education," President Timmons said. "It's not just about the classroom, but about creating spaces where people feel they belong. As you leave HCC, I hope you will carry this sense of belonging with you and create it for others wherever your path leads."

HCC held its 78th Commencement on Saturday, May 31, at the MassMutual Center in Springfield. The cold rain falling outside did little to dampen the spirits inside, as graduates celebrated the occasion alongside their families, friends, HCC faculty and staff, with

all the traditional pomp and circumstance.

This year, the college conferred a total of 805 associate degrees and certificates to 742 graduates, who range in age from 18 to 66 and hail from 66 different Massachusetts cities and towns, as well as Connecticut, New Jersey, South Carolina, Florida, Colorado, Brazil, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Mexico, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Russia, Jamaica, Iraq, Trinidad, Tobago, and Ukraine.

In her faculty address, English Professor Elizabeth Trobaugh described HCC as an ecosystem, such as a coral reef or a forest, whose diverse elements depend on each other to provide a healthy environment where all can thrive, which, in the case of the college, means students.

"Learning is the birthright of every living thing," said Trobaugh, recipient of the 2025 Elaine Marieb Chair for Teaching Excellence Award, HCC's highest faculty honor. "And access to education is the mark of a just society, the hallmark of Democracy. Pursuing an education is a noble endeavor that we at HCC are honored to support and advance."

"Thank you, graduates, for sharing this leg of your academic journeys with us," she said.

Student orator Isa Rose Ramos, in her address, described herself as more than just a new graduate but "a garden that survived the storm" and the ceremony itself as "a resurrection, a remembering, a return to soil that saw me through seasons of doubt."

"When I first enrolled at HCC, I was still searching for my place - not only in higher education, but in myself," she said. "As someone navigating neurodivergence and grief while carrying invisible weights, I often questioned if I truly belonged here. But this campus - this community - showed me that I did."

Ramos, 39, a Westfield resident and mother of three, received her associate degree in human services, and is transferring to Westfield State University to study psychology.

"To every student sitting here who thought they wouldn't make it, look at you now," she said. "You are not just graduates. You are the bloom of becoming. We didn't rise because everything was easy. We rose because we kept showing up. Because we dared to dig deeper. Because we remembered that, even in the dark, we were still growing."

Please see **HCC**, page 12

HANNOUSH JEWELERS

CHICOPEE

"A Family Business You Can Trust"

704 Memorial Dr., Chicopee
413-377-1433

GOLD Is At An All-Time High!

10% Extra Cash
When Cashing In Your **GOLD**

25% Extra
When You Use Your **GOLD** Towards A New Purchase

WE BUY GOLD!

Offers Valid at Hannoush Jewelers Chicopee ONLY

www.hannoushma.com

www.richardgreeninsurance.com
 Fax: 413-267-3496
 Email: richardgreenins@gmail.com

• AUTO • HOME • BUSINESS • LIFE

- Great Locations
- Registry service
- Quotes gladly given
- We make housecalls

Please visit our website for an auto, homeowners, or life insurance quotes

Two Locations:

128 Main St., Monson • 267-3495

32 Somers Rd., Hampden • 566-0028

COLLEGE NEWS

HCC celebrates Class of 2025 nursing graduates

HOLYOKE - Holyoke Community College celebrated the graduation of 53 students from its Associate in Science in Nursing degree program on Thursday, May 22.

The students were recognized during a pinning ceremony in HCC's Leslie Phillips Theater, during which they were formally inducted into the healthcare field as soon-to-be registered nursing professionals. During a traditional pinning ceremony,

new nursing graduates light candles, receive their nursing pin, and recite the Nightingale Pledge.

The graduates, many of whom are already working, will sit for their exams before becoming licensed as registered nurses.

Holyoke Community College Associate of Science in Nursing Degree Graduates for 2025:

Wilbraham: Keirsten Forest-Williams, Mariah Mahabir, Julia Vigneault.

STCC announces spring 2025 Dean's List

SPRINGFIELD - Springfield Technical Community College announces students who were named to the spring 2025 dean's list.

Published each semester, the STCC dean's list recognizes excellence in academic performance. To be considered, degree-seeking students must earn 12 or more college level credits in the current semester, or a total of 12 or more combined college-level credits earned during the fall and spring semesters, and achieve a 3.3 or above grade point average.

Student names are listed under the towns or cities in which they reside.

Hampden
Abigail Dean, Abigail Pronovost, Dylan Douglas Hess, Jeffrey R Amsden, Julia Monique Downey, Kristen M Roncarati, Paige Marie Baker

Wilbraham
Aidan Raba, Avra Marie Mayuski, Ayaniz Darlene Miranda, Brett Proto, Cassandra Lee Strom, Cecilia Mary Sheehan, Christopher Lee Moreno, Dashiell Garvey, Diella Maria Martell, Elizabeth C Mendoza, Emi-

lie Nicole Laroche, Jaselynn Morales, John Patrick McGrath, Jordan Mawaka Setian, Joseph William Picard, Julia Katherine Dasilva, Julia Rose Lewis, Kayleigh Cheryl Delamarter, Kristina Robertovna Meyko, Lia R Stefaniak, Madison Grace Drumm, Matthew Murphy, Maurice Kearney, Maya Galvan, Melissa Lee Laroche, Mikhail Dizhur, Nicholas L Aubrey, Noah Burke Mayock, Patricia Roy, Patrick Michael Rowe, Rose Elizabeth Eldridge, Ryan Matthew Eplite, Sadat Golestaneh, Vyan Kamlesh Patel

HCC celebrates students achievements

HOLYOKE - Holyoke Community College is proud to celebrate the students who earned honors and awards for their outstanding achievements during the 2024-2025 academic year.

A full list of students along with their specific honors and awards can be found at hcc.edu/awards-2025

HCC Honors & Awards for 2024-2025:

Wilbraham: John Przewoznik, Alison Smythe.

HISTORICAL from page 1

that it was named after "Wild Boar's Home". He tells a few stories about the acquisition of the name:

Philadelphia Company
Peck did some research, back then, and found that a Philadelphia company dealing with carriage makers' supplies had the name of, "Wilbraham Bros."

Peck also recalled that there was a Wilbraham Academy student who arrived in town to attend the school. Soon after he arrived, he rushed into the post office about the time that the morning mail was to be distributed.

"Any letters for Wilbraham today?" he asked the postmaster. The postmaster thought he was "acting a little fresh" and answered, "Well, I should say there was." But, as he did not pass out any mail, the young man soon explained that Wilbraham was his name.

Kerry Flynn
When the names Great Wilbraham and Little Wilbraham was brought up in the Peck book, I remembered back over about 14 years ago when I was editor of the Wilbraham-Hampden Times, I had the good fortune of hiring Kerry M. Flynn, the editor of Minnechaug's newspaper The Smoke Signal, to be our intern at the Times for the summer.



(Photo courtesy Google) Kerry M. Flynn

I knew Kerry was a good writer by reading her writing and editing of the Smoke Signal, and I also was friends with Kerry's parents, Mike and Janice Flynn, popular local folks. Her grandfather, Noel Chambers, was my former boss at The Wall Street



(Courtesy Wikipedia)

A landmark in Great Wilbraham, England.

Journal and lived in Wilbraham for years. (After Noel retired, he was an avid volunteer at Fountain Park and we stayed in touch.)

I gave Kerry a "cool" assignment: To see if she could produce an in-depth feature article on the similarities and differences between the people of Great and Little Wilbraham England, college towns outside of Cambridge University, and of our Springfield bedroom town of Wilbraham, Mass.

Of course, the Wilbrahams in England are quite older than we are. According to Wikipedia, the parish of Great Wilbraham has been occupied for thousands of years; a Neolithic camp was excavated in the west of the parish in 1976, and a Bronze Age barrow, where up to eight burials were discovered in 1852, lies alongside the Fleam Dyke in the southern corner of the parish. A possible Roman dwelling was also located in their woodlands, said Wikipedia.

I could go on and on but I will say I found that A church was built in Wilbraham in around 970 by a monk from Ramsey Abbey. The present church, dedicated to Saint Nicholas, dates from the 12th century.

Kerry spent a good amount of time using our office phone to talk to the residents across the ocean, to restaurant owners, schoolteachers, counselors and just plain folks. She noted what they did for leisure and for work; and it gave our Times readers a way to compare ourselves to our cousins in Cambridgeshire. We combined the story with some photos of Wilbraham, Mass. tourists, Dave Carver and Anne Poole, posing with a copy of the Wilbraham-Hampden Times in Great Wilbraham.

One of the highlights of Kerry's story was the fact that some of our Wilbraham residents and some of the English Wilbraham residents were acquainted with each other.

Kerry wrote, "Despite being divided by the ocean, members of both Wilbrahams have heard of each other. Some find out about the other through the use of Google for directions and often getting them for the wrong Wil-



(Charles F. Bennett photo)

The well-worn 249-year grave of Rev. Noah Merrick in Adams Cemetery.

braham. Others have simply heard of it through word-of-mouth. "I've heard about the town in Massachusetts, and I know you have funky weather," said Robert Turner, then a councilor of the Great Wilbraham Parish Council.

Kerry went on to Harvard, became a staffer for the "Harvard Crimson" newspaper and is now a Media Reporter for Axios news service in New York City.

The research for this column revealed something I, nor Chauncey Peck, nor Kerry Flynn knew, the name "Wilbraham" also means "Homestead of a woman called Wilburh" according to Wikipedia.

Rev. Merrick

Elsewhere in Chancey Peck's book, he describes the last days of Rev. Noah Merrick. Much has been written in town history books of how townspeople hired Rev. Merrick to be its minister for the congregation that was formed near Federal Lane and Main Street. Much more has been

written how they brought him to Wilbraham and negotiated his salary and other matters. He had a long career.

The Wilbraham Historic Commission was approved in 2024 for Community Preservation Act funding to replace a granite memorial marker at that site. We are waiting for the new stone marker to arrive from the Vermont quarry.

New Marker Coming
The old granite marker on the corner of the east side of Federal Lane and Main Street that reads: "First Church Wilbraham Organized here, June 24, 1741 will be replaced."

It commemorates the site of where the first church was organized and Rev. Noah Merrick was ordained. In the first history of Wilbraham published in June of 1863, its author, Rufus P. Stebbins D.D., described the day at that site where the organizers met to organize the church and ordain Rev. Merrick, a 1731 graduate of Yale.

Flash forward to 1776 when Rev. Merrick was in failing health. Word went out in town that Mr. Merrick

was too infirm to perform the work of the Ministry. His health continued to decline and he could not man the pulpit for six more months.

Peck finally wrote, "This is the last recorded action in the protracted and painful transaction. At that time, "The Worthy Mr. Merrick was rapidly sinking to his grave; going to his reward, said Peck." He died December 22, 1776 at age 66 years after a ministry of 33 years and six months.

Mrs. Abigail Merrick, his wife, survived him by 31 years and died September 12, 1807 at the age of 98. They are both buried in Adams Cemetery.

Source: Wikipedia provided several points of reference for this story.

Editor Emeritus Charlie Bennett is a member of the Historic Commission and a trustee of the Wilbraham Atheneum Society. Readers can contact him with comments or ideas for the column at cbennett4765@charter.net.

LOWER PRICES TO BOOST YOUR BUDGET! **INFLATION** **PRICE BUSTERS** **PRICES IN RED ARE AT OR BELOW LAST YEAR'S PRICES!**

<p>USDA INSP. FRESH COUNTRY STYLE PORK RIBS \$2.19 lb</p> <p>USDA INSP. FROZEN BONELESS 1/2 PORK LOINS \$1.99 lb</p> <p>USDA INSP. FROZEN SPARE RIBS TWIN PAK \$2.29 lb</p> <p>GREAT ON THE GRILL</p> <p>USDA INSP. STOREMADE BONELESS ITALIAN MARINATED CHICKEN BREAST \$3.99 lb</p> <p>USDA INSP. STOREMADE BONELESS KOREAN BBQ PORK BUTT STRIPS \$3.35 lb</p> <p>USDA INSP. STOREMADE ALL VARIETIES ITALIAN SAUSAGE \$2.79 lb</p> <p>USDA INSP. STOREMADE BACON WRAPPED SHRIMP KABOBS \$8.99 lb</p> <p>ALSO A COMPLETE LINE OF GOURMET CAKES & DESSERTS</p>	<p>USDA INSP. STORE MADE FROZEN HAMBURGER PATTIES 80% LEAN 20 CT BOX 3 OZ 4 OZ \$15.69 ea \$19.99 ea</p> <p>USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS KAYEM or DEUTSCHMACHER NATURAL CASING HOT DOGS 2 1/2 LB BOX \$9.99 ea</p> <p>USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF TOP ROUND LONDON BROIL \$5.89 lb</p> <p>USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF STRIPLOIN CUT FREE \$8.99 lb WHOLE OR HALF</p>	<p>USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS & SKINLESS CHICKEN BREAST 10 LB BAG \$2.29 lb</p> <p>USDA INSP. FRESH CHICKEN LEG 1/4 40 LB. BOX... \$2.76 (69 lb)</p> <p>USDA INSP. FROZEN GREAT FOR SALAD TRI-COLOR CHEESE TORTELLINI 16 OZ BAG .. \$2.99 ea</p> <p>USDA INSP. HILLSHIRE FARM POLSKA KIELBASA 13 OZ or 14 OZ \$3.99 ea</p> <p>USDA INSP. FROZEN SARA LEE CLASSIC CHEESECAKE STRAWBERRY 19 OZ \$5.99 ea</p> <p>USDA INSP. HILLDALE AMERICAN CHEESE 160 SLICES 5 LB \$17.99 ea</p>
--	--	---

Wishing You a Happy 4th!

90 Meat Outlet 90 Avocado St. Springfield 413-737-1288 www.90meat.com

HOURS: Mon. - Wed. 8-4
Thurs. 8-6 • Fri. 8-6 • Sat. 8-3

BUY DIRECT FOR SAVINGS • SELECTION • SERVICE

ADVERTISING SALES

HELP WANTED

- Do you want to work in your community helping local businesses connect with their customers?
- Do you want a career supporting local journalism, which tells the unique stories of our communities?
- If so, then join our team! Turley Publications is looking for an outgoing, energetic person interested in selling advertising for our community newspapers. The right candidate will assume an established territory with a portfolio of customers.

You must be a self-starter with excellent communication and organizational skills. Basic computer skills are required. Previous print sales experience is preferred but we will train the right candidate.

Turley Publications, a locally owned family business, offers a competitive commission structure, 401k, and health plan.

Send resume & cover letter to:
Jamie Joslyn
24 Water Street
Palmer, MA 01069
Email: jamie@turley.com

SPORTS

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

SEND US YOUR SPORTS SUBMISSIONS

www.sports.turley.com



Maya Usher stops the ball.



Sophia O'Connor heads off a ball.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Lauren Hoar is leading the offensive charge.



Taylor Bartosz gets away from a defender.

Falcons score shutout of Belchertown

WILBRAHAM – Last Friday evening, the Wilbraham A girls summer soccer team defeated Belchertown 5-0. The game, which took place on the turf at Minnechaug High, was played in much more comfortable conditions than games the previous days. The Falcons are a perfect 4-0 to start the summer.



McKenna Sacco changes the field.



Alexandra Jaslanek goes after a goal.



Avery Knox looks for a lane to shoot.

Gaines shines for PeoplesBank in win over rival St. Joe's

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

THORNDIKE—Peoples Bank, who captured the last eleven Tri-County League championship titles, and the St. Joseph's Baseball Club are scheduled to face each other four times during the regular season.

The first two meetings on the baseball diamond were won by People's Bank without very much trouble.

A week after defeating St. Joe's, 13-3 at Mackenzie Stadium in Holyoke, People's Bank celebrated a 6-1 road victory at St. Joe's Park in Thorndike, last Friday night.

"This is a very big win early season win for us against St. Joe's, who's currently in first place," said People's Bank player/manager Joe Ferry. "I thought our pitching and defense was the difference in tonight's game. We also had some timely base hits."

People's Bank, who had two games postponed last week, had a perfect 4-0 record following the road win, while St. Joe's had a 5-2 record.

Each of the five Tri-County League teams gets two points for a victory and one for a tie.

"We always want to beat People's, but they're a very veteran team and we have a bunch of younger players," said St. Joe's player/manager Brian Hayes, who shares the coaching duties with Paul Marcinek. "They don't swing at many bad pitches. They also don't make very many mistakes defensively."

People's Bank jumped out to a 2-0 lead against St. Joe's lefthander Jackson Petrin in the top of the first inning.

Petrin, who was a senior on the Pope Francis baseball team this past spring, tossed a two-hitter against Minnechaug Regional in the Western Mass. Class A finals, which was held at Mackenzie Stadium on May 27. He didn't have the same

kind of success in his start against People's Bank.

With one-out in the opening frame, second baseman Dave Clark (3-for-3) lined a single down the right field line. First baseman Kyle Platner followed with a ground ball single up the middle into center field putting runners at the corners. Platner moved into scoring position on a wild pitch. Catcher Frankie Ferrentino, who's a first-year player, drove home both runners with a bloop single to center.

Ferrentino is a member of the Merrimack College baseball team.

Petrin retired the next two batters on a foul pop-up caught by third baseman Jacob Petrin and a strikeout.

St. Joe's threatened against People's Bank lefty Danny Gaines, who's from Holyoke, with one-out in the bottom half of the first inning. Jacob Petrin (2-for-4) began the rally with an infield hit and right fielder Pat Fitzgibbons drew a walk. Gaines escaped further trouble by getting the next batter to hit into an inning ending double play.

After neither team scored in the second inning, People's Bank centerfielder Seth Allen hit a groundball to the third baseman leading off the third inning. He wound up at second base following a throwing error. A Clark pop-up single to center and a walk by Platner loaded the bases.

The visitors, who had seven base hits in the game, took a 3-0 lead when Ferrentino was hit by a pitch. Then right fielder Cam Rivest, who's the varsity baseball coach at Ludlow High School, hit a sacrifice fly scoring another run.

St. Joe's broke the ice an inning later.

Fitzgibbons, who hit a hard ground ball into left field leading off the fourth inning, scored when centerfielder Aaron Little, who

Please see **TRI-COUNTY**, page 13

Pioneers suffer rare league loss

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

BURLINGTON, VT. —Not very much went the right way for the Western Mass. Pioneers against Vermont Green FC in the first matchup of the regular season between the USL League-Two rivals.

Vermont Green scored a goal at the end of both halves leading to a 2-0 shutout over the Pioneers before 2,500 enthusiastic soccer fans at Virtue Field, which is located on the University of Vermont campus, last Tuesday night.

"I thought we played well, but we just couldn't put our chances away," said Pioneers head coach Federico Molinari. "They did put their chances away."

The Pioneers had a 5-1-2 record following the road loss.

Vermont Green (6-0-1) took over sole possession of first place in the Northeast Division.

Since joining USL League-Two in 2022, Vermont has finished in third place behind the Pioneers in the league standings.

The overall series record between the two clubs is now tied 3-3-1. Three

of the seven matchups ended 1-0.

In the second meeting of last season, Vermont made the trip south on Rte. 91 needing to defeat the Pioneers to qualify for the league playoffs. They got the job done with a 3-1 victory.

Their first meeting of 2024, which was played at Virtue Field, finished in a scoreless draw.

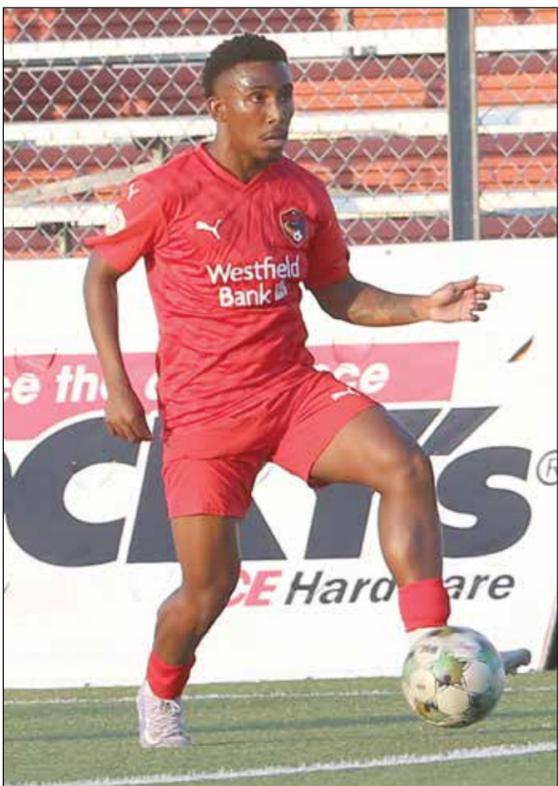
The last time the Pioneers celebrated a victory over Vermont Green was a 1-0 home shutout in the second meeting of the 2023 campaign. The lone goal of that match was scored by Mamadi Jiana, who played soccer at Chicopee High School, and is still a member of the Pioneers. He also plays for the men's soccer team at Bryant University.

The Pioneers had a couple of scoring chances during the first half of last Tuesday's match.

In the eighth minute, Robbie Lyons fired a shot from the top of the box, but Vermont goalie Niklas Herceg managed to make the save.

A little more than ten minutes later, a Lyons free kick sailed wide

Herceg made another save following a shot attempt from Augustine Boadi during the 32nd minute.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Gustavo Barbosa traps the ball and heads up the field.



Jaiden Williams shoots on goal.

SPORTS

Motocross Nationals set for WMass return this weekend

SOUTHWICK – Since 1976, the intimate, serpentine layout of Southwick, Massachusetts's iconic The Wick 338 has provided the most unique and grueling challenge in American motocross. Nestled behind the American Legion outpost for which it is named, amidst a sea of trees and the nearby Great Brook, the hidden gem is a pillar of the globally prestigious Pro Motocross Championship and has a legacy that spans nearly five decades. On Saturday, June 28, the 44th running of the Crestview Construction Southwick National will see the town of Southwick will become the global epicenter of the motocross world, as the most legendary race teams and an international contingent of the fastest racers on the planet converge on Western Massachusetts for the ultimate battle of man and machine at the "moto sandbox."

With its one-of-a-kind racing surface, endless stream of flowing turns, and an undulating terrain that is surrounded by spectators,

The Wick 338 stands alone in the world of motorsports. It is rare to find a racetrack of such global significance, with such a rich history seamlessly interwoven into the community that surrounds it, but the embrace of this summer tradition has become a fixture of Southwick living and an economic boon for the Hampden County town. Hundreds of racers, race team personnel, event staff, and race fans from across New England will make the journey to Western Massachusetts for an action-packed day of racing that will play a pivotal role in the quest to crown champions.

With legendary track elements like Jo Jo's Powerslide and Buckley Berm, The Wick 338 has long put riders to the ultimate test. The ever-changing sand means the track is constantly evolving, getting rougher and tougher as the day wears on and is usually complemented by elevated summer temperatures and humidity, adding another layer to an already monumental task. Despite

its challenges, it's a race all athletes want to win and those who have prevailed on these hallowed grounds take immense pride in knowing they earned that success. For spectators, there's simply nothing like it, as virtually every vantage point provides spectacular visuals and puts fans on top of the action.

The Pro Motocross Championship comprises 11 rounds of competition amongst the most high profile superstars of motorcycle racing, like American-born champions Eli Tomac and Chase Sexton, as well as championship-winning Australian phenom Jett Lawrence, Spaniard world champion Jorge Prado, and many more. The series will visit 10 different states from late May to late August, visiting the most hallowed venues in racing with legacies that span upwards of five decades. In the end, a pair of athletes will emerge with the sport's most distinguished title, celebrated as an AMA National Champion.

PIONEERS from page 11

Vermont Green took a 1-0 lead 11 minutes later.

The scoring play began with Stephane Njike sending a crossing pass into the box from the left side. Then Joseph Picotto flicked a shot into the back of the net past Western Mass goalie Cam Hall.

The Pioneers had an opportunity to score the tying goal in 52nd minute when Boadi sent a pass to Lyons, but his shot went over the crossbar.

In the 73rd minute, Jared Smith's free kick just missed going into the net.

With the Pioneers still trailing by a goal late in the second half, Vermont goalie Niklas Herceg received a yellow card from referee Elvis Jandric.

Molinari thought his team should've been given a free kick following the card, but the referee gave the home team a goal kick instead.

"It should've been a free kick for us because the referee gave their goalie a yellow card," Molinari said. "The referee made a mistake and it's a very tough loss for loss."

Following the match, Molinari and several of the Pioneers got into a heated argument with Jandric in the



Augustine Boadi hustles up the field.

middle of the field.

The home team sealed their victory when Hall attempted to make a diving save on a shot taken by Tyler Trimnal. The ball bounced away from the Pioneers keeper and Njike put the ball into the back of the net sending the Vermont Green supporters into a frenzy.

The Pioneers did get back into the win column follow-

ing a 2-0 win against the Boston Bolts.

The Pioneers goals were scored by Jorge Veintimilla and Jiana.

The second meeting between Vermont Green and Western Mass. is scheduled to take place at Lusitano Stadium on July 11. It's also the regular season finale for the Pioneers.

SUMMER from page 1

"This is a perfect place to do it. We got the Wilbraham/Hampden Police and Fire Departments here with us today along with the Wilbraham DPW and we're really encouraging the kids to go and interact with policemen and firemen so that they can get comfortable," Haber said. "So, it's all about summer safety and learning some fun summer tips. Wearing helmets, being safe by the pool. So, we're encouraging summer safety here."

Haber stressed events like this are possible through the community partners who come together to lend their support.

"We've been working with them for a few years now so they make it really easy and they have fun with it all," Haber said. "We have our contacts and they're always so welcoming and always so willing to participate in these types of events with us. So, we're happy to have them here with us today."

Haber hopes families have fun on the last day of school and enjoy the summer while learning something from the first responders, especially the younger children in attendance.

"They're still young enough to have a parent around most times, but you just never know what's going to happen. So, it is important for them to kind of start thinking about summer safety, being safe and making the right decisions and I think this is a good introduction to them," Haber said.

Patrick Farrow--who serves as Fire Capt. for Wilbraham and Deputy Fire Chief for Hampden--was ecstatic with the turnout.

"Seeing such a huge turnout at the Slide into Summer Safety event, despite the weather, is incredibly encouraging. It demonstrates the community's commitment to safety and awareness, which is vital for preventing emergencies," Farrow said. "It also reinforces the importance of our outreach efforts and reminds us that when we engage with the community, we can make a significant impact."

Farrow's number one safety tip this summer was this.

"Swimming with a buddy and staying in designated swimming areas are crucial safety measures. Additionally, wearing a visible bathing suit can enhance safety, making it easier for lifeguards or others to spot you in the water," Farrow said.

Aidan Robert and Lauren Tomala were excited to meet



Aidan Robert, nature specialist, and Lauren Tomala, arts and crafts specialist, work at Stony Brook Acres, a day camp program through the Scantic Valley YMCA, meeting with families about upcoming programs.



Families meet with Wilbraham Police Officers Jim Gagner and Dan Ryan for safety tips.



A child goes up one of the water slides during Slide into Summer Safety at Spec Pond.



Turley photos by Kristin Rivers

Wilbraham Deputy Fire Chief Mathew Walch and Fire Chief Michael Andrews pose for a photo.

run my little program," Robert said.

Tomala, who grew up in Wilbraham, was also excited to see familiar faces and meet new people during the event.

"A lot of the kids we saw here today will probably be at the camps so it was nice to meet them, to see them. It's always nice to connect with their families as well. The families are such a huge part of how we're able to do our job and just building those connections and building that trust," Tomala said.

Robert reflected on a full circle moment as he was a camper himself growing up and now he's amongst the staff.

"I've seen so many kids

the kids and talk about Stony Brook Acres, an ages six through 12 summer day camp program offered through the YMCA that runs in nine sessions throughout the summer, with the first week kicking off on June 23 with a Carnival theme.

Residents can learn more at springfieldy.org/stony-brook-acres-camp/.

Robert is the nature specialist while Tomala serves as the arts and crafts specialist.

"Both of us have been working at Stony Brook Acres for a few years now. We really love it, it's a great opportunity to work with the kids and just the community building," Tomala said. "The Y does such

a good job of honoring their core values and everything they stand for. So, it's an organization we come back to every single year and we're really inspired to be a part of."

"Getting the kiddos involved in the community--especially being the nature specialist--I love bringing my love of nature into the way I

Wilbraham FARMER'S MARKET



Jackie St. Lawrence of Just Jewels & Gems is also a new vendor at the Wilbraham Farmers Market, showing off her jewelry.



Julie and Mike Sokol of Sokol Coffee Roasters show off their coffee flavors. Their son, Nathan, is also part of the family team



Devin Pafumi, owner of Terra Flower Farm in Hampden, was selling flower bouquets to visitors during opening day.

MARKET from page 1

Kellie Hummel, the farm manager at Wilbraham Farmers Market and owner of Wild Roots Farm—formerly named Lettuce Beet Farm—was selling starter plants, luffas, pictures with dried flowers on them and bee baskets.

“Today’s our first day, new location, new time, but things are going fantastic! We have people coming out in the rain,” Hummel said. “We have a bunch of new vendors. We’re just super excited to be here.”

Hummel explained the farmers market is now located next to the Scantico Valley YMCA, encouraging people to stop by and visit. It was previously located in front of Wilbraham United Church.

“We kind of partnered with them for that, so it just allows us to have more space, a little bit easier accessibility, more parking spots, just easier to walk to,” Hummel said. “We got the Y there, we got All-American Gymnastics, we have Spec Pond where you can go cool off.”

She expressed gratitude to the community for their continued support.

“Our Farmers Market is all about just the community supporting the community. We want to get everyone here supporting local. All of the profits from here go right to the vendors, there’s no middleman, you can learn about the products that you’re buying, so if you have questions you’re literally asking the person who made it,” Hummel said. “You get to learn about the product, you get to learn about their family, you can become friends with the people that you’re buying from. It’s just a great opportunity to build an amazing community.”

Sokol Coffee Roasters, overseen by the family team of Julie, Mike and Nathan Sokol, was selling coffee beans, cold brews and lemonades.

A new vendor, Julie Sokol explained the business was created in 2020 and she saw an ad on Facebook to join the Wilbraham Farmers Market.

“My son has autism and he was in his senior year of high school and I wanted to do something that could get us out into the community. So, we started roasting coffee beans together on a small

scale and then, before you knew it, we were making labels, we built a website and we were selling to friends and family and lastly, participating in farmers markets,” Sokol said.

Sokol stressed the importance of community.

“Community’s important. Not just for adults and children and individuals with special needs. It just really brings people together and allows individuals to not only share their products but get to know each other. Make new customers and friends in the community,” Sokol said.

Past favorites are also back including Bob Merrill of New England Fruit Tree, who has taken part for several years.

Merrill enjoys meeting people.

“I like to talk to people. I like to get out at the markets because you get to talk to people about what you’re doing and your fruit and get them excited about growing fruit,” Merrill said. “If they pick up a fruit tree somewhere at a Walmart or something, they might not know how to grow it, so it’s nice to be able to talk to people and answer their questions. If you have questions about where they can grow it and how they can grow it.”

The variety of vendors is also important.

“It’s nice to get a mix of things here, to have some crafts, have some food, have some plants,” Merrill said. “It gives people an opportunity to talk to them. Everybody here is going to talk to you about what they’re doing and it’s not just something sitting on a shelf or in a store. You’re getting it from the producer, so they can tell you a lot about what they’re doing.”

As for the youth entrepreneurs, Sadie Blair and Aiden Whitaker were showcasing jewelry including some made with real crystals and memory wire and woodworking projects including floating shelves, planting boxes and jewelry trays.

Their advice to their fellow youth entrepreneurs is to be friendly and build connections during their experience.

Whitaker was excited to show off his craft.

“I’ve had these tools for a few years now. When I was six years old, I had a construc-



John Alves of Southview Farm in Belchertown was among the many plant sellers.



Embroidery Artist Kaitlin Kenyon of Kenyon Creations specializes in pet portraits made out of thread, showcasing her latest pieces.

tion-themed birthday party but never knew what I wanted to do. But, most recently, around February-ish, I started making stuff myself and selling it on Facebook Marketplace,” Whitaker said. “That’s what I started with and then this opportunity came and I was like, ‘I’ll make some stuff and see what people like, people don’t like’ and hopefully, it’s a great learning experience and I want to make this my life, so I definitely want to get my name out there.”

Blair was thrilled to connect with fellow entrepreneurs, sharing that her materials and equipment came from

her nana who was always into jewelry making.

“On top of getting your name out there to patrons and customers, also to people around you. As you’re building your network, it also helps you,” Blair said. “Or if somebody buys something and they tell someone else they had a good experience with him or me and it’ll just keep going.”

Sokol encourages the community to check out the Wilbraham Farmers Market and support the vendors.

“Opening day has been great. It’s just been so peaceful here, the other vendors are



Sadie Blair and Aiden Whitaker kicked off this season’s youth entrepreneurs who will be showing off their works at the Wilbraham Farmers Market. The youth entrepreneurs will be featured every Wednesday.



Deborah Jones, foster care recruiter at Foster MA, and Daisy Acosta, a social worker and foster care recruiter at DCF, were among the community organizations at the Wilbraham Farmers Market.

amazing. Everyone is helpful and kind and it’s just a wonderful feel,” Sokol said. “So, I would just suggest come see us, check everyone out. There’s a lot of options and different things to look at. Wilbraham is the place to be!”

To learn more, check out the Wilbraham Farmers Market on Instagram at @Wilbraham_Farmers_Market, their Facebook page and by email at FarmersMarketWilbraham@gmail.com.

TRI-COUNTY from page 11

played baseball at Ludlow High School, hit a sacrifice fly.

Second baseman Nate Carillon continued the St. Joe’s rally with a walk and catcher Bobby Trigilio was hit-by-a-pitch loading the bases with one-out. Just like they did in the first and third innings, People’s Bank ended the inning with a double play.

“Our defense was awesome tonight,” Ferry said. “We turned three double plays early in the game.”

Gaines, who allowed one run on three hits in four innings, was relieved by fellow lefty James Flahive, who’s normally a starter, at the start of the fifth inning.

“Danny has been one of our top starting pitchers for a very long time,” Ferry said. “It’s still early in the season and we knew he could give us at least four strong in-

nings.” Flahive, who threw 70 pitches over the final three frames, was credited with the win. He didn’t allow any runs on two hits.

People’s Bank final two runs were scored in the fifth and sixth innings on sacrifice flies from designated hitter Johny Gegetskas and Platner.

The third meeting of the regular season between the two teams was scheduled to be played at Mackenzie Stadium on Tuesday night.

HCC from page 9

Trudy Monson ‘97, president of the HCC Alumni Council, welcomed graduates as the new alumni and encouraged them to stay connected to the college.

“Your journey with this institution doesn’t end today,” said Monson, of Holyoke, one of four individuals presented with a Distinguished Service Award at Commencement. “Come back to campus to share your success stories. Consider becoming a mentor to current students. Join us at alumni events. Volunteer

your time and expertise. Your experiences and wisdom can inspire the next generation of HCC students.”

Holyoke Community College Class of 2025 (includes January 2025, Spring 2025, and Summer 2025 graduates):

W i l b r a h a m : Malyna Dansereau, Keirsten Forest-Williams, Nicholas Gentile, Colin Leydon, Mariah Mahabir, Sophia Pearce, John Przewoznik, Corey Sharpe, Alison Smythe, Alexa Sullivan, Joshua Torres, Julia Vigneault.

NOTICE

ERRORS: Each advertiser is requested to check their advertisement the first time it appears. This paper will not be responsible for more than one corrected insertion, nor will be liable for any error in an advertisement to a greater extent than the cost of the space occupied by the item in the advertisement.

PLEASE RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER

Classifieds

12 WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS | SERVING 50 LOCAL COMMUNITIES

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

COMMUNITY MARKETPLACE

Call us at 413.283.8393

FOR SALE

FIREWOOD

FIREWOOD
Fresh cut & split \$200.00
Seasoned cut & split \$300.00
All hardwood.
Tree length available
*Also have seasoned softwood for outdoor boilers (Cheap). Quality & volumes **guaranteed!!** New England Forest Products (413)477-0083

MORE HEAT LESS WOOD. Central Boiler Classic Edge HDX Outdoor Wood Furnace. EPA Certified. Titanium Stainless Steel. \$2K Tax Credit. Call (508)882-0178.

MISCELLANEOUS

AIR CONDITIONER. Keystone, large window/wall type with case. 12,000 BTU with remote, manual case. One owner 617-717-4817.

TAG SALE

114 HENDRICK ST., CHICOPEE. Furniture, clothing, toys, auto parts, much more. **Friday, June 27 thru Sunday, June 29, 10am-4pm.** Rain or shine.

WANTED

OLD CARPENTER TOOLS wanted. Planes, chisels, axes, etc. Vintage hunting, camping, cast iron cookware, advertising, motorcycles, clothing. Call Ken (413)433-2195.

SERVICES

A B Hauling and Removal Service

2***A & B HOUSEHOLD REMOVAL SERVICE*******
Cellars, attics, garages cleaned, yard debris. Barns & sheds demolished. Swimming pools removed. Cheaper than dumpster fees and we do all the work. Lowest rates. Fully insured. (413)283-6512, cell (413)222-8868.

EARLY DEADLINES

In observance of July 4th, the Classifieds have an **EARLY AD DEADLINE.**
To advertise, place your ad no later than **NOON Thursday, July 3**
Thank you!
A TURLEY PUBLICATION
www.turley.com

WANTED

WANTED TO BUY

ANTIQUES AND OLD STUFF WANTED.

BUYING Bottles, Crocks, Jugs, Pottery, Costume Jewelry, Toys, Games, coins, sterling, Glassware, Silver-plated items, watches, Musical instruments, typewriters, sewing machines, tools, radios, clocks, lanterns, lamps, kitchenware, cookware, knives, military, automotive, fire department, masonic, license plates, beer cans, barware, books, oil cans, advertising tins, hunting, fishing, signs, and more
Donald Roy
(860) 874-8396

JUNK REMOVAL

ARA JUNK FURNITURE REMOVAL

Full house cleanouts, attics, basements, garages, pools, hot tubs, sheds, decks. Same day service. 8am-9pm. Credit cards accepted. Free estimates on phone.
Fully insured.
Call Pete 413-433-0356.

A Call We Haul FAST REMOVAL

Junk, Appliance, Cleanouts.
We load it & take it.
413-531-1936
CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

SERVICES

DRYWALL, PAINTING AND CEILINGS, plaster repair. Drywall hanging. Taping & complete finishing. All ceiling textures. Fully insured. Jason at Great Walls. (413)563-0487

SERVICES

ELECTRICIAN

CHAMPAGNE ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS.
Residential electrical service, mini splits, EV chargers, smoke detection. Fully insured. Licensed #22882A. Mike 413-210-9140.

LICENSED ELECTRICIAN
I offer good quality electrical work, no project too small. Mini-splits, upgrades, pools, trustworthy & dependable. Luis Arroyo #20773A. Text or call 413-218-3301.

ZEN ELECTRIC COMPANY LLC
Fully licensed and insured; Master Electrician on staff. Call for all your electrical needs. No job too small. Senior citizen and Veteran Discount. A veteran owned company. MA License #8101A1. Call John at (413)206-6509

EXCAVATING

ELIOT STARBARD EXCAVATION
35+ yrs of happy customers.
508-882-0140

HOME IMPROVEMENT SPECIALIST

Decks, porches, repair service, roofing and siding contractor. Tim 413-563-2229. Licensed/insured. 35 year construction supervisor.

HOME IMPROVEMENTS. REMODELING Kitchens, baths. Ceramic tile, windows, painting, wallpapering, siding, decks. Insurance work. Fully insured. Free estimates. (413)246-2783 Ron.

WALKER HOME IMPROVEMENT

Interior and exterior - Finish carpentry, framing, window & door replacement, drywall, painting and decks. Competitive pricing. Insured. Call Brendan at 413-687-5552.

CHAMELEON PAINTING & REMODELING

INTERIOR/EXTERIOR Remodeling & Deck Specialists
Residential/Commercial
Fully Insured • Free Estimates
413-351-1147

Digital Photos

TURLEY PUBLICATIONS, INC.
Purchase a photo that recently ran in one of our publications. Go to newspapers.turley.com/photo-request
\$12.50 Each

SERVICES

LANDSCAPING

A+ ROZELL'S LANDSCAPING & BOBCAT SERVICE
Excavator Services
Overgrown property? Extreme Brush Cutting!
Shrub, Stump, Tree Removal
Lawn/Arborvite Installed
Loam, Stone, Mulch, Sand
Storm Clean-up
Small Demolition/ Junk Removal Insured
Josh Rozell 413-636-5957

****ALL SEASON****
Specializing in shrub trimming, pruning, design, deliveries, loader, backhoe, insured. Professional. Please call Bob (413) 537-5789 (413)538-7954.

MATT GUERTIN LANDSCAPING

Weekly Mowing
Landscape design and installation
Paver Patios, Walkways
For more services visit mattguertinlandscaping.com
Call or text (413)266-9975
Insured - Commercial - Residential

LAWN & GARDEN

***COMPOSTED LOAM* 3/8"** screened, \$40/yd. deliv., 10 yd min.; No additives, fillers or by-products. Local deliv. to Oakham and surrounding towns only. Eliot Starbard 508-882-0140.

MASONRY

STOP WET BASEMENTS
ABC MASONRY & BASEMENT WATERPROOFING
All brick, block, stone, concrete. Hatchway doors, basement windows, chimneys rebuilt & repaired, foundations repaired, basement waterproofing systems, sump pumps. BBB+ rating. Free estimates. Lic #14790. Call (413)569-1611, (413)374-5377

PAINTING

B&D PAINTING - Home improvement contractor. Reg. #175887. Free estimates. 30 years experience. 300 excellent references, 4.83 rating out of 5 on Angies List. 413-727-9846.

DUTCH TOUCH PAINTING

Interior only \$199.00 for average 12x16 room. Very neat, references, prompt service call (508)867-2550

SERVICES

PLUMBING

GREG LAFOUNTAIN PLUMBING & HEATING Lic #19196 Repairs & Replacement of fixtures, water heater installations, steam/HW boiler replacement. Kitchen & Bath remodeling. 30 years experience. Fully insured. \$10 Gift Card With Work Performed. Call Greg (413)592-1505

TREE WORK

AAA-TROM'S TREE SERVICE PROFESSIONAL SERVICE. Residential removal of trees. Free estimates, Fully insured W/Workman's Comp. Remove them before the wind takes them down. Cordwood, stump grinding. Call 413-283-6374.

AFFORDABLE STUMP GRINDING

Fast, dependable service. Free estimates. Fully insured. Call Joe Sablack 413-436-9821, Call 413-537-7994

DL & G TREE SERVICE. Everything from tree pruning, tree removal, stump grinding, storm damage and brush chipping. Honest and Dependable. Fully insured. Now offering a Senior Citizen and Veteran discount. Call today for free estimate (413)478-4212

TUNE-UPS

LAWN TRACTOR & MOWER TUNE UP & REPAIR
A&M TUNE-UPS
Push Lawnmowers, Riding Mowers and Small Engine Repair.
Work done at your home.
STUMP GRINDING
FREE PICKUP OF UNWANTED LAWN EQUIPMENT
Call Mike (413) 348-7967

STUMP GRINDING

DL & G STUMP GRINDING Grinding stumps of all sizes, insured & certified. Senior discounts. Call Dave 413-478-4212

SAW STUMP GRINDING
413-213-5470

SAW Stump Grinding
Call for a Free Estimate, Veteran Owned, Fully Insured
www.SAWSTUMPGRINDING.COM
413-213-5470

Find archives of this local newspaper at www.newspapers.turley.com

AUTO

CASH FOR JUNK AND REPAIRABLE CARS

FREE TOWING FAST SERVICE CASH PAID AS IS CALL OR TEXT 413-219-6839

HELP WANTED

HAMPDEN POLICE DEPARTMENT
is now accepting applications for a **FULL-TIME police officer.** Review of applications begins immediately. Visit www.hampdenpolice.com for more information. EOE

WE'RE HIRING!

SUFFIELD LUMBER

INSIDE SALES MANAGER WANTED
***FULL TIME POSITION**
1-860-668-5530

Job Description - Responsibilities and Duties:
• Answer phones
• Software proficiency
• Opening and closing store
• Handling customers
• Order stock
• Stock inventory and shelves.
• Schedule deliveries
• Dealing with cash
• Quoting material for jobs

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

ALL REAL ESTATE advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation, or discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or intention to make any such preference, limitation, or discrimination." We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.

MULTI UNIT HOME, OAKHAM. Pay rent five years on term, live free forever. Pete 407-752-1499

SOUTH HADLEY - 6 room apartment in owner occupied duplex. Washer & dryer on premises. 2 off-street parking spaces. No smoking...no pets. Rent \$1500.00/mo. plus utilities. Require 1st, last and security upon rental. Please call 413-533-4310 to set up appointment.

WANTED TO RENT

IF YOU HAVE A GARAGE to rent in Holyoke, Chicopee, South Hadley or Springfield please call Miguel 413-523-6362.

FOR RENT

All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status (number of children and or pregnancy), national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, or any intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination.
This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertising in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development "HUD" toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

Advertise your **HOME IMPROVEMENT SERVICES** in our classifieds. **WE GET RESULTS!** Call 413-283-8393

FILL OUT AND MAIL THIS MONEY MAKER

MAIL TO: Classifieds, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069 DEADLINES: FRIDAY AT NOON or call: 413-283-8393

CATEGORY:			
1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20
21	Base Price \$26.50	22	Base Price \$27.00
23	Base Price \$27.50	24	Base Price \$28.00
25	Base Price \$28.50	26	Base Price \$29.00
27	Base Price \$29.50	28	Base Price \$30.00
29	Base Price \$30.50	30	Base Price \$31.00
31	Base Price \$31.50	32	Base Price \$32.00
33	Base Price \$32.50	34	Base Price \$33.00
35	Base Price \$33.50	36	Base Price \$34.00
37	Base Price \$34.50	38	Base Price \$35.00
39	Base Price \$35.50	40	Base Price \$36.00

Name: _____ Phone: _____
 Address: _____
 Town: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Number of Weeks: _____ X per week rate = \$ _____
 Credit Card: MasterCard VISA Discover Cash Check# _____
 Card #: _____ Exp. Date _____ CVV _____
 Amount of charge: _____ Date: _____

Quabbin Village Hills
Circulation: 50,500

Hilltowns
Circulation: 9,800

Suburban Residential
Circulation: 59,000

All Three ZONES for \$26.00 for 20 words plus 50¢ for each additional word.

GREAT VALUE!
ALL 3 ZONES NOW FOR THE PRICE OF ONE!

OUR CLASSIFIEDS REACH 50 COMMUNITIES EVERY WEEK!

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

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.

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 car-

Please see **EVENTS**, page 16

PUBLIC NOTICES

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

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 fol-

lowing 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

Please check the accuracy of your legal notice prior to submission (i.e., date, time, spelling). Also, be sure the requested publication date coincides with the purpose of the notice, or as the law demands. Thank you.

EARLY DEADLINES

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

Thursday, July 3

- Thank you!

PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

- 1 Email all notices to notices@turley.com
- 2 Access archives and digital tear sheets by newspaper title.
- 3 Find a quick link to the state of Massachusetts' public notice web site to search all notices in Massachusetts newspapers.

Public notice deadlines are Friday at 3 p.m.

visit www.publicnotices.turley.com

Send Us Your Autumn Event Information

Turley Publications will print your Autumn event **FREE OF CHARGE** in our **Autumn Fest Supplement** which will be published **September 10, 2025.**

Total circulation of 85,000 reaching over 200,000 readers in the Pioneer Valley.

Deadline for Calendar submissions is August 11.

Community Autumn Events

Event Should Be Non-Profit & Open to the Public

FREE Calendar Listings Reaching over 200,000 Readers in the Pioneer Valley

Event Name _____

Date/Time _____

Location _____

Description _____

Cost _____

Contact name & phone number for more information _____

MAIL YOUR LISTING INFORMATION TO:

Turley Publications, Attn: Jamie Joslyn, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069 or email* them to: jamie@turley.com

***Be sure to indicate "Autumn Event" in the subject line of your email.**

Upcoming HSC 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 bobbij2@charter.net.

EVENTS from page 15

diovascular 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.

Area residents named to Dean's List at University of New England

BIDDEFORD AND PORTLAND, MAINE TANGIER, MOROCCO - The following students have been named to the University of New England's Dean's List for the spring semester 2025. Dean's List students have attained a grade point average of 3.3 or better out of a possible 4.0 at the end of the semester.

Wilbraham, MA: Derek Se- manie



LET'S GO OUT!

Your Local Favorite Restaurants



di Hampden House

1 Allen Street, Hampden, MA
413-566-8324

ENJOY OUTDOOR DINING ON OUR PATIO!



Weather Permitting

BOOK YOUR NEXT FUNCTION WITH US!

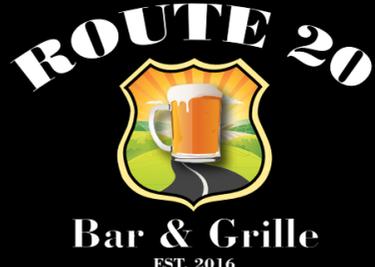
Showers, Christenings, Funeral Luncheons, Rehearsal Dinners, Weddings, etc.

For More Information
Contact Lori Atkinson at 413-566-8324
or by email at lacucinagreenhouse@gmail.com

See our website for our Banquet & Catering Menu

lacucinahampden.com

Mon.-Thurs. 3-9pm, Fri. & Sat. 11:30am-10pm & Sun. 11:30am-9pm
LOUNGE OPEN & PIZZA 7 DAYS BAR OPEN LATE!



Bar & Grille
EST. 2016

LIVE MUSIC!
EVERY THURS., FRI. & SAT.

Thursday 6/26
Aelan Lisowski
Friday 6/27
John Quigley
Saturday 6/28
Lisa Martins



LUNCH
Serving: Thurs. - Sat. 11:30 and Sun. 10:30

\$18 PRIME RIB NIGHT EVERY TUESDAY
Dine In Only • While Supplies Last

HAPPY HOUR THURSDAYS 4-7:30PM!
Specially Priced Apps & Live Music

\$20 STEAK N' BREW EVERY SUNDAY NIGHT!

WINE DOWN WEDNESDAYS \$19

WATCH FOR OUR LOBSTER BAKE SPECIAL RETURNING IN JULY!

SUNDAY BRUNCH Sundays 10:30-2:30
(Plus Our Regular Menu Until 8pm)
Featuring Our Build Your Own Bloody Mary & Mimosa Bar!

2341 Boston Rd., (Rt. 20), Wilbraham, MA
413.279.2020
route20barandgrille.com

SERVING: TUES. & WED. 4-9PM • THURS. 11:30AM-9PM
FRI. & SAT. 11:30AM-9:30PM • SUN. 10:30AM-8PM
WITH EXTENDED BAR HOURS EVERY NIGHT
RESERVATIONS ACCEPTED FOR PARTIES OF 6 OR MORE




HOME OF THE KILLER BEE DOUBLE HONEY ALE

JOIN THE 2025 MUG CLUB FIRST 100 MEMBERS *PERKS AND BENEFITS

SCANTIC RIVER BREWERY

LET'S CELEBRATE OUR ONE YEAR TAPROOM ANNIVERSARY

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY LIVE MUSIC

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY SEE UPCOMING PERFORMERS AND EVENTS ON OUR NEWSLETTER/INSTAGRAM/FACEBOOK

JULY 26TH! 12-10PM FOOD, RAFFLES, MUSIC, NEW BEER RELEASES

BOOK YOUR NEXT EVENT! INDOOR AND PATIO RENTALS WITH CATERING SERVICES AVAILABLE.

OUTDOOR PATIO SPACE WITH COVERING. PATIO IS DOG FRIENDLY

6 BURT LANE, WILBRAHAM, MA. TAPROOM (413)-279-1317
EMAIL INFO@SCANTICRIVERBREWERY.COM WWW.SCANTICRIVERBREWERY.COM
OPEN TUES-WED 3-9PM, THURS 3-10PM, FRI 12-10PM, SAT 12-10PM, SUN 12-8PM

Call Today! 413-566-8015



GIO'S LOUNGE
Beer - Wine - Spirits - Cocktails
Extended Hours for Lounge
Keno & Lottery Available

WE ARE MORE THAN JUST A PIZZA SHOP!

- GOURMET PIZZAS • WINGS • PASTA
- GIANT CALZONES • DINNERS • CALAMARI
- GRINDERS & WRAPS • SEAFOOD • CLAM STRIPS

Let us do the cooking while you enjoy the summer fun!

SAVE TIME & MONEY! ORDER ONLINE!
JOIN THE CUSTOMER LOYALTY REWARDS PROGRAM

9 Allen St., • Hampden Mini Mall • Hampden, MA (413) 566-8015
Open Wed.-Sun. Closed Mon. & Tues. | www.giospizzeria.com