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CALLING ALL READERS

By Patricia Sullivan
Correspondent

WILBRAHAM - Sign-up rates for the Wilbraham Public Library's summer reading program, which kicked off on June 14, have been outstanding, according to Children's Librarian Jaime Hageman.

The library runs summer reading challenges for kids, teens and adults. There will be events for all ages all summer long as well as a host of participation awards and dozens of raffle prizes that include everything from an Amazon Kindle to LEGO sets, a gumball machine, gift cards and even a Lodge Dutch oven.

"Of course we encourage everyone to read to prevent summer slide," Hageman said. "But beyond that, we want people to know that the library is a fun place to be in the summer. Events and services are free. You can meet new people or socialize with your friends. You can learn all sorts of things."

Among the events at the library this summer will be a Stilt-Walking Demonstration; a high-energy hula hoop performance; a ukulele lesson for teens, a Teddy Bear Picnic, book discussion groups and arts and crafts for all ages.

For summer reading, Hageman says, "Graphic novels are flying off the shelves."



Turley photo by Patricia Sullivan
Lauren Boody of Wilbraham has registered herself and all four of her children in the summer reading challenge. From left: Hazel, Grayson, Avery, Lauren and Cohen Boody.

She expects that books in the graphic novel "Baby-Sitters Club" series and the "Baby-Sitters Little Sisters" series will continue to be in demand.

"And Dog Man is always

popular," Hageman said.

Among teens, "Sunrise on the Reaping," by Suzanne Collins, the second prequel novel to the original "Hunger Games" trilogy, will be the summer's most requested book, predicts Young Adult

Librarian Rachel Hapgood.

"The Summer I Turned Pretty" series by Jenny Han will be widely read, too, especially since the books have

Please see **READERS**, page 3



Turley photos by Kristin Rivers
Scantic River Artisans President Laura Salerno with her sculpture, "Nature Inspired," which took first place for the Mixed Media category.

Scantic River Artisans host Seventh Annual Juried Art Show

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
krivers@turley.com

HAMPDEN - The Scantic River Artisans hosted their Seventh Annual Juried Art Show at the senior center on June 21 and 22.

This year's judges were David Brega, a leading contemporary still life painter, and Paul Leveille, an accomplished portrait artist whose career spans decades and includes a distinguished roster of national and international clients.

The categories were Acrylic, Graphic, Mixed Media, Oil, Photography and Watercolor, with prizes given out for first, second and third place and, in some cases, honorary mentions.

The winners were the following.

Acrylic

- First Place: Nan Hurlburt
- Second Place: Laura Salerno
- Third Place: Teresa Warka

Please see **ART SHOW**, page 10



Turley photo by Noelle Hisgen
Pastoral Minister Sister Mary McCue delivers a heartfelt speech thanking Father John for his service to St. Cecilia's, insisting that the church will always remember him.

Fr. John Connors retires from St. Cecilia's Parish

By Noelle Hisgen
Correspondent

WILBRAHAM - On June 22, members of the St. Cecilia's Parish came together at the church to celebrate the retirement of Father John Connors, the beloved priest of St. Cecilia's since 2020.

The church was packed with parishioners: including members of the past churches that Father John was a priest at. The St. Cecilia's adult choir and youth choir collaborated in a beautiful array of worship music. Not a seat was empty in the parish. It was filled with parishioners past and present, and most importantly it was filled with love.

After the mass, the community sent him off in style with a Kansas barbecue theme, and everyone was decked out in their red and white attire. The party was organized by the members of the St. Cecilia's Knights

of Columbus 10195 and Women's Club, with members frequently helping out others and serving the food. It was so packed that the Knights of Columbus needed to set up extra tables and chairs so that everyone could have a seat.

Various members of St. Cecilia's spoke on Father John's impact on the church as well as them personally, including Deacon Andrew Nowicki, Parish Director Annette Bishop, Faith Formation Director Rosemary Oldread, and Carolee McGrath, who wears many hats for St. Cecilia's as the Youth Group Leader, Youth Choir director and a Faith Formation teacher.

"He has been extremely warm, friendly and welcoming to everyone in the parish. He has also been a very steady presence. He is always available and always

Please see **FR. JOHN**, page 5

Hampden Special Town Election Results

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
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HAMPDEN - The voters made their voices heard at the ballot box for the June 23 special election.

Erik Vanderleeden will be filling the Selectboard seat vacated by former Selectboard Member Craig Rivest after securing 405 votes, defeating Kathy Pessolano who received 181 votes. This was a difference of 224 votes.

Vanderleeden will now

serve the rest of Rivest's term through May 2027.

As for the ballot question on the approval of the Proposition 2 1/2 debt exclusion override for the repair, renovation and expansion project of the fire station, this received favorable results from voters, with 339 yes votes over 252 no votes, a difference of 87 votes.

There are 4,196 total voters in Hampden, with 597 turning out for the special election, creating a voter turnout of 14%.



Turley photo by Kristin Rivers
A group shot of the members of the Red Hat Ya Ya Sisterhood of Wilbraham during their "Old-Fashioned Country BBQ" at the Wilbraham Senior Center on June 17.

Red Hatters host end-of-year barbecue

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
krivers@turley.com

WILBRAHAM - The Red Hat Ya Ya Sisterhood of Wilbraham celebrated the end of their yearly activities with an "Old-Fashioned Country

BBQ" at the senior center on June 17.

The festivities included hamburgers and hot dogs, as well as a variety of summer-themed spreads. Members dressed up in red and purple, the colors of the women's organization, and wore festive cowboy hats for the

occasion.

There was also a raffle for a quilt.

The Red Hat Ya Ya Sisterhood of Wilbraham, founded by Dorothy Hooper, is a group comprised of women from Wilbraham, Ludlow, Chicopee, Springfield, Palmer, Monson and other surrounding

communities getting together to have fun and enjoy quality time together, with past adventures including trips to the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts and Magic Wings, an Annual Holiday Luncheon, a

Please see **RED HATTERS**, page 9

A favorite summer event:

The Ice Cream Social at Old Meeting House Museum

By Charles F. Bennett
Times Editor Emeritus

WILBRAHAM – The Old Meeting House Museum in the center of Wilbraham will offer cool refreshing treats on a summer Sunday afternoon featuring Friendly’s Ice Cream Sundae Cups served out of the Hearse House on Sunday, July 13 from 2 to 4 p.m.

The event is free and open to the public and will be held outside in the garden at the rear of the building. The museum will be open for browsing and the Gift Shop will be open.

The museum, owned by the town, is maintained and operated by the all-volunteer Atheneum Society of Wilbraham and its Board of Trustees headed by its president David Bourcier. The historical building has recently had an accessible ramp added to the front entrance that was built with the historical design of the building in mind.

There is also a new sign previewing upcoming activities that shows off the facility’s new logo.

Atheneum Society Trustee Liz Pacosa-McEvoy is organizing a crafts wheel-throw-



The Old Meeting House Museum has a new logo. (Design by Bradley Gregory and Lindsey Bourcier)



The ice cream tent will welcome folks to the garden of the Old Meeting House Museum Ice Cream Social on Sunday, July 13 from 2 to 4 p.m. Four different flavors of Friendly’s Sundae Cups will be offered. The event is free and open to the public.

(Times file photo)



Ice cream treats come to life in the Hearse House of the Museum.

(Times file photo)

ing pottery demonstration. She hopes a good crowd will attend the Ice Cream Social. “Being a trustee at the Old Meeting House Museum is a great honor, it’s a special way to connect with and remember our past and preserve it for the future. Gathering on a warm summer day, sharing an ice cream together, watching a pottery demonstration, and socializing with our neighbors to converse and share ideas is special here

at the Atheneum. Come join us and enjoy our beautiful Wilbraham,” said Pacosa-McEvoy. The museum’s Gift Shop will feature Wilbraham-centric merchandise and town history books. Wilbraham history buffs will be able to purchase historian Dave Bourcier’s new glossy book, “Historic Tales of Wilbraham”. Bourcier is the retired Wilbraham fire chief, president of the Atheneum Society

of Wilbraham who operates The Old Meeting House Museum, and he publishes the “Wilbraham Historical Tidbits” website. There will be books, notepapers, sweatshirts, Old Meeting House and Hill Climb tee shirts and hats labeled “Wilbraham” for sale. For more information about the Old Meeting House Ice Cream Social, visit Facebook or email president@wilbrahamatheneum.org.

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Chain Reactions & 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.

Paint Sip Fun for at the Wilbraham Public Library

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.

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6th Grade	0
7th Grade	3
8th Grade	6
9th Grade	10
10th Grade	0
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Conservation Commission adds two members with science backgrounds

By Dalton Zbierski
Correspondent

WILBRAHAM – The Wilbraham Select Board appointed two new members to the Conservation Committee on June 16.

These individuals include Jim Knittel and Joe Cantalini. Both men have familiarity with and experience in the scientific field.

Knittel is a retired medicinal chemist who moved to Wilbraham from Belchertown just over two years ago. When he discovered there was an opening on the Conservation Commission, he viewed it as an opportunity to get involved in town and learn more about Wilbraham.

"I've worked in Springfield, lived in Belchertown but knew a lot about Wilbraham, so I thought I'd apply for this," Knittel said. "I have a science background and feel I can interpret things pretty well with this kind of posi-

tion. I thought it'd be a good way to introduce myself to the workings of the town."

Knittel was asked by a board member what he considered the responsibilities of a Conservation Commission member to be, and he noted that the job could range from ensuring that the local wetlands meet state requirements to monitoring septic systems to make sure they are up to date.

"I view it as helping out with the walkability and hiking and everything in the town too so that we have nice areas to go to without worrying. Obviously, we want to worry about the water quality itself," Knittel said.

In addition to being a retired chemist, Knittel also has experience teaching classes on pharmaceuticals and their effect on the environment. He said he hopes that could be useful to the committee.

Ultimately, the Select Board unanimously agreed to

appoint Knittel as an associate member of the Conservation Commission.

Meanwhile, Cantalini was appointed as a regular member of the committee. Before the vote occurred, he explained why he considered joining.

"I'm interested in kind of just contributing to protecting natural resources and [facilitating] thoughtful and sustainable development. I think the Conservation Commission plays an important role in that and in the development of the town and protecting wetlands," Cantalini said.

After growing up in Wilbraham, Cantalini earned his undergrad in biology and chemistry and master's in chemistry. He currently works in the analytical chemistry field. He detailed his passion further.

"I've been on a couple different conservation-related and business sustainability work groups for three or four

years. I have an interest in sustainability and conservation," Cantalini said.

Cantalini is also experienced in regulatory and compliance law. For four years, he was the vice chair of a statewide industry trade group, which worked with a lot of city departments and stage agencies.

"I had to do a lot of reviewing and interpreting regulatory law as well as statutory law. So, that gave me a real interest in the government side of things," Cantalini said. "It was there already, but that really perked up my interest in that aspect of civil participation, which is really the core interest that I have."

Now both Knittel and Cantalini are on the committee. Knittel's term runs from July 1 to June 30, 2028. Cantalini will serve in this term now through June 30, 2027.

Upcoming Wilbraham Public Library Teen Events in July

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

On Thursday, July 10 from 3 to 4 p.m., students en-

tering 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.

This program is sponsored

in full by a grant from the Wilbraham Cultural Council, a local agency supported by the Mass Cultural Council.

READING from page 1

been made into an Amazon Prime series.

Library staff is always ready to help readers looking for recommendations.

"If you liked one book, we can tell you about five others you'll like," Hageman said.

When children come in to sign up for the summer reading challenge, Hapgood encourages their parents to sign up too.

"All ages have summer reading!" Hapgood said.

A whole family can track everyone's reading year-round and participate in the summer reading challenge with one email address through the Beanstack app.

Lauren Boody of Wilbraham uses the app to track the reading of all four of her children, ages six, four, two, and two months—plus her own audiobooks.

She finds Beanstack easy to use and has signed up the family for the Summer Reading Challenge via the app.

"It's a fun way to keep us motivated to read all summer long," Boody said. "Although the kids would do it anyway."

The app shows that she has read 727 books to two-year-old Cohen Boody, well ahead of pace to reach a goal of 1,000 books before he enters kindergarten.

Lilly Sample, who is entering sixth grade in Wilbraham, signed up for summer reading for the first time this year. Her goal is to read 10 to 11 young adult books this summer.

She looks forward to reading books in the "Dork Diaries" series as well as more grownup books, she says.

As she outgrows books she owns, Sample offers them to others in the Little Free Library that she and her father built outside her house on Longview Drive. They plan to paint the library and plant flowers around it this summer.

The Wilbraham Public Library's Summer Reading Challenge concludes on Aug. 9. Children, teens and adults can sign up any time and even backlog books they have read since the program's launch on June 14.

Readers can sign up in person at the library, online at wilbrahamlibrary.beanstack.com or download the Beanstack Tracker app. Prize winners will be announced starting Aug. 19.



Turley photo by Patricia Sullivan

Lilly Sample of Wilbraham hopes to win a crochet kit in the summer reading program raffle.

Many local businesses and community groups make the library's summer read-

ing challenge possible. The Wilbraham Cultural Council offered particularly strong grant support this year, noted Hapgood.

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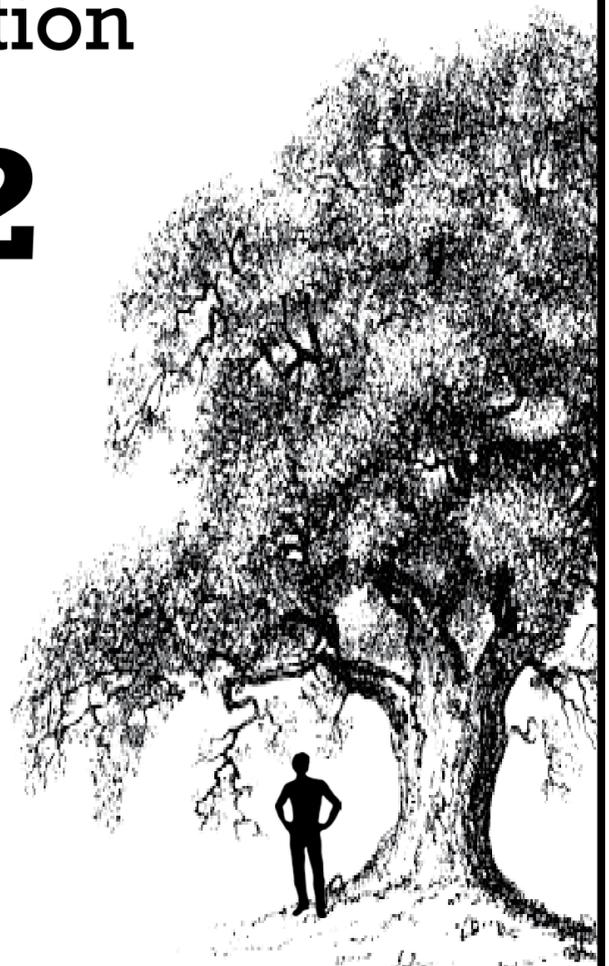
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INSURED AND CERTIFIED

Wilbraham receives grant funding from multiple sources

By Dalton Zbierski
Correspondent

WILBRAHAM – The town of Wilbraham is receiving grant funding from multiple state sources, according to Town Administrator Nick Breault at the June 16 Select Board meeting.

Breault first announced funding that was recently approved by the Massachusetts Gaming Commission.

“They authorized the award of \$517,000 to Wilbraham as a municipal block grant. These are the funds that

were applied for and will be designated for the Stony Hill Road and Springfield Street project,” Breault said.

The administrator added that the money will “help the town out tremendously,” and he expressed his appreciation for the Department of Public Works for pursuing the grant as well as the gaming commission for offering the award.

“On top of that, we received word late last week that MassDOT has awarded all three of the rectangular rapid flashing beacons for, as

the traffic team likes to say, RRFPs that the DPW applied for under the MassDOT Vulnerable Road User grant program,” Breault said.

Last Tuesday, the town’s Traffic Safety Team held a meeting to discuss the three locations where the beacons will be installed. Breault listed them out.

“One location is approximately on Stony Hill Road near the Commons by Old Farm Road. Another location is at the intersection of Springfield Street and Main Street. Finally, the third loca-

tion is at Minnechaug on the road in, in that area of Main Street,” he said.

Breault noted that each beacon has a value of approximately \$25,000. He was ecstatic to receive the funding for them from the state.

“They’re really great grants to get. We’re thankful for that,” Breault said.

Select Board Clerk Sue Bunnell said she was thrilled to be part of the Traffic Safety Team. She spoke further about the issue of speeding in town and a big change coming.

“Those in fact were great [grant] opportunities that presented themselves,” Bunnell said. “I also wanted to mention that one of the things that came up in the last Traffic Safety Team meeting is that we have notified DOT of the result of town meeting that we’re going to be instituting, or if not otherwise posting, a 25-mph speed limit in town.”

Bunnell looks forward to strategizing on how to educate the public about the change, which is geared towards safety.

“The goal is to try and

slow people down and have people be a little more mindful of how fast they’re driving, especially on side streets and places where it’s not posted. So, there’s that,” Bunnell said.

She also spoke about how enjoyable it is to be a member of the Traffic Safety Team.

“There are also a whole bunch of requests for stop signs and things that come through that team. It’s one of the most interesting groups I’ve been a part of, so it’s a pleasure to be in that,” Bunnell said.

FR. JOHN from page 1

there,” said Nowicki. “I can see it in how we have gotten many new parish members and mass attendance has steadily climbed the past few years. I have yet to meet anyone that did not like him.”

“He’s just inspirational. He’s dedicated, he’s humble, he’s compassionate, and he has enriched my faith tremendously,” said Bishop.

“Father John has impacted St. Cecilia’s in more ways than we can count. His positive nature and his willingness to embrace the community has left a lasting impression on all of us at St. Cecilia’s. He brings a willingness to learn and grow that we have all learned from. He is always going the extra mile for the parish. We have been so blessed to have him as our Pastor,” said Oldread.

“All I can say is I am so grateful that Father John said “yes” when God called him to become a priest. His “yes” has resulted in countless people knowing the love and mercy of Jesus,” said McGrath. “Father John is a



The room was packed with love as people celebrate the pastoral career of Father John’s career.

Turley photo by Noelle Hisgen

huge supporter of the youth of our parish, coming to retreats with us, and joining youth group for our service projects. He understands service joining the U.S. Marine Corps as a young man. When my oldest was about to start

Marine officer training, Father John called him up in front of the congregation and everyone prayed over him. I still get teary eyed thinking of that. Father John lives out the Gospel walking with the most vulnerable from the unborn,

to the elderly, to the discouraged and the brokenhearted. St. Cecilia’s will forever be blessed by his ministry and I am certain in retirement Father John will continue to show that love and mercy to everyone he meets.”

Everyone gathered together that day to thank a man who has given so much for his community in God’s name. Father John has made a large impact on St Cecilia’s that will last for a very long time.

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!



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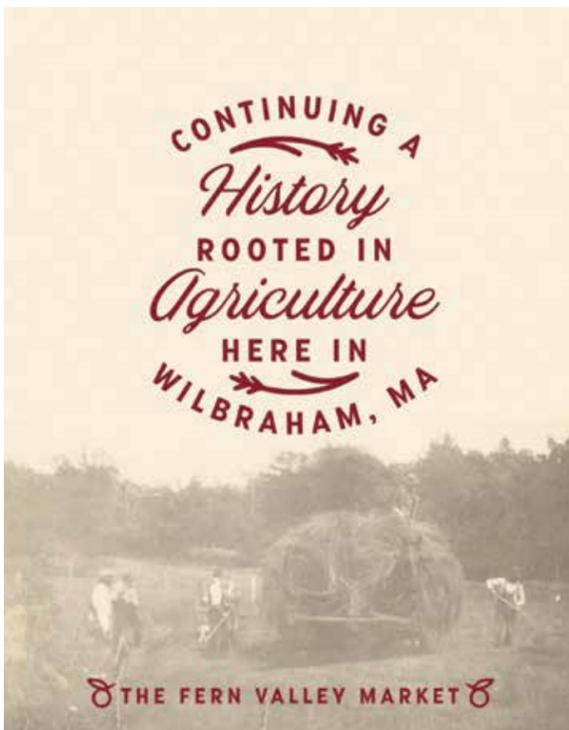


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VIEWPOINTS

SOCIAL SECURITY Matters
By Russell Gloor

When will funds stolen from Social Security be replaced?

Dear Rusty:
When will the funds stolen from the SS Fund be replaced?
They used Social Security when the government ran out of money and used it for illegals. I think the funds should be replaced except for legitimate payments to Social Security recipients. This money was never meant to be used by the federal government to pay their bills.

Signed: Concerned Senior

Dear Concerned Senior:

I must tell you that no funds have ever been "stolen" from the Social Security Administration despite the persistent myth. All money received by SS from payroll taxes, interest on investments and income tax on SS benefits is – and always has been – immediately converted to special issue government bonds (investments), which are held in the Social Security Trust Funds and which pay interest at the current federal bond rate.

Those bond investments held in reserve have been and are used only to pay benefits to those who have earned them by contributing to Social Security via payroll taxes for at least 10 years (40 quarters). Only U.S. citizens and legal residents can get Social Security benefits. Illegal aliens cannot receive Social Security benefits.

For information, repayment of the special issue bonds held in SS reserves occurs every day, because incoming revenue has been insufficient to pay all Social Security benefit costs for several years now, which means that the bonds must be redeemed regularly so that full bene-

fits can be paid to all SS recipients, who have earned them. There were about \$2.8 trillion in SS reserves as of the end of 2023, but that balance is steadily decreasing due to being redeemed to pay full benefits. As of the last report by the Trustees of Social Security, the reserves will be depleted in about 2033, unless Congress passes reform legislation to restore SS to full solvency.

FYI, the Association of Mature American Citizens is working hard to prevent depletion of the Trust Fund, suggesting to Congress a way to reform the program so future generations can fully benefit from it, with AMAC's Social Security Guarantee proposal. AMAC is constantly working to prevent depletion of the SS Trust Funds, which would result in an across the board cut in everyone's benefit by about 23%. AMAC works every day in Washington D.C. to ensure Social Security is here for many generations.

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 amac-foundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org. Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.

in my BACKYARD
By Ellenor Downer



Osprey

its prey with two toes in front and two behind.

Ospreys are very successful in catching fish. According to a study at least one out

of every four dives results in catching fish. The average time ospreys spend hunting before making a catch was about 12 minutes.

Ospreys often build large stick nests on manmade structures such as telephone poles, channel markers, and nest platforms designed for their use. Their eggs do not hatch all at once with the first chick emerging about five days before the last one. The oldest chick dominates the younger ones. When food is scarce, the younger chicks may starve to death.

A Brimfield resident, who likes to visit inland ponds, often watches osprey nesting. Ospreys migrate and this resident reports their return in the spring. An osprey, equipped with a tracking device, flew 2,700 miles from Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts to French Guiana South America during 13 days in 2008.

Other seashore birds

In addition, to the osprey we saw cormorants, seagulls, bank swallows, grackles and even a redwing

Please see **BACKYARD**, page 8

Letters to the Editor

Let's set the record straight

Dear Editor:

This is in response to Kevin Davis' letter to the Times editor on June 19.

He states that the new Senior Center, "...required about \$2 million in donations was needed to make it operational (FF&E)". This is completely false. I have no clue how or where Mr. Davis came up with that number.

The Friends of Wilbraham Seniors, Inc. is an independent and separate entity from the Town of Wilbraham and its department, the Senior Center. We are a 501(c)(3) fundraising corporation whose sole mission is to support and raise funds for the needs of Wilbraham Seniors and to assist in the funding of their programs and activities. The Town's Senior Center

Building Committee asked the Friends to fund all the fixtures, furnishings and equipment (FFE) and some minor projects. This was a very reasonable request that perfectly fits our mission. I might add other senior centers follow this route as well.

The Friends undertook a Capital Fundraising Campaign and set a goal to raise \$750,000. The Building Committee never asked for \$2 million. To date we have raised \$932,885 from generous residents, neighbors and businesses. It's a far cry from the \$2 million Mr. Davis claims. We are continuing to raise funds to support new and expanded programs that benefit seniors. Most of our efforts are focused on three primary areas for successful aging: nutrition, socialization,

and exercise. Studies show this focus can enable seniors to live a longer, healthier and happier life. Some new current programs we are helping to support are the Memory Café, arts and crafts, entertainment, games, and exercise programs. More to follow.

While I respect Mr. Davis' comment, "he will not use the Senior Center," I'd be remiss not to mention that thousands do not share his view. Documented statistics at our Senior Center show attendance has more than tripled since its opening. This is testament to the many seniors who patronize our beautiful, new Center and see the tremendous value our Town provides them.

Matt Villamaino
President, Friends of Wilbraham Seniors, Inc.

Senior center is valued by community it serves

Dear Editor:

I was frankly heartbroken to read the letter to the editor by Kevin Davis in last week's edition of the Times regarding the Wilbraham Senior Center.

I am a receptionist at the Wilbraham Senior Center every Monday as part of the town's senior work program. It has been my privilege to do this for several years at both the old and new locations. As a Wilbraham senior myself, I also participate in the activities and programs offered by the center.

I can honestly say, the difference between the old and new locations is like night and day. I see the difference in the people as they come into the center now versus the old center. They are smiling,

happy and feel valued as seniors in our community. The investment in the new center; in my humble opinion, is priceless.

Since moving into the new facility, the number and variety of activities and programs offered has increased exponentially. There are multiple things going on every day and the number of people who participate in the senior center's offerings has increased substantially.

The staff are welcoming, caring and professional and they manage the facility flawlessly. Their focus is always on the folks they serve and how they can make the lives of the seniors in the community happier and healthier.

I would encourage anyone who wonders what the Wilbraham Senior Center has to

offer to go online and look at their monthly newsletter, call and have the newsletter mailed directly to their home or, stop by the center anytime during open hours for an informal, quick personal tour and have your specific questions and concerns answered by one of the staff or volunteers.

I am confident that taking one of those simple steps will ease any concerns you might have, comfort you that our tax dollars have been spent wisely and reassure you that the staff manage the facility as you would want it to be with activities and programs suggested and requested by the senior residents of our community.

Brenda Willard



A Home Full of Heart: Driss and Majda celebrate Dedication Day with community, culture, and gratitude

By Brandice J. O'Brien
Marketing and Communications Manager, Greater Springfield Habitat for Humanity



Left to right: New homeowners Driss and Majda pose with family friend Mary Johnson, State Rep. Brian Ashe (D-2nd District Hampden), Springfield City Councilor At-Large Kateri Walsh, Greater Springfield Habitat for Humanity (GSHFH) Executive Director Aimee Giroux, and GSHFH Board President Ray Walsh at the June 1 dedication in Springfield.

More than 35 people attended the event in the backyard of the two-story home.

"This house represents stability for us," said Driss. "It will allow us to focus on raising our children and helping them achieving their goals, so they can grow and contribute positively to soci-

ety."

Construction began in summer 2024. This project was made possible by sponsorships and donations from James Hardie, Key Bank, the Davis Family Foundation,

Please see **HABITAT**, page 8

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Correction Policy

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

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

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.

Life in & **WILBRAHAM HAMPDEN**

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

WILBRAHAM HAMPDEN

COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD

A great big shout out to

**Deputy Elizabeth Rodrigues
OF THE HAMPDEN COUNTY
SHERIFF'S TRIAD DIVISION!**

Thank you so much for going above & beyond & finding my dad a walker and delivering it on Father's Day!

He is very happy with it and it has given him the confidence and stability to walk distances.

It was so nice meeting you - you are a very special human, we appreciate you (and what you do) very much!

BEST REGARDS TO YOU & YOUR CREW!
Victoria Desantis



Photos and caption courtesy of Hampden Fire Department

HFD trains under live fire conditions

On June 9, for training some of our members went to Somers and trained under live fire conditions. Training consisted of fire attack as well as conducting a search for victims in a fire. We would like to thank Somers Fire Department for hosting and helping with this training!



Photo and caption courtesy of Wilbraham Fire Department

WFD takes part in Field Day

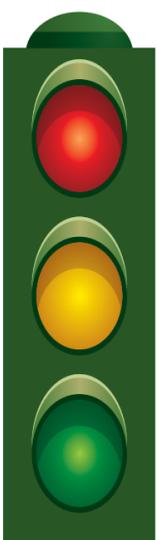
The Wilbraham Fire Department spent the day at Mile Tree Elementary School participating in their field day. We were able to reach over 300 students and share some very important safety messages.

After our presentation, all students, and even a few teachers, had the opportunity to spray the fire hose at our spray house.

We reinforced the importance of knowing the number to call during an emergency and that firefighters are community helpers. We taught the kids why "Stop, Drop, and Roll" is so crucial for fire safety.

We reminded everyone to always wear a helmet when riding bikes, scooters, or skateboards. And we emphasized the importance of swimming with a buddy. Always look out for each other!

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kids corner

HOOT - Soule Road Book Clubs

By Joshua Ekong, Maddie Fontaine, and Sophie Sutter

WILBRAHAM - Soule Road School's enrichment program includes book clubs.

The book clubs have approximately 35 fourth graders and fifth graders and about two to three people from each class. The book that their fantastic librarian Mrs. Cheryl Erskine chose was called "HOOT."

The students enjoyed this book which consisted of some major cliffhangers, and very exciting, intriguing moments. The students made several reports and reviews on this book and the majority of students rated "HOOT" 5/5 stars.

The book "HOOT" included interesting characters. The book was about three characters who risked it all to



The 5th Grade Book Clubs.

Photos courtesy of Cheryl Erskine



The authors of this month's article.



Informational posters used for the monthly assembly.

save several owls who were on the verge of losing their homes due to construction on a plot of land.

Will the kids save the owls? Will they make it out without going to jail?

The book is about a boy

named Roy moving to a new state and shows that it is tough being the new kid. In the book he looks out his window and sees a running boy with no shoes on.

Is he just a normal boy? Or is he a secret that needs to

be figured out?

The construction site is about to make a pancake place but if they do this, they are going to plow in all the owl holes and risk their homes

Please see **HOOT**, page 16

BACKYARD from page 6

blackbird whose epaulets were bright red. There were new benches installed along the cliff bank. When we stopped there last year, the benches were in poor condition.

Birds in Sutton

My brother lives in Sutton. He sets out grape jelly and a hummingbird feeder. The Baltimore orioles, catbirds, red bellied woodpeckers and even house finches come for the jelly. The ruby throated hummingbirds come for the sugar water.

Mass Audubon Society sightings

The Massachusetts Audubon Society reports several unusual bird sightings. They included swallow-tailed kites in Mashpee, a Mississippi kite in Harwich, a Franklin's gull and two royal terns in Provincetown, a continuing prothonotary warbler in Concord, a Wilson's phalarope at Belle Marsh Reservation in Boston and a Brewster's warbler in Amherst.

Berkshire County sightings were a worm-eating warbler on Mt. Washington Road in Egremont, a least bittern in the Post Farm Marsh in Lenox, an Acadian flycatcher at the Jug End Reservation in Egremont and six red crossbills at the summit of

Mt. Greylock in Adams.

In Franklin County, there were four sandhill cranes on Plainfield Road in Ashfield and two hooded warblers on Falls Road in Sunderland.

Hampshire County highlights were a Brewster's warbler on the Narwottuck Rail Trail in Amherst and a least bittern near Station Road on the Narwottuck Rail Trail also in Amherst, three purple martins and four blue grosbeaks in the Honey Pot on Moody Bridge Road in Hadley and a common gold-eyede on the Quabbin Reservoir off the Windsor Dam in Belchertown.

Hampden County notables were two upland sand-

pipers on the Perimeter Road in Ludlow and two blue grosbeaks at the Southwick Wildlife Management Area in Southwick. Worcester County had an Acadian flycatcher near the Uxbridge Rice City Pond in Uxbridge and five evening grosbeaks at a private residence in Roy-alston.

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.



New homeowner Majda pours tea for guests (right) State Rep Brian Ashe (D-2nd District Hampden) and Springdale Education Center Young Adult Teacher Trina Winans before the dedication.

HABITAT from page 6

RJL Contracting, Episcopal Diocese of Western Massachusetts, Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts, and Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church in Springfield, which let Habitat use its parking lot. It's across the street from the new home.

"We can't do this on our own and it's always so gratifying to see the amount of people who come out and are a part of this," said Aimee Giroux, GSHFH executive director. "Most people do not have any previous construction experience, but are willing to give some effort and time to make this happen. We can't do this alone."

"We all know how important housing in right now, especially in Springfield. To try and have affordable decent housing for people is our part to have an impact in this community, city, and in Hampden County," Aimee said.

Two-hundred seventeen individual and corporate volunteers were involved in the endeavor to build GSHFH's 67th home in Springfield. Many came from Restoration City Church, Liberty Bank, MassMutual, MGM Springfield, Positive Regard Network/Springdale Education Center, Appleton Corp., Commonwealth Care Alliance, Liberty Mutual, OMG, M&T Bank, Second Baptist Church of South Hadley, and Westfield State University, among others.

"I had the opportunity to come down here with my Chief of Staff, Robin, and spend a few hours helping with work. It does really make you feel good when you know you're not only giving back to the community, but also giving back to the family that needs and cares so much this project," said State Rep Brian Ashe (D-2nd District Hampden). "Habitat for Humanity is not just about building homes, it's about building hope, stability, and a bright-

er future for families in our community."

Family friend Mary Johnson spoke about the early days when Driss, Majda, and their two girls lived with her family. She spoke of their friendship, when Majda helped Mary with her Arabic, and taught songs in Arabic that Mary said she still sings with her own children. "Majda taught me what it looks like to love your friends, to really love them," said Mary. "This is a truly beautiful neighborhood here. It already has so many wonderful neighbors, homes, and families. Now that Majda and Driss are here too, I know they'll fit right in. They'll bring their kindness, the Moroccan hospitality, kindness, and love to everyone they meet."

In 2018, Driss and Majda, with their two young daughters, immigrated to Western Massachusetts via a lottery diversity program in hopes of discovering a new country and gaining more opportunities. For several years, the family acclimated to the United States, welcomed two sons, and lived in a house in West Springfield. One day a car crashed into the home causing structural damage. The house was condemned and the family moved into a tiny two-bedroom apartment in the same town. The older girls shared one bedroom. Driss, Majda, and the younger two boys shared the other bedroom. Driss said because the rent was too expensive and the apartment is too small, they applied to the Greater Springfield Habitat homeownership program in early 2023 after learning about it from a friend.

Driss and Majda are expected to close on their home later this month.

To learn more about Greater Springfield Habitat's homeownership program, visit habitat Springfield.org/how-to-apply



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Kirk Burkins and Paula Dubord, director of Elder Affairs at the Wilbraham Senior Center, oversaw the grill, with Burkins serving as grill master.



Members of the Red Hat Ya Ya Sisterhood of Wilbraham dig in during their "Old-Fashioned Country BBQ" at the Wilbraham Senior Center.

Turley photos by Kristin Rivers

RED HAT from page 1

Cinco de Mayo Day celebration and many more.

Their board meetings are held on the third Tuesday of every month at the senior center, and they will meet for the 2025-2026 year, beginning in September, with new members encouraged to join.

Event Co-Chairs Dianne Cybulski and Sherry Phillips were excited about the event, with Cybulski having overseen the food while Phillips took care of the decorations.

"Fantastic time, fantastic food, everyone cooperated and did their part," Phillips said. "We're always looking for new people to join us!"

"We had 30 people here which was very, very good and we enjoyed good company," Cybulski said.

Phillips is one of the newer members of the group, having first joined at the old senior center when she was looking for the Bridge Group.

"Over in the corner, there I saw a room where people were having a real good time, so I went in there and said, 'Are you guys the Bridge Group?' and they said, 'No, we're the Red Hatters' and they were having a pajama party," Phillips said. "So, I thought, 'This is fun, I'm staying!'"

Cybulski, also a new member and the Secretary, has enjoyed the events the group does.

"Just a bunch of very, very nice women. Everyone is friendly, they really are. Very welcoming," Cybulski said.

After Queen Mum Ruth Chappel explained the group has been around since 2002 and has over 50 members, Deb Gormley shared what makes the group unique.

"What makes us different from any of the other orga-

nizations over the years that I've been involved in it is the fact of how we organize. Having a booklet that everybody receives," Gormley said. "When I tell other organizations--other Red Hat groups--they may go out to eat, that's pretty much it. They don't plan different events, and knowing the events for the whole year--ahead of time--having everything in there... it's fantastic."

Chappel explained her role with the group.

"So, I am chairwoman of the Board of Directors, I'm on all the committees, I schedule (and) provide the agenda for all the board meetings, hold a board meeting once a month," Chappel said. "And I supervise any of the committees, making sure that the Vice Queen Mum is all set because she is the one to make sure the event is going on smoothly."

Chappel has been with the Red Hatters since 2018 and got involved through Kathy Phipps, a past Queen Mum and was later encouraged by other members to get involved.

"So, it's been a lot of fun. We do pretty awesome stuff," Chappel said.

Vice Queen Pat Tessier stressed how the group also "gives something to the community."

"We do anyways, but the idea is to have fun. You're a certain age, you're retired, that's why we wear purple. We have a beautiful poem inside the book about wearing purple and the red hat and we're supposed to be just a fun group. But we do give at Christmas and everything," Tessier said. "But that's the idea, not like other clubs. We're supposed to be a fun club because we're older and we want to have fun!"

Tessier enjoys how the



Jean Gurecki, one of the longtime members, came prepared in a festive cowboy outfit in the Red Hatters colors of red and purple.

group brings local women together.

"I think it's very nice because a lot of women, their husbands died and you're lonely, so this way you get to meet a lot of different women and, in this way, you can arrange with them places to go and you don't have to go alone or you don't have to be alone if you're involved with a group," Tessier said. "Make new friends is about the main thing too. You have friends

for a long time."

Phillips and Cybulski encourage the community to check out the Red Hatters in the future.

"Come join us! They're a fun group!" Phillips said.

"Yes, come join us! We'd like to add more members," Cybulski said.

Red Hatters Member Maria Cacula poses with her plate and a cowboy hat.



Membership Director Linda Nichols poses for a photo with the quilt raffle winner, Judy, a new member of the Red Hatters, that took place during the event.



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Nan Hurlburt demonstrates her canvas piece for the upcoming "Reflective Musings" Community Art Project.

Examples of canvases already completed by participants for the "Reflective Musings" Community Art Project.



The Seventh Annual Juried Art Show took place at the Hampden Senior Center on June 21 and 22 with 109 art pieces, including these featured here.

Turley photos by Kristin Rivers

ART SHOW from page 1

Graphic

- First Place: Maurita Eaton
- Second Place: Hariette Block
- Third Place: Sue Bluestein
- Honorary Mention: Deb Penna

Mixed Media

- First Place: Laura Salerno
- Second Place: Audrey Safford
- Third Place: Roger Kellman

Oil

- First Place: Ann Bagge
- Second Place: Joanne Tebaldi
- Third Place: Ann Bagge
- Honorary Mention: Stuart Peabody

Photography

- First Place: Susan McCaffrey
- Second Place: Quinn Salerno
- Third Place: Joyce Donovan
- Honorary Mentions: Melanie Newhouse and Quinn Salerno

Watercolor:

- First Place: Joe Burger
- Second Place: Cathy Guidetti
- Third Place: Cathy Guidetti
- Honorary Mention: Joe Burger

The art show was sponsored by Affordable Waste Solutions, Blick Art Materials, In a Flash Photography, La Cucina, Monson Savings Bank, The Friends of Hampden Seniors and RAH (Recreation Association of Hamp-



Joanne Tebaldi's oil painting, "Rag Doll," took second place for the Oil category.



A Graphic piece titled "Invisible" by Maurita Eaton took first place for this category.



"Pretty Cow" by Teresa Warka took third place for the Acrylic category.

den). Also, the art show featured a Sunday afternoon reception where the winners were announced, an art demo for the "Reflective Musings" Community Art Project, light refreshments and music. For Mixed Media, SRA President Laura Salerno's sculpture called "Nature Inspired" took the top prize. "This piece showcases an impressive level of craftsmanship--the variety of shapes and forms coming together beautifully. The cover element adds a delightful finishing touch, making it feel like a complete and thoughtful creation," the judges said. "The artist's talent is clear in the fluidity and natural flow of the composition; nothing feels stiff or forced. It's a truly unique and skillfully exe-

cuted work." In Watercolor, Joe Burger's honorary mention was for his piece "Something Fishy." "This is a wonderfully composed piece with a strong sense of movement. The boat is captured in a way that feels completely believable, gently gliding through the water toward the seafood restaurant in the background," the judges said. "The lights atop the mast are a subtle but effective detail, adding charm and realism. We appreciated how the artist echoed the building's colors in the lower right corner, creating a well-balanced composition where all the visual weight is thoughtfully distributed." Third place in Photography was Joyce Donovan's "Whispering Horse."

"The exposure in this photograph is so well executed, it gives the impression that the horse could leap right out of the frame. The lighting adds dimension and drama, beautifully highlighting the horse's head, which anchors the composition," the judges said. "There's a storytelling quality here, you could spend time imagining a whole narrative unfolding. The young woman leading the horse is captured from just the right angle, offering a subtle human element while keeping the focus firmly on the horse." Joanne Tebaldi's oil painting called "Rag Doll" took second place in the Oil category. "We were especially drawn to the windows receding down the room--the perspective is spot on and achieving the level of accuracy is no



Joe Burger's honorary mention piece in the Watercolor category was for this painting called Something Fishy."

small feat. The artist also captured a lovely moment with the cat in the window, rendered in soft, subtle values," the judges said. "What really stands out is the balanced value range throughout the entire painting, which adds depth and harmony. A beautifully composed and skillfully executed piece."

Salerno explained it is up to the judges who make the show along with getting an honorary mention. Also, the pieces are new creations by the artists.

"Usually if you're entering a juried show, it is going to be your top-notch art pieces, so with that, we had a really great turnout of art," Salerno said.

Salerno also encouraged the community to check out the "Reflective Musings" Community Art Project, featuring free demos on July 17 and Aug. 28.

The project will also be featured in the upcoming "Fall into Art" Art Show on Oct. 11 and 12.

"It's a free project for the community, it gets everybody involved. It's a little spin-off of what we've done before," Salerno said. "It's really a great way to draw every age group, every type of artist, every type of medium. You don't have to have any talent when it comes to painting or drawing whatsoever. We have one gentleman who's going

to be putting a poem on one of the canvases. My son, for example, is going to do a photograph, some of his photography on it. We have sculptural pieces that will be added to canvases. So, really, the sky's the limit."

The project, she added, will have musings to draw inspiration for the pieces and canvases will be collected by Sept. 18.

"In the October show, we're going to have a whole wall of all of these pieces of art, these musings and then they will be sold for \$20 each. You will take it home with you right then and there and all of those proceeds go to scholarship funds for the Minnechaug High School," Salerno said. "So, anybody who wants to pick up their canvases can do so at some local libraries, here at the senior center, during any of our demos which are all listed on our website as well."

Salerno congratulated the artists on a job well done and thanked the community for their continued support of local art.

"There is a little something for everyone. If you haven't caught this show, definitely try to get the next one because the artists just keep coming. New artists just keep popping out of the woodwork and emerging," Salerno said.



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SPORTS

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Wilbraham boys soccer action



Jack Parastatidis emerges with the ball.

WILBRAHAM – Last week, Wilbraham boys B summer soccer was in action on the turf. The Falcons are preparing for the upcoming fall season in the Pioneer Valley Summer Soccer League. Due to website issues, the score was not reported as of press time. After taking this week off for the Fourth of July, the team will be back in action next week.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Caden Russ keeps possession of the ball under pressure.



Felix Bain-Purdy punts the ball away.

Geoffery Ohemeng takes a free kick.

Tyler Hoskinson goes after the ball.



Devin Slattery, of Ware, sends a throw to first.



Dave Clark slings a throw to first.



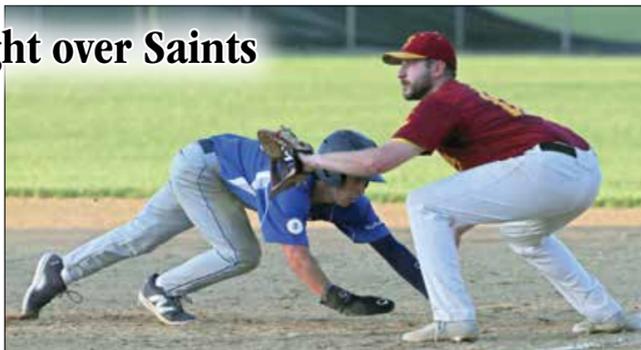
Cam MacDonald gets an out.



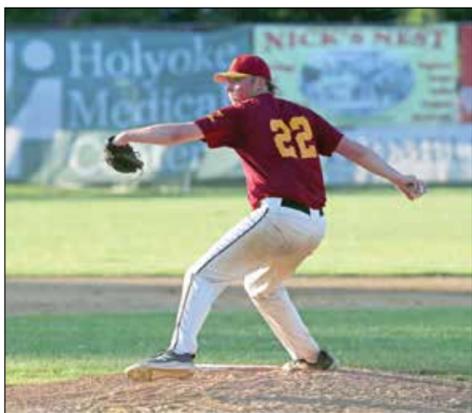
Jovanni Merced sends a pitch home for PeoplesBank.

Bankers take second straight over Saints

HOLYOKE – Last week in Tri-County League action, PeoplesBank defeated St. Joe's 5-3 at Mackenzie Stadium in Holyoke. Jovanni Merced got the win with Jack Feltovic taking the loss. Seth Allen had two hits and two RBI for the Bankers while Dave Clark turned in two hits. PeoplesBank is a perfect 6-0 so far this season while St. Joe's is 7-4.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Brandon Magni attempts to catch a pickoff throw.



Jack Feltovic fires a pitch for St. Joe's.



Kyle Platner goes for a tag.

Mutiny drills Fuel to clinch playoff spot

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW—Back on June 8, the New England Mutiny scored a season-high six goals during a road victory against the New Jersey Alliance. The Alliance were scheduled to make their first ever visit to Lusitano Stadium last Sunday afternoon, but they didn't have enough players to fill out their roster. Instead of taking the weekend off like the Western Mass. Pioneers were forced to do 24 hours earlier, the Mutiny were able to find another opponent on short notice. The Worcester Fuel made the 45-minute trek west on the Mass. Pike to Ludlow.

It wasn't a very competitive match, as the Mutiny posted a 12-0 shutout victory in what was most likely their final home game of the season. The Mutiny and Fuel were originally scheduled to face each other at Millbury High School on July 6.

"New Jersey indicated to us that they were having roster issues for this weekend, so we decided to switch our game with Worcester," said Joe Ferrara, who's the Owner/Managing Director of the Mutiny. "We'll try to reschedule the game with New Jersey or find another opponent to fill out our regular season schedule."

Because Mutiny head coach Federico Molinari was unavailable to coach

last Sunday's home match, Ferrara took over the coaching duties.

The Worcester team used to be in the same Division as the Mutiny, but they were moved down to the second Division this year. They've played a couple of other games against First Division clubs this season.

The victory improved the Mutiny's record to a perfect 7-0

Racing Power, who are from Baltimore, lost to the Mutiny, 3-0, at Lusitano Stadium on June 14, but they'll most likely be hosting the playoff game on July 13 because of the goal differential. The margin is capped at five goals for each match.

The U.W.S. National semifinals and finals are scheduled to be held in Chicago, Illinois.

The Mutiny, who lost in last year's championship match, clinched a berth in the United Women's Soccer League playoffs for the fifth time since they moved to Lusitano in 2019.

"We've had a lot of success since we began playing our home matches here at Lusitano Stadium," Ferrara said. "We've had a dynamic group of players during the past couple of years. We are losing a couple of key players for the rest of the season."

Chioma Okafor was called up to play for the Ni-

Please see **MUTINY**, page 12

SPORTS

First inning surge leads Blue Sox past Sharks

HOLYOKE – A four-run first inning was the catalyst for a dominant Blue Sox win on Saturday, as they handily defeated the visiting Martha's Vineyard Sharks by a final score of 6-2.

After an error by Vineyard's Harley Goodner opened the scoring, Valley piled on three more runs. The runs scored on a Gavin Schrader single, a Mike Lucarelli double and a Cade Carr sacrifice fly.

"It allowed us to be confident," said Head Coach Endy Morales of the early surge. "We had lost to them already this week, they're a really good team, so to come out and punch them first, it just set the tone for the rest of the game."

Michael O'Connor added the other two Valley scores on a home run that soared into the Blue Sox bullpen. Sebastian Mexico contributed a two hit performance, and Michael Elko came across home plate twice as a base runner.

Valley threw eight pitchers in the contest, striking out 11 Vineyard batters. Max McCrary earned the win. Andrew Wertz came in for the ninth inning, when he struck out two batters to close out the

game and earn the save. Gio Colasante started the game for Vineyard, allowing four hits and four runs across two innings of work. He was credited with the loss.

The Blue Sox improve to an overall record of 10-8 on the season, while the Sharks fall to 12-7. The win snaps a two game losing skid for Valley.

"I thought that was a good one to get. It could have very easily been three losses in a row," said Morales. "Now we get to go into the off day with a win, and a really tough stretch coming up next week. I thought that was a great way to approach the off day and beat a team that's super competitive."

The Valley Blue Sox suffered defeat on Friday despite a rally in the sixth inning that saw them score four runs and take the lead.

Down 3-0 to the visiting Mountaineers, Valley went on a run that featured a Rees Kozar two run double, a Clay Burdette sacrifice fly and an additional run on a throwing error.

Vermont responded in the top of the seventh with a Jaylen Hernandez two run home run, securing the 5-4

victory at MacKenzie Stadium.

"Overall, our defense needs to be cleaned up. We're making key mistakes later in the game ... I would like for us to be a little more efficient on the mound, and then defensively just clean up in those big moments," said Head Coach Endy Morales.

Beau Ellson started the game on the mound for Valley, allowing six hits and three runs across four innings of work. Riley Williams was credited with the loss in relief for Valley.

For the Mountaineers, Jack Rollo earned the win. Oliver Ellison got the save.

The loss drops Valley's record on the season to 9-8. Morales will look to build on this record today, when they host the Martha's Vineyard Sharks.

"In the grand scheme of things, we're still above .500, I would love to stay above .500 [today] ... This is the time where you want to make that separation. You don't want it to be the last week of the season and you're chasing four wins to try and get into the playoffs. You want to do that now so you have a bit more buffer," Morales said.

Quabbin Valley set to host second over-28 fall league

Following up on the resounding success of its inaugural campaign, the Quabbin Valley Baseball League, an over-28 adult baseball league will hold its second Fall League this September and October.

Seeking to create a similar competition environment to its spring/summer league, Quabbin Valley, with contributions from the Valley Wheel Over-28 Baseball League, created a four-team fall league last year featuring the Braves, Dodgers, Cardinals, and Twins.

Those same four teams are set to return and each team tends to have openings on them. Additionally, the league is open to welcoming more teams in to the league if it finds enough interest.

While the fall league schedule is still under construction, it will mostly feature Sunday morning games played with wood-bat only, which is customary for fall baseball. There could be some Saturday games added to the schedule depend-

ing on the completion of the spring/summer season as well as to makeup rain-outs, potentially. Games are nine-innings long and there is a small playoff and championship held at the end of the season. Last year's fall season was eight games and that is the goal for this year. Free and low-cost fields are used as well as just one umpire in an effort to keep the costs lower for players. The cost to play will likely range from \$40 to \$60 for the eight-game schedule. Players from outside the Quabbin League may also pay a small fee for insurance as well.

An interest/registration form, will be forthcoming soon, but until then, to express interest in the league, you can email the coordinators of the league at either GScibelli22@yahoo.com or ikhandfield@gmail.com.

Scheduled and team placement for unaffiliated players will be finalized in mid-to-late August. Please join in the fun this fall.

Registration open for 3v3 soccer jamboree

BELCHERTOWN – The Third Annual Julia's 3v3 Soccer Jamboree is scheduled to be held at the State Street Fields in Belchertown on August 16th, 2025. The annual event is held in memory of 13-year-old Julia Haynes who passed away in March of 2023 following a battle with brain cancer. All of the funds the Jamboree raises benefit the Julia Haynes Scholarship Fund, which is a 501(c)(3) founded by four of Julia's classmates.

The first two events hosted more than 60 teams, each year, in grades 3 through high school for the all-day event bracket which also featured food trucks, raffle and dunk tank.

Registration is open until July 20 and is \$100 per team for up to four players and includes an event t shirt. There is also a new bracket for class of 2022 - 2025 participants. There will again be food trucks, a DJ and some fun activities for attendees including a raffle. Those interested in registering a team, becoming a volunteer, sponsor or donating to the raffle can get more details on the @julias3v3jamboree Instagram or Julia's 3v3 Soccer Jamboree Facebook pages or through Runsignup: https://runsignup.com/Race/MA/Belchertown/Julias3v3SoccerJamboree

SENIORS

Monthly Highlights for July at the Hampden Senior Center:

Greeting Cards with Ellie Monday, July 7, 1 to 3 p.m.

Discover endless possibilities for creating your own personalized greeting cards.

Learn new techniques each month.

Cost is \$3.00 per person. All materials are provided.

Please call 566-5588 to reserve your spot. Space is limited.

Crafts with Kim Scrapbooking Class

Tuesdays, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon

Please bring 7-8 photographs, scissors, a tape runner, and any stickers you may wish to use.

Kim will provide scrapbooking paper and all the tools necessary to make your book gift-worthy.

Cost is \$10 per class.

Sunflower Basket Arrangement

Tuesday, July 8th from 1 to 3 p.m.

Cost is \$15 per project. All materials are provided.

Beehive Sunflower Wreath

Tuesday, July 22 from 1 to 3 p.m.

Cost is \$25 per project. All materials provided. Projects are on display in the lobby.

Please call 566-5588 to reserve your spot. Space is limited.

FREE Pickleball Clinic

Wednesday, July 9, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at Thornton Burgess Middle School (TWB)

85 Wilbraham Road, Hampden, MA

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

Dennis Windoloski from Edge Pickleball is graciously volunteering his time to offer a free pickleball clinic, teaching beginners the rules of the game and how to play it.

We will continue to have court time at TWB every Wednesday from 9:30 am to 11:30 am for seniors. Please call 566-5588 to let us know you'll be joining us.

NEW CLASS!

Ballroom Dance for Balance and Longevity!

8-week session, July 10 to Aug. 28

Thursdays, from 2 to 3 p.m. Social dance classes, led

by Amy Villalobos-Schold, a skilled occupational therapist. Focused on strengthening, stability, and modifications... so you can dance! Beginners and singles welcome!

Cost is \$60 per person for the 8-week session if paid in full or \$10 for drop-ins.

Please call 566-5588 to reserve your spot.

D & R Farm, Summer Farm Share

Pick-up is on Wednesday, July 16 at 9:30 a.m.

Free with SNAP/HIP if you qualify New applications for Summer Farm Share are required.

If you do not qualify for SNAP/HIP, you may purchase a share for \$20 cash each month.

Please let us know if you need your shares delivered.

Ice Cream Social sponsored by Vantage at Hampden

Friday, July 18 at 12:30 p.m.

Join us for ice cream complete with whipped cream, sprinkles, and a cherry on top!

Also joining us will be the newly crowned Ms. Massachusetts in the Senior America Pageant, Laura Hicks!

This is a FREE event, but we need to know that you're coming. Please call 566-5588 to sign up.

Learn how to use a Grocery Store App on your Smartphone

Tuesday, July 22 at 10:45 a.m.

Dale Schroyer from Everyday Tech Support will give a presentation on how to use a Big Y or Stop & Shop grocery app on your smartphone.

Save money, and learn how to clip coupons that are only available when using the app.

This is a FREE presentation. Please call 566-5588 to reserve a seat.

A Visit from the Hampden Assessors: Real Estate Tax Exemptions

Wednesday, July 23 at 10:30 a.m.

Please call 566-5588 to let us know you are coming to the presentation.

The Town of Hampden offers Real Estate Tax Exemptions for those who qualify. Applications are currently being accepted

by the Assessor's Office for FY2026. The deadline to apply for an exemption is April 1st.

Please contact the Assessor's Office for more information at (413) 566-2151 ext. 106.

The Assessor's office hours are Monday-Thursdays from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm.

Ukulele with Amy - New Students Welcome.

The current session continues through July 28. Drop-ins are welcome!

The NEW 8-week session will begin on Monday, Aug. 18.

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

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

Cost is \$50 for 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.

Living Stronger... Longer... with Lamar Moore - New Students Welcome.

Tuesdays, 2:15 to 3 p.m.

The current session ends July 15. The new session starts on July 22.

Drop-ins welcome! Classes in July are on the 8, 15, 22, and 29.

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

Cost is \$50 per session or \$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 Aug. 1. (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.

Lobby Learning Program

Don't have time to come in and sit for a long presentation? We understand! Lobby Learning welcomes busi-

Please see SR. EVENTS, page 15

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MUTINY from page 11

gerian Women's National Team in the African Nations Women's Cup. Cat Perez, who's a goalie, is playing for the Colombian National Team.

Kendall Bodak, who's from Monson, returned to

Clemson University to start preparing for the college soccer season. Avery Galante also went back to the University of South Carolina.

While the Mutiny were missing a couple of players, Hope Santaniello played in her first match of the season against Worcester. She returned home to Agawam after playing for a professional soccer team in Iceland. She has been a member of the Mutiny since 2019.

"Playing soccer with this team is something that's very special to me," Santaniello said. "It was great to be back and see all the girls again. I've also really enjoyed playing for the professional soccer team in Iceland. I'm learning a lot of different things."

Santaniello scored the Mutiny's fifth goal of the first half and added three more during the final 20 minutes of the match.

"Hope just looks fantastic," Ferrara said. "She's been on our roster the whole season and is one of our all-time best players."

Hope's younger sister, Bella, was also scheduled to play for the Mutiny in last

Sunday's match. However, because Worcester didn't have enough players show up for the match, she played for the visitors.

"My sister definitely has a lot of potential," Hope said. "I'm very glad that she's following in my footsteps. It was a lot of fun playing against her today."

Maddy Theriault, who graduated from Palmer High School, recorded a hat-trick during the first 15 minutes of the opening half.

Bella Meadows scored the other first half goal for the Mutiny. She also scored the first goal of the second half.

Avery Klingensmith, who graduated from Belchertown High School, chipped in offensively with a pair of second half goals.

Mila Dillard, who's from Chicopee, also scored a goal during the second half.

It was the Mutiny's fourth shutout of the regular season. The defense was anchored by Aida Name, who's from Chicopee, Kylie Ray, who graduated from Minnechaug Regional, Rachel Marchini, and Anna Carson.

This Week in Rec

WILBRAHAM – Watermelon, lemonade, sunscreen, and backyard parties means summer is in full swing. That means the Spec Pond Beach and Amy Splash Park are open and calling your name. Come down to Spec Pond to cool off on these hot days and enjoy listening to the happy squeals of your kids enjoying the splash park. If you are still looking for ways to keep your kids busy and happy this summer, then look no further. WPRD has many options to keep kids

entertained and engaged. We still have room in most of our summer sports clinics including baseball, tennis, soccer, volleyball, and basketball as well as pre-k programs, weekly programs in art, computers/electronics, and LEGO engineering. Register soon and do not delay, we do not want you to be disappointed with a program being full.

For those of you who like to plan, registration is open for Fall Soccer (Gr K-8) and Fall Field Hockey (Gr 3-8). Register before

the summer gets too busy. Looking ahead to July, Flag Football for Grades K-4 registration will begin July 22. This is a non-contact flag football program with instruction in running, passing, blocking techniques, punting and kicking. It's a great opportunity to learn the game of football in a fun and safe environment.

You can register online at WilbrahamRec.com for all these programs or you can stop by the WPRD office to register.

Upcoming Hampden Senior Center Trips

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

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

Tues, Sept 30 - Lakeside

Turkey Train (Lake Winnepesaukee) Harts Turkey Dinner on board, Country Farm Store stop (on own) & NH Liquor Store - \$140pp.

Mon, Dec 8 - The Aquatic 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.

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PET PAGE



PET OF THE MONTH Meet Ziggy!

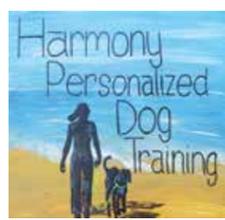


He was the Williams' best Christmas present ever. He loves to visit his mom's work friends at Ludlow Family Dentistry, digs holes on the beach and have the zoomies. He's a great vehicle traveler, enjoys stealing socks and swimming. All around love bug too!
Crystal & Dave Williams

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Advice To Dog Owners: Beware of Grass Awns!

(Adapted from Dr. Marty Goldstein)

Many dog parents don't realize it but certain grass awns are SUPER dangerous to your dog. And there's a good chance some of these dangerous awns are growing in your neighborhood right now. When you and your dog are out on your next walk keep a close eye out for grass awns. I'm sharing a handy grass identification guide so you can know what to look for and can keep your dog safe from these hazardous plants. Awns are little seeds which grow on certain grasses and they're very common during spring

and summer. In fact, you've probably seen them out and about before and not realized what they are! Grass awns can look like pokey bristles, spikes, barbs or delicate, fuzzy wisps. And even though they might look harmless they are a MAJOR health hazard for your dog. If your dog brushes against them, grass awns can get stuck in their fur or ear which can lead to serious skin irritation or an infection. And if your dog inhales grass awns or accidentally munches on them they can actually embed themselves in your dog's mouth and throat. In some cases, these tiny grass

awns can even travel down to your dog's tummy and other organs which can lead to a major medical emergency. Try to avoid these entirely, but accidents can happen. So, if your dog does come in contact with any of these dangerous grasses or shows signs of a grass-awn injury like gnawing on one specific area, shaking their ears, limping, or having tummy troubles... visit your veterinarian ASAP so they can give your pup the care they need. To be extra safe give your dog a full body check after being outside to make sure grass awns aren't hiding in their coats, ears, or paws.



Cheatgrass has a tall, bushy appearance with reddish-brown, bristle-like seeds.



Foxtail looks like bushy, fluffy clusters — which are actually dangerous, spiky seed pods.



Wild rye grass has long, slender leaves with needle-like seed husks on the top.

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TAG SALE

221 BRECKENRIDGE STREET, PALMER. Holiday decorations, blow molds, Snow Buddies, household misc., tools, car parts, etc. **July 4th through July 13th, 8am-5pm.**

ESTATE SALE. 6 Wheeler Road, West Brookfield. Saturday-Sunday, July 12-13, 1pm-5pm. Old tools, refrigerator, furniture, 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.**

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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.

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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
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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

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SR. EVENTS from page 12

nesses 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.

- Thursday, July 10; 9:30 to 11 a.m.: Trinity Health Mercy LIFE
• Friday, July 24; 9:15 to 11 a.m.: Everyday Tech Support

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 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.

"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 toothpaste

Thank you to those who donated dish soap 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....

FREE Blood Pressure Clinic - Walk-in 9:15 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.

Tuesdays with Ann Maggio, RN, or Ruth Haley, RN

Thursdays with Karen Blair, RN

Chair Massage with Mindy

Tuesday, July 1 and 15. Cost is \$10 for 10 minutes.

Facials with Diane Neill Diane is on Summer Vacation.

Foot Care with Deborah Thursday, July 3. (First Thursday of every month) \$40 for a 30-minute appointment.

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

Anyone is welcome to schedule appointments for these services.

Please call 566-5588 to schedule your appointments.

The Dog Days of Summer Luncheon

Friday, Aug. 1 at 12 noon Join us for a hot dog lunch and yummy cake for dessert while you listen to the great music of Baird Souls.

Cost is \$6 per person. Sign up before July 25th to reserve your seat.

Hot Dogs provided by Mountain View Restaurant, and Cake provided by Vantage at Hampden.

Thank you, Sponsors.

WILBRAHAM PLANNING BOARD

The Wilbraham Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on Wednesday, July 23, 2025, at 6:00 PM in the Town Office Building, 240 Springfield Street, on the application of Roger, Terri, and Hunter Chapdelaine and Brittany Thomas (property owners) for 1) a Special Permit (SP25-03) to remove the prohibition on living space in a prior Special Permit for a 3,000 square foot accessory building (garage/barn) approved under Sections 4.4.8 and 3.9.2.2 of the Wilbraham Zoning Bylaw, and 2) Site Plan Approval (SPA25-01) under Sections 3.4.2.8 and 4.10 of the Wilbraham Zoning Bylaw to allow an 885 square foot Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) in said accessory building at 10V Federal Lane as shown on plans on file in the Planning Office and posted for public viewing on the Planning Board page of the Town of Wilbraham website at www.wilbraham-ma.gov/123/Planning-Board. Both in person and virtual participation are available. To participate virtually go to https://meet.goto.com/772619333 or call 877-309-2073 (Access Code: 772-619-333).

James Rooney, Chair 07/03, 07/10/2025

WILBRAHAM PLANNING BOARD

The Wilbraham Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on Wednesday, July 23, 2025, at 6:15 PM in the Town Office Building, 240 Springfield Street, on the Planning Board's intent to revoke a Special Permit (SP15-02) issued under Sections 3.4.3.7 and 10.7 of the Wilbraham Zoning Bylaw for a large-scale ground-mounted solar energy

James Rooney, Chair 07/03, 07/10/2025

system on property owned by Charles L. Merrick Trust at 651 Main Street (access on Tinkham Rd) for failure to comply with a condition of approval requiring that the Board be notified of changes in contact information for the project as shown on information on file in the Planning Office and posted for public viewing on the Planning Board page of the Town of Wilbraham website at www.wilbraham-ma.gov/123/Planning-Board. Both in person and virtual participation are available. To participate virtually go to https://meet.goto.com/772619333 or call 877-309-2073 (Access Code: 772-619-333).

James Rooney, Chair 07/03, 07/10/2025

WILBRAHAM BOARD OF APPEALS PUBLIC HEARING

The Wilbraham Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing on Thursday, July 17, 2025 at 5:30 PM on the application of Joseph Sullivan for a special permit (ZBA25-05) to allow a hotel and restaurant with outdoor dining in an existing structure at 2589 Boston Road (owned by Redasi Holdings, Inc.) pursuant to Sections 3.4.5.12, 3.4.5.17 & 3.9.3.3 of the Wilbraham Zoning Bylaw as further specified in the application on file in the Planning Office and posted for public viewing on the Zoning Board of Appeals page of the Town of Wilbraham website at www.wilbraham-ma.gov/135/Zoning-Board-of-Appeals.

Both in person and virtual participation are available. To participate virtually go to https://meet.goto.com/891228989 or call 866-899-4679 (Access Code: 891-228-989).

Edward Kivari Jr., Chair

0703, 07/10/2025

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758 Docket No. HD25P1350EA Estate of: Stanley J Radkowski Date of Death: 06/06/2021 CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons: A Petition for Late and Limited Formal Testacy and/or Appointment has been filed by Lisa Radkowski-Lavelle of Wayland, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: Lisa Radkowski-Lavelle of Wayland, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in unsupervised administration.

IMPORTANT NOTICE You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 07/23/2025. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thir-

(30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you. UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC) A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration. WITNESS, Hon. Barbara M Hyland, First Justice of this Court. Date: June 25, 2025 Rosemary A Saccomani, Register of Probate 07/03/2025

ty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

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

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

Date: June 25, 2025 Rosemary A Saccomani, Register of Probate 07/03/2025

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.

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.

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- 1 Email all notices to notices@turley.com
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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 Community Autumn Events

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 which reaches over 200,000 readers in the Pioneer Valley. 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 _____

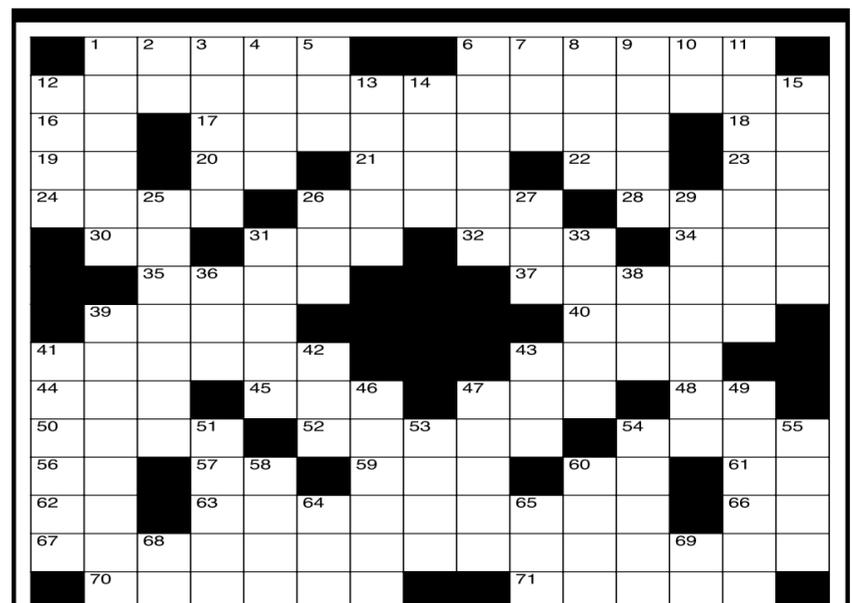
Description _____

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.



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Notes
6. Long-haired dog breed
12. ESPN's nickname
16. Spanish be
17. Disadvantage
18. Of I
19. Actor Pacino
20. On your way: ___ route
21. Fifth note of a major scale
22. Companies need it
23. News agency
24. Faces of an organization
26. Ponds
28. Samoa's capital
30. Partner to "Pa"
31. Adult male
32. Cool!
34. Used of a number or amount not specified
35. No No No
37. Hosts film festival
39. British place to house convicts

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Follower of Islam
2. Trauma center
3. French young women
4. Norse god
5. U.S. commercial flyer (abbr.)
6. Merchant
7. Peyton's younger brother
8. Jungle planet in "Star Wars" galaxy
9. Tree-dwelling animal of C. and S. America
10. "Pollack" actor Harris
11. Stuck around
12. Put on
13. Influential Norwegian playwright
14. Christian __, designer
15. Fulfills a debt
25. Style
26. More (Spanish)
27. A baglike structure in a plant or animal
29. Remedy
31. Disturbance

CLUES DOWN

- 33. "The Martian" actor Matt
36. Express delight
38. Brooklyn hoopster
39. 1900 lamp
41. Motionless
42. One's mother (Brit.)
43. Relative biological effectiveness (abbr.)
46. Compels to act
47. Gardening tool
49. Ancient country
51. Frightening
53. Wimbledon champion Arthur
54. Popular plant
55. Database management system
58. Gasteyster and de Armas are two
60. Where soldiers eat
64. Tenth month (abbr.)
65. Illuminated
68. Atomic #18
69. Adults need one to travel

HOOT from page 8

and lives. Roy meets friends along the way and they all try to figure out how to prevent the construction company from destroying all these owls' lives. Their goal is to make a change in this world while uncovering some more mysteries. Will they succeed and will the owls be able to live their lives?

Or will they fail and will the owls perish and lose their homes? Read this book to find out the ending.

The author's name was Carl Hiaasen. According to Hiaasen he has been writing since the age of six.

Hiaasen used a typewriter his father gave him to write about Florida and then sports games in his neighborhood. He gave the stories away to his friends.

Hiaasen wrote for the Miami Herald and is the author of many best-selling novels.

We brainstormed tons of ideas about how to promote the book's themes of friendship, environmentalism and conservation. We came up with several ideas.

The book clubs participated in a school wide assembly where we educated the students about conservation and saving animals in our world

and about HOOT. We then made posters which included saving our earth and the wildlife.

The students at Soule Road School have taken some time from their busy schedule to draw these posters that have various slogans and colorful illustrations about the importance of conservation and looking out for endangered species. The posters were displayed around the school and around the town of Wilbraham.

Some of the places were LUSO Bank, Mall Barbers, Pafumi's on Main, Rice Fruit Farm, Wilbraham Senior



Photos courtesy of Cheryl Erskine

Wilbraham Tire & Auto Services Poster Display.

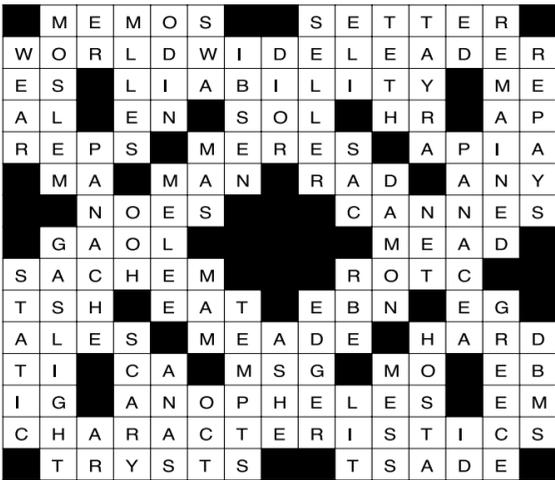
Center, Sugar Chalet, The Town Hall, Wilbraham Public Library and Wilbraham Tires. The gracious owners of these places let us hang up our posters.

There are many reasons

why environmentalism is important in the world today. We chose this book because we wanted to get the message across our school and around Wilbraham that wildlife is important.



The "Give a Hoot" Bulletin Board.





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SINGLE FAMILY LISTINGS			
STATUS	ADDRESS	DESCRIPTION	LIST PRICE
NEW	75 Puritan Rd., Springfield	19 room, 3 bed, 2f 0h bath Ranch	\$299,900
ACT	65 River Park Dr., Hampden	7 room, 3 bed, 1f 1h bath Colonial	\$449,000
ACT	313 Bennett Rd., Hampden	7 room, 3 bed, 2f, 1h bath Cape	\$510,000
CTG	26 S. Main St., Belchertown	22 room, 9 bed, 4f 0h bath Victorian, Other	\$739,999
CTG	47 Mayfair St., East Longmeadow	7 room, 4 bed, 1f 1h bath Ranch	\$309,900
UAG	12 Federal St. Extension, Agawam	8 room, 3 bed, 1f 1h bath Dutch Colonial	\$465,000
UAG	2 Anna Marie Lane, E. Longmeadow	8 room, 4 bed, 2f, 1h bath Colonial	\$849,900
UAG	98 Town Farm Rd., Monson	11 room, 5 bed, 3f 0h bath Contemporary	\$619,900
UAG	302 West Allen Ridge Rd., Springfield	6 room, 4 bed, 2f 0h bath Ranch	\$309,000
UAG	4 Mark Twain Dr., Wilbraham	9 room, 4 bed, 2f 2h bath Colonial	\$599,900
SLD	287 Allen St., East Longmeadow	5 room, 3 bed, 1f 0h bath Ranch	\$339,900
SLD	34 Stony Hill Rd., Hampden	7 room, 3 bed, 1f 0h bath Ranch	\$309,900
SLD	129 Stafford Rd., Monson	6 room, 3 bed, 1f 0h bath Cape	\$295,000
SLD	27 Jordan St., Springfield	5 room, 3 bed, 1f 0h bath Ranch	\$229,900
SLD	117 Monrovia St., Springfield	6 room, 4 bed, 1f, 1h bath Cape	\$289,900
SLD	143 Gardens Dr., Springfield	6 room, 4 bed, 1f 0h bath Cape	\$314,900
SLD	59 Chalmers St., Springfield	6 room, 3 bed, 1f 1h bath Cape	\$335,000
SLD	21 Mountainbrook Rd., Wilbraham	7 room, 4 bed, 2f, 0h bath Colonial	\$460,999

MULTI FAMILY LISTINGS			
ACT	26 S. Main St. Belchertown	3 unit, 22 total rooms, 9 total bedrooms 3 Family	\$739,999
SLD	141-143 Berkshire St., Springfield	2 unit, 11 total rooms, 6 total bedrooms 2 Family - 2 Units Side by Side	\$315,000

LAND LISTINGS			
ACT	160 Silver St., Monson	4.93 Residential acres (214,751 SqFt)	\$99,000
ACT	454 Ridge Rd., Wilbraham	1.78 Residential acres (77,555 SqFt)	\$218,000

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