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JULY 10, 2025

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## Young United Players to perform 'Seussical Jr.'

By Kristin Rivers  
Editor  
krivers@turley.com

WILBRAHAM - The Young United Players, a youth branch of the Wilbraham United Players, is prepping for their upcoming production of "Seussical Jr."

The shows take place on July 18, 19 and 20 at the Fellowship Hall Stage at Wilbraham United Church. Friday and Saturday night shows are at 7:30 p.m., while the Sunday matinee is at 2:30 p.m.

The production is a youth version of "Seussical the Musical," a musical containing several elements of classic Dr. Seuss stories, including "Horton Hears a Who!" and "Horton Hatches the Egg."

Amongst the cast are Cecelia Potts as Gertrude McFuzz and Quinn Mutti as Horton the Elephant, hearing about the production at school.

"There were flyers around our school for the auditions and his sister kind of roped us into it," Potts said.

Potts has never been in "a wide age range production" before like this one and has done two shows before at school. This is, also, her first community production.



Turley photo by Kristin Rivers

Noelle Hisgen as Mayzie La Bird and Quinn Mutti as Horton the Elephant practice their roles for the upcoming production of "Seussical Jr." by the Young United Players on July 2.

For Mutti, it was his first production along with his first singing role.

"Get them hooked while they're young," Mutti said. "It's got to be fun."

"There's too many, like, more adult productions that people should get into when they're older, but it's good to get them in early," Potts said. Their advice for aspiring

theater kids was this.

"If it's your first time auditioning for something and

Please see **SEUSSICAL**, page 9

## Selectboard meets with safety consultants for HPD chief search

By Kristin Rivers  
Editor  
krivers@turley.com

HAMPDEN - The Selectboard met with Chief Russ Stevens, who was representing Public Safety Consultants, during their June 30 meeting.

The meeting comes as the board continues its process of looking for its next police chief after Chief Scott Trombly announced his retirement, effective July 17.

Stevens, a police officer himself for 41 years, explained the firm, which was founded by Retired Shrewsbury Police Chief Wayne Sampson, does "the search and assessment for police chiefs" along with assessment centers "for various ranks through our policing and fire agencies."

He added how "finding a police chief is not an easy task" as they are "one of your most visible depart-

ment heads in any town, especially in towns of our size such as yours."

"It's not only about the qualifications of the chief, it's also about the fit for the community as well, and the way we do it is the first thing we do is we work on creating the job announcement," Stevens said. "The job announcement itself is created, can go back and forth with the town either whoever the official is who's elected to work with us whether it's the TM/TA or the chair of the board or if the town is in HR, we work with HR and we work on the job announcement."

The job announcement, Stevens said, would also speak "to the town itself" including the department size, operational budget and required qualifications. From there, the job announcement

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## Ed the Wizard dazzles children at Hampden library

By Angelina Acevedo  
Correspondent

HAMPDEN - On July 2, the library welcomed Ed the Wizard to perform magic as a part of the program "Reading is Magic."

The program was supported by a grant from the Hampden Cultural Council, a local agency supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

The show combines magic and science together, while teaching kids how books can open the door for endless possibilities. He performs using three of the four Greek elements which are water, air and earth, and dazzles the audience with his tricks, explaining how to do them at home.

Ed started his show with water, and turned liquid water into a solid ice cube, then explained to the children the three states that water can be found. His next trick was levitation, with a hair dryer and a ping pong ball and educating the audience on air pressure



Turley photos by Angelina Acevedo

Youth Services Librarian Kate Rumplik and Ed the Wizard after his magical performance with one of the attendees.

and molecules in an easy to understand way.

To end his show, he moved onto the element of Earth to impress families attending.

He took a piece of paper and asked the audience if they thought he could walk through it, and the majority of the audience said no.

However, after a few simple cuts, he was able to create a circle and walk right through! Children, and even some parents, lined up to step through the paper circle, impressed by Ed's wizard skills.

Ed the Wizard also donated his book "Ed the Wizard's Alchemy Laboratory," which explained how to do all of his tricks at home, to the library. Almost immediately after the show, interest was being shown in checking out the book, with kids wanting to learn how to create their own magic at home.

The wizard has written two other books available for purchase, "Magic for Dining Out" and "Magic for Camping", both encouraging kids to do magic with everyday items they can easily access.

"I love working with kids and seeing them have fun, it's rewarding for everyone," Ed shared on how he started his magic journey. "27 years ago,

Please see **WIZARD**, page 3



(Times file photo)

Because life is sweet, eat dessert first' says Old Meeting House Trustee Marty Lyman overseeing large supply of Friendly's Sundae Cups in the Hearse House at last year's Ice Cream Social.

## Ice Cream Social set for this Sunday afternoon

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.

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Turley photo by Amanda Munson

Becky, who is a friend of Steve Nagle's, was at the tie-dye station that offered t-shirts and bandanas free to craft with.

## Summer Kickoff Party supports Rick's Place

By Amanda Munson  
Staff Writer  
amunson@turley.com

WILBRAHAM/LUDLOW - On June 21, Steve Nagle and the Rock-102 crew kicked off their summer party for the second time at Vanished Valley in Ludlow to support Rick's Place in Wilbraham.

From food trucks to competitive raffles, tie-dye and rock painting booths, everyone who attended were all in support of Rick's Place, sharing his message to more

communities.

Rick's Place is a nonprofit organization named in honor of Rick Thorpe, a beloved husband, father, brother and son, who died in Tower Two of the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001. In his memory, Rick's Place was opened as a not-for-profit to provide grief support to grieving children and their families.

Co-Host of the Bax and Nagle Show on Rock-102 and Board Member of Rick's Place Steve Nagle spoke about his connection within Rick's Place, why he origi-

nally joined the program, his job at Rock-102 radio show, and the second annual summer party visit to Vanished Valley.

"My wife passed away April 13 of 2017 from esophageal cancer and Rick's place was recommended to us. About four months after my wife passed, we started participating in the programs and I can't say enough good things about Rick's Place and how they've helped us with the grieving process," Nagle said. "There's not a lot of services available for people, it's something that will inevita-

bly happen to people, you're going to die but she was only forty-three years old. You don't really think about death that way at that age, you think about it well into your golden years. It's one of those things that people don't talk about, and I just want to keep raising awareness for what a great organization that Rick's Place is."

Starting the summer party with a barbeque party in 2018 and 2019, with the pandemic ending the party altogether a

Please see **RICK'S PLACE**, page 16

# Selectboard reorganizes after special election

Vanderleeden officially welcomed to board

By Kristin Rivers  
Editor  
krivers@turley.com

HAMPDEN - The Selectboard reorganized and welcomed newly elected member Erik Vanderleeden during their June 24 meeting.

The board met the day after the June 23 special election.

Chair Don Davenport welcomed Vanderleeden to the board.

"I'd like to on behalf of the Selectboard and the members of the town administration, I'd like to congratulate Erik Vanderleeden for being elected to the Selectboard and he's here this evening. Welcome Erik," Davenport said.

"Congratulations," Selectboard Member John Flynn said.

"Thank you," Vanderleeden said.

"I think you'll find it rewarding, time-consuming, tiring, but you'll enjoy it," Davenport said. "It's helping your neighbors and friends and towns. It's an important job and the people in town I have found have always appreciated. Even if they disagree with us at times, they always appreciate that someone's out there at least trying to do the right thing for the town."



Turley photo by Kristin Rivers

The Selectboard reorganized after welcoming newly elected member Erik Vanderleeden to the board on June 24.

After reviewing the minutes, the board voted to elect members as Selectboard chair and chair of the Board of Health.

Town Administrator Brian Domina oversaw this portion.

"So, is there a motion to elect a chairperson for the Hampden Selectboard?" Domina said.

Davenport said yes.

"I move we elect John Flynn," Davenport said.

"Is there a second?" Domina said.

"Second," Vanderleeden said.

Davenport then shared why Flynn should be elected

to the role.

"John's had a lot of experience being chairman and traditionally, the person who's up for election next time is elected as the chairman for that year," Davenport said.

Flynn then explained this to Vanderleeden.

"The last three years, we split it--Don and I--18 months a piece because Craig did not want to be chair," Flynn said. "So, we kind of took his year and did six months each."

Flynn was then elected as chair of the Selectboard unanimously, and then explained the next part of the reorganization process.

"Typically, the second person rather than the newly elected person serves as the Board of Health chair and that would be Don Davenport," Flynn said. "So, I would enter Don Davenport's name to nomination for chairman of the Board of Health."

"Second," Vanderleeden said.

"Don, do you accept that nomination," Flynn said.

"I do," Davenport said.

That motion carried unanimously.

Later, liaison assignments were assigned to the board members, with Flynn sharing with Vanderleeden how the

process works.

"We have obviously many boards and committees in town and we all take like three or four of them and say, 'Okay, hey I'll go to this meeting and I'll report back to the board' and stuff like that," Flynn said. "I'll throw it to you if there are any near and dear to your heart you say, 'You know, I've always worked with Parks & Rec and I'd like to, I'm happy to stop in and check and report back and forth about things they have or something like that.'"

Vanderleeden said, "Not in particular."

"I'm open to whatever assignments you want me to do," Vanderleeden said.

Vanderleeden was later assigned as liaison for the Conservation Commission, Davenport will have the Advisory Committee and Zoning Board of Appeals, the Housing Authority and the School Committee's Planning Subcommittee and Flynn will have the Planning Board and the Council on Aging.

Vanderleeden also provided an update on the Fiber Optic Committee when the question of their status was brought up by Flynn.

"I just actually spoke to Brian about this earlier. So, back in the day, we had originally wanted to bring fiber optic as you know, and so we started to kind of get to the point where with our board that we kind of went with a particular vendor and then

Spectrum kind of stepped up and I think reached out to Brian and said, 'Hey, you know what? We're going to bring in a hybrid solution to Hampden.' This was last year," Vanderleeden said.

Vanderleeden added how Spectrum said, "By the end of this year, 2025, we're going to install a hybrid-based system that provides symmetrical upload and download speeds."

"Which is basically what we're all trying to accomplish around the community," Vanderleeden said.

Due to this update, Vanderleeden explained the committee "couldn't then move forward" if Spectrum was going to present their option, but added the committee still exists today and Spectrum estimated January 2026 for the hybrid system to come.

"They kind of kick the can down the road a couple times, so we didn't know. So, we're going to see if they put their money where their mouth is in '26," Vanderleeden said. "But, there's just too much going on right now in town with money that it's just not responsible to go forward. Unless there's some huge grants that come out of the woodwork and say, 'Hey, we're going to finance 90% of their project.' I don't anticipate that's going to happen, but something of that nature, obviously we probably reconvene."

## Searching your family history with ancestry library edition

WILBRAHAM - Assistant Library Director Mary Bell will give a hands-on demonstration of Ancestry Library Edition at the Wilbraham Public Library on Wednesday, July 16 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

She will give a brief introduction of how to use the online resource in the Brooks Room, followed by time in which participants use library computers or their own laptops to access the database and search for themselves. All participants will be given a starter kit with forms and tips for researching genealogy.

"Ancestry Library Edition includes records of the U.S. Census from 1790 to 1950, military records such as World War I and II draft cards, and other records worldwide. International

records available include particularly good coverage in Canada and the United Kingdom," said Bell.

Images of original records, including immigration records and town records of births, marriages, and deaths can be saved to a flash drive or sent to your email from Ancestry Library Edition. It is accessible in-library only, but can be used through both library computers or personal devices connected to the library's Wi-Fi.

This program is free and open to the public. Space is limited, and registration is going on now.

For more information, contact the Wilbraham Library at 413-596-6141 or visit the Event Calendar online at [www.wilbraham-library.org](http://www.wilbraham-library.org).

SEARCH from page 1

is pushed out "for approximately 30 days."

"One of the best places to push it out is through Mass Chiefs of Police. Mass Chiefs of Police has over 1,000 followers throughout the Commonwealth and out of state as well. We push it out to Mass Chiefs of Police, we also push it out to New England Police Chiefs as well as and women and minorities and law enforcement associations throughout the Commonwealth," Stevens said.

After 30 days, Stevens said the resumes would come in and the firm would look them over.

"We weigh the resumes. Some of them won't meet the minimum qualifications that you all have put in your job announcement. What you're looking for, whether it's a minimum of time served in administrative positions," Stevens said. "You're looking for someone who has who's in an administrative capacity now, who knows how to write grants, who knows how to research grants, who knows

how to do budgeting, who knows labor relations, who sat on the other side of the table, knows contract negotiations and can work with the board and work with the TA and/or TM depending on the town."

Next, written responses to essay questions that are specific to the community, town and police department, which are given to the candidates who would be moving forward.

"We're not looking for English majors. We're not looking for dangling participles in their written work. However, as a police chief, they should be able to write. There should be decent sentence structure, but it's more about the content in the response to the questions that we ask," Stevens said.

After they are read and reviewed, Stevens and the team of chiefs narrow down the list further and move to oral board interviews via Zoom with a separate set of questions following along the same lines as the questions for the written responses.

"These could be bud-

get-related questions, these could be labor-related issue questions, these could be community issue questions," Stevens said.

Afterward, a grading rubric weighs those responses followed by an in-person assessment center with final candidates.

"The in-person assessment center is real-life scenarios that we put together that are based on real things that have happened and I work with the TM or the Selectboard chair or the TA in your town to come up with scenarios that truly reflect your community," Stevens said. "And then we bring all the candidates in that have made it this far."

The Selectboard would come in after this to interview the final candidates.

"Now, if we end up with three or four candidates through the assessment center, we ask the Selectboard can interview and it really is up to the board itself whether you want to interview all four or the top two or the top three. It's really up to the board and you're going to ask a separate set of questions," Stevens said.

By this time, we provide updates either to the board directly or through the TA or TM as to the process--each step of the process--where we're at, how many candidates we have, when we're going to be done the process. So, it's a very unique process and it's not necessarily done overnight."

After the Selectboard interviews and selection, a psychological, medical and background investigation would also be completed.

"At the same time, you will give a conditional letter of employment which allows you to negotiate the contract with your incoming candidate and then it's a matter of a hiring date and a start date," Stevens said.

The Selectboard then shared their thoughts and any questions they had, which ranged from praising how thorough Stevens' presentation was to what other towns have had police chief searches done.

Stevens will next send a proposal to the board as the process continues.

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Advertising Sales

Jocelyn Walker

[jwalker@turley.com](mailto:jwalker@turley.com)

Editor

Kristin Rivers

[krivers@turley.com](mailto:krivers@turley.com)

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# Police chief presents post-Hill Climb report to Wilbraham Select Board

The event on May 10 had no public safety incidents.

By Dalton Zbierski  
Correspondent

WILBRAHAM – Wilbraham Police Chief Ed Lennon joined the Select Board during its June 30 meeting to present a recap report following the Hill Climb that occurred on Saturday, May 10.

Lennon said that preparations for the event between Hill Climb organizers and municipal officials began in late 2024.

“Early meetings with event organizers focused on certain challenges identified during the 2024 event,” Lennon said.

Last year, issues included the pace, timing and set up of show vehicles in the northbound lane of Main Street. This led to numerous traffic backups.

Further backups were created by the shuttle bus locations, as the buses stopped in travel lanes. Residual traffic backups on Main Street, Stony Hill Road and other major nearby streets connecting the Hill Climb were also problematic.

“Other town events such as the townwide tag sale occurring at the same time and

many vendors applying for permitting and required inspections close to the event stressed town resources,” Lennon said.

Changes were made by event organizers to the 2025 event to address some of these concerns. The number of show vehicles parked on Main Street and the speed and timing of the set up were adjusted.

A significant change was also made regarding the parking of spectator vehicles. Lennon explained.

“The organizers arranged for parking at the Memorial School and at the high school,” Lennon said. “Splitting the parking between these two locations appears to have significantly reduced the amount of traffic passing through the event, and the traffic backups that occurred in previous years did not occur this year.”

Shuttle bus locations were located outside of active travel lanes during this year’s event to avoid traffic backups due to stopped buses.

Event organizers also coordinated with the townwide tag sale organizers, and the tag sale was moved to a different date. The Hill Climb helped market the new tag sale date to help their initiative.

Lennon added that the Hill Climb organizers worked with the town to create hard dates and processes for vendors to

acquire permits and inspections. This allowed for town departments to process permits in an orderly fashion and let the Health and Fire Departments perform inspections in advance where applicable.

“The Town Hall and Fire Department noted that this made the process significantly more efficient this year,” Lennon said.

Unfortunately, Mother Nature presented several unexpected challenges. Heavy rains the night prior to the event and morning of made the setup difficult, although everything was set up on time.

The grass area of Gazebo Park where the food trucks were planned to be located had to be evaluated hours before the event to ensure that trucks would not damage the grass surface.

“The decision was made the morning of the event to continue to position the trucks within Gazebo Park and to place larger vehicles across the edges of the park where the ground was firm. This did not affect the operations of the vendors, and there was no damage done to the surface of the park,” Lennon said.

The police chief did note that the issue was not considered in advance, and no contingency plan was in place.

“A formal alternate plan for food trucks should be in

place if any conditions prevented them from being placed in a planned location in the future,” Lennon said.

The library did report that their lot was full of spectators and craft fair vehicles when they opened on the morning of the Hill Climb.

“I’ve discussed possible solutions for this in the future with the Hill Climb organizers and the library staff. That’s something we’re going to have to work on in the future to make sure it doesn’t happen again,” Lennon said.

The attendance at the 2025 event was similar to the attendance at past Hill Climbs, although more people showed up late due to the weather, according to Lennon.

He ended his report on a positive note.

“There were no public safety event incidents reported, and if you have any questions, we can answer them,” Lennon concluded.

Afterward, the Select Board shared their thoughts, including expressing concerns about the library parking and safety of the cars traveling so fast, but shared their overall consensus on Lennon’s report was positive.

More on the Select Board’s comments in next week’s edition.

## WIZARD from page 1

I was inspired by Dumbledore, and taught myself magic on my own, through books.”

He stressed the importance of reading and books, especially to younger readers.

“Kids can teach themselves anything from books. That’s why I donate one of mine to every library I visit for this program. Reading is really the most magical thing, a child can learn so much from a book,” he said.

Kate Rumpalik, the Youth Services Librarian at the library, shared how programs like Reading is Magic help kids get engaged with reading.

“The biggest thing is getting them into the library, once they’re here, they usually want to stay and look around for a book to check out. Ed’s a huge supporter of libraries, he loves coming here and the kids love seeing him,” Rumpalik said.

Rumpalik was also excited to bring the program to the library.

“Programs like these are also great ways for families to spend time together. Things like Six Flags are just so expensive nowadays, but this show is completely free to attend. Bringing families closer is another reason why I love these events,” Rumpalik said.

If your child wants to learn magic from Ed the Wizard, they’re welcome to participate in “Magic 101: Dinner Table Tricks” on Aug. 9 from 10 to 11:30 a.m. at the Town House Auditorium, they can sign up through the Hampden Parks & Rec website at [hampdenma.myrec.com](http://hampdenma.myrec.com) and by checking out their Programs section, clicking on “Classes and Activities.”

The cost is \$40 to sign up. Ed the Wizard is sure to promise another fun and



Turley photos by Angelina Acevedo  
Ed the Wizard making a piece of paper large enough to walk through.

magical event for children who attend.

To check out other upcoming summer programming at the library, visit [hampden-library.org/events/](http://hampden-library.org/events/).

## SOCIAL from page 1

The annual event will be a mix of crafts and history of interest to many generations. Both kids and adults can enjoy the ice cream sundaes and the latest Wilbraham history on exhibits.

The museum, owned by the town, is operated by the all-volunteer Atheneum Society of Wilbraham and its Board of Trustees headed by its president David Bourcier.

The museum’s Gift Shop will feature Wilbraham-centric merchandise and town history books. Wilbraham history buffs will be able to purchase Bourcier’s new glossy book, “Historic Tales of Wilbraham”. Bourcier 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](mailto:president@wilbrahamatheneum.org).

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# Teens enjoy Faux Stained Glass Painting class

By Angelina Acevedo  
Correspondent

HAMPDEN - On July 3, the library held a Faux Stained Glass Painting event for tweens and teens in the Rochford Reading Room.

The event was an hour of fun for kids wanting to create their own designs or trace an image of their choice that they could print at the front desk of the library.

Maxine Girard, the young adult librarian and mentor for this program, shared how kids could create these colorful paintings.

"First, the kids choose between either sharpie or black puffy paint to outline their work. The paint takes longer to dry than the sharpie, but it adds more texture to the image. While they wait for the outline to dry, we mix acrylic paint and white blue to create our own puffy paint," Girard said. "We have many colors and shades that the kids can pick from, and I'll pour it onto their own pallets. After that, they just paint in their outlines with the colors they chose, and their painting just needs to dry!"

If the paintings needed to dry quicker, there were hairdryers to speed up the process to make sure that they didn't get damaged on the way home. Girard said that she first saw this craft on Pinterest, and thought it would be amazing to teach kids, while also being engaging and easy. She also said that these kinds of crafts are meant to be "low stress, but fun" and hopes that the kids are able to "express their creativity, while enjoying themselves with their friends."

One of the tables showed this statement was true, since

it was filled with friends laughing, talking and painting together. They talked about their summer so far, what the



One of the paintings created at the event.

next school year might bring and what books they could

look at once their paintings dried.

Creative events like this are run throughout the summer, with not just the goal of bringing teens and tweens together for fun times, but it also brings them into the library. Similarly with the performance by Ed the Wizard the day prior, once the kids are in the library, they'll usually want to look around at the books.

These events help promote summer reading programs as a whole and help bring the community closer to the library.

There are many other events coming up with crafting aspects for tweens and teens in the area, such as baking Zombie Cookies on July 12, a Spa Day on July 31 with making lip gloss bath



Turley photos by Angelina Acevedo  
Young Adult Librarian Maxine Girard helping mix the paint and glue together for the artists.



bombs, a Paint Sip Fun event on July 17 with one for kids and the other for teens, and Summer Tie Dye on July 26.

All these events for teens, plus events for kids and adults, can be signed up for through the Hampden Free Public Library website.

The Summer Reading Finale parties for tweens and teens and adults are also on tap on Aug. 2 at Noon.

The Faux Stained Glass Painting event was an overall success for the library, with many signing up to attend, as well as enjoyable for the young painters attending. Many beautiful canvases were created and proudly brought home, bringing the library closer to the community, this time through art.

A group of kids smiling and painting together at the Faux Stained Glass event at the Hampden Free Public Library.

Visit us on the web  
[www.turley.com](http://www.turley.com)

## 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 Wilbra-

ham 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.

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

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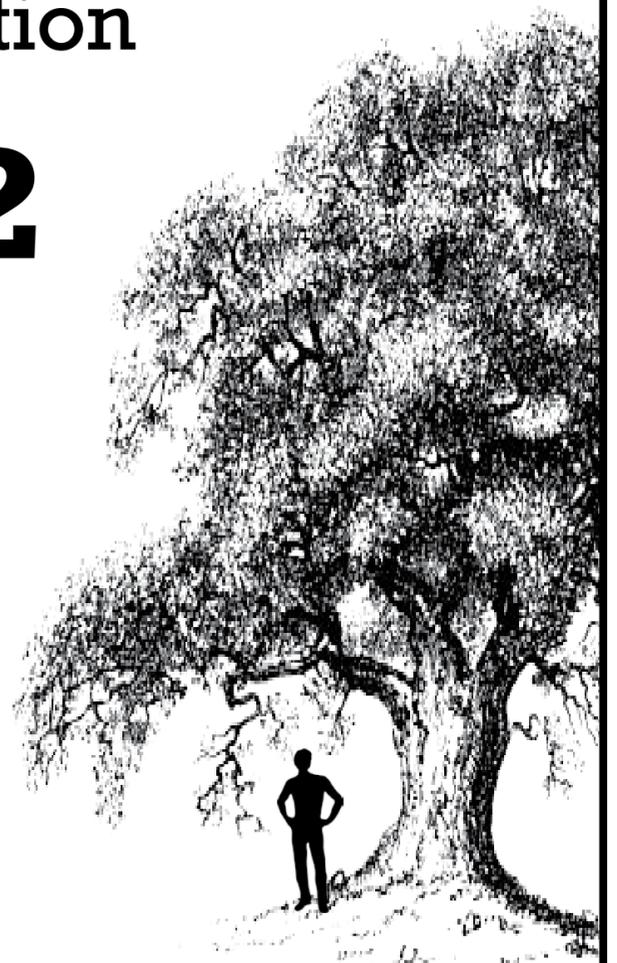
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# DL&G TREE



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**VIEWPOINTS**



By Teri (Dreher) Frykenberg, RN  
Guest Column

**Three signs that you're a difficult patient**

Difficult patients come in all shapes and sizes, but they all have one thing in common: they make life harder for their healthcare providers, whether they know it or not.

Healthcare providers not only work in a frustrating, fast-paced healthcare system, they spend much of their time helping people who won't help themselves. Are you one of them? If so, it could be interfering with your healthcare and therefore your health!

Here are three signs that your providers might think you're a difficult patient:

**You Don't Follow Doctors' Orders**

Noncompliance is one of the most pressing issues in healthcare today. When patients don't follow their care plans or medication guidelines, problems arise.

Noncompliant patients have poorer health outcomes—and they waste everyone's time and money. Yet if a provider were to ask a patient, "Do you plan to be non-compliant?" most patients would exclaim "no!" So, what's the disconnect? Noncompliance happens for many reasons: a lack of understanding, an inability to pay for prescriptions, or a myriad of behavioral health and social issues.

Unfortunately, it's unlikely your doctor will ask you, "What's your plan for following these instructions?" But if you tend to ignore your doctor's instructions, you need to create a plan to do just that.

**You Come off as Being Angry or Entitled**

Some patients have good reason to be unhappy with the quality of their healthcare. Some have been on the receiving end of medical error. Some feel they've been treated poorly or have skewed perceptions of the healthcare system.

Whatever the reason, angry, entitled patients are their own worst enemies. Alienating care providers rarely results in better health outcomes.

Doctors, nurses and social workers are human beings. As such, they gravitate to those who are pleasant to deal with. They may subconsciously steer clear of difficult patients and family members. Frankly, in these situations, all a provider can do is to listen to a patient's complaints and address

whatever is in their power. It's never okay to berate a care provider, yet it happens all the time. Often patients don't realize how badly they're behaving. Find a way to share your concerns or frustrations with civility, even on a bad day.

**You Talk Too Much During Appointments**

When patients talk non-stop, it makes it challenging for providers to discern the important information from everything else. It's rather like the boy who cried wolf; doctors may eventually tune out.

Doctors have limited time to see each patient. Excessive talkers unknowingly steal time from the next patient, while making it harder for providers to hone in on what's important.

Ask yourself: who does most of the talking during your doctor visits?

**How to Be a Good Patient**

If you want good healthcare—and who doesn't?—start by being a good patient. Follow your physician's instructions and medications as prescribed, even when you don't feel like it.

Share your healthcare concerns with your physician, but in a respectful manner. Ditto your frustrations. Don't create distractions from the main issue: your health!

Be mindful that in today's healthcare environment, ER doctors and hospitalists are generally allowed about five minutes per patient. Doctors' office visits are booked in 15-minute increments. So be prepared: create a list of issues you want to discuss and keep the conversation on point.

Remember, it's never in your best interest to be a difficult patient. Partner with your providers to give them what they need, so they can best attend to your health.

Teri (Dreher) Frykenberg, a registered nurse and board-certified patient advocate, is the founder of *Northshore Patient Advocates LLC (NSHore)*. She is also founder and CEO of *Nurse Advocate Entrepreneur*, which trains medical professionals to become successful private patient advocates. Teri offers a free phone consultation to newspaper readers as well as to nurses interested in becoming advocates. Reach her at [Teri@NurseAdvocateEntrepreneur.com](mailto:Teri@NurseAdvocateEntrepreneur.com).

**Letters to the Editor**

**Plans for Crane Park?**

To The Editor:

I had a plan to make a sign on Crane Park letting people know the name of the park and why it was named Crane Park, after the people who gave it to the town.

My plan was to rename it Crane Memorial Park because it has become a park with monuments honoring veterans who died in wars starting with the Civil War statue of a Union Soldier.

My plan was to use the tree trunk of a large tree that was cut about 15 feet high with CRANE MEMORIAL PARK letters attached vertically with an eagle on the top and a plaque at the base giving credit to the Crane family for their gift, of the land, to the town of Wilbraham.

I obtained a proposal from Ace Signs to do the work and brought it to the Community Preservation Committee to try to obtain the funds to accomplish the work. I was told that the Economic Development Committee was discussing having a study done



on Crane Park and that they would wait until they were done with it.

Later, I received a notice from the EDC that they received a \$50,000 grant to study the feasibility of installing a 30 +- parking lot in the eastern portion of Crane Park. I don't think anyone needs to spend \$50,000.00 to determine that there isn't enough room for 30 +- cars on the eastern portion of Crane Park.

I ask you, should it be Crane Memorial Park or Crane Parking Lot? There isn't enough room for both.

When a new building is planned to be built there is a required number of parking spaces for cars required depending on factors such as square footage of the building and its intended use etc.

Don Flannery,  
Wilbraham

**Responding to Kevin Davis' 'What's going on?' at the Wilbraham Senior Center**

To The Editor:

As someone who uses the senior center since it opened a year ago, I can tell you "what's going on."

We exercise three times a week. I play Pinochle on Tuesday.

On Thursday I play Mah Jong. The Friends of Wilbraham meet there.

We have raffles. There are speakers who come with interesting topics, too many to list.

There is a library if you're interested. A week ago, there was an event called CarFit which helped my friend real-

ize her tires were wearing and it prompted her to get them looked at which helped avoid a major purchase for her.

They have lunch three times a week. Another time to have socialization.

There are many medical opportunities to use to your advantage; including getting your blood pressure checked every Tuesday. They have crafts for those interested.

There is Bocce in the summer. There is a SHINE representative who helps with Medicare insurance.

If you play Cribbage, Pitch, Bridge, Scrabble or

Bingo, here's the place to be!

There is hiking available. You can check out the fitness room.

Monthly different organizations will provide lunch and entertainment for your enjoyment. You can stop in and enjoy a coffee and a pastry.

It's all there and so much more!

I would like to invite you to go to the Wilbraham Senior News. There you will find all the information the center has to offer.

Liz Crivelli,  
Wilbraham

**Renovate your strawberry patch and divide those irises, too**

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

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

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

Set the mower at a height of two and a half to three inches and use the bagger attachment if you have one. Small

plantings can be clipped away by hand. Compost the leaves away from your patch.

Now, assess your surroundings and think back to

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

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

Next, get rid of any "mother" plants that are four years or older. Unfortunately,

Please see **GARDEN**, page 15



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

**The Wilbraham-Hampden TIMES TEAM**



EDITOR  
Kristin Rivers  
[krivers@turley.com](mailto:krivers@turley.com)



ADVERTISING SALES  
Jocelyn Walker  
[jwalker@turley.com](mailto:jwalker@turley.com)



SPORTS EDITOR  
Greg Scibelli  
[sports@turley.com](mailto:sports@turley.com)

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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](mailto:krivers@turley.com). Please include a daytime telephone number for verification purposes (it will not be printed). Letters must be received by noon Monday to be considered for that Thursday's newspaper. No attack letters will be printed. No letters written by candidates supporting their own candidacy will be printed. If the volume of letters received is larger than the space available in the newspaper, or if the letters become repetitive, the newspaper reserves the right to print a representative sample. No endorsement letters will be printed in the last edition before the election.

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

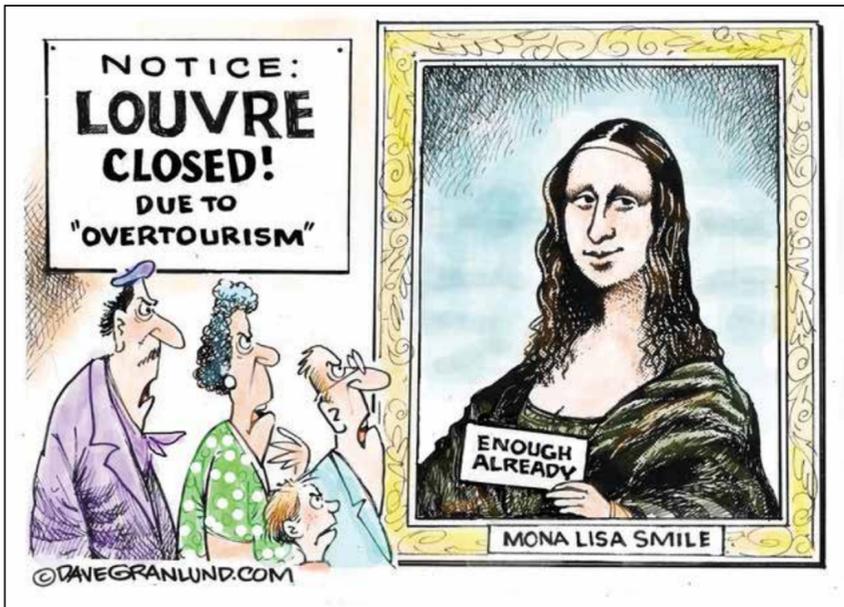
**Campaign news**

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

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

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# WILBRAHAM HAMPDEN

## COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD

Send us in your announcements!  
Happy Birthdays, Anniversaries, etc.

We will pick one each week to run here free of charge, please keep it to less than 50 words.  
Please send to [krivers@turley.com](mailto:krivers@turley.com)

### New Rotary President pinned...



(Charles F. Bennett photo) Outgoing Rotary President Peter Salerno (left) looks on as Past President Tyler Witkop pins new president Chris O'Connor at a club meeting June 26 at the Country Club of Wilbraham.



Photo and caption courtesy of Wilbraham Police Department

### Wilbraham responds to truck fire

The Wilbraham Fire Department fought a truck fire on Burleigh Road on June 19. Burleigh Road was closed at the town line and south of number 285 for a time as drivers were informed to seek alternate routes. The road later reopened.



### Rotary Club says farewell to outgoing officers and directors...

Photo Tyler Witkop, caption Charlie Bennett

After a successful year, the outgoing officers and directors of the Wilbraham-Hampden Rotary Club finished their terms at the Country Club of Wilbraham at a meeting June 25. (From left) Treasurer Diane Ryan, Secretary Brad Sperry, Director Charlie Bennett, Director Chris O'Connor, President Peter Salerno, VP Ann Marie Ottoson.



Photo and caption courtesy of Hampden Fire Department

### HFD thanks La Cucina for food donation

On June 16, the Hampden Fire Department received a food donation from La Cucina, sharing this message on Facebook: "We would like to thank La Cucina di Hampden House for donating food to our members today!"

### Hampden Firefighter Jarred Lyons graduates



Photo and caption courtesy of Hampden Fire Department

We would like to congratulate Firefighter Jarred Lyons on graduating from the Massachusetts Department of Fire Services Call/Vol Academy. Graduates have completed 240 hours of training over weeknights and weekends. Upon successful completion of the program they become certified in the level of Pro Board Firefighter 1, Firefighter 2, Hazardous Materials First Responder Operations.



Photo and caption courtesy of Wilbraham Police Department

### WPD alerts drivers to road closure

The Wilbraham Police Department alerted drivers to a road closure on June 26. "Brainard Rd is closed between #20 & #29 while National Grid makes repairs and removes trees from power lines. SEEK ALTERNATE ROUTES," they said. "The closure is expected to last for the next few hours. This post will be updated when the road is passable." The road later reopened at 5:25 p.m.



### HPD receives pizza surprise

Photo and caption courtesy of Hampden Police Department

The Hampden Police Department would like to thank Pioneer Valley Financial Group for providing pizza to the day shift crew on July 2.

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

*Wouldn't it be wonderful to entertain in your new backyard this summer!*

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# Sheriff Evangelidis swears in Day

WEST BOYLSTON - On Friday, June 6, 2025, Worcester County Sheriff Lew Evangelidis proudly administered the Correctional Officers Oath to the 16 graduating recruits of the Sheriff's Office's 63rd Basic Recruit Training Academy (B.R.T.A.) at the department's Training and Command Center in West Boylston. Among the 16 graduates was Officer Ethan Day of Wilbraham.

The Worcester County Sheriff's Office is commit-

ted to ensuring public safety across the cities and towns in Worcester County. The department recognizes the importance of building a team that reflects the diverse community it serves. The graduates of B.R.T.A. #63 represent a highly qualified group of recruits, each bringing unique skills and experiences to their new roles as correctional officers. These officers come from nine different towns throughout Massachusetts and include six individ-

uals who are either active members or veterans of the U.S. Army.

The Worcester County Sheriff's Office Academy offers a paid, full-time program lasting 13 weeks, designed to equip recruits with the skills needed to manage and maintain the care, custody, and control of inmates at the Worcester County Jail & House of Correction. The academy includes both classroom instruction and hands-on training.

While at the academy, recruits undergo extensive training in various aspects of corrections. This training includes skills such as de-escalation techniques, the duty to intervene, fire safety, defensive tactics, and first responder protocols. They also receive education in suicide prevention, mental health issues, and substance abuse awareness.

In addition, recruits engage in daily physical fitness sessions, take weekly assessments on classroom material, and benefit from regular guest lectures and demonstrations provided by a range of public safety partners.

"After 13 rigorous weeks of training, I present the best and brightest in corrections today," commented Worcester County Sheriff Lew Evangelidis. "The Worcester County Sheriff's Office Training Department is one of the best in the state, and I can confidently say that these individuals are ready to join the ranks as full-time corrections officers and contribute to successfully executing our mission. Congratulations to these graduates as they begin their new careers."

Before starting the acad-



Officer Ethan Day receives his diploma from Sheriff Lew Evangelidis.



Sheriff Evangelidis poses with the 16 new officers after graduation.

emy, applicants must complete a written exam, a physical fitness test, a background check, and a psychological screening. To ensure fairness and impartiality, Evangelidis has implemented a policy that prohibits letters of recommendation from politicians and gives preference to hiring individuals who have served our country.

The Worcester County Sheriff's Office is accepting applications for its 64th Basic Recruit Training Academy, which will begin in September 2025. To learn more about what it takes to be a correctional officer, please visit [www.WorcesterCounty-Sheriff.com/Careers/Correctional-Officer-Academy/](http://www.WorcesterCounty-Sheriff.com/Careers/Correctional-Officer-Academy/).

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

Join a creative journey of thought, memory and expression

participants are also welcome to follow their own creative path.

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

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

Location details available on our website

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

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

Proceeds from the event

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

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

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

For more information, visit [scanticriverartisans.com](http://scanticriverartisans.com).

Questions? Email us at [info@scanticriverartisans.com](mailto:info@scanticriverartisans.com)

Follow the journey on social media.

Facebook: Scantic River Artisans Instagram: @scanticriverartisans

Reflect. Create. Connect. Your voice belongs here.

## Minnechaug student honored as DAR Good Citizen for 2025

WILBRAHAM - Wilbraham resident Victoria Gonzalez was honored on June 7, 2025, at an award ceremony and luncheon by Mercy Warren Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution.

Victoria is a recent graduate of Minnechaug High School and plans to attend Bowdoin College in the fall.

In April, Victoria and her family, along with many other DAR Good Citizens in Massachusetts, visited the Massachusetts State House in Boston as the special guests of State Representative David Vieira of the 3rd Barnstable District.

To be chosen by their high school as DAR Good Citizen, a student must demonstrate the four qualities of dependability, service, leadership and patriotism.



Margaret Superneau, DAR Good Citizens Chair and Idalia, Victoria and Lemuel Gonzalez all of Wilbraham.

## 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 ris-

ing 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!

## Food Bank to hold cooking demo at library

WILBRAHAM— The Food Bank of Western Massachusetts will host a live cooking demonstration at the Wilbraham Public Library on Monday, July 21 at 6 pm.

In addition to discussing MyPlate, healthy eating guidelines, and learning how to make budget-friendly meals, attendees will also have the opportunity to sample the food prepared during

the demonstration. This event is free and open to the public. Registration is requested. Sign up at [wilbrahamlibrary.org](http://wilbrahamlibrary.org), or call the library at 413-596-6141.

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Cast members of the Young United Players rehearse a scene for "Seussical Jr."



Tess Mutti as Sour Kangaroo and Eleanor Sutter as Young Kangaroo in a scene for "Seussical Jr."



Fiona Johnson, far left with her finger to the side of her head as Jojo, rehearses her scene with the Whos ensemble.

**SEUSSICAL** from page 1

you don't get cast, don't give up because that happened to me," Potts said.

"If you mess up on your lines a lot, don't beat yourself up about it because what I've learned--not just through theater--but through life, better get over stuff quick instead of latching on to it," Mutti said.

Fiona Johnson plays Jojo, one of the Whos, crediting her mom's friend for letting her mom know about auditions for "Seussical Jr."

Johnson has enjoyed rehearsals so far and the opportunity to meet the older kids.

"I've enjoyed it's not just about the lead character. It's about trying to help others and it's more about not trying to say, 'I'm the lead role, it's all me.' It's more like, 'Yes, I'm the lead role, but this is your scene, this is what you do,'" Johnson said.

She stressed how getting involved in community theater is about bringing people together.

"When you bring people together, it kind of ignites the soul. It gives warmth and love, which makes it good for people to enjoy and it's also really fun to just sit down and watch a production or even be in one," Johnson said.

Rylee Santiago plays Wickersham #2 and also helped create the set pieces, sharing that she does community theater every summer.

"I wanted to try something different at a different place from Exit 7 and I liked seeing how they do their other



An action shot of the Jungle Citizens ensemble as they practice a scene from Act II of "Seussical Jr."

productions here because I've seen a couple and I really just wanted to try it out here because everyone seemed amazing," Santiago said.

Santiago has also enjoyed the wide range of ages for the entire ensemble cast.

"I really like how even though you're not exactly a principal character, you're involved as much as everyone else is and you play still an important role in the show in making it come together. That's really nice," Santiago said. "It's fun to be able to watch the story as well as partake in it without having to be front and center."

Santiago hopes audience members feel hopeful and laughing after seeing the show.

"Honestly, I like the feeling of hope that the show brings. Like it lets you think, 'Oh, I can imagine some

random place far away and it'll be great,'" Santiago said. "Hope they leave with their stomachs hurting from laughing so much. That's my goal."

She also encouraged future theater kids to get involved no matter what role they play, on or off the stage.

"Really give your all. Whether you're an ensemble member or principal, whether you like to be an actor, like to be on stage crew, just get involved, give it your all," Santiago said. "Bring your all in what you're doing and you're destined to have fun!"

Johnson hopes the community knows productions like this are possible through everyone coming together from the actors to the directors and helpers.

"I'd like them to know that if they're watching this production, just know it's not just about one person. It's about

everyone and how everyone works together to be able to make this happen and all of the people who direct and help and even people who make the scenes," Johnson said.

Santiago had this message for her fellow cast members and the directors.

"Keep doing amazing as you are. Everyone here has been amazing. It's my first summer here and I do not want to stop going here. It's amazing, everyone is great, every actor whether they're in first grade or 10th or Noelle--our senior--everyone here is just amazing and they'll keep on doing amazing things, I know it," Santiago said.

Potts and Mutti also encourage the community to continue supporting local theater.

"Support local community theater!" Potts said.



In this scene, Quinn Mutti as Horton the Elephant is confronted by the Wickershams with crossed arms and sass. The Wickershams are played by Audriana Stasio, Rylee Santiago and Emmeline Galleroni.



From the left, Ryan Deziel as Yertle, Cecelia Potts as Gertrude McFuzz and Quinn Mutti as Horton the Elephant rehearsing a scene.

"Support the children in this production!" Mutti said. To learn more about WUP and the Young United Players, visit [www.wilbrahamunitedplayers.org/](http://www.wilbrahamunitedplayers.org/).

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# Events & announcements schedule

## Hampden Community Garden accepting plot reservations

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

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

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

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

## Civics Action Project

WILBRAHAM – Tegan Haluch, an eighth grader at Wilbraham Middle School, is working on a civics action project called "Dangers to Be Aware of on Your Property."

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

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

Here are some ways that you could help prevent injury: Regularly check your trees for decay. Check for dead limbs or branches, browning, dust or powder. If you see signs of decay, call a licensed professional to take a look.

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

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

Put all chemicals in proper holding containers and store in a safe place that little children and pets can't get to.

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

## Hampden Transfer Station Sticker Sales

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

The increase will start May 23, 2025. For Seniors over 65 the price will be \$40 for the first permit and \$20 for any additional permits for those residents meeting those criteria and car registered to that person or person.

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

The Transfer Station is located at Cross Road. Hampden Board of Health and Selectmen



At the Monson Savings Bank scholarship reception, attending recipients were awarded their scholarships by Dan Moriarty, President & CEO (left), and Michael Rouette, EVP & COO (right).

## Monson Savings Bank awards \$28,000 in scholarships

MONSON - Monson Savings Bank continues to demonstrate its unwavering commitment to the communities it serves by supporting the next generation of leaders in Western Mass. This year, the Bank proudly awarded \$28,000 in scholarships to 14 graduating seniors from local high schools in recognition of their academic achievements and community dedication.

The 2025 Monson Savings Bank Scholarship Ceremony took place on June 10 at the Bank's Corporate Office in Monson. Scholarship recipients and their loved ones were welcomed for a celebratory reception, where they enjoyed refreshments and had the opportunity to connect with Monson Savings Bank team members. Each student received a scholarship check along with a small gift as they prepare to embark on their higher education journeys.

As in past years, Monson Savings Bank awarded \$2,000 scholarships to 14 recipients. This year's recipients were:

**East Longmeadow High School**  
Gabriella Illingsworth  
Jacob Miller

Michael Mendrala

### Minnechaug Regional High School

Isabelle Manning  
Quinn Symington  
Sofia Villanueva  
Monson High School  
Molly Szado  
Nevaeh Chiacchia  
Nicholas DeCasse  
Olivia Chrzan  
Tyler Labonte

### Ware Junior/Senior High School

Chelsea Foley  
Philip Orszulak  
Shelby Hogan

During the event, Monson Savings Bank President and CEO Dan Moriarty, along with EVP and COO Michael Rouette, addressed the scholarship recipients and their families. Moriarty praised the students for their perseverance and academic commitment, stating:

"Everyone at Monson Savings Bank is incredibly proud of these students. Their hard work, resilience, and enthusiasm inspire us all. We are thrilled to provide financial support to help launch them into the next phase of their journey."

Rouette echoed Moriarty's sentiments, emphasizing the Bank's ongoing role in supporting local students well beyond graduation:

"This is just the beginning for these remarkable young individuals. We hope they continue to follow their dreams, and we're always here as a trusted partner in their financial lives and beyond."

To learn more about Monson Savings Bank's continued commitment to the community, please visit: <https://www.monsonsavings.bank/connect/our-community/our-community-commitment.html>.

## Thayer Academy Middle School Third Term Honor Rolls

BRAINTREE - Thayer Academy in Braintree - an independent coed day school for grades 5-12 - recently announced its Middle School grades 5-8 Honor rolls for its Third Term. Students include:

**From Wilbraham:**  
High Honors  
Solwazi Browne-Vargas

## Paint Sip Fun for teens & adults 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

## College Notes

### Holyoke Community College announces Spring 2025 Dean's List

HOLYOKE - Holyoke Community College is proud to recognize the students who earned Dean's List honors for the Spring 2025 semester. Each term, HCC recognizes superior scholarship through the Dean's List. A student is placed on the Dean's List if their G.P.A. is 3.2 or higher. The students listed below have earned Dean's List honors for the Spring 2025 term.

#### Hampden:

Korey Alfred Colglazier, Adelaide Fay, Ava Pauline Humphrey, Kathleen Scarlett O'Donnell, Adam Edward Poulin, Amy M. Scott, Sara Rose Underwood.

#### Wilbraham:

Liam George Colclough, Gavin Linehan Connors, Mia Yareisha Figueroa, Rebecca L. Guertin, Christian James Londono, Mariah Maggie Mahabir, James George Martine, Sophia Pearce, Olivia Catherine Picard, Corey William Sharpe, Jason Nicholas Sutter, Aaron Treat, Dax Trial.

### Area residents named to dean's list for the Spring 2025 semester at Quinnipiac University

HAMDEN, Connecticut - The following area students were named to the dean's list for the Spring 2025 semester at Quinnipiac University:

To qualify for the dean's list, students must earn a grade point average of at least 3.5 with no grade lower than C. Full-time students must complete at least 14 credits in a semester, with at least 12 credits that have been graded on a letter grade basis to be eligible. Part-time students must complete at least six credits during a semester. Names followed by an asterisk denotes with honors.

#### Wilbraham, MA

Aelan Lisowski\*  
Andrew O'Toole

### Fairfield University congratulates Spring 2025 Dean List

FAIRFIELD, Conn. (June 13, 2025) - The following Fairfield University student(s) received Deans List Honors for the Spring 2025 semester.

In order to be placed on the Dean's List, students must have completed a minimum of 12 credit hours in a semester, have no outstanding or incomplete grades for that semester, and have attained a semester grade point average of 3.50 or better.

#### Hampden, MA

Ty Cosenzi  
Joseph Hackett  
Olivia Knode  
Lena Sotiropoulos

#### Wilbraham, MA

Rose Caltabiano  
Anna O'Keefe  
Vivian Tranghese

### University of Minnesota Duluth (UMD) Announces Dean's List for Spring Semester 2025

DULUTH, Minn. - The University of Minnesota Duluth (UMD) has announced its Dean's List for Spring Semester 2025. Students on the Dean's List have achieved a grade point average of 3.50 or higher while earning a minimum of 12 letter-graded credits.

The four colleges within UMD are:

- College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences (CAHSS)
- College of Education and Human Service Professions (CEHSP)
- Labovitz School of Business and Economics (LSBE)
- Swenson College of Science and Engineering (SCSE)

#### Wilbraham, MA

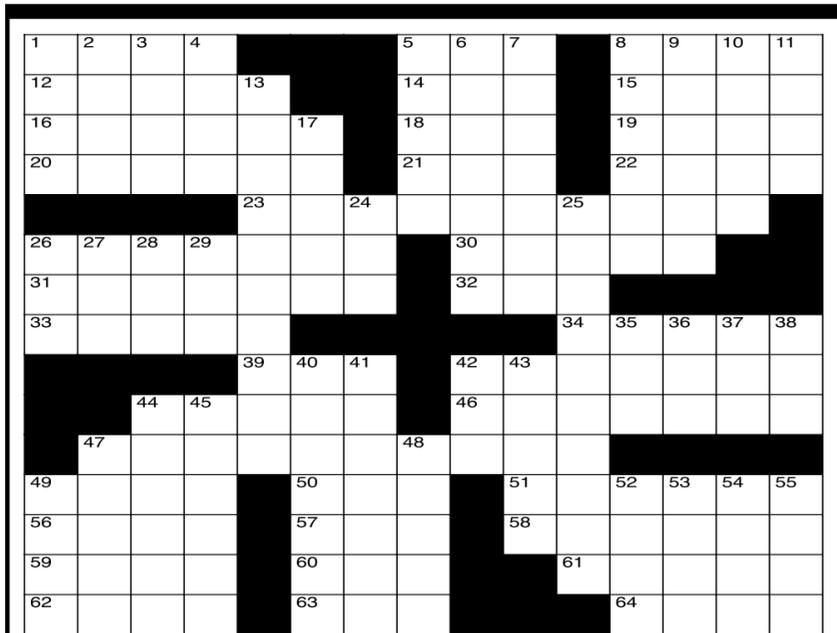
Marykate O'Brien, SR, Labovitz School of Bus & Econ, Business Analytics B B A; Marketing

### Clemson University Dean's List

CLEMSON, SC - Taryn Grozio of Wilbraham has been named to Clemson University's Dean's List for the Spring 2025 semester.

To meet eligibility requirements for the Dean's List, a student must be enrolled full-time and earn a GPA of 3.5 for the semester. This summer, Taryn is thrilled to be working as a Commercial Lending Intern at PeoplesBank while also taking four classes.

Taryn is on track to graduate a year early and is a rising senior in the Honors College majoring in Financial Management with an emphasis area in Real Estate and a double minor in Accounting and Entrepreneurship.



#### CLUES ACROSS

- 50 percent
- Records electric currents
- Charlize Theron flick "Flux"
- More frosty
- Disfigure
- Sky color
- A thoroughfare in a town or city
- Actress de Armas
- Spend time in a relaxed way
- California peak
- Lodging option
- Small amount of a thing
- Expresses sorrow
- Keeps an ear warm
- Babies (Spanish)
- A conceited and self-centered person
- No seats available
- Pouches

- Hip joints
- A place to bathe
- Evading
- Minute, one-celled unit
- Losing one's hair
- A country in W Africa
- One point north of northeast
- Pointed end of a pen
- Extreme
- Norse personification of old age
- Doctors' group
- Member of U.S. Navy
- Mens' fashion accessories
- A way to allow
- Gloomy
- Grads wear one
- Between south and southeast
- Jaguarundi cat

#### CLUES DOWN

- Snakes do it
- Hormone
- The standard monetary unit of Turkey
- Fixed charges
- Electronic communication
- Artilleries
- "Strangers on a Train" actor Farley
- Burning
- Makes ecstatically happy
- Greek liqueurs
- Tropical Old World tree
- Someone who takes vengeance
- Style of cuisine
- Select
- Immunized against disease
- Old world, new
- Honorable title (Turkish)

- Court case: \_\_\_ v. Wade
- Supervises interstate commerce
- Not divisible by two
- Twelve
- Commentator
- Coulter
- Encourage
- Plumbing fixtures
- Early
- One point north of due east
- King of Thebes
- Short-tailed martens
- Impose a penalty on
- Consort of Poseidon
- A way to lessen
- Brooklyn hoops team
- Female of a horse
- Do as one is told
- A way to prepare meat
- Unit of measurement

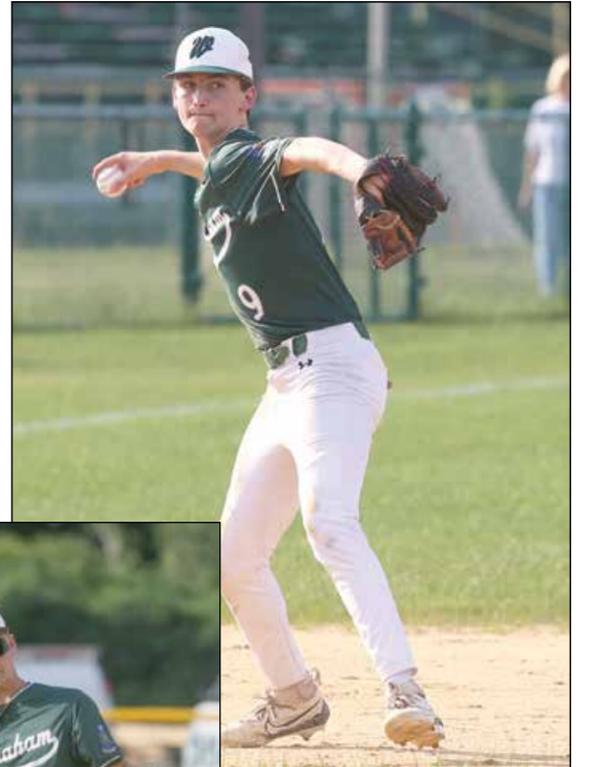
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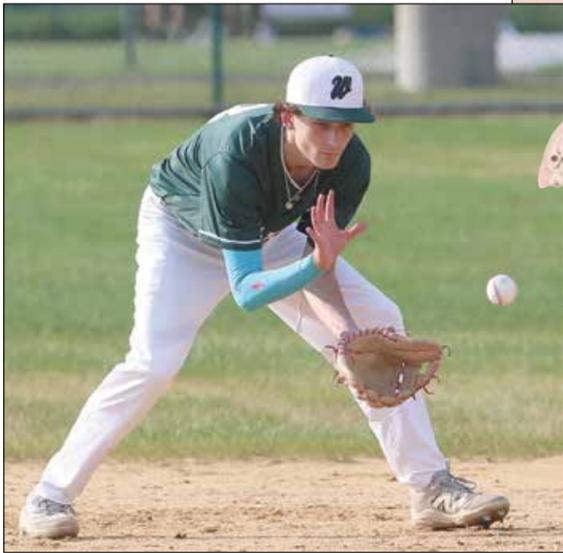
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## Falcons with more games to make up



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com  
Peter Lagone fields a grounder.



Luke Stejna, of Ludlow, fields the bouncing ball.

Garrett Piemonte hurls to the plate.

WILBRAHAM – The 6-4 Wilbraham Falcons American Legion baseball team has just a couple of weeks left in their regular season and are looking to finish up strong. Last week, the Falcons did get two games in, defeating Westfield by an 8-7 score. They would lose to Belchertown 9-7 on Wednesday, July 2 at Wilbraham. This season, Wilbraham is including players from Ludlow, which lost its Legion team last year.



Jake Santos throws to first.

Mason Morace, of Ludlow, makes a throw to first.

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## Western Mass. Pioneers punch playoff tickets with victory

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW—After winning the USL D-3Pro League championship title in 1999, the Western Mass. Pioneers only qualified for the playoffs five times during the next 20 years.

Since joining USL League Two in 2019, the Pioneers have qualified for the playoffs

each season.

The Pioneers clinched a berth in this year's playoffs following a 5-0 win over the Albany Rush before a large gathering at historic Lusitano Stadium, last Wednesday night.

"This is the sixth time in a row that we've made the playoffs," said Pioneers head coach Federico Molinari, who's been coaching the

men's squad since 2012. "I think it's a very good accomplishment for the club. We need to win our last two regular season games to have a chance to finish in first place."

The Pioneers (9-1-2), who have finished in second place in the league standings during the past three years, are battling Vermont Green FC (9-0-2) for the top spot in the Northeast Division table.

"We accomplished one of our goals tonight by clinching a playoff berth," said Pioneers midfielder Augustine Boadi. "We're now trying to win the league title."

The Pioneers were scheduled to play a road match against the New England FC on Monday night before closing out the regular season by hosting the boys from Vermont on Friday night.

The Vermont Green won the first meeting of this season between the two squads, 2-0, which took place in front of 2,500 enthusiastic soccer fans at Virtue Field located on the University of Vermont campus on June 17.

When Vermont made the three-hour trip south on Rte. 91 to Lusitano Stadium a year ago, they clinched a playoff berth with a 3-1 win over the

Pioneers in the regular season finale. It was the Pioneers, who had already locked up a playoff berth, only home loss of the 2024 campaign.

Entering last Wednesday's match, Albany (2-9-1) had never defeated the Pioneers since they joined USL League Two in 2022.

Please see **PIONEERS**, page 12

## Mutiny closes out regular season

LUDLOW – The New England Mutiny, which gathers talent from all over the region to play its home matches at Ludlow's Lusitano Stadium, recently wrapped up its regular season, including an impromptu 12-0 win over the Worcester Fuel. The Mutiny's short season will lead them to the playoffs, which are likely to take place on the road this year. The Mutiny have hosted playoffs at Luistano in the past.



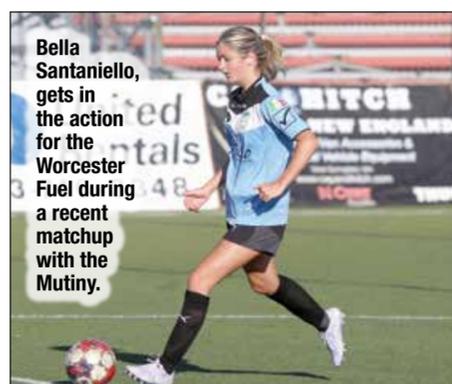
Maddy Theriault, a Palmer graduate, corrals the ball.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com  
Mila Dillard, of Chicopee, heads down the field.



Agawam's Hope Santaniello fights for possession of the ball.



Bella Santaniello, gets in the action for the Worcester Fuel during a recent matchup with the Mutiny.



Samantha Breton, of Chicopee, tries to fake out an opponent.



Avery Klingensmith, of Belchertown, tries to get a pass away.

## SPORTS

### Blue Sox edged by Danbury Westerners

HOLYOKE - On First Responders' Day at MacKenzie Stadium last Sunday, where members of the Holyoke Fire and Police Departments were honored, the Valley Blue Sox narrowly fell to the visiting Danbury Westerners 8-7.

The Westerners quickly jumped in front, as centerfielder Garrett Larsen launched a home run over the left field wall during the game's first at-bat.

The early offense set the tone for a game that showcased nine lead changes and ties.

Sunday's back-and-forth battle came to a head when Danbury extended their lead on a Grayson Sparr RBI double in the eighth inning. That run proved to be the difference, as Danbury edged out an 8-7 win.

"We're going to continue to stay on the offensive attack," said Blue Sox manager

Endy Morales.

"We're staying right there. I think mentality, we just got to continue to put good swings on balls. We played better defense today, so as long as we continue to stay forward and move forward, I think we'll be fine."

Valley tallied 11 hits in the loss. Nick Spaventa picked up three hits and two RBI in five appearances. Sebastian Mexico had a two hit performance, adding two RBI. Michael Elko added the other multi-hit outing for Valley, while Rees Kozar and Wyatt Hunt earned RBIs.

Danbury's Aidan Paradine went three for three with an RBI. Left fielder Michael Iannazzo produced two RBI from two hits, and Gavin Donohue collected two runs, a hit and an RBI from four plate appearances. Sparr and Larsen had two hits apiece.

Kenan Elarton started for

Danbury and Andrew Koshy earned the win in relief. Harper McLendon was given the loss. Teo Spadaccini got credit for the save.

Valley falls to a record of 11-13. Danbury improves to a 9-13 record on the season.

After an off day tomorrow, the Blue Sox enter a stretch in which they will play six games over the course of five days.

"It's going to take everybody," said Morales. "This is why we have the wonderful resources of Adam Feit and the [training] facility, and taking advantage of the off days. We have all these resources so that we can withhold a stretch like that. It's going to take every single guy, not just to look ahead, but to attack the game that's right in front of us. I think we'll be just fine if we do that."

### T-Birds bringing back Caravan

SPRINGFIELD - The Springfield Thunderbirds are proud to announce the return of the T-Birds Community Caravan, with support from MassMutual, marking the third annual summer tour designed to bring the excitement of Thunderbirds hockey to communities across the region.

This year's Caravan will include three stops throughout the Greater Springfield area during the summer months, continuing the initiative's mission to keep the T-Birds top-of-mind in the offseason while deepening the team's connection to local families and fans. This summer's Caravan dates are as follows:

- Saturday, July 19 - Sonny's Place, Somers, CT - 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

- Saturday, August 9 - Amelia Park Ice Arena, Westfield - 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. \*

\*The Westfield Community Caravan will also feature the annual T-Birds Street Hockey Tournament on the outdoor deck hockey court at Amelia Park. The Street Hockey Tournament features

teams of players ages 9-12. To register your team, click here.

"After a fantastic continuation of the program last summer, we're thrilled to bring the Caravan back and keep building on its success," said Thunderbirds

President Nathan Costa. "We're equally excited to welcome back MassMutual as a partner and thank them for embracing our mission of being champions in the community beyond the Thunderdome."

Each free-to-attend event will feature appearances by Thunderbirds mascot Boomer, team staff, and a lively mix of interactive games, street hockey, family-friendly activities, and local vendors. Fans can also enjoy delicious food options, with each Caravan date spotlighting a local nonprofit beneficiary, helping to raise awareness and support for impactful community organizations.

"We're delighted to support the Springfield Thunderbirds not only on the ice but also throughout the local

community," said Dennis Duquette, head of community responsibility at MassMutual and president of the MassMutual Foundation. "Their caravan provides terrific activities for local kids and families, and we're proud to be a part of it."

The Springfield edition of the Caravan will be collecting donations benefiting The Gray House. Among the requested items are baby food, diapers and wipes, school supplies, and non-perishable food items. The Thunderbirds will also be hosting food drives at the July and August Caravan stops. The July Caravan at Sonny's Place will benefit the Enfield Food Shelf in Connecticut, while the August Caravan in Westfield will collect items for the Westfield Food Pantry.

Additional information for all Community Caravans will be released in the coming weeks via the Thunderbirds' website and social media channels.

For more information on upcoming events, including the Community Caravan, stay tuned to the T-Birds on social media @ThunderbirdsAHL, or visit the Community Tab on www.SpringfieldThunderbirds.com.

### Quabbin Valley Baseball League 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 depending on the completion of the spring/summer season as well as to makeup rainouts, 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.

### Polewarczyk grabs win at Hudson Speedway

HUDSON, N.H. - Joey Polewarczyk left no doubt Sunday night as to who holds the home track advantage at Hudson Speedway.

The Hudson, N.H., native and 2020 Granite State Pro Stock Series champion, led every lap en route to his second straight victory in the series' annual Gate City Classic 100.

Only a pre-race redraw could keep "Joey Pole" from starting on the pole, as the veteran clocked in fastest in time trials but redrew second. Two-time GSPSS champ Joey Doiron led the field to green, but Polewarczyk nosed out front before the field even reached turn one.

Polewarczyk and Doiron showed the way for the first nine laps, until Bobby Frappier nosed into the turn-three concrete to bring out the evening's first caution flag. On the restart, Polewarczyk reasserted himself out front, keeping Doiron at arm's length but setting a brisk pace around the high-banked quarter-mile.

While the two veterans held firm out front, former Hudson winner Angelo Belsito dived for third with recent winner Evan Beaulieu and first-time starter Connor McDougal. Eddie MacDonald lingered in the distance, cracking the top five by halfway as he gave Belsito fits for fourth.

Polewarczyk and Doiron were well ahead of the pack when Cory Casagrande ran up on a slower car in heavy traffic, sending the car for a spin and drawing a yellow flag with 25 laps to go.

Once again, the lead duo took off from the field, but the battle for third heated up as "The Outlaw" cleared Belsito, then Beaulieu, to

claw his way toward the podium. Belsito and Beaulieu quickly found their hands full with a charging Casagrande and Cole Robie, both trying to make up for lost time in the closing laps.

But not even Doiron could chase down Polewarczyk, who gapped Doiron by nearly half a second on the way to his fourth GSPSS win at his home track.

Doiron's runner-up result was his best-ever finish at Hudson, the track where he last finished a GSPSS race outside the top ten back in 2020.

MacDonald brought car owner Dale Drew's No. 50 home in third, with Beaulieu close on his heels in fourth. Robie finished fifth, giving the young hard charger three top-five runs to open the season.

Casagrande was sixth after an early exit one week ago at Speedway 95, while Belsito slipped all the way to seventh in the home stretch. Frankie Eldredge had his best GSPSS performance yet with an eighth-place finish, while McDougal and Josh St. Clair rounded out the top ten.

Polewarczyk's ninth GSPSS win elevates the 36-year-old to second on the series' all-time win list behind D.J. Shaw. His home-track mastery has played a big part; only once in five GSPSS appearances at Hudson has Polewarczyk not parked in the winner's circle.

The GSPSS teams have a week off to celebrate Independence Day before returning to action on Friday, July 11 at Claremont Motorsports Park, kicking off a four-week midsummer trek through New Hampshire.

### 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>

#### PIONEERS from page 11

The Pioneers, who defeated the Rush, 6-0, on May 19, put the second meeting out of reach by scoring four goals in the first half.

"Building a large first half lead allowed us to relax a little bit in the second half," Molinari said. "We played very well tonight."

The Rush have gone 0-7-1 since celebrating back-to-back victories against Black Rock and Boston City FC at the end of May. Any hopes they might've had about upsetting the Pioneers didn't last very long.

The home team took a 1-0 lead following a corner kick goal in the ninth minute.

Defender Gustavo Barbosa booted the ball into the box from the right corner. Then Boadi sent a pass to forward Jose Bustamante who tapped the ball into the net past Albany goalie James Joyce.

A little more than ten minutes later, Matt Cence, who's also a midfielder, delivered a crossing pass from the right wing into the box. Boadi finished off the play

by scoring his first goal of the season.

"I've been on a goal drought for a long time," Boadi said. "I've been working very hard, and it feels very nice to finally score a couple of goals, especially in front of the home crowd. You can't ask for anything better than that."

Cence and Boadi hooked up again in the 24th minute. This time, Boadi blasted a shot into the upper right corner of the net.

While Cence and Boadi are teammates during the summer, they'll be opposing each other at the beginning of September.

Boadi, who's one of the Pioneers veteran players, is also a member of the men's soccer team at Bryant University, while Cence plays at UMass-Amherst.

Aidan Kelly, who's the Pioneers captain and defender, is also a member of the Minutemen men's soccer team

The two college soccer teams are scheduled to meet each other in a non-conference match in Amherst on September 6.

"It's always a lot of fun playing your summer team-

mates during the college soccer season," said Boadi, who would like to play for a professional soccer team after graduating from college next year. "I'm hoping that we can win our game against UMass. We talk about it all the time and I'm really looking forward to that match."

Cence is a first-year member of the Western Mass. squad.

"I'm thankful for coach Molinari allowing me to join the team this year," Cence said. "It has been a great experience and the guys on the team are awesome."

Cence also assisted on the Pioneers' fourth goal, which was scored by midfielder Robbie Lyons in the 34th minute.

The Pioneers had several more scoring chances during the second half.

Bustamante netted his second goal of the match during the 82nd minute. Defender Alejandro Carrillo was credited with the assist.

Goalie Alan Horrocks only had to make a couple of save in recording the Pioneers sixth shutout of the season.

### Rep. Angelo J. Puppola Jr. announces Joint Rules, ushering in more accessible, efficient lawmaking

SPRINGFIELD - The Massachusetts Legislature has formally approved a new set of Joint Rules, marking a significant step toward making the state's lawmaking process more accessible, transparent, and efficient for all residents.

The newly adopted Joint Rules, which govern the procedures for legislative collaboration between the House

and Senate, reflect months of negotiation and input from legislators, advocates, and the public. The changes are designed to streamline legislative operations, promote timely consideration of bills, and increase public engagement in the democratic process.

"These Joint Rules are about building a Legislature that works better for the peo-

ple of Massachusetts," said Representative Puppola. "We are committed to ensuring that the voices of residents are heard, that bills receive fair and transparent consideration, and that government operates with greater accountability."

Key updates to the Joint Rules include:

- Enhanced Transparency: Measures to increase public

access to legislative hearings, including expanded remote participation options.

- Streamlined Timelines: Clearer deadlines for committee action, helping to avoid bottlenecks and ensure bills move through the legislative process efficiently.

- Improved Accessibility: Tools and protocols to ensure residents across the Common-

wealth, regardless of location or ability, can engage with the legislative process.

The approval of these rules represents a collaborative effort by legislative leaders to modernize operations and respond to calls for a more open, responsive government.

"We've heard from constituents across the state who want a government that is eas-

ier to engage with and more accountable to the people," added Representative Puppola. "These Joint Rules are a meaningful step in that direction."

The new Joint Rules take effect immediately and will guide the legislative process for the remainder of the current session.

**SENIORS**

# Monthly Highlights for July at the Hampden Senior Center:

**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.

**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 1.

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

The Assessor's office hours are Monday-Thursday 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 businesses and organizations to provide you with helpful information. You are welcome to stop in to pick up information and speak one-on-one with representatives in the senior center lobby and stay for as long as you need to get your

questions answered. Perhaps there is an organization you would like us to welcome? Please let us know.

• 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 15. Cost is \$10 for 10 minutes.

Facials with Diane Neill  
Diane is on Summer Vacation.

**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.

**Alzheimer's Benefit Dinner Dance with Entertainment provided by: Off the Record**

Saturday, Aug. 23 at 5:30 p.m.

Brush off your dancing shoes and get ready for the event of the year! Enjoy a stuffed chicken breast dinner and delicious dessert while supporting a great cause. Proceeds will support the Alzheimer's Association.

Sign up today to reserve your seat. Cost is \$30 per person, paid in advance.

Ticket price includes appetizers, dinner, dessert, entertainment, and one free drink.

Call 566-5588 to secure your ticket or with questions.

This event is generously sponsored by: Monson Savings Bank, Great Horse, and Tudor House Liquors

## Upcoming HSC Trips

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

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

Tues, Sept 30 - Lakeside Turkey Train (Lake Winnepesaukee) Harts Turkey Dinner on board, Country Farm Store stop (on own) & NH Liquor Store - \$140pp.

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

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

Questions/comments, please call Bobbi at 413-566-8271 or email bobbig2@charter.net.

# HOMETOWN SPOTLIGHT

WILBRAHAM-HAMPDEN TIMES

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**GARDEN** from page 6

they have aged beyond their productivity. Simply dig them up and send them off to the compost pile.

Finally, remove daughter plants that are spaced closer than four inches from one another—another difficult task, but one that must be accomplished if we want large, healthy berries. As you work within the row, be sure to eradicate any and all weeds that you come upon, since these will compete with your strawberry plants for moisture and nutrients.

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

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

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

Another favorite plant that may be in need of reinvigoration is your iris. If once upon a time they bloomed strong and now there is barely a blossom to be seen, chances are they are overcrowded. It's time to divide them and replenish their soil.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

In the fall, after a hard frost, cut iris foliage back to the ground as low as possible. Throw it and any nearby debris or mulch away. With any luck, overwintering eggs will be removed by your efforts.

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

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

**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](http://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 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](http://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](http://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  
07/03, 07/10/2025

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Division Docket No. HD25P1370EA Estate of: Marilyn Ann Charwick Date of Death: December 19, 2024 INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE**

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **James Moriarty III of Leominster, MA** a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

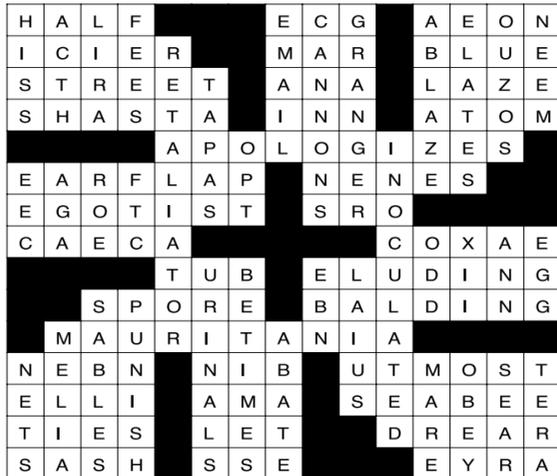
**James Moriarty III of Leominster, MA** has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve **without surety** on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute

formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.  
07/10/2025



**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.**



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**Send Us Your Autumn Event Information**

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

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**Deadline for Calendar submissions is August 11.**

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**RICK'S PLACE** from page 1

year later, Rock-102 stepped in and took over in organizing the entire party.

"I work for a great organization that was so nice and generous enough to donate all the time to make this great. It's nice to see the people in the community get involved. At Rock-102, we are all about the community, these are the people that listen to us and while we tell jokes every day, there's also the seriousness of it. Getting people involved whether we're doing the food pantry drive-in or doing something like this, we're always out and about," Nagle said. "Vanished Valley had the resources, and I always wanted to make this a kid's event. My wife was all about families and when we got married, we had our ceremony at Look Park and bought train and paddle boat tickets. Everybody had a good time and that's what she was all about. We only charged adults for today; kids were all free and there's plenty of free items that everybody has donated and I'm grateful for that."

Nagle's wife was described as a giving person who always cared about other people, who worked for many years at the Gandara Center in Western Massachusetts. Diagnosed in 2016 with stage four esophageal cancer, she passed away six months later.

Nagle lovingly described her as a very strong person who wanted to keep fighting.

"She loved her family so much. My two girls, who were only five and six at the time that she passed, now they are beautiful teenagers and keep me on my toes. Rick's Place is not therapy, but they have therapeutic aspects to their programming and whether you get anything out of that while you're there, it's not always like an immediate thing. I think in the beginning, I was like when



The Rock-102 radio station was set up under their tent signing people in, selling tickets, and sharing their rock music taste.

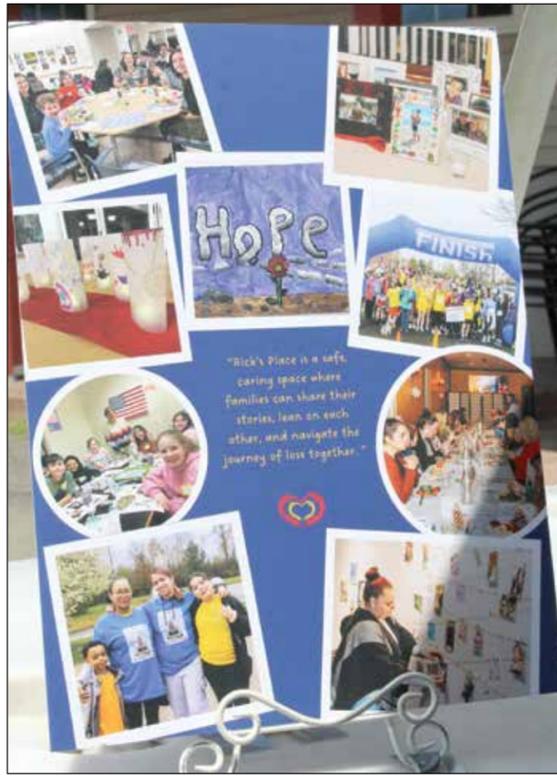


Turley photos by Amanda Munson  
Rick's Place Executive Director Therese Ross and Rock-102 Steve Nagle were both pleased with the turnout of guests.

are things going to get happier again? When do things change? It doesn't work that way and nothing works that way. You get the tools at one time for a project down the road and eventually you'll say, I went through the same experience as this other person in the group," Nagle said. "No matter what the matter of death is, the themes are all the same when it comes to grief. People grieve all the same and that's the great thing about the groups is that they can help each other."

Executive Director at Rick's Place Therese Ross began at the nonprofit as program director and moved up into her current position, now belonging to the company in her ninth year. Working in the past in education, Ross shared that her husband died of cancer and was left with three kids attending high school and college.

"I recognized that there was not enough support for families after the death of someone significant and a position at Rick's Place opened as program director. Since then, I've just been really committed to the mission of supporting families and children after the death of an important person in their life," Ross said. "My husband's name was Damon Douglas



The poster read, "Rick's Place is a safe, caring space where families can share their stories, lean on each other, and navigate the journey of loss together."

and he himself was an educator, he was a classroom teacher for many years. He was an incredible athlete and

outdoorsman, a remarkable father to our three kids, and his loss was significant in our lives. Learning that you don't

get over a loss, you don't heal from it, you're lucky if you're able to integrate that loss into your life and like I'm trying to do something bigger for the community through my own loss experience."

Ross described that Rick's Place begins with families three months after the death.

"We work with kids ages five to 18 and their caregivers and they participate in peer support programs, nobody in our program is a counselor. It's all about the peer support piece, kids are with other kids who had the death of someone important in their life and they talk about their worries, things that are going well and not going well, and talk about the challenges. The adults are in an adult support group that's focused on how to parent a child who is grieving, while you yourself are grieving. Parenting is a hard job and parenting a child after a death is exponentially harder," Ross said.

Ross was thankful to Nagle for supporting the organization.

"It's a community building experience. This is a fabulous collaboration; Steve willingly shares his story of loss, has a strong connection to Rick's Place, he and his kids participated, and he knows

the isolation that comes for families after death. He wants our families to be and feel supported by the wider community," Ross said. "He connected with Vanished Valley, they've been so good to us, it's a real community and family-focused experience. We're feeling very fortunate."

Assistant General Manager Kara Dempster of Vanished Valley in Ludlow spoke about the brewery's second time hosting the Rick's Place fundraiser and the overall turnout on Saturday afternoon.

"This was our second time hosting the Rick's Place fundraiser and it was amazing. A great turnout from the community for such a great cause," Dempster said. "We booked it for next year as well! We want to thank everybody who came out to support, bought raffle tickets, and just came out to meet the staff from Rick's Place. It was a fantastic day and an amazing event."

All proceeds benefited Rick's Place, grief support programs for children, teens, and their families.

Rick's Place is also currently looking for volunteers.

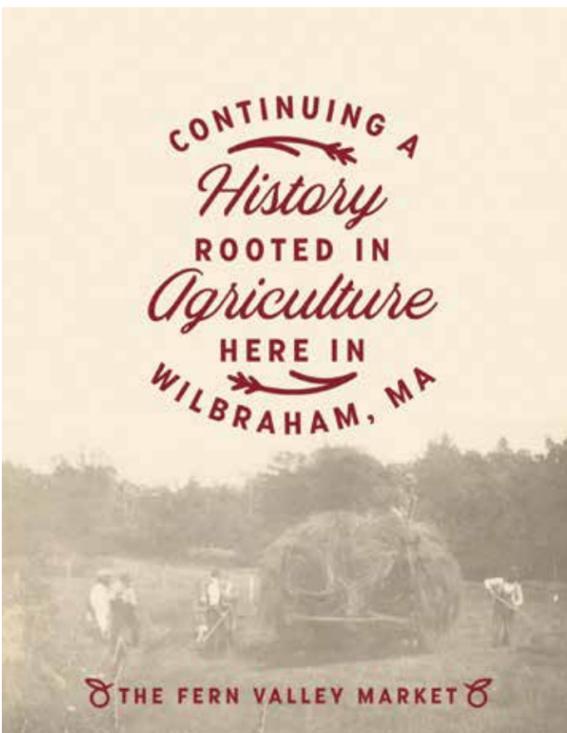
To learn more about Rick's Place, visit [ricksplace-ma.org/](http://ricksplace-ma.org/).



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