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Photo courtesy of Shelley Mutti
A group photo
of the cast.

SHREK JR.

a sensational, heartwarming musical

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
krivers@turley.com

WILBRAHAM - The Wilbraham United Players' Young United Players' production of "Shrek Jr." is a sensational, hilarious and heartwarming musical leaving the audience laughing, tearing up and smiling from ear to ear.

It truly is no surprise that tickets sold out very quickly because the cast and musical numbers were phenomenal

from start to finish, bringing the classic animated motion picture and Broadway musical adaptation to life in a fresh and entertaining way. Also, as someone who grew up watching the Shrek movie franchise—Princess Fiona being one of my favorite characters—I was especially excited at the opportunity to see this production.

Coming off last summer's hugely successful run of "Seussical Jr.," the cast stepped up their game tenfold, transporting the audience to the

land of Shrek and fairytale creatures to share a story of laughter, heart and the meaning of true beauty and true love.

One ensemble I need to make sure I highlight is the Storytellers, who comprised Tess Mutti, Sofia Allegrezza and Celine Johnson. Besides helping to move the plot along, the trio definitely made you feel like they were part of the story as they joined varying musical numbers and brought sass, joy and entertainment. The trio

reminded me of the characters Crystal, Ronette and Chiffon from "Little Shop of Horrors," who hold a similar role. Here, the girls really made you feel like you were hearing this story for the very first time, and that is no easy task to complete.

Quinn Mutti, who readers may remember from playing Horton the Elephant in "Seussical Jr.," was back as Shrek, capturing the main character's sarcasm, emo-

Please see **SHREK**, page 10

Cruisin' at Mountain View

Sunday car show tradition continues at restaurant

By Harold Anderson
Correspondent

HAMPDEN - On a mostly sunny Sunday morning, the parking lot at the Mountain View Restaurant on Allen Street was packed with many cars on display as the latest edition of their car show took place on July 12.

From a 1929 Ford Model A hot rod brought by Ken Bernard of Monson to Skip Taylor of Wilbraham's 1985 Morgan 4/4 to the 2025 or 2026 Corvette parked at the end of the lot, there was a wide variety of car styles for car enthusiasts of

every taste.

John Stabilo, a Hampden resident, who said that he's always been interested in cars and brought his own 1969 Chevrolet to the event, commented that the event pretty much runs itself.

"There's no real person in charge or persons in charge," he said.

The car show currently starts in the spring, usually about the middle of April after the restaurant opens, said Stabilo.

"We're here until probably the end of October as it gets too cold to be outside," he added.

Held every Sunday morning from 8-10:30 a.m., inter-

Please see **CARS**, page 13



Turley photo by Harold Anderson
Skip Taylor of Wilbraham is shown with his 1985 Morgan 4/4 at the Sunday morning car show at Mountain View Restaurant in Hampden.

National Grid proposals send current through community

By Ben Hernandez
Staff Writer

WILBRAHAM - The Select Board held a public hearing for National Grid's request to place electrical conduits on both Oldwood Road and Southwood Road to improve reliability.

Contractor and designer Peter Coleran was present during the hearing to represent the electrical company.

The reason cited for the change was due to "some outages" which took place "here and there" throughout the

years.

"So, this is just to bring up the reliability of the underground distribution network," Coleran said.

The residents then spoke next.

"I think I spoke with Peter when he was doing the designing on their behalf. What was asked of us during the phone call was if it would be okay to put boxes or pole boxes along our property. We didn't know what they looked like, where they were going to be located," said concerned resident Mark LeRoe. "When

I got off that phone call with you, Peter, I was under the impression that you were aware that I was of no interest in putting it on my property, and then, lo and behold."

After Coleran confirmed he was correct, LeRoe said the plans included a pole box "dab smacked" in the middle of his yard and understood there was an easement.

He added he understood the hardware need and how it needs to get done, echoing how residents were "tired of the power outages," but wanted to know where the boxes

would be located.

"So, preferably, we can put it, the pole boxes where the existing plates are now," LeRoe said. "And I'd like to find out what the pole boxes look like. Are they these little mini green coffins that are above ground or are they flush with the surface?"

Coleran confirmed the original installation plan he discussed with him back in December 2025 was going to be a "switching module," a device which would serve as "the center point" for all of the underground cable dis-

tribution networks within the area. He described the current idea is to run only one cable from the box in front of LeRoe's house down to Oldwood and Southwood Road to connect the two poles at the ends of the streets.

"So, what they've now decided is that they're doing a whole loop system," Coleran said. "So essentially, the switching module that was going to be above ground, we've completely gotten rid of because people like you, they obviously don't want them on their yard. It's a nui-

sance."

Coleran further described the previously described solution as "a tripping hazard," a situation which prompted National Grid to re-evaluate the project.

The current plan is to design the pole boxes to have what the contractor described as "a small green box" which will have "nothing coming off the level ground and all of the conduits and pole boxes will just be in the public right of

Please see **NATIONAL GRID**, page 3

Rock Into Summer brings community fun

By Noelle Hisgen
Correspondent

HAMPDEN - The Hampden Parks and Recreation Department hosted their Second Annual Rock Into Summer Concert featuring Acousticca at the Town Hall on July 12.

The event has grown exponentially since its debut year in 2025. This year,

they had a beer & wine tent, a tent for the stage and four food vendors to add to their festivities.

Parks and Recreation Director, and overall event coordinator for Rock Into Summer, Dan Blanchard spoke about the concert.

"It's grown exceptional-

Please see **ROCK INTO SUMMER**, page 9



Turley photo by Noelle Hisgen

The members of Acousticca, Paul Sticca, Tim Smith, Greg Laughran, and Gene Donaldson performed that evening for Rock Into Summer.

HISTORICAL WILBRAHAM

Crane Park not the only hallowed ground

Memorial Boulder in Glendale honors soldiers from various wars

By Charles F. Bennett
Times Editor Emeritus

We want to make up for the omission of an important image that did not fit into our June 25 column on important Wilbraham residents. In that column, among others such as Warren Collins and Mary Mack, we honored B. F. Greene, a popular citizen of the mountainous Glendale section of town.

We also couldn't fit the photo of the actual Memorial Boulder that sits next to Glendale Cemetery that Greene had a huge hand in placing there. Greene was a member of the planning committee and the chairman

of the ceremony honoring the Soldier's Boulder next to Glendale Cemetery, which carried the engraved names of Wilbraham soldiers from various wars.

The boulder honors Glendale soldiers that go as far back as the French and Indian War. Other wars include the Revolutionary War, War of 1812, Seminole War, Philippine War and the Liberation of Cuba.

Hometown Soldiers

A photo of the Greene family and the boulder is shown here along with a few more details about when it was dedicated in 1911 and highlighted in 1913, at the town's 150th Anniversary.

The boulder itself without any names on it, was first dedicated on Memorial Day, May 30, 1911. A dinner was

held by the ladies of Glendale Methodist Church to honor the guest speaker at the dedication, Dr. Marshall Caulkins. Edson described Calkins as a very modest and courteous gentleman, a medical doctor of the age of 82.

Glendale historian Henry Edson remembered that May 30 dawned with the church trimmed with flags and bunting by a church schoolteacher Miss Grace Greene.

Edson wrote, "The children and women of the neighborhood filled baskets with flowers and made bouquets for the soldiers' graves as usual, and these (flowers) were on the table surrounded by small flags. Other plants and flowers finished a very effective

Please see **HISTORICAL**, page 8



Charlie Bennett

63 Years Ago

New General Store Opens

Here is a news clipping reported by my mom, Ethel M. Bennett, who was the Wilbraham correspondent for the Springfield daily newspaper The Morning Union from the 1940s through 1970s. From a July, 1963 edition: "A new general; store opened for business Wednesday on Boston Road opposite Spec Pond. Donald Dragon of E. Longmeadow is the owner.

He bought the property at that location from Omer Therrien. Dragon is also the proprietor of Andrews Vegetable Store in Indian Orchard."

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
krivers@turley.com

“I think now more than ever, we need strong, effec-

Another issue is continu-

"I think that's critically important. At budget time, there's been no stronger advocate than me to get funding for our district. Whether it's



His other goals included the Roderick Ireland Courthouse in Springfield and his earlier notes such as the West-East Rail, expanding education and early child-

“The fact of the matter is, again, in these troubled times, we need to have a strong and effective leader. Someone that knows how to navigate, somebody that can be a strong, common sense voice at the State House with proven leadership and proven results,” Puppolo said. “I think now more than ever, we need a trusted leader. We need somebody that we know has a track record, has the ability to bring home the bacon, has the ability to fight for legislation, to be successful on all accounts, whether it’s marriage equality, whether it’s the Protect Act, whether

“That serves our residents well. There’s not too many representatives that still have a district office, so I have my office at the State House in Boston, but I also maintain a full-time district office, which I have maintained since day one,” Puppolo said. “We help navigate constituents, cutting through red tape, helping with issues. People know where to find me. I don’t hide. I have a full-time office, we’re there, I’m there, I’m in the district and, again, there’s no substitution for experience.”

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HSC celebrates National Blueberry Muffin Day

By Noelle Hisgen
Correspondent

HAMPDEN - The senior center celebrated National Blueberry Muffin Day on July 9 with a special little table event.

A table was set up for people to take a blueberry muffin right when they walked into the senior center, and attendees were able to eat their blueberry muffins with their friends in the senior center cafeteria.

Tina Doran, the volunteer and program coordinator at the senior center, spoke about the program.

"It's just an excuse to do something here. It is National Blueberry Muffin Day, so we thought it was a good excuse to just put out a pretty display of some muffins and invite people that maybe don't normally come in, and have a cup of coffee as well," Doran said.

The Hampden Senior Center usually does these types of



A table is set up with blueberry muffins for community members to take.

Turley photo by Noelle Hisgen

pop ups once in a while, but especially during the summertime they like to increase their amounts of little pop up events.

In addition to the summertime, the senior center brings in less presenters over the sunny season to acknowledge potential attendees who may be on vacation.

So as a suffice, they create pop up tables to keep events up and running for communi-

ty members.

The Hampden Senior Center opens their doors up to everyone in the community.

"It doesn't matter what age you are. We've got lots of things going on year round, no matter what. Like our exercise classes, we've got some pop up art classes that are coming up. So there's so much for everyone, and we'd like people to just come in and explore more of what

we have and take advantage of what we have. We got services here. There's so many things you can take advantage of that are not as costly as it would be outside of here," Doran said.

It was a nice summer morning for people to come in and enjoy good company, all the while enjoying a delicious blueberry muffin courtesy of the senior center.

'The Declaration of Independence: Origins, Text, and Meaning'

OMH Museum
in partnership
with WPL

WILBRAHAM - How did the Declaration of Independence come to be adopted on July 4, 1776? Rich Howell explores the origins of America's founding document, the meaning behind its famous words, and the story of how it was drafted. The presentation will cover the people who inspired, crafted, and signed this historic document, and will conclude with a reading of the Decla-

ration.

This free program is offered by the Wilbraham Public Library in partnership with the Old Meeting House Museum of Wilbraham and is open to all.

On Saturday, July 25, 2026 at 10 a.m. at the Wilbraham Public Library, Brooks Room, 25 Crane Park Drive, Wilbraham.

About the Presenter, Rich Howell:

A lifelong Wilbraham resident, Rich Howell has spent nearly four decades bringing history to life. A historical researcher for 38

years and reenactor for 23, he has served as President of Historic Lectures, Research and Reenactments for 28 years and is First Vice President of the Nathanael Greene Homestead. Closer to home, Rich is a life member of the Old Meeting House Museum of Wilbraham and formerly chaired both the Wilbraham Historic Commission and the Board of Assessors. A graduate of Minnechaug Regional High School and Western New England University, he has worked as a financial advisor for more than 37 years.

Library hosts Musical Petting Zoo today

WILBRAHAM - The library will be hosting the Springfield Symphony Orchestra's Musical Petting Zoo on Thursday, July 23 from 1 to 2 p.m.

The Musical Petting Zoo is a fun and informative hands-on traveling exhibit of musical instruments for children entering grades PreK-5. Here's your chance to discover an instrument in a judgment-free zone that encourages exploration and excitement.

This event is made possible by a grant from the Wilbraham Cultural Council, a local agency supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

NATIONAL GRID

from page 1

way."

"I realize that you might not want it in front of your house, but that was just the best place to put it for National Grid," Coleran said.

LeRoe next asked for the box be installed either "to the left of the property line on the other side of the driveway" or "to the other side of the property line which is also out of sight of all neighbors."

"There's areas where it can go. Now, that's some reason from a design standpoint that's not acceptable, then maybe there's some other way or some other location that we can put this pole box so I'm not looking out the window at the box," LeRoe said.

Coleran added that loca-

tion was also chosen "due to the distances between the transformers and the boxes themselves."

"Per National Grid standards, they don't want to be pulling more than, like, 400 feet for these residential jobs. So, that's just why it was put there," Coleran said.

Further questions from LeRoe stemmed around the nature of the site digging.

"Is this all trench-type digging or are you going to be doing directional boring where you're actually going underneath driveways and such? Are you carrying up driveways?" LeRoe said.

Coleran replied yes.

"This is all going to be a horizontal directional drill. Yep, you got it. So, like the directional bore as you mentioned," Coleran said.

After Coleran then said, "I

think the crew's going to try to avoid that" on going under driveways, this led to confusion and further questions from LeRoe.

Coleran explained he didn't "know the exact ways of how the crews are going to do their work."

"But, I'm pretty sure that they reached out to the town and get all that underground information to make sure that no gas lines, no sewer lines, no sprinkler lines are going to be hit," Coleran said.

However, Coleran also confirmed since this work was considered a "residential job," they wouldn't "have to do what's called a civil survey, which marks out all the underground utilities."

"I'm sure they're going to do their due diligence before they start drilling," Coleran said.

After further discussion and questions, Vice Chair Sue Bunnell proposed this direction.

"We've had other times when there have been petitioners with concerns about the design and the specific circumstances. I'm inclined to recommend that we defer this and create an opportunity window of time for you folks to meet with the designer and /or National Grid through the DPW," Bunnell said.

Chair Marc Ducey agreed.

"We don't have that expertise. I think you need to be contacting them," Ducey said.

The Select Board voted unanimously to continue the hearing on Aug. 3 at 7:05 p.m.

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INSURED AND CERTIFIED

Markey, Moulton hold senate debate in Chicopee

By **Brendan Rooney**
Correspondent

CHICOPEE — The race for the Senate is on, and on July 8, 79-year-old incumbent Sen. Ed Markey (D) took the stage in the first televised debate against challenger 47-year-old Rep. Seth Moulton (D-MA-06), right here in Western Mass.

This was the first official debate between the candidates, as the state primary election fast approaches, on Sept. 1, with early voting beginning on Aug. 22.

The debate included panelists from multiple local media outlets.

Markey, the incumbent, is seeking another six-year term. He was first elected to the House of Representatives in 1976 and has served in the Senate since 2013. If victorious, Markey shared this would be his last year running for re-election.

“I need one more term to finish the agenda, this progressive agenda,” Markey said. “And then I will step down. But we need to complete the agenda. We need Medicare for all, we need a Green New Deal, we need to make sure that we are fighting for every family who is out there who justifiably feels that they have been left behind.”

Moulton argued it’s time for a new generation of Democratic leadership.

“A lot of people in Massachusetts feel like they don’t have a voice in politics, and they’re struggling to afford basic needs, and we need a fighter,” Moulton said. “We need someone who’s going to change the playbook, invest in a new generation of the years, and start making Democrats win again.”

Rallies for both candidates took place prior to the debate.

When Moulton first arrived, he explained that this is the sixth time he has been in Western Mass, reinforcing the congressman’s emphasis on the region’s importance throughout the Commonwealth as the race continues to tighten.

“Being here in Western Mass is huge, it’s where my uncle [Andy] grew up, it’s where my chief of staff went to school, my district director grew up here, so as you can see Western Mass has been always close to my heart,” Moulton said.

He then pivoted to share how he feels that the region has been “left behind” by politicians in Washington and Boston alike.

“I’m here and have been because you deserve a senator who shows up, and I will continue to show up; that’s why I’m hosting a town hall/watch party in Chicopee tonight,” Moulton said.

It was later revealed that the Moulton campaign took a stake in the city as the Rumbleseat Bar & Grille, which hosted the congressman and his supporters to field additional questions and watch and react to the debate live, which was his 50th town hall across the state.

When Markey showed up, he cited the list of local endorsements he has garnered, revealing a few such as Holyoke Mayor Joshua Garcia, Chicopee Mayor John Vieau, and countless others.

“I have consistently delivered for Western Massachusetts, and I’m looking forward to being able to tell that story,” Markey said.



Sen. Ed Markey



Rep. Seth Moulton

It’s Showtime
The highly-contested Democratic Primary debate featured a plethora of national issues, as well as a variety of local topics, such as the recent influx of local hospitals struggling—including Baystate—and funding for the West-East Rail project.

Markey kicked off the discussion by revealing that if he returns to the Senate, he would be the chairman of the subcommittee on health if the Democrats can win back the House and the Senate in the midterm elections. He then acknowledged that if that does come to term, then he would restore the Affordable Care Act (ACA).

“We’re going to restore the \$300 billion from the Affordable Care Act, which was cut, that went to people out here in Western Massachusetts to ensure that there was solvency, and then we have to go beyond that,” Markey said. “We have to double funding for community health centers. We have to double the funding for NIH research on Alzheimer’s, Diabetes, Parkinson’s, Heart Disease, and all of those other diseases that run right through every single family. That has to be the goal. And in Western Massachusetts, I have stood up, and I’ve fought for this cause; I’ve met with all the hospital leaders out here, and we are going to deliver next January.”

He then added that if funding isn’t expanded and private equity isn’t weeded out, Western Mass hospitals will be in crisis.

“You have to make sure on a permanent basis these hospitals in Western Massachusetts are not weighted by private equity, rooted in emergency rooms and our eyes, otherwise our communities are just shut down; that’s what happened in Easthamp-ton,” Markey said.

Moulton shared that he isn’t against universal health-care, but believes that people should keep the health plan they prefer and those that unions fought for in contract negotiations.

“Look, I stand with President [Obama] and say we should have Medicare for all, but you should also be able to keep the health care plan you prefer if that’s what you want,” Moulton said.

He then shared that, as an Iraq War Veteran, he chose to use Veterans Affairs benefits for healthcare in part to ensure problems with that system are improved.

Markey responded, saying VA benefits are a single-payer system and that many people would appreciate the chance to receive those benefits.

Moulton responded by declaring that universal health-care, housing and education should be human rights.

The conversation then pivoted to the ongoing development of the West-East Rail project, a proposed concept to bring high-speed rail service from Boston to Pittsfield and Springfield. Markey said that he and U.S. Congressman Richard E. Neal, of Springfield, have secured \$157 million for the region to fund the long-overdue project.

“We were able to secure the funding for the project because it is absolutely essential that we connect the Western Mass economy to the rest of the Commonwealth. I understand it’s been long overdue, and that’s why I worked so hard on the infrastructure bill of 2022 to ensure we get that funding,” Markey said. “However, we also acknowledge that we needed the funding for Springfield for this asthma crisis, which had happened, and now it is absolutely indispensable that that funding be made available, and it is there, and we are working to ensure that it gets built on in cooperation with Governor Healey as quickly as possible.”

Moulton argued that the amount Markey noted will only fund up to 10 miles of rails, which isn’t up to par.

“\$152 million will be for about 10 miles of rail; that’s not enough to get to Boston, and I want to add that no one is going to ride your train because it is too slow,” Moulton said.

He then discussed the prospect of linking the state together if the project was correctly funded, as he drew a comparison to the \$2 billion he delivered to the city of Lynn for infrastructure, and the possibility of what \$2 billion could do for the project instead of the \$152 million Markey and Neal raised.

“Imagine what \$2 billion would do for so many cities out here in Western Massachusetts,” Moulton said. “Imagine what that would do for job opportunities. Imagine what that would do to knit our state together. That’s why I think we need high-speed rail transportation, because not only do I think it would be transformative for the state, but I feel Americans in Massachusetts should be traveling

the same speed as the rest of the world, and I’m going to continue fighting to get it done.”

Post-Debate Questions
After the debate, the Chicopee Register then talked to both candidates, where we had an additional chance to inquire about the recent influx of Combined Sewage Overflow (CSO) issues that stem from Holyoke, Chicopee and Springfield dumping into the Connecticut River.

Markey said he’s aware of the situation and shared a quick comment on how to solve the issue. “Well, I’m going to be senior on the Infrastructure Committee in the Senate and we need a trillion-dollar infrastructure bill beginning in January of this year coming up to make sure the funding is there for CSO making sure the funding is there for communities who absolutely cannot pay for it by themselves. They’re going to need help. They’re going to need federal help, and I will be there to make sure that help is present,” Markey said.

Moulton opened his thoughts by sharing this.

“It’s just absolutely appalling that this has happened,” Moulton said. “And it’s also happened across the Commonwealth, in Haverhill, which has dumped into the Merrimack River, which flows through my district; it has closed a lot of beaches right over the holiday weekend, and this is why we need Democrats to win so that we can deliver infrastructure back here. And when the senator says he supports all these great ideas, the reality is that those great ideas cannot come to fruition if Trump and the MAGA Republicans are still in charge.”

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VIEWPOINTS

SOCIAL SECURITY Matters By Russell Gloor

Can my spouse file at 63 and then get half of mine when I later claim?

Dear Rusty: My spouse is 63 and I am 65. I am planning to take my Social Security benefits at age 70. Can my lower earning spouse take his own benefits now, and then -when I take my full benefits at age 70, can he then file for 50% of mine instead of the lower benefit he is getting because he claimed at age 63?

Signed: Higher Earning Spouse

Dear Higher Earning Spouse:

Yes, your lower-earning spouse can take his benefits based on his personal lifetime earnings record at any time (i.e., age 63) and, when you later claim your own SS at 70, your spouse will be evaluated to determine whether he is eligible for a "spousal boost" based on your Social Security record. But to be sure you are clear, if you claim at age 70, your spouse will not get 50% of your age 70 benefit amount.

Spousal benefits are always determined by comparing each partners' Full Retirement Age entitlement and, if your spouse's FRA entitlement is less than half of your FRA entitlement, your spouse will get a "spousal boost" to bring his monthly SS retirement payment up to what he is entitled to as your spouse.

The amount of the "spousal boost" would be the difference between his FRA entitlement and 50% of your FRA entitlement, which would be added to his own (age 63) SS retirement amount.

And that means that his total benefit amount would be less than half of your age 70 amount (less also than 50% of your FRA amount, because he claimed at age 63).

One caution for your spouse to be aware of: if he is still working and claims at age 63, he will be subject to Social Security's Annual

Earnings Test, which limits how much he can earn before SS takes away some benefits.

The earnings limit for 2026 is \$24,480 (changes annually) and if that is exceeded, SS will take back \$1 of benefits for every \$2 he is over the limit. FYI, Social Security will "take back" by withholding future benefit payments, so he will not get his benefits for some months if he exceeds the annual earnings limit.

And if the annual earnings limit is significantly exceeded, your spouse could even be temporarily ineligible to receive SS benefits (until he either earns less or reaches his full retirement age, the earnings limit goes away when FRA is reached).

The only way your spouse can avoid both a reduced personal benefit and the annual earnings test limitation is to wait until his own Full Retirement Age to claim Social Security.

However, if he's not working full time and needs the Social Security money sooner, then claiming at age 63 may be a good choice. In any case, he won't get half of your age 70 amount.

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

Washing the elephant

The name Paul Rogers may ring a bell with some of my readers. Paul was a dear friend of mine, a mentor and acclaimed horticulturist who had amazing influence at Old Sturbridge Village, especially early on in my tenure.

He operated Stonehedge Gardens with his wife Barb in Charlton and for many decades wrote a regular column for the Worcester Telegram and Gazette. Paul also had a radio show, a weekly gardening Q&A on WTAG.

It was with his coaxing that I applied for and got this gig as the Garden Lady for Turley Publications over 20 years ago. He was very well known throughout Central Massachusetts, the Boston area and beyond.

Once I was in Bath, Maine, and to my disbelief someone mentioned that they knew Paul Rogers when I was shopping in a kitchen store of all places. But alas, I digress.

Paul and I would meet every other week at the Village unless he was traveling on some horticultural odyssey. Many times he and I would chat before we took our walks around campus to assess my beds.

I learned all about his trips in great detail and he got to know me pretty well, too. He always knew when I was "down in the dumps."

During those periods, Paul would say, "you've got to wash the elephant."

At first this made little sense to me, but after a bit I understood. When you are not feeling like yourself, you have to tackle a project, a big,

How was I to tame this mess and do it in the most efficient way possible? My approach may seem unconventional, but if I didn't do it this way I might still be outside squatting in that very garden.

I took out the lawn mower and adjusted the height to the tallest I could, six inches. Then I mowed down the garden.

After that I got into the bed with a hand trowel and one scoop at a time, dug up the bed. It was easier than I thought, because the irises were in worse shape than I thought. They came up so easily because they were weakened by a bad iris borer infestation.

I had never seen anything like it. As I unearthed the rhizomes I smelled the rot before I found my first borer. To say it was gross was an understatement.

Each rhizome was lifted, inspected and cut back to healthy tissue. Two inch long borers were collected in a yogurt container for the chickens. They ranged in color from light pink to deep mahogany.

To think that I've been gardening for so long and had never seen one before! The violet rhizomes were also dug up and discarded, as were the unwanted rose runners and suckers.

Thinning out the apothecary rose will certainly help

Please see GARDEN, page 10



elephant-like project, and afterwards you will feel better.

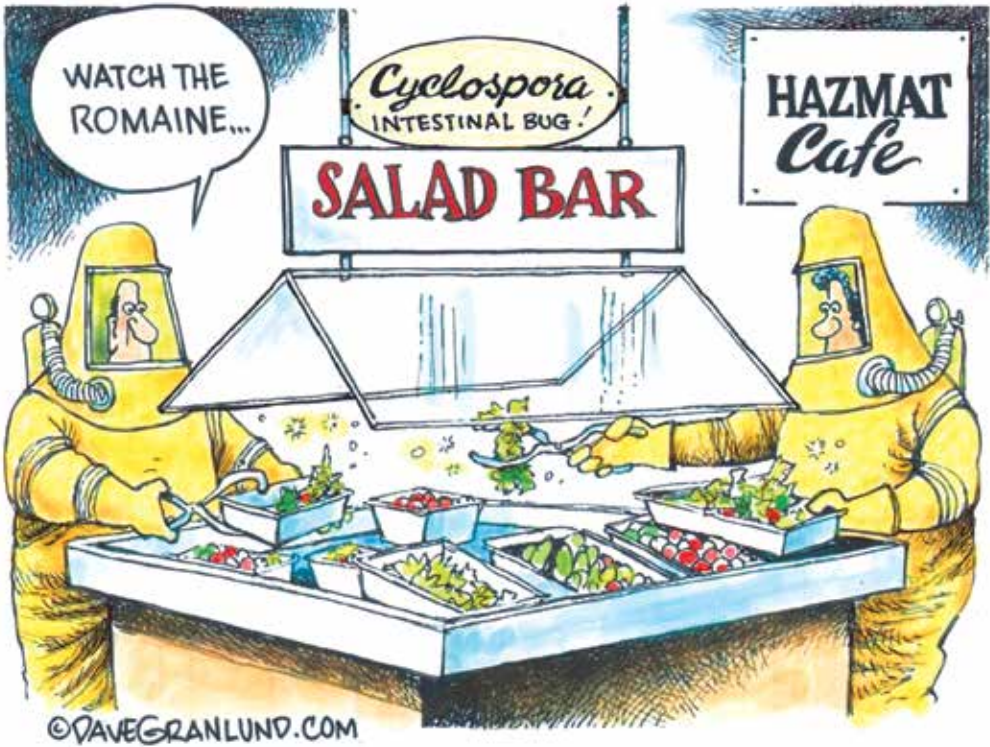
Of course, his projects were, and mine are, typically garden related.

So this weekend I tackled the iris and rose bed. Or shall I say the iris, rose and violet bed?

The violets were unwelcomed guests in the garden, as were the borers, but we will get to that in a minute.

You see, I inherited this beautiful patch of blue-purple bearded irises when we moved to this house. For years it bloomed effortlessly. I divided it once a few years back and it was nice for awhile.

But this year blooms were sparse and rose suckers began to show up everywhere within the garden. Violet foliage crowded out the vertical spear-shaped iris leaves.



I always find it interesting the different paths of people and fascinating to hear about their diverse experiences as they travel through life. What keeps them going and inspires them? What things do they enjoy, what's truly important to them? What do they do after they leave the routine of a daily job? Do they get bored or are they busier than ever? As you'll see, Judy Yando hasn't found a lack of things to keep her busy since her retirement about fifteen years ago.

You might very well recognize her name as she's stayed very active in her community, church and volunteer work as well. In addition, she was a successful hairdresser for twenty-seven years.

When I met Judy for this interview, the time passed quickly as we explored various topics. We'd previously spoken when she contacted me regarding a speaking engagement for her Catholic Women's Group about my Random Acts of Kindness articles. She said with a little laugh that she was their

'Booking Agent', admittedly a self-appointed title. She expressed how much she enjoys this role and I feel very honored that she's invited me to share information about my stories.



By Barb Turcotte

Judy worked in a doctor's office for a while as well as doing some work for Mary Lyon Nursing Home. She's very involved with her church, St. Elizabeth Parish. Years ago, St. John the Baptist merged with St. Mary of Assumption to form St. Elizabeth Parish. They used to have a Women's Group but when it disbanded, she became involved with the Catholic Women's Group, located at St. Michael's Cathedral in Springfield.

Being devoted to St. Elizabeth's, she helps once a month with their spaghetti supers, pretty much lending

her hand wherever needed. She's orchestrated all the facets of the church's Christmas party from the planning to the clean-up. She also participated in their program called, 'Take & Eat'. This volunteer project consisted of delivering food on weekends, as Meals on Wheels doesn't do it on those days. Unfortunately, the program lost its cook so has had to take a hiatus but hopefully will be back in full swing soon.

Another volunteer undertaking that Judy does is helping at the Ludlow Senior Center where she assists with keeping their gardens looking beautiful. She does this once a week for a couple of hours along with other volunteers and thoroughly enjoys it. Her husband has helped with some of her volunteer projects, but for the most part, just let's her enjoy her time doing 'her' thing.

She went on to explain how much she loved volunteering at Storrowton Village as a tour-guide for all the historic houses. She found it very rewarding being able to narrate the rich descriptions

of their history.

Judy and her husband Ray have been married 58 years, together have two daughters and are fortunate to have five grandchildren! Most of the family is fairly local with the exception of one granddaughter who currently lives in Australia. Sounds like a great place for a vacation!

Another reason Judy might be a familiar name and face is she also works for the Town of Ludlow helping with the voting during elections. And if all this wasn't enough to keep her busy, she also works as a per diem employee in the school kitchen and loves seeing all the kids.

So, as you can see, Judy doesn't have time to be bored and is loving the variety of things she's involved with. She's definitely making a difference in people's lives as she participates in all these activities. Thank you for doing all these great things!

Seems Judy also had the opportunity to change a regular man into a super hero one day. She explained while on the Turnpike, she had to stop to put air in her tire and was having a difficult time with the air machine. Her next move, asking, rather pleading with a man to help her. He reluctantly did and that's

when in an instant he became her super hero! She offered to buy him a coffee, but he declined and just went on his way.

Retirement can be intimidating to some, even though that's the goal at the end of a career and can be a difficult transition after so many years of a structured schedule. Some have even found it to be a little depressing in the beginning, feeling like they have lost their purpose but once they get used to it all agree, it's wonderful! You can see how Judy has enriched her life and loves having the time to do these things which wasn't always possible. The trick is staying active and social; it creates a richness money can't buy as you enjoy your next chapter of life.

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

The Wilbraham-Hampden TIMES

We Want to Hear From You

EDITOR Kristin Rivers krivers@turley.com

ADVERTISING SALES Jordan Conrad jconrad@turley.com

SPORTS EDITOR Greg Scibelli sports@turley.com

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WEB wilbrahamhampden times.turley.com



PHONE (413) 283-8393



ADDRESS 24 Water Street Palmer, MA 01069

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

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

Election letters to the editor welcome

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

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

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

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

Life in &

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



Photo and caption courtesy of Hampden Fire Department

HFD responds to South Road for car fire

Hampden firefighters responded to South Road on July 8 for a reported car fire parked next to a residential structure. Our on-duty day crew responded with an engine and a tanker, consisting of three personnel, who arrived within six minutes and quickly extinguished the fire, preventing damage to the structure and property loss.

Thank you to the members of the Hampden Police Department who assisted with handling hose lines until additional personnel arrived. Mutual aid was requested from the Wilbraham Fire Department and the Somers Fire Department.



Photo and caption courtesy of Hampden Fire Department

HFD celebrates Mass Call Fire Academy grads

Congratulations to Firefighters Lafountain and Medeiros for successfully completing and graduating from the Mass Call Fire Academy last night. This comes after a long six months of training, testing, and certification.

WILBRAHAM HAMPDEN



WFD responds to house fire



Photos and caption courtesy of Wilbraham Fire Department

At approximately 4:08 this morning on June 20, Engine 3, Engine 2, and Medic 3 were dispatched for a smoke investigation in the area of Weston Street. While searching the area, a Wilbraham police officer discovered a house fire the next street over on Enfield Street in Springfield. Springfield Fire was notified while Engine 3, Engine 2, and Medic 3 initiated a fire attack. One person was transported with non-life threatening injuries.

COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD

Happy 7th Birthday, MICHAEL NORMAN!

May all your wishes come true today and every day!
Love, Mom, Dad, Grandma, Papa, Lola, and Lolo

Hampden marches in East Longmeadow Fourth of July Parade



Submitted photos John Flynn

Selectboard Chair John Flynn shared a photo of marching in this year's East Longmeadow Fourth of July Parade, representing Hampden.

Hampden Fire Department represents at Fourth of July Parade



Photo and caption courtesy of Hampden Fire Department

Hampden firefighters attending the East Longmeadow Fourth of July parade. Happy 4th!

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Keeping seniors safe in the heat

By Quinn Suomala
Correspondent

With summer time in full swing, already communities have been facing record temperatures. It is important to keep in mind key safety tips to keep seniors safe in the heat.

High temperatures lead to an increased risk for conditions like heat stroke and heat exhaustion.

Seniors are especially at risk for heat stroke due to a decrease in the body’s ability to regulate temperature as they age.

Signs to watch out for for heat stroke include: a body temperature of 104 degrees Fahrenheit, a change in mental state (including confusion, delirium, or irritability), a change in sweating pattern, nausea, flushed skin, rapid heart rate or breathing, and a

headache.

If you notice any of these signs, call for medical assistance and then get the person inside or into shade, remove excess clothes and take action to cool them down immediately.

Senior centers do their best to remind elders of steps to take for prevention.

“We encourage them to turn their air conditioners on, even despite the costs, and to drink lots of water,” Executive Director of the Agawam Senior Center Cynthia Sullivan said.

Senior centers like Agawam’s also have people on staff who keep an eye on seniors who are visiting.

“We’re always checking up on people to see how they’re doing,” Sullivan said. “We see many of the people here quite often, so we know when they don’t look okay.”

If people do want to get outside in the heat, it is best they do so in the early morning or later in the evening, when the sun is not at its peak. Also, activities should be kept to low impact to prevent over exertion.

Additionally, many senior centers are open as cooling centers for the public during heat waves. The Agawam Senior Center, the Holyoke Senior Center, the RiverMills Senior Center and the Wilbraham Senior Center are just some of the options available.

These senior centers also offer a variety of activities to help keep seniors entertained while also beating the heat.

The Agawam Senior Center, for example, has a performance by the band Solar Eclipse on July 14 at 5:30 p.m. (with free ice cream included) and Bunko (a dice game) on July 21.

The Holyoke Senior Center is offering Tai Chi lessons on Thursdays from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. from now through Sept. 3.

For those interested, the RiverMills Senior Center is also offering an ice cream social on July 17 at 1:30p.m. They also have a visit from Paul Revere on July 28 at 2 p.m.

In addition to these activities, the senior centers also offer meals for people to come in, purchase and enjoy.

“Come in and eat, our meals are \$4,” Sullivan said. “There is no need to turn on your stove or oven and make your house warmer.”

The senior centers always welcome people to come by while they are open and take advantage of their activities and air conditioning. Utilizing them is a great way to beat the heat and have some fun.

Save our Sign Fundraiser

HAMPDEN – The S.O.S. Save Our Sign Fundraiser will be taking place at the VFW Post 9397 on Saturday, Aug. 15, at 3 p.m.

Tickets are \$25 at the door, \$20 in advance and \$5 for kids under 12.

There will be entertainment with DJ Bob playing tunes, games, raffles, face painting and henna tattoos.

Food will be served from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. and the menu comprises BBQ Beef Chicken, Corn on the Cob, Baked Potato, Burgers, Dogs, Salads and Desserts.

There will also be a cash bar and raffle prizes.

All proceeds will go to the S.O.S. Fund.

Can’t make it? Can still donate by the Venmo to support the VFW 9397 Fundraiser at @VFWPost9397 (last four digits 9397).

Semiquincentennial Quilt Project

WILBRAHAM - The Semiquincentennial Quilt Project is pleased to announce that they will exhibit their quilted wall hangings at the Wilbraham Public Library through July 30.

A reception will be held in the Brooks Room on July 14 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Each quilter was asked to create a quilt depicting a place or reason that they loved living in the USA.

The quilts are varied in technique and theme. The public are invited to view the quilts during the library opening hours.

If you would like more information, please contact Karen or Valerie at semiquincentennialquiltproject@gmail.com.

HISTORICAL from page 1

decoration. The head school teacher, Florence Moore, had trained the children in several patriotic exercises.”

Before 10 o’clock the musicians and Civil War veterans assembled and marched into the church being seated in the front seats of the north middle row with the sons of the veterans in back of them.”

B. F. Greene, in his introduction, gave a brief history of the work of the people of Glendale and hailed them for erecting the boulder as a memorial to the hometown soldiers. Edson praised the children and their teacher for their singing of the patriotic songs.

The Unveiling

Two years later on the third day of the 150th anniversary celebrations of the town, June 19, 1913, was called “Glendale Day”. The headline from a Springfield newspaper screamed “Veterans Unveil Massive Boulder” – “Wilbraham Pays Tribute to War Heroes in Closing Day’s Exercises”.

June 19 began with a visiting hour in the church where a welcome was extended to friends and descendants of



The Memorial Boulder still stands next to Glendale Cemetery and across from former Glendale Methodist Church, honoring soldiers who served in various wars, where it was dedicated in 1911 and saluted in 1913. (Times file photo)

Glendale from far and near, said Edson, “a real old Home gathering,” he proclaimed. Following the visiting hour, Greene as the Master of Ceremonies, led the crowd across the street to the boulder where it was hidden behind American flags fastened together. The program was opened with a prayer and singing of patriotic songs. “As the “Star

Spangled Banner” was sung, Civil War veterans W. A. Rice and F. Elmer Lemon pulled the cords lifting the flags revealing the boulder.

Edson was very inspired by the gesture and wrote, “The unexpected parting of the flags, as they rose up, added a striking beauty to the unveiling. The singing by the children under the direction

of their teacher added interest to the event!”

Green was a member of the 150th Anniversary Committee and also president of the Glendale Memorial Society. He helped design the tablets for the boulder in honor of Glendale soldiers of each war at the dedication. According to Edson, the tablets were made by the Monumental Bronze Co. of Bridgeport, Conn.



Male members of Glendale’s Greene Family. (From left) Patriarch B. F. Greene, Herbert Greene, Clifford Greene and William Greene. (Digital Commonwealth photo)

country’s birthday, 250 years of freedom, each month.

Revolutionary War soldier Ezekiel Woodworth served in Capt. Charles Colton’s Company and then Col. John Groaton’s Third Regiment where he was enlisted at the age of 18 from Feb. 10, 1777 until New Year’s Eve 1779. Woodworth also served in Lt. Col Groaton’s Regt, from Jan. 1, 1780 until Feb. 16, 1780. He also served in units from Palmer and Springfield but there is no written record of that.

Thanks to Wilbraham military historian Bruce Tingle, we know Woodworth was 5 ft. 7 inches with a dark complexion, light hair and eyes.

Sources: “History of Wilbraham Bicentennial Edition 1763-1963” edited by Charles Merrick; “The History of Wilbraham, 1731, 1763-1913 by Chauncey E. Peck. “Glendale Methodist Church” by Henry Edson. “Military Rolls of Outward Commons, Soldiers of Wilbraham, Mass. 1730-1840”.

Editor Emeritus Charlie Bennett is a member of the Historic Commission and a trustee of the Wilbraham Atheneum Society. Readers can contact him with comments or ideas for the column at cbenett4765@charter.net.



Send Us Your Community Autumn Events



Turley Publications will print your Autumn event **FREE OF CHARGE** in our **Autumn Fest Supplement** which will be published September 9, 2026. Total circulation of 85,000 which reaches over 200,000 readers in the Pioneer Valley. *Event Should Be Non-Profit & Open to the Public*

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

Event Name _____

Date/Time _____

Location _____

Description _____

Cost _____

Contact name & phone number for more information _____



Deadline for Calendar submissions is August 19.

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

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

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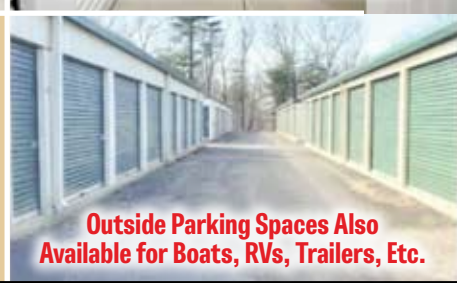
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Minnechaug Regional High School fourth term honor roll announced

WILBRAHAM – Minnechaug Regional High School recently announced the fourth term honor roll for the 2025-2026 school year.

Grade P8 Honors: Anastazia Claudio, Martin Garcia, Jada Haqq, Brian Ingman, Rieland Kearney, George Nutting

Grade P8 High Honors: Nicholas Kennedy, Madeline Lee, Adeline Look, Lyla Raymond, Jessica Soukup

Grade 9 Honors: Teddy Acquah, Raymond Adorno, Jensen Aviles Marrero, Margaret Babbs, Evan Barcome, Olivia Barnett, Christian Bernardes, Joshua Branham, Thomas Brogle, Bailey Burgmyer, Nolan Burke, Benjamin Butts, Xavier Catellier, Emilia Colondres, Emilia Connors, Ava Cowles, Brynn DeForest, Nathan Demetri, Lacey Desjardins, Liam Doyle, Cooper Dworsky, Isabelle Ellis, Azariy Eskandarinejad, Dina Ferrentino, Valentino Gonzalez, Judah Gunn, Teaghan Haluch, Tegan Haluch, Andriea Holder, Ted Holt, Isabel Horne, Alexandra Jaslanek, Zahara Kibodya-Wilson, Aurora Kirton, Kaitlyn Labadorf, Stephanie Labadorf, Aubrey Lafield, Jillian Lajeunesse, Willis Lam, Christie Lang, Owen Lucarelle, Ashley Manning, Jackson McCullough, Louis Morin, Michael Murray, Cohen Nelson, Evan Niemi, Brielle Nieves, Olivia Parent, Kenisha Patel, Ava Pelloso, James Phelps, Owen Piquette, Megan Pronovost, Calvin Quintana, Mason Quintana, Lara Riberdy, Colton Rogers, Myralece Rosado, Cypress Rosencranse, Annelyse Roszko, Ava Rowe, Kyla Sacco, Mallory Sample, Liam Shattuck, Adrielle Sheridan, Kayla Smith, Abigail Stachowicz, William Stromwall, Peyton Sullivan, Stepan Syrota, Joseph Twarog-DeJura, Annelise Waldron, Mason Waskiewicz, Caitlyn Wetherbe, Jacob Zanetti

Grade 9 High Honors: Goudy Abuata, Zakaria Ardolino, Alison Aucoin, Sireen Awkal, Ariana Balwa, Charlotte Beaulieu, Lauren Beaulieu, Eva Breau, Jason Cao, Nolan Carney, Charlotte Castellano, Juliana Coffey, Nolan Costello, Carly Coughlin, Oliver Cunha, Amelia DePace, Johnathan Dinh, Owen Dolley, Kayla Dooley, Sadie Dos Santos, Owen Downey, Keeley Doyle, Grace Falzone, Charlotte Fitzgerald, Austin Fortune, Kathryn Fulton, Eva Gagliarducci, James Gallagher, Olivia Gaudreau, Ava Germain, Alyse Goldrick, Aviana Gomez, Olivia Goodrow, Nicole Grabowski, Lily Guo, Tyler Hoskinson, Jackson Hulseberg, Collin Kennedy, William Kern, Maxxum Kowal, Daniel Lareau, Johanna Lewis, Elizabeth Maserati, Joy Mendonca, Emily Meunier, Gavin Meunier, Ethan Nunlist, Ava O'Connor, Jack Parastatidis, Logan Richard, Sierra Rocha, Jackson Rust, Quintis Saviengvong, Ian Stratton, Carolina Tangredi, Sean Tillberry, Nathaniel Tirabassi, Maya Usher, Shannon Wietecha

Grade 10 Honors: Jewel-yanie Andino, Peter Appleby, Tommy Appleby, Cole Balog, Mia Balog, Taylor Bartosz, Aidan Bean, Seth Beebe, Andrew Boilard, Maxim Bruno, Hunter Buckert, Braxton Burzenski, Nicholas Capen, Annalectia Carlo, Maximus Cayo, Thomas Chitiva Ortiz, Gavyn Clark, Irelyn Coffey, Joseph Comes, Leah Croteau, Nathaniel David, Colin Devanski, Kaelyn Dionne, Ava Eggsware, Caroline Eu-

ber, Maxwell Fergus, Emmy Foisy, Chase Folli, Colin Foulis, Gavin French, Gianna Fusco, Jackson Gagner, Eliza Gloss, Mallory Grono, Danika Haygood, Daniel Heinold, Keira Horne, Brielle Hunter, Drew Jennings, Brooke Johnson, Geoffrey Kyei Ohe-meng, Ashlyn Landry, William Lapalm, Launa Larson, Landon Laskiewicz, Hannah Learned, Edwin Long, Cameron Lowe, Jacob Luttrell, Yman Ly, Ryan Mackie, Dominic Mascaro, Olivia Maserati, Elijah Mathias, Isadora Maurice, Ashley McDonald, Daizy McDonald, Clare McMahon, Ellie McRobbie, Mylie Mittler, Adrienne Moretz, Tess Morrow, Ryan Mullen, Nicholas Nordstrom, Gianna Nowicki, Youngsun Oh, Patrick O'Toole, Demetri Papanikou, Joshua Pardave, Madeline Pastore, Ava Peck, Kendall Placzek, Alexis Pow-

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Grade 10 High Honors: Owen Antaya, Rama Awkal, Kayden Bain-Purdy, Bryce Beckel, Ryan Donovan, Nora Fletcher, Devon Fortenberry, Mario Garcia, Nicholas Gencarelli, Hayden Gloss, Ashley Griguoli, Demetrius Holmes, Emilia Imbriglio, Releana Jackson, Kelsey Jennings, Isabella Kupis, Peyton Lee, Savannah Lee,

Please see **HONOR ROLL**, page 12



From left to right, Nathan Bill's Bar & Restaurant and East Village Tavern was represented by Pete Reyes, Joseph Sullivan, Chloe Sullivan, Cailin O'Brien, Moira O'Brien, and Ava Manning.

ROCK INTO SUMMER

from page 1

ly since year one,” Blanchard said. “So, we’re just trying to grow it every year as a community event to bring more of the community out every year...It’s a community coming together on a beautiful night, enjoying each other’s company, and some great music and food.”

Acousticca played a variety of music during their performance, including some of their own original songs along with a few classic covers. The band features singer/songwriter Paul Sticca, Tim Smith on drums, and Greg Laughran on guitar.

They also had guests perform with them: CT Blues Hall of Fame inductee Gene Donaldson on guitar, and vocalist 15-year-old Carolene Tangredi.

Singer & songwriter of Acousticca Paul Sticca spoke on behalf of the band.

“Dan Blanchard and the team at Hampden Parks and Rec alongside John Sullivan from The Village Tavern did such an incredible job putting together the “Rock Into Summer” event this year. I know

they put so much thought and hard work into making the event special for the community. There was a lot of ‘behind the scenes’ work that needed to get done well in advance of this event. Needless to say, Dan and John and teams made it happen without a hitch. And the crowd in attendance was so great. We have a lot of friends in the general Wilbraham Hampden area - so happy to see them there,” Sticca said.

Part of the staff for Rock Into Summer includes Parks and Rec Recreation Coordinator Alex Soares.

“It’s just a great event for the community, for everybody to come out. We wanted to make it free to the public, to benefit them, on a beautiful night. And since we were in a new facility here at the Town Hall, just because everybody had a chance to come out and see the facility and see what’s going on. It’s just a great community event for everybody to get together,” Soares said.

Along with Blanchard and Soares, two important staff members who helped put on Rock Into Summer are Steve Bennett and Sarah Fleming.

A featured vendor for

Rock Into Summer was Nathan Bill’s Bar and Restaurant in East Village Tavern running the beer & wine tent. Speaking on behalf of the bar was Moira O’Brien.

“It’s exciting for the community for them, to see our products, and we’re different from other vendors as we sell alcoholic beverages. So, it’s a little different and nice for the parents and adults who are here,” O’Brien said.

Acousticca also look forward to their next performance in the area, on Sept. 27 at Fern Valley Farms. More info about Acousticca can be found at www.acousticca.com

Blanchard would like to acknowledge the community sponsors for Rock Into Summer: Affordable Waste Solutions, Charlie Arment Trucking, Cloud 9 Marketing Group, Deer Park Recycling, East Meadow Enterprises, McNamara Waste, Monson Savings Bank, Rent-A-Tent, Richard Green Insurance, SAFCO Foam, and Scags Enterprise LLC.

He would also like to send his gratitude to the staff of the Parks and Recreation Department for putting in lots of work towards Rock Into



A group photo of Selectboard Member Don Davenport, Selectboard Chair John Flynn, Hampden Police Chief Dan Bruno and Selectboard Member Erik Vanderleeden having a ball at the festivities.

Summer.

Lastly, Blanchard would like to thank John Sullivan of East Village Tavern who has done an incredible amount toward the concert including garnering sponsors, setting up the beer tent, and donating the stage and tents with a collaboration with Rent-A-Tent.

Alex Soares (Left) and Dan Blanchard (Right) are just some of the hardworking staff members of the Hampden Parks and Rec Department that have helped put on Rock Into Summer.



Turley photos by Noelle Hisgen

Acousticca plays their first song of the evening.

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As attendees arrive, we see “Wanted” signs for the cast.

SHREK from page 1

tional arcs and big softie layers to a T. He really brought Shrek to life and emulated him perfectly from start to finish, with the “I Think I Got You Beat” number with Eva Gagliarducci’s Princess Fiona being one of my personal favorites from the production. I also had a soft spot for the “Big Beautiful World (Reprise)” which captured the softer side of Shrek and, also, brought his character arc full circle. Absolutely sensational and a well-done performance.

And speaking of Princess Fiona, Gagliarducci’s turn as the kick-butt princess was mind-blowing. Besides “I Know It’s Today,” which was also performed with Evelyn Frias as Young Fiona and Teagan Bajor as Teen Fiona, being a huge highlight, any time she was on stage, Gagliarducci captivated the audience. From the typical princess tropes of yearning for true love to her moments of vulnerability, you really got to see multiple sides of Princess Fiona through Gagliarducci’s performance, which brought a new appreciation for the character, standing out from the crowd as she was always meant to be.

I also cannot forget Caira Williams as Dragon, joined by dragon handlers Emerson Shea, Isabella Tabb and Sheamus Miller. The “Forever” performance with

Gavin Kerr’s Donkey and the Knights—who were hilariously played by Emily Larioza, Aubrey Stephen, Natasha Santiago and Giavanna Stok—was another personal favorite performance and brought drama, laughter and a new perspective on Dragon. I loved this number so much that the very next day, I looked up the song on Spotify and added it to my Musicals Playlist. So safe to say, this unforgettable song will definitely live “forever”—pun intended here—in my heart. Well done to Williams, Shea, Tabb and Miller!

Kerr’s turn as Donkey added to the comedic chops that we know best from the films and musical with brilliant comedic timing, some matchmaking/wingman moments during “Make a Move” and hilarity during “Travel Song.” This was another example of coming straight from the material and coming to life through everyone’s eyes. Also, who doesn’t love Donkey’s heart melting enthusiasm and yearning for friendship? Too adorable, too sweet and too irresistible from start to finish.

As for Lord Farquaad, played by Lacey Desjardins, oh my goodness. Talk about coming straight from the material to real life in that performance. Desjardins nailed Lord Farquaad’s mannerisms, arrogance, overconfidence, and bossiness like it was a

walk in the park. A truly phenomenal performance from the first appearance during part two and the reprise of “What’s Up, Duloc?” to the finale. Absolutely hysterical and too funny not to mention. Desjardins should be very proud; that’s how you make a character memorable to an audience.

Which, I must add, the “What’s Up, Duloc” number as a whole was another scene-stealer. The ensemble of guards and Duloc performers stole the show in this. Part 1 of this performance also brought so many laughs and nostalgia as it reminded me of one of my favorite scenes in the Shrek movies when Shrek and Donkey open the information kiosk and the song starts playing. That is one part you cannot hold a straight face because it won’t take too long for you to start laughing up a storm.

One thing I want to emphasize—which Noelle Hisgen, one of our writers, shared in her preview story on the production—is how this cast comprised 42 kids. That is so many talented, dedicated kids who worked so hard along with Director Deb Trimble and her hardworking crew to bring this production together. Having reviewed theater productions for the Times for over three years now, I always look forward to these stories because you have the opportunity to watch the next



More “Wanted” signs here.

Turley photos by Kristin Rivers



generation of actors and singers shine and make not just family and friends, but their community proud.

This is why we do what we do.

Also, learning how much the Young United Players have grown in the last year alone has been absolutely awe-inspiring. It is always a true privilege to attend opening night and watch these productions. You can see the passion in each and every person who works on stage or behind the scenes, and that also deserves a huge round of applause.

Oh and one more thing. It wouldn’t be “Shrek Jr.” without “I’m A Believer” at the end to close out the show, so I was thrilled to see that. Can’t forget everybody dancing at the end in celebration.

Make sure to check out future Young United Players productions when they’re announced and stay tuned for the Wilbraham United Players upcoming production “H.M.S. Pinafore” later this year from Nov. 20 to Dec. 6.

The gorgeous tower housing Princess Fiona amongst the stage pieces for “Shrek Jr.”

GFWC Wilbraham Junior Women’s Club to host Kids Bingo Night

WILBRAHAM - Not sure what to do with the kids on a summer weeknight? Come Join the Fun! The GFWC Wilbraham Junior Women’s Club invites local families to a free Kids Bingo Night on Wednesday, August 19, 2026, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. in the Brooks Room at the Wilbraham Public Library.

Designed for children of all ages, the event offers an evening of fun, laughter, and friendly competition. Kids will participate in five games of Bingo and Prizes



will be awarded to the lucky winners! All supplies will be provided as well as freshly popped popcorn and water. All children will receive a small “lucky charm” for participating.

While the event is free, pre-registration is required

due to limited space and may be completed at www.WilbrahamJuniorWomens.org/kids-bingo.

Children must be accompanied by a responsible adult but, one adult may supervise multiple children.

“Our goal is to bring

families together for a fun summer evening while creating lasting memories in our community,” said Brenda Willard, GFWC Wilbraham Junior Women’s Club President. “We hope families will join us for a night filled with excitement, prizes, and a chance to yell ‘BINGO!’” The Wilbraham Junior Women’s Club is committed to serving the Wilbraham community through volunteerism, and charitable projects that enrich the lives of local residents.

Hampden Historical Society to hold talk on July 23

HAMPDEN - The Hampden Historical Society at Academy Hall presents Rich Howell speaking on “South Wilbraham and the American Revolutionary War: A Study of the Involvement of the Cit-

izens of Hampden.”

Pizza served first. July 23 at 6:30 p.m. All welcome.

Questions, call Linda Krawiec at 566-8447.

GARDEN from page 6

to dissuade powdery mildew from taking hold next year. This year it’s pretty bad.

Meanwhile, the irises were moved to a holding bed, also known as the vegetable garden, while I solarize the area they came from to kill off any violet seeds. I hope. They are notorious at self seeding.

I realize I took this project on a bit later in the season than I should have; my irises may not bloom next year, but it was then or never.

So now you have my “washing the elephant” story.

And you know a little more about an amazing man who I miss so much and think of often, especially when I am in the garden.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 34 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.

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Colleen Chesky is pursued by a Monson player.



Arianna Silva sends a pass clearing up the field.



Emery Dyer pops the ball over an opponent.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Maeghan Morris take the goal kick.

Monson defeats Falcons B

MONSON – Last Friday evening, Monson girls summer soccer defeated Wilbraham B 6-3 in PVSSL B Division action. Both teams have just two wins on the summer as regular season play wraps up this week.



Rilynn Conway advances up the field.



Louise Shaughnessey tries to settle a loose ball.

St. Joe's suffers late-season loss

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

THORNDIKE – In what might've been a preview of a Tri-Country League playoff matchup, Teddy Bear Pools and Spas broke open the final meeting of the regular season against St. Joseph's by scoring nine runs across the fifth and sixth innings, rolling to an 11-1 victory at St. Joe's Field in Thorndike, last Friday night.

"We split with St. Joe's during the regular season, and we'll probably be seeing them again in the playoffs," said Teddy Bear Pools player/manager Ryan Magni. "The first three innings of tonight's game was almost like a playoff game. Then we were able to break it open against their relief pitchers.

Even though Friday's make-up game was played at St. Joe's Field, Teddy Bear Pools served as the home team because their own field was unavailable. The game ended with two outs in the bottom of the sixth inning due to the ten-run mercy rule.

Teddy Bear Pools entered the final week of the regular season sitting in third place in the league standings with a 13-5-1 record one point behind second place St. Joseph's. The Saints had a 14-4 overall record.

Peoples Bank (15-3-1), who are looking to capture the league championship title for the 13th consecutive season, was sitting in first place.

Teddy Bear Pools could move into second place with

a win against BankESB on Thursday night and if St. Joe's losses their final two regular season games.

The Saints had the opportunity to move into first place if they defeated the DOC Spartans on Monday and Peoples Bank on Wednesday.

The top two finishers in the league standings earn a first round bye and the first place team will get home field advantage throughout the playoffs, which are all best of three series.

Teddy Bear Pools righthander Matt Drobiak, who graduated from South Hadley High School, was the winning pitcher in last Friday's game. He went the distance, allowing one run on just one base hit with three walks and two strikeouts.

"My defense made the plays behind me in tonight's game," said Drobiak. "This is a big win for us, and it feels great. We're hoping to play them again in the playoffs."

Teddy Bear Pools took a 1-0 lead against St. Joe's with two outs in the bottom of the third inning.

Magni, who started in centerfield, drew a lead-off walk. Then St. Joe's lefthander Jackson Hayes retired the next two batters before catcher Michael Toth hit a flyball which the centerfielder lost in the twilight. Toth, who graduated from Granby High School, wound up at second base with a double and Magni scored on the play.

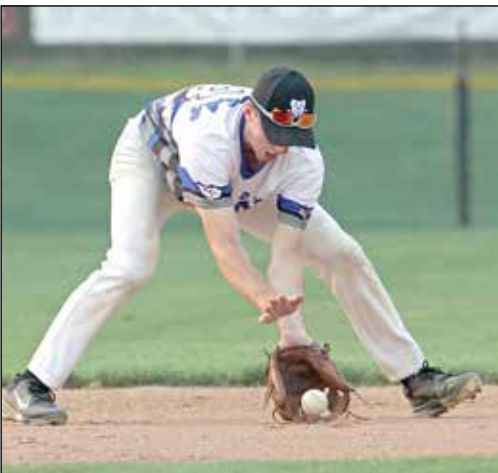
Please see **ST. JOE'S**, page 12

PeoplesBank defeats Teddy Bear Pools

WILBRAHAM – Last Thursday night at Spec Pond in Wilbraham, Jake Jachym pitched PeoplesBank to a 7-5 win over Teddy Bear Pools. The Bankers got a save from Johnny Gegetskas to secure the win. The Bankers lead the Tri-Country League with a 15-3-1 record and 31 points. The regular season is about to wrap up with the playoffs beginning shortly after.



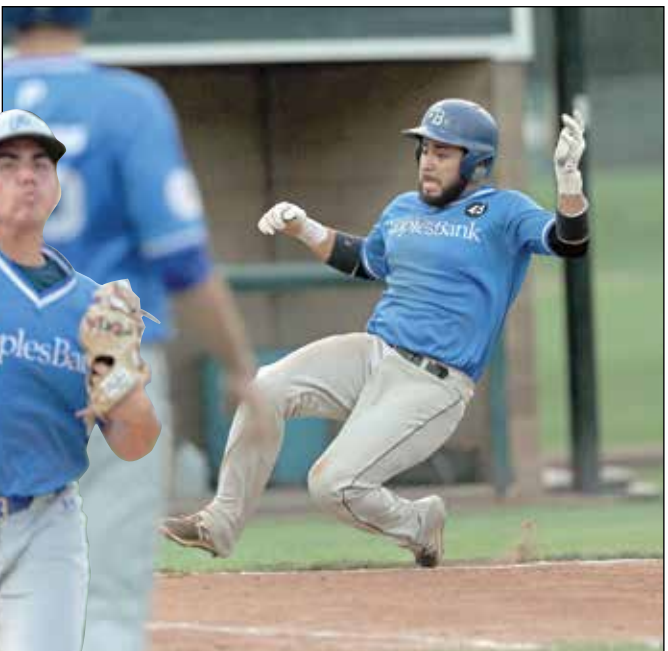
Alex Gochinski cleanly fields a grounder.



Ray Toth gets the grounder to short.



Robert Ninotti fires a throw across the diamond.



Darien Rosado is safe as he slides home.



Jake Jachym sends a pitch home.

Turley photos by David Henry
www.sweetdogphotos.com

LEFT: Mason Barcomb pitches for Teddy Bear Pools.

SPORTS

Blue Sox fails to complete DH sweep

BRISTOL, CT – The Valley Blue Sox couldn't complete a doubleheader sweep Friday night, surrendering a four-run lead in a 5-4 walk-off loss to the Bristol Blues in the second game at Muzzy Field.



After opening the evening with a 7-1 victory, marking the Blue Sox's first win over Bristol this season, Valley (13-18-1) looked to carry that momentum into a sweep. But the Blues (16-18) had other plans, erasing a four-run deficit with five unanswered runs over the final three innings to split the seven-inning doubleheader.

"I thought we were playing really well," head coach John Raiola said. "I thought those were some of the best swings that we took in a game all year. They beat us at the end, and that's how it goes."

Bristol completed its come-from-behind victory in the bottom of the seventh, giving it the walkoff win.

Christopher DiPrima (Yale) opened the inning with a single before Nicholas Francuzenko reached to put two runners aboard. With one out, Cal Chance (UMass Lowell) lined a single into right field, allowing DiPrima to score the winning run and hand the Blue Sox a walk-off defeat.

While the latter innings decided the contest, Valley struck first and early.

Anthony Tirado (Penn State) reached base to begin the game before stealing third and eventually scoring on a throwing error by Chance. Moments later, Chris Cancel (UConn) tagged and advanced to third before crossing the plate on Jacob Dilley's (UNC Greensboro) sacrifice fly to right, giving the Blue Sox a 2-0 advantage after just one inning.

Making his Blue Sox debut, right-hander Justin

Masteralexis (UMass) kept Bristol off the scoreboard early. The UMass product, making his first appearance since April, allowed no hits across 1 2/3 innings while striking out three.

"[It is] great for [Masteralexis], having him be able to get back out there," Raiola said. "It went as well as I'm sure he would've hoped."

Nick Tomasetto (Seton Hall) singled to put a runner aboard before Chris Carson (Stony Brook) turned on a pitch and sent it just inside the right-field foul pole for a two-run home run. Carson's first long ball of the season extended Valley's lead to 4-0 and marked the Blue Sox's 10th home run of the summer.

"Chris works hard," Raiola said. "That was part of a bunch of really good swings today from a lot of guys."

Bristol answered immediately in the bottom half of the inning when Nick Flores (VCU) lifted a sacrifice fly to left, trimming the deficit to three.

After loading the bases, Sean Britt (St. Johns) lined a two-run double into the left-center field gap to bring Bristol within one. Just two batters later, Evan Menzel (UConn) followed with an RBI single to center, tying the contest at 4-4.

Once the Blues got hot, the Blue Sox were unable to answer offensively. Valley finished with six hits and struck out 12 times, managing just one baserunner over the final two innings.

Despite the result, Raiola said he was encouraged by the quality of his team's play throughout the doubleheader.

"I thought the energy was really good," Raiola said. "Our guys were taking really good swings. Sometimes that's baseball. They beat us at the end."

Tanglewood bus trip offered

WILBRAHAM – The senior center is offering a bus trip to seniors in the area to go to Tanglewood on Aug. 2 to watch Violinist Joshua Bell perform.

The cost is \$99 per person and all gratuities included.

Arrive by 10:45 a.m. for an 11 a.m. departure with the expected return time at 7 p.m.

Picnic on the Lawn 12:30 to 5 p.m.

This is a rain or shine

event. Seats are available under the sheet or on the lawn, your choice! Enjoy a prepared box lunch before the show, included with your admission.

The concert begins at 2:30 p.m. and runs for approximately two hours, plus a 20 minute intermission.

Limited space available, payment due in full at registration. Call 413-596-8379 to reserve your spot. Make checks payable to the Wilbraham Senior Center.

Mutiny finishes up first dual league season

LUDLOW – Earlier this month, the New England Mutiny, which features soccer players from all over the region as well as some players from out of state, finished up their season, unfortunately failing to reach any postseason play despite playing in two leagues this season. The Mutiny participated in both the USL as well as the UWS, nearly doubling its number of games this season. The Mutiny hope to have better luck next season with the added schedule.

Turley photos by David Henry
www.sweetdogphotos.com

Sadie Mathis winds up for a long shot.



Addyson Earl hustles after the loose ball.



Trinity Clark dribbles toward the goal.



Trinity Clark dribbles toward the goal.

HoopHall names presenters

SPRINGFIELD – The Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame has announced the list of Hall of Famers who will present the Class of 2026 at the Enshrinement Ceremony on Saturday, August 15, at Symphony Hall in Springfield, Massachusetts, the "Birthplace of Basketball." Over 50 Hall of Famers are expected to be in attendance for the ceremony.

Each member of the Class of 2026 selected their presenter(s) from among previously inducted Hall of Famers, a decision made by the inductee, while the 1996 USA Basketball Women's National Team will be presented by its own previously enshrined members.

The 2026 Hall of Fame Inductees and Presenters:

Joey Crawford - Danny Crawford (Class of 2025), Rod Thorn ('18)

Mike D'Antoni - Jerry Colangelo ('04), Bob McDoo ('00), Steve Nash ('18),

Amar'e Stoudemire ('26), Rod Thorn ('18)

Elena Delle Donne - Sylvia Fowles ('25), Marianne Stanley ('22)

Mark Few - John Calipari ('15), Grant Hill ('18), John Stockton ('09)

Chamique Holdsclaw - Tamika Catchings ('20), Tina Thompson ('19), Teresa Weatherspoon ('19)

Candace Parker - Tamika Catchings ('20), Allen Iverson ('16), Cheryl Miller ('95), Dwyane Wade ('23)

Doc Rivers - Kevin Garnett ('20), Paul Pierce ('21)

Amar'e Stoudemire - Jerry Colangelo ('04), Mike D'Antoni ('26), Grant Hill ('18), Tracy McGrady ('17), Steve Nash ('18), Rick Welts ('18)

1996 USA Basketball Women's National Team - Teresa Edwards ('11), Lisa Leslie ('15), Rebecca Lobo ('17), Katrina McClain ('12), Dawn Staley ('13), Sheryl Swoopes ('16), Tara VanDerveer ('11)

ST. JOE'S from page 11

St. Joe's tied the score in the fourth inning.

Designated hitter Mark Jodoin singled leading off the frame before stealing second. He scored the tying run when right fielder Ryan O'Leary hit a sacrifice fly.

Drobiak then retired seven of the final eight batters that he faced.

"We just didn't hit the ball very well in tonight's game," said St. Joe's manager Paul Marcinek. "You can't beat many teams by scoring only one run."

Prior to the start of the bottom of the fourth inning, righty Jack Feltovic replaced Hayes on the mound.

Teddy Bear Pools retook the lead with two outs in that inning when desig-

nated hitter Bailey Griggs hit a ground ball single up the middle into centerfield scoring shortstop Ray Toth (walk).

Teddy Bear Pools scored three more runs in the fifth inning. Two of the runs crossed the break on RBI singles from Ray Toth and right fielder Sean Rosemond. The other run scored following a throwing error by the catcher.

Holding a 5-1 lead, Teddy Bear Pools scored six more runs in the sixth.

Left fielder Josh Frometta and Magni knocked home a pair of runs with RBI singles, while second baseman Ramon Jomenez added a run scoring ground rule double to center. Griggs also drew a bases loaded walk during that frame.



HONOR ROLL from page 9

Dylan Lesure, Adriana Lopez, Wilhe Morales Casillas, Dylan Niznik, Liam O'Brien, Tristan Oliveira, Kirk Pagaoga, Benjamin Patterson, Noah Ramos, Brenan Rost, Ava Secor, Ryan Semanie, Sofia Shores, Joseph Sullivan, Jessica Sun, William Szpakowski, Grayson Tanguay, Anna Taylor, Jillian True, Ormandy Velazquez, James Wadzinski, Olivia Zheng

Grade 11 Honors: Gana Abuata, Bryana Blaser, Katherine Britt, Abigail Camire, Samantha Catellier, Liliana Celetti, Eli Childers, Cameron Colon, Kiera Connors, Dylan Dalessio, Katie DeGray, Jonaiky DeJesus, Addison Derosia, Tucker Derosia, Ava Disa, Braedon Donahue, Brady Dones, Barba Dos Santos Costa, Darren Duah, Elizabeth Espinal, Marion Fil, Brielle Foisy, Carter Fortin, Nicholas Garib, Jasmine Gaspariano, Olivia Gencarelli,

Kaden Gralia, Gavin Grimley, Emma Grover, Emma Grzebieniowski, Eliana Gunn, Richard Hale, Mia Hanley, Liam Harrigan, Caitlin Hebert, Anne Hicklen, Carson Humphries, Kadence Illig, Ethan Kellier, Lowell Key, Isabella Kirton, Gabriel Kishinevski, Ryan Knox-Nelli, Sophia Kozub, Isabella Lafield, Peter Langone, Milo LaPalm, Zoey Lape, Celayna Ledvina, Molly Lynch, Nola Malmberg, Avery Marceau, Olivia Martowska, Cameron Maziarz, Sky-Lynn McGrath, Liam Metzger, Molly Michels, Mason Mish, John Morley, Selena Nguyen, Jasper O'Connor, Veronica Ouimet, Ainsley Patterson, Nicholas Pelletier, Matthew Perkins, Natalie Petit, Anthony Powers, Samuel Przybyl, Devin Purchas, Lauren Roberts, Karolina Robles-Maurer, Sydney Rocha, Emanuel Roman, Brooklyn Rosas, Makenna Sacco, Madelyn Sackrider, Quinn Salerno, Cameron Salvador, Ava

Scatolini, Moira Shannon, Landon Sheerin, Savannah Sheerin, Gracie Smith, Olivia Stephen, Cole Stone, Sophia Sundheim, Kaleb Sweetman, Logan Thomas, Grace Trombly, Brayden Tugie, Owen Tzoumas, Luis Vega, Kei Williams

Grade 11 High Honors: Pedro Alvan, Angelina Bontemp, Philip Castellano, Ivy Christensen, Annabella Cianflone, Gavin Coughlin, Catherine Dickson, Jonathan Dyer, Nehir Elcin, Saniah Evans, Ella Gagliarducci, Brooke Germain, Naomi Griffin, Lucy Haile, Katelyn Hoar, Paige Holt, Madelyn Hoskinson, Lily Houle, Kalhan Kar, Ava Keegan, Amelia Kellogg, Drew Lang, Hana Le, Abigail Lee, Leah Lomascolo, Andrea Lyon, Reese Magee, Caroline Maloni, Mia Manseau, Chelsea Ortega, Riddhi Patel, Collin Purcell, Jack Rumplik, Dillon Shaughnessey, Alison Souza, Olivia Spring, Andrew Stark, Tyler Supczak, Con-

nor Tillberry, Faith Trombly, Hope Trombly, Isabella Usher, Brahmaddutt Vijay, Sarah Rose Walsh, Drew Weinberg, Thomas Wurm

Grade 12 Honors: Angelina Acevedo, Lucas Akers, Ian Angelica, Ali Awkal, Emma Balog, Kelly Balog, Maxwell Baroni, Emily Benoit, Gabriella Bermudez, Callan Blanchard, Alec Boilard, Mia Bolduc, Bella Brault, Corinne Brewer, Lila Britton, Kennedy Burgmyer, Alyssa Capen, Isabella Carlin, Irene Chen, Natalia Clarke, Kelly Cronin, Alexander Darnio, Maliha Daubon, Hannah Donovan, Madeline Dos Santos, Gabriella Eggsware, Cody Erskine, Jacob Fahey, Dominic Fiorentino, Noemi Fraga, Lucas Fyntilakis, Khaliyah Gagner, Yong Ming Gao, Anthony Garib, Eliana Gaudreau, Colin Haines, Giselle Harris, Brody Harrison, Hunter Howard, Enzo Hrycay, Laya Ibrahim, Tyler Jaslanek, Elizabeth Johnson,

Lana Johnson, Mason Jones, Maeghan Joyce, Ava Kearney, Kathryn Kennedy, Molly Kinsman, Zachariah Kozub, Brady Laliberte, Benjamin Latourelle, Mai Le, Aidan Lee, Evan Liverseidge, Kaitlyn Lopez Pham, Benjamin Lopez, Savannah Loubier, Jack Lucarelle, Avery Lucas, Hannah Luff, Kai Ly, Natalie Madison, Austin Marques, Nolah McConnell, Riley McLeod, Jasmine Miller, Jordan Miller, Jacob Moore, Arianna Morales, Ava Moretti, Emily Moriarty, Danielle Muir, Anastasia Mutti, Haonam Nguyen, Vinh Nguyen, Alyssa Nogueira, Cailin O'Brien, Alexander Parent, Zachary Parent, Mia Peck, Sarah Perkins, Zoe Pinnock, Katelynn Pronovost, Kameah Pryce, William Quinn, Ronin Rief, Maisen Rosado, Aezlin Rost, Emma Rostek, Connor Roy, Lauren Rucki, Patrick Ryan, Mostaffa Saleh, Colin Sheehan, Aubrey Stachowicz, Lincoln Stiles, Liliana

Sullivan, Carly Tranghese, Matthew VanDerBeken, Madisyn Vazquez, Journey Waters-Brown, Elijah Webster, Elizabeth Woytowicz, Zoriah Wray

Grade 12 High Honors:

Victoria Ambrose, Logan Barcome, Trinity Burgmyer, Hayden Carlotto, Anthony Cianflone, Caleigh Conboy, Allison Demetri, Aidan Dziewinski, Landyn Eldridge, Miles Fergus, Margaret Fulton, Mateo Garcia, Carina Gonnello, Zeirra Hernandez, Ava Luszc, Ava Manning, Jaymiel Martinez, Sean McSwain, Morgan Morrow, Alina Narvaez, Lyric Nelson, Anna O'Toole, Cora Pace, Nico Penna, Natalie Proulx, Hannah Przechocki, Chloe Robins, Annabella Rostek, Connor Seymour, Alexa Sherman, Linda Stanco, Isabella Strand, Ava Thompson, Ella Trosky, Thatcher Trumbull, Celena Williams



Lad Price of East Longmeadow brought his 1940 Ford Standard Coupe.

CARS from page 1
ested participants are simply invited to show up with their cars as there are no requirements.

“Anyone can participate. No cost,” said Stabilo. “Bring any kind of car you want, new, old, modern, doesn’t matter.”

The car show has become a tradition at the Mountain View Restaurant for the past three years since the event was displaced from the previous location in the Sixteen Acres section of Springfield.

“[We] asked the current [Mountain View] owner at the time, ‘Do you mind if we park in your lot?’ and they said ‘no,’” said Stabilo. “At the time, they weren’t serving breakfast (on Sunday), but they do now, ‘cause obviously there’s a big crowd here, so it’s been worthwhile for them to open up and host us.”

On any given Sunday, visitors can expect to see anywhere from 30-65 cars available for viewing depending on the week. Stabilo estimated that there were about 40 cars in the parking lot on that particular day.

The event is not held on rainy Sunday mornings.

“Just shine. No one brings these cars out in the rain,” said Stabilo.

At Sunday’s event, car owners were present from various local communities such as Wilbraham, Hampden, East Longmeadow and Springfield, even including a few cars seen

sporting license plates from Connecticut. Stabilo said that the farthest participant that has come to the shows in the past that he knows of came from Westfield.

Many car owners at the car show told The Wilbraham-Hampden Times that they were repeat presenters at the event and enjoyed gathering with their fellow car owners to talk about their cars, share their knowledge and to catch up with friends and answer questions about their cars.

Stabilo agreed, saying that the interest for the car owners was in “getting together and talking about your car and talking about things you’re doing to it, things you’ve done to it.”

A number of cars had their hoods up so that visitors and other car owners could see the inside workings of their vehicles and to show off the work that they did to improve their cars or bring them back to their original form. Who did the work on their cars varied as some car owners said they did their own work while others had other professionals do what was necessary or what they themselves were not able to do.



Ken Bernard of Monson brought his 1929 Ford Model A.

When asked about the reactions that they get from people when they drive by, local resident Bob Ross said of his 1934 Ford Sedan hot rod, “they usually give me a thumbs up.”

Lad Price from East Longmeadow, who brought his Ford 1940 Standard Coupe that he’s had since his senior year in high school back in 1962, agreed, saying that he gets “a lot of waves, a lot of thumbs up. A good feeling.”

Ken Bernard from Monson, owner of the 1929 Ford Model A hot rod, said that he gets reactions of “Like wow! A lot of people enjoy it just as much as I do just looking at it.”

Some owners have had their cars from the beginning such as Jim Langone, the original owner of his 337 cc, 350 hp, 1967 Corvette.

Roger Dupont from Springfield, when asked what he likes about his ’86 C4 Corvette, responded “What everyone likes about a Corvette. It’s a Corvette. That’s it.”

Kyle Ashe of Springfield, who brought his 2024 Camaro 1LTRS, commented on what he likes about these kind of shows and said it’s because “I just like seeing cars in general, just the different cars and engines, the roaring of the sounds...especially the different generations. With the Camaros, with the ‘Vettes, the Fords, the GTOs and Pontiacs...just phenomenal.”

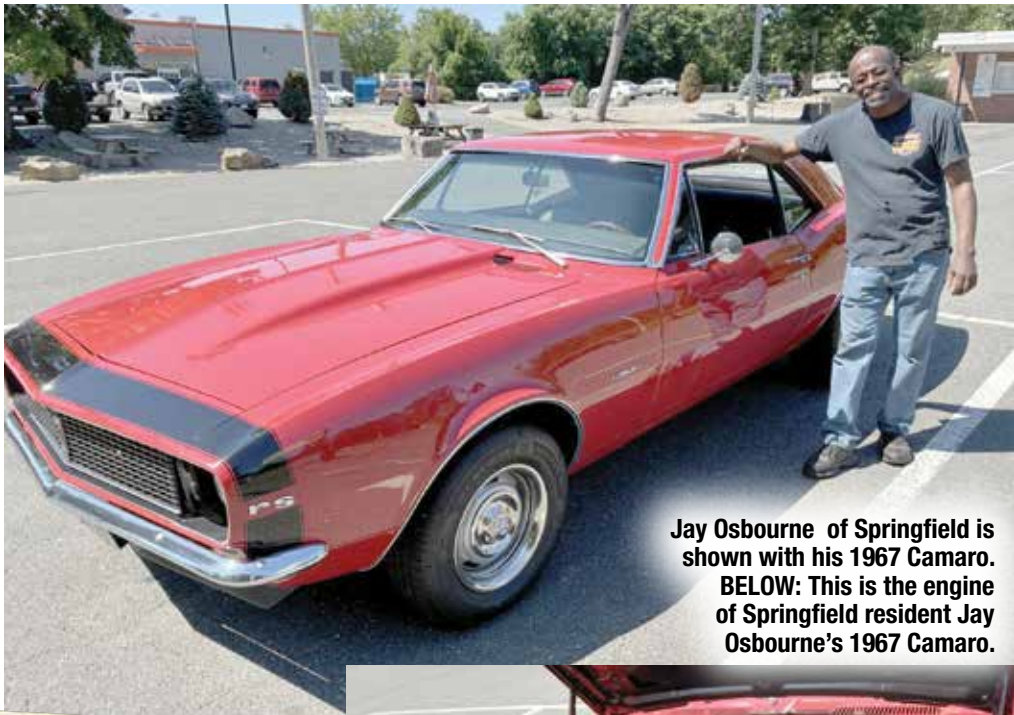
Jay Osbourne of Springfield, a self-professed “life long gear head” had a similar sentiment about what he liked.



This is the interior of Springfield resident Jim Langone’s 1967 Corvette which is also shown here.



Roger Dupont of Springfield is shown with his 1986 C4 Corvette.



Jay Osbourne of Springfield is shown with his 1967 Camaro. BELOW: This is the engine of Springfield resident Jay Osbourne’s 1967 Camaro.



“The camaraderie. The cars. We’re mostly up here for the cars. Just celebrating a piece of automotive history,” he said.

Both Adam Oliveri and Ryan Provencher, members of the new ownership team of five local families that took over the Mountain View Restaurant from the previous owners on July 7, expressed great satisfaction with having this event for the community and their hope of continuing the shows into the future.

Kim Oliveri, operator of Shaker Bowl in East Longmeadow and another member of the new ownership team, which also includes Greg Burack and former owner Lyndsay Pelloso, said they are hoping to maintain all that local residents have come to know and love about the Mountain View Restaurant.

“We like the community. We didn’t want to see this change in any way. We would like to see it remain. It’s been a tradition coming here. We came here as children. So, we wanted to keep it that way,” she said.

Kim Oliveri said that the ownership team is open to ways to improve the customer experience and are asking customers to feel free to send comments, suggestions and questions to them at info@mt-viewrestaurant.com.



Bob Ross brought his 1934 Ford Sedan.



ABOVE: Lowell Key is shown with his collection of cars.

Turley Photos by Harold Anderson



John Stabilo of Hampden is shown with his 1969 Chevelle.



Kyle Ashe of Springfield is shown with his 2024 Camaro 1LTRS.

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Application and complete job description are available online at www.huntingtonma.us or by emailing admin@huntingtonma.us.

Deadline to apply is 8/6/2026.
Town of Huntington is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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FOR RENT



All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status (number of children and or pregnancy), national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, or any intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination.

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertising in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development " HUD" toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.



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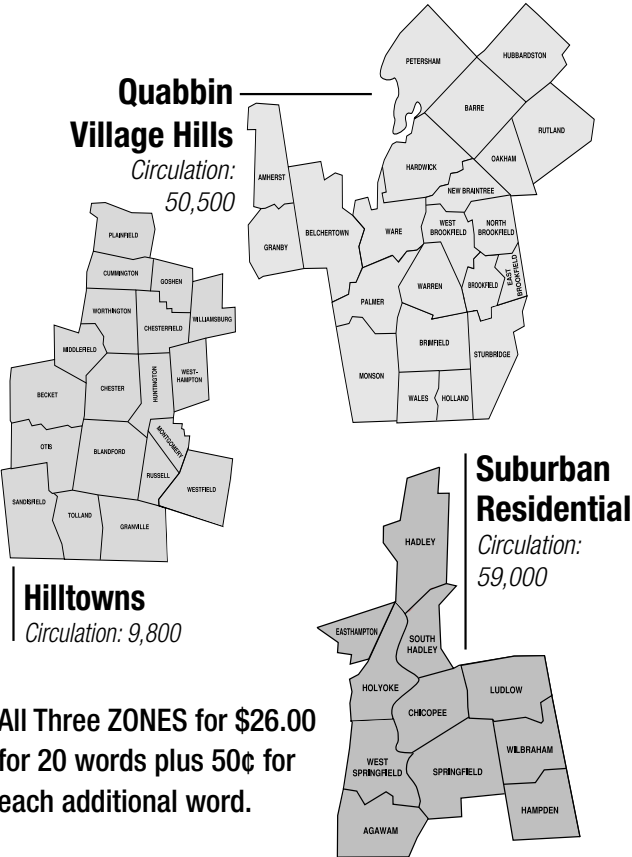
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PUBLIC NOTICES

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD26P1514EA
Estate of:
Stanley Wilfred Witkop, Jr.
Date of Death: 03/25/2026

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Stanley W. Witkop, III of Monson, MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that **Stanley W. Witkop, III of Monson, MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 08/10/2026. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

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

WITNESS, Hon. Claudine T. Stoudemire, First Justice of this Court.

Date: July 13, 2026
Rosemary A Saccomani,
Register of Probate
07/23/2026

WILBRAHAM PLANNING BOARD
The Wilbraham Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on **Wednesday, August 5, 2026, at 5:45 PM** in the Town Office Building, 240 Springfield Street, on the application of Jennifer Moor and Ryan Tomanocy for a Special Permit (SP26-02) to exceed the size, height and garage door limitations in Sections 3.9.2.2 and 4.4.8 of the Wilbraham Zoning By-Law to allow the construction of a 1,800 square foot detached accessory building (barn), 26’ in height, with two garage doors on property owned by the applicants located at 218 Mountain Road as shown on plans on file in the Planning Office and posted for public viewing on the Planning Board page of the Town of Wilbraham website at www.wilbraham-ma.gov/123/Planning-Board. This meeting will be conducted in person and virtually (see meeting agenda for details).

James Rooney, Chair
07/16, 07/23/2026

Town of Wilbraham LEGAL NOTICE
The Wilbraham Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing **Monday, August 3, 2026 at 6:30 PM** in Conference Room 1 at the Wilbraham Town Hall, 240 Springfield Street, on the Request for Determination of Applicability filed by Ever-source Gas Company of Massachusetts under the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act and the Wilbraham Wetlands Bylaw. The proposed project includes installation of approximately 3,897 linear feet of new high-density polyethylene (HDPE) natural gas main within existing roadway layouts in the towns of Wilbraham and Hampden, Mass. Of

the total project length, approximately 1,467 linear feet is located in Wilbraham of which 1,406 linear feet within the Main Street roadway and 61 linear feet within Westernview Drive. The project and will take place within areas subject to protection and jurisdiction under the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act, Regulations and the Wilbraham Wetland Bylaw. Information relating to this application is on file with the Conservation Commission.

Christopher Brown, Chairman
07/23/2026

Sale of Motor Vehicle
Notice is hereby given by Langonet Towing pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c.255, Section 39A, that on **July 24, 2026** at 63 Ramah Cir S, Agawam the following Motor Vehicles will be sold at private sale to satisfy the garagekeeper’s lien thereon for storage, towing charges, and expenses of notices and sale of said vehicle.
2005 Buick Lesabre
VIN: 1G4HP52K25U276668
Alfred Dimairo
4 Colony Drive
Hampden, MA 01036
07/09, 07/16, 07/23/2026

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD26P0935EA
Estate of:
Barbara Joan Levesque
Also known as:
Barbara Joan Ciarcia
Date of Death: 03/03/2026
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **S/A - Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Jeanne Levesque of Roslindale, MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that **Jeanne Levesque of Roslindale, MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 08/13/2026. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

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

including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.
WITNESS, Hon. Claudine T. Stoudemire, First Justice of this Court.
Date: July 09, 2026
Rosemary A Saccomani,
Register of Probate
07/23/2026

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD24P2350EA
Estate of:
Matthew Phillip Metzler
Date of Death: 02/22/2024
CITATION ON PETITION FOR ORDER OF COMPLETE SETTLEMENT

A Petition for **Order of Complete Settlement** has been filed by **John E Pearson of Greenfield, MA** requesting that the court enter a formal Decree of Complete Settlement including the allowance of a final account, a determination of heirs at law, the allowance of a proposed distribution and other such relief as may be requested in the Petition.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 08/19/2026.

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

WITNESS, Hon. Claudine T. Stoudemire, First Justice of this Court.
Date: July 15, 2026
Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
07/23/2026

SALE OF MOTOR VEHICLE
This ad is pursuant to MA Gen. Law Ch.255, Sec. 39A as of July 31, 2026 the following motor vehicles will be for sale to satisfy a garage keepers lien:
Vehicle: 2000 Triumph Daytona
VIN#: SMT502FK3YJ105150
LKO: Antonio Pepper
397 Main St.
Indian Orchard, MA 01151
R & S Assoc. Inc
PO Box 543
Wilbraham MA 01095
413-596-4374
07/16, 07/23, 07/30/2026

Sale of Motor Vehicle
This ad is pursuant to MA Gen. Law Ch.255, Sec. 39A as of August 7, 2026 the following motor vehicle will be for sale to satisfy a garage keepers lien:
2001 GMC Sierra 1500
VIN#: 1GHTHK29U31E256247
LKO: Tina Kearns
40 Sutton Rd.
Millbury, MA
PO BOX 181
South Grafton, MA 01560
R & S Assoc. Inc
PO Box 543
Wilbraham MA 01095
413-596-4374
07/23, 07/30, 08/06/2026

WILBRAHAM PLANNING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING
In accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 41, Section 81Q, the Wilbraham Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on **Wednesday, August 5, 2026 at 6:00PM** in the Town Office Building, 240 Springfield Street, to give interested parties the opportunity to comment on proposed amendments to the Wilbraham Subdivision Regulations that regulate the division of land and construction of subdivision roadways. The proposed amendments are as follows:

1. Acceptance of renumbering and recodification the Wilbraham Subdivision Regulations as Chapter 300 of the Code of the Town of Wilbraham
2. Reaffirmation of the existing provisions of the 2025 Subdivision Regulations
3. Changes to the previously adopted regulations:

- a. References to the Massachusetts General Laws are standardized to the following format: MGL c. __, § __.
- b. References to the “Building Inspector” are amended to read “Building Official.”
- c. Section 300-4.3C(14) is amended as indicated: “Land subject to protection/permitting under the Wetlands Protection Act MGL c. 131, §40).”
- d. Section 300-4.6C is amended as indicated: The as-built plan must be stamped by the engineer and surveyor, and a certificate of compliance stating that all features were built according to the specifications of the definitive plan shall be provided.

The complete text of the proposed amendments is available for review in the Town Clerk’s Office and the Planning Office during normal business hours and posted for public viewing on the Planning Board page of the Town of Wilbraham website at www.wilbraham-ma.gov/123/Planning-Board. All persons interested or wishing to be heard on this matter are urged to attend the public hearing. This meeting will be conducted in person and virtually (see meeting agenda for details).

James Rooney, Chair
07/16, 07/23/2026

Town of Wilbraham LEGAL NOTICE
The Wilbraham Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing **Monday, August 3, 2026 at 6:30 PM** in Conference Room 1 at the Wilbraham Town Hall, 240 Springfield Street, on the Request for Determination

of Applicability filed by the Wilbraham DPW on behalf of the Town of Wilbraham under the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act and the Wilbraham Wetlands Bylaw. The proposed project will address the man-made water features at 11V Whitford Place (parcel ID 5840) which includes gradually adjusting the drain pipe invert elevation in a controlled manner to lower water levels and restore drainage features to the previously constructed elevations. Debris and vegetation clogging the ditch between the two water features will be removed to allow the water to flow from west to east through the ditch. Information relating to this application is on file with the Conservation Commission.

Christopher Brown, Chairman
07/23/2026

WILBRAHAM BOARD OF APPEALS PUBLIC HEARING
The Wilbraham Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing on **Thursday, July 23, 2026 at 5:30 PM** on the application of YMCA of Greater Springfield, for a special permit (ZBA26-02) under section 3.4.5.11 of the Wilbraham Zoning By-Law to allow construction of a 60’ x 60’ fully fenced pickleball court and reduction of 16 parking spaces on the north-western side of the building located at 45 Post Office Park as further specified in the application on file in the Plan-

ning 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. This meeting will be conducted in person and virtually (see meeting agenda for details).

Edward Kivari Jr., Chairman
07/09, 07/16/2026

Wilbraham Conservation Commission LEGAL NOTICE
The Wilbraham Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing **Monday, August 3, 2026 at 6:30 PM** in Conference Room 1 at the Wilbraham Town Hall, 240 Springfield Street, on the Request for Determination filed by Dena Grochmal on behalf of the Town of Wilbraham under the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act and the Wilbraham Wetlands Bylaw. The proposed project at 185/195 Stony Hill Road includes re-grading the existing tree belt embankment to a 3:1 slope to accommodate the construction of a new concrete sidewalk and provide a safe, stable walking surface in accordance with applicable roadway and pedestrian design standards. Information relating to this application is on file with the Conservation Commission.

Christopher Brown, Chairman
07/23/2026

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CLUES ACROSS

1.

Listen to

5.

Presents

10.

A type of guitar

14.

Actor Idris

15.

A citizen of Iran

16.

Pretentiously artistic

17.

Harness

18.

Diamond weight measurement

19.

"Better Call ___"

20.

Fervent support

22.

Male cat

23.

Jewish spiritual leader

24.

Disposed to venture or take risks

27.

A way to nail

30.

Cool!

31.

Women's ___ movement

32.

"Losing My Religion"

35.

Step-shaped recess

37.

A princess can detect it

38.

Tractor-trailer

39.

Leslie and Leon are two

40.

Color at the end of the spectrum

41.

Lines where fabrics are sewn

42.

Dodgers great Hershiser

43.

Floor covering

44.

Traveled aimlessly

45.

Rocky Stewart

46.

Body art

47.

Congressman (abbr.)

48.

No seats available

49.

Breaks apart

52.

Hand gesture

55.

Ballplayer's tool

56.

Sword

60.

Baseball team

61.

Upper bract of floret of grass

63.

Italian Seaport

64.

Mars crater

65.

Tube on a shoelace

66.

U. of Miami mascot

67.

Shady American nation

68.

Video game series "Max ___"

69.

Upper body part

32.

Widens a hole

33.

Eurasian wheat

34.

Act incorrectly

36.

"Be back later"

37.

Al Bundy's wife

38.

Ocean

40.

Large root eaten as a vegetable

41.

Units of subjective loudness

43.

Music genre

44.

A way to drench

46.

Popular hot beverage

47.

Silk-like cotton fabric

49.

Rumanian city

50.

Come back

51.

Vaccine developer

52.

Canadian law enforcers

53.

Wings

54.

Observational comedian Bill

57.

Small fry

58.

___ Clapton, musician

59.

Take a chance

61.

Semi-liquid food for babies

62.

Consumed food

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