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Catching up with the Building Utilization Committee

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
krivers@turley.com

WILBRAHAM - Since being formed by the Select Board earlier this year, the Building Utilization Committee has been hard at work evaluating town-owned properties.

The committee consists of Chairman Jeffrey Smith, Vice Chairman James Rooney,

Clerks Stanley Soja and Britany Meece and members Megan Eischen, Jennifer Leydon, Paul Kukulka, Brad Senft and Kevin Rothschild-Shea.

The 9-member volunteer board is comprised of six citizens and a member each from the Finance Committee, the Planning Board and the Capital Planning Committee.

Residents who have questions or want to share their thoughts can contact the

committee at wbut@wilbraham-ma.gov.

Rooney explained since forming, the committee has held organizational meetings at the Town Hall and visited sites including Fire Station One, the police station, the old police station, the DPW, Fire Station Two, the Anthem Society of Wilbraham, the Town Hall, the library, the Little Red Schoolhouse and the Wilbraham Children's

Museum. Surveys have also been sent out during these visits too to get everyone's input.

Next on the list are the Country Club of Wilbraham and Memorial School.

"We're looking to optimize the use of town-owned properties to meet the current and future needs for our community. So, we're looking at every single property that the town owns to see if it's being

utilized as much as it should be," Rooney said. "There was a Capital Reports Plan done about five years ago for all the buildings and what we're doing is we're using that as a base to report back on to."

Smith shared how the Select Board "was looking at making decisions about key properties in town," including Memorial School and formed the group consisting of "people with certain expertise in

certain areas" to research and see what they could find out.

"I think it was a great idea. I know when we caught wind of it, Jim and I both said, 'Geez, we'd love to be on this. What a great opportunity!'" Smith said. "I think it's really neat that the Select Board did that. I think there's some foresight there to say, 'Let's not make a decision in a vacuum.

Please see **BUILDING**, page 4

Community voices support for Hill Climb



Turley photo by Patricia Sullivan

A shot from this year's Wilbraham Hill Climb that took place on May 10.

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
krivers@turley.com

WILBRAHAM - The community voiced its support for the Wilbraham Hill Climb during the Select Board's July 28 meeting.

The response comes after the board's June 30 meeting where reservations were expressed about holding the event next year and a summary report was presented by Police Chief Ed Lennon.

After discussion and public input, the board approved to remain in discussion with the event organizers regarding an event for a date to be determined in May 2026.

Chair Michael Squindo also said he would work with Town Administrator Nick Breault to communicate with the organizers on getting them before the board for their next meeting on Aug. 11.

Residents are encouraged to share their thoughts about this year's Hill Climb at <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/sv/Ijz-5RMZ/2025HillClimb> or by scanning the QR Code they will find in this article.

Community Response

Ray Bucknell, in an email to the board, lives on Main Street and welcomed the event this year and in prior

Please see **CLIMB**, page 15

Theatre Guild of Hampden celebrating 20 years with gala

The event takes place on Sept. 14

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
krivers@turley.com

HAMPDEN - The Theatre Guild of Hampden will mark 20 years in a gala event at the Country Club of Wilbraham on Sept. 14.

The event takes place from 5 to 9 p.m.

Tickets are \$50 per person and tables reserved for eight are \$375 and they can be purchased online at thatreuildofhampden.org or by calling Mark Giza at 413-204-5333.

The evening will include hors d'oeuvres, a cocktail hour, music by Kyle Langlois, raffles, surprise performances from local theater actors, including Ally Reardon and Anna Giza, who've performed with the guild over the years, tributes to Tracey Hebert and Beau Reardon and more.

Attendees are encouraged to dress to impress.

Giza, who will host the event, explained that it is celebrating and looking back on 20 years of the guild, reflecting on how



Photos courtesy of Theatre Guild of Hampden

The Theatre Guild of Hampden has performed many productions in the last 20 years.

Please see **THEATRE**, page 10



Turley photos by Angelina Acevedo

Friends and family gathered at the Hampden Public Library to enjoy the Summer Reading Finale Party on July 31.

Children's Summer Reading Finale Party celebrates reading

By Angelina Acevedo
Correspondent

HAMPDEN - On July 31, children and their families who participated in the Hampden Public Library's Summer Reading program were in for a treat from the library.

Any child who participated in the summer reading program were welcomed to the Summer Reading Finale Party with their families, which was funded and hosted by the Friends of Hampden

Free Public Library and Village Food Mart.

Kate Rumprik, the Youth Services Librarian, was present and leading the events activities and festivities for those attending.

"This event is for any kid who signed up for the reading program during the summer, where they log every 15 minutes of reading. Along with this event, we also had an activity called Read and Bead, where throughout the summer they could show us their logs

Please see **READING**, page 13

Youth Entrepreneurs showcase businesses



Amelia Mawla of Amelia's Little Scribblers shows off her table. She's only six years old.

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
krivers@turley.com

WILBRAHAM - It was a very special Wednesday at the Wilbraham Farmers Market on July 30 for 13 local entrepreneurs who showed off their crafts and wares to the community.

From jewelry to bird houses to fans and more, each entrepreneur from six years old to recent graduates of Minnechaug Regional High School, showcased their creations.

The Youth Entrepreneurs Program is through the

Hampden-Wilbraham Partners for Youth Coalition and the youth entrepreneurs are at the Wilbraham Farmers Market every other Wednesday.

Amelia Mawla of Amelia's Little Scribblers was showing off her crayon moldings created into different shapes and characters and coloring books.

"The colorings are also about the world, where I've been and it's all in it," Mawla said. "So, this one is a Springfield where I was at Springfield, this is when I was at Boston, this is when I was at Cape Cod and this is when I was at Salem."



Turley photos by Kristin Rivers

Mia Santos and Justina Wojtowicz of The Bird House Boutique with their bird houses.

Her mom, Sara, was proud of her daughter.

"She's into arts and crafts a lot and so she saw this idea and she said to herself she wanted to create it, so we went and created it at home for ourselves and then she's like, 'What a great idea if I could just actually sell these' and that's how the idea came and that's how Amelia's Little Scribblers was created," she said.

Justina Wojtowicz and Mia Santos of the Bird House Boutique were selling bird houses, loving all of their creations. The girls are currently students at Wilbraham Middle School and

heading into seventh grade this coming school year.

"It just came to us," Santos said.

"It was just a fun idea to paint them and stuff," Wojtowicz said.

The girls have enjoyed working on their bird houses--including painting the different patterns--and also seeing what other fellow youth entrepreneurs have made.

"It's important because you get to learn how to be responsible with money and have your own little business," Santos said.

Please see **YOUTH**, page 16

HPL provides self-care fun with Spa Day

By Angelina Acevedo
Correspondent

HAMPDEN - A calming spa day isn't just for adults, but kids too! On July 31, kids and tweens could participate in the Teen Spa Day at the library, an event that helped promote a relaxing lifestyle.

At the event, there were three stations with engaging and interesting crafts for the kids to make: calming glitter jars, Kool-Aid lip gloss and bath bombs. The atmosphere, which included dimmed overhead lights, flickering tea lights and calming music, helped create and promote a low-stress environment.

Maxine Girard, the young adult librarian for Hampden, explained how each of these crafts could be made to the children.

"To make a calming glitter jar, you can use either glitter glue or make your own with regular glue and a glitter of your choice, and mix it with water, then more glitter and glue, and pour it into a small jar. Once you fill your jar, you close the lid really tightly, we don't want an explosion of glitter to get everywhere!" Girard said. "To be extra safe, the top can be super glued shut. Once it's completed, you can shake it, like a snow globe, and watch the glitter move and fall to the bottom of the jar."

The next station was the Kool-Aid lip gloss, which Girard explained was "made with Vaseline and a choice of three different Kool-Aid mixes, which help provide a fun color and scent to the lip gloss."

"Even though it smells good because of the fruity flavors, it definitely should not be eaten and just used as lip-gloss," Girard said.



Turley photos by Angelina Acevedo
Young Adult Librarian Maxine Girard showing kids how to make their own bath bombs.



The bath bombs after being pressed together in their molds.

The lip gloss could be placed into small plastic containers provided by Girard herself. This station was a hit with the kids, with some even making enough lip gloss to fill up multiple containers.

The third station, bath bombs, was also very popular amongst the kids as well.

"This station has the most parts by far, but it's also very fun and rewarding to see it finished. To create your own bath bomb, you need to mix Epsom salt, baking soda, corn starch, citric acid, and water. It is a bit tricky to get though, since adding too much water at the end can make your bath bomb start to fizzle, so it's important to only add enough to make mixing easier," Girard said. "After creating the mixture, you can add a scent, citrus or lavender, and then it's ready to be put in a mold."

Each participant got a sphere mold that split in half to be filled up with their mixture. After getting packed in with the bath bomb formula, the two halves would be squished together so the bath bomb could become whole once completed.

Although the process was a bit messy, the results would certainly be worth it.

Girard added this isn't the first time the Hampden Public Library has run this event, but it's the second time.

"Last year we ran Teen Spa Day, and it was a hit, so we brought it back," Girard said. "The event helps promote self-care, and while it is a little hectic here, the kids definitely will be able to relax more when they get home."

The event had a good turnout, meaning many kids were taught the importance of relaxation in their lives.

Senior Center Tag Sale

HAMPDEN - The Friends of The Hampden Senior Center will hold a HUGE indoor Tag Sale from Monday, Aug. 26 through Sept. 12!

The Hampden Senior Center is located at 104 Allen Street in Hampden. Please consider cleaning out your closets and donate gently used or new items for donation.

These items can be dropped off starting the week of July 28. What we

are looking for are shoes, household items, clothes, etc.

We cannot take, however, large items such as furniture pieces. Thank you as always for your generous contributions and support.

All proceeds will be used to benefit the programs and activities at The Hampden Senior Center. For more information, please feel free to contact Joan Shea at 413-566-8224.

Hampden Senior Center Group Exercise Classes

HAMPDEN - Join us for PWR! Moves Group Exercise Classes, a Parkinson-specific class with a goal to keep you moving and doing more of what you want to do.

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counteract your Parkinson's symptoms.

Classes take place from 9 to 10 a.m. on Mondays at the Hampden Senior Center.

Pre-paid rate for eight classes is \$65.

Drop-in rate is \$10 per class.

Call to register or for more information at 413-566-5588.

Sponsored in part by the Friends of Hampden Senior Citizens.

Alzheimer's Fundraiser Dinner Dance

HAMPDEN - The senior center will be holding an Alzheimer's Fundraiser Dinner Dance on Saturday, Aug. 23, from 5:30 to 9 p.m.

Join us for the Annual Fundraiser Dinner Dance for the Alzheimer's Association.

Dinner, dancing, raffle prizes and Cash Bar.

Tickets are \$30 per person paid in advance.

Call 566-5588 to reserve your seat or stop in to the Hampden Senior Center Monday through Friday

from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. to purchase your tickets.

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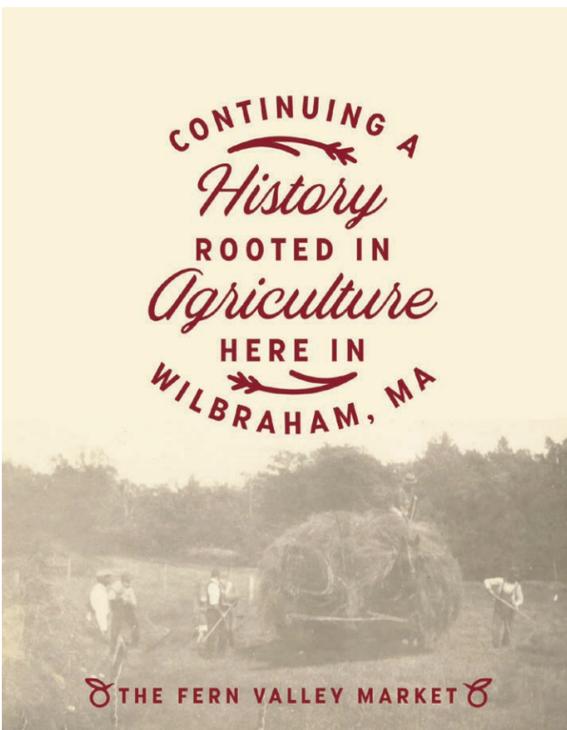




Photo courtesy of Dr. Thomas Wadzinski

The runners in the Knights of Columbus Scholarship 5K start their race.

KofC host 9th Annual Scholarship 5K Road Race

By Noelle Hisgen
Correspondent

WILBRAHAM - On July 20, the Knights of Columbus Council 01095 hosted their 9th Annual Scholarship 5K/Road Race, one of their largest community events of the year.

The race started at Soule Road School, went around various streets off Soule Road and finished back at the elementary school.

Many people in the community came out to support the Knights in their 5K, and it was an intense, yet fun race as well. From start to finish,

everyone had a smile on their faces. Whether they were a Knight passing out shirts or competing in the race, it was always a positive atmosphere throughout it all. Everyone was always cheering on each other from the first to last finisher, and there were fruits to celebrate everyone's hard work.

Also, gift cards and membership cards to celebrate the top finishers in each age category.

The top female finisher this year was Linda Spooner with a time of 20:09, and the top male finisher was Kevin Pfefferle with a time of 20:43.

The Knights of Columbus Scholarship 5K originally started as the Peach Festival Road Race around 20 years ago. Since then, it has always been a fundraiser for the Knights' Scholarship Fund.

One of the Knights, and coordinators for the 5K, Dr. Thomas Wadzinski, spoke about the road race.

"The Knights Scholarship 5K is a great local road race. It is a nice route that is fairly flat and friendly for beginners. There are a number of people that come together to put this 5K on. They help to sign up business sponsors, advertise the race, and get everything ready for race day. I am proud to help organize an event that motivates people to get outside and be active," Wadzinski said.

The Knights of Columbus is founded on service, always giving back to the community. With that in mind, it is a strong pillar to the awardees of the scholarship every year.

The funds from the participation in the race go directly back to the Knights of

Columbus Scholarship, given out to high school graduating seniors. The 2025 scholarship recipients were Minnechaug Regional High School graduates Noelle Hisgen, Ryan O'dread and Madeleine Rooney.

"I am inspired to see the variety of ways that awardees of our scholarship have served different communities and what motivates them to continue to look for service opportunities," Wadzinski said.

It was a great event for everyone to go outside for some fun competition, organized by a great community of individuals who are always striving to give back.

To learn more about the Knights, visit kofcwillbraham.com or check them out on Facebook.

Matt York to perform songs of Willie Nelson at Wilbraham Library

WILBRAHAM- New England singer/songwriter Matt York will be at the Wilbraham Public Library on Monday, Aug. 18 at 6 p.m. to perform songs and tell stories about the great Willie Nelson.

York will focus on Willie's long and illustrious music career that has spanned over seven decades.

Weather permitting, this

performance will take place outside of the library and attendees are encouraged to bring a chair. This event is sponsored by the Wilbraham Friends of the Library and is free and open to the public. Registration is appreciated but not required. Sign up at wilbrahamlibrary.org, or call the library at 413-596-6141.

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Unexplained phenomena explored at Museum

WILBRAHAM – For those who often wonder about unexplained phenomena, the group Agawam Paranormal, might provide some answers at the next Open House of the Old Meeting House Museum on Sunday, Aug. 10.

The team of experience investigators, led by Rob Goff Sr, founder, director and lead investigator of the Paranormal organization will talk about exploring reported paranormal activity in the area as guest speakers at 2 p.m. The community event is free, open to the public and runs from 2 to 4 p.m. Refreshments will be served and the Gift Shop will be open.

Founded by Rob Goff Sr. in 2007, Agawam Paranor-



Turley photo by Charles F. Bennett

The Old Meeting House Museum will be open Sunday, Aug. 10 from 2 to 4 p.m. featuring guest speakers Agawam Paranormal. Free and open to the public.

mal is a close-knit team of family and friends who conduct investigations at homes,

businesses, and historic sites suspected of being haunted. Their work is rooted in a

scientific approach, using a wide array of equipment and techniques to document potential evidence of paranormal activity.

According to their website, the group has over 30 years of personal experience in the paranormal field. Rob Goff has led the Paranormals in exploring countless unexplained phenomena. To ensure professionalism and preparedness, Goff developed a comprehensive training program—"Ghostology 101"—which all team members must complete before joining active investigations.

For more information about the Open House or the Museum, search "Old Meeting House Museum" on Facebook or Instagram.

Summer Dinner and Ballroom Dance

LUDLOW – The Heritage Pops Orchestra presents the Summer Dinner and Ballroom Dance on Friday, Aug. 8 at 6:30 p.m. with dancing

from 7 to 9:30 p.m.

The event will take place at the Polish American Citizen's Club on 355 East St. in Ludlow.

Doors open at 6 p.m. and the dinner menu includes hot dogs, burgers, potato salad and watermelon at 6:30 p.m. Music and dancing on the

giant wood dance floor will be from 7 to 9:30 p.m.

Tickets are \$22 at the door.

MRHS Class of 1970 55th Class Reunion

WILBRAHAM - Hello fellow classmates!

The Reunion Committee for the 50 + 2 reunion held in 2022 has stayed together and planned a reunion for September 13, 2025 from 1 to 5 p.m. at the Taproom on Boston Road In Wilbraham.

It is probably our last reunion and we very much want

to see as many classmates as we can get together. This event is casual and food being served buffet style.

Let others in your class know! Please and thank you.

Pre-registration required. You can register and pay through <https://www.event-create.com/e/mrhs70>.

BUILDING from page 1

Let's do some research and let's let the community kind of figure out things a little bit." Echoing what Jim said, we got a fantastic makeup of talent."

Rooney and Smith also credited Facilities Manager Sam Boyd for his assistance to the committee in coming to their meetings, arranging visits and providing information that he knew or knew before his work for the town.

"His knowledge and expertise--and he's been kind of leading us around, showing us things and answering a lot of questions--putting a lot of time into this. He's gone above and beyond," Smith said.

Now that the committee has visited many of the buildings on its list, Smith added they will now compile their data and look at options "to see if there's any way that we can consolidate and save some money for the town" if they can.

"We haven't put any guardrails on anything. We're kind of looking at it like there's no such thing as a bad idea. Let's see what comes out of this," Smith said.

Rooney said the town departments have also been "good stewards of the taxpayer dollar."

"I think our focus is looking at it and saying, 'Can these buildings continue on in a private sector? Are we utilizing it properly?' and that is the basis of this committee. The utilization--the building utilization--how are these buildings being utilized to their fullest extent and highest potential," Rooney said.

He also noted the impact of broadband as the town looks into that option.

"We will need to know what kind of a floor space they will need for broadband. Do we have the floor space now that'll work for that or do

we need to consider another facility? Our dispatch has the potential of growing. Communities are knocking on the door to join our dispatch. We've got a prime, trained and well-managed dispatch center," Rooney said. "Do we have enough room? Does it have the potential to grow? We don't know. We need to really look at those things too. I think broadband is a key component of this too because we need to know where the broadband future is, because this stuff requires data and data centers and those require secure facilities."

Smith's time on the committee has also given him additional perspective on the town departments through utilizing the buildings to the best extent. Also, the local government.

"This effort for me personally has really backed up that notion that there isn't any waste in the local government or anything like that. I'm really impressed with what the town does with what they have. I think Jim said it great that, they really are stewards of the dollars and the resources that they have. They're really good with them," Smith said.

Rooney and Smith encourage the community to reach out to the committee and also attend their meetings. Residents can also visit the town website for more information.

"Even if it's like to say, 'Hey, I think this and this and this should happen,'" Rooney said.

"Can drop us a line and let us know that. Let us know why," Smith said.

"We're a big committee, but we don't have all the answers. We don't have all the questions, so it's important that we get the questions and the answers," Rooney said.

"Definitely encourage people if they have an opinion on things to reach out to us," Smith said.



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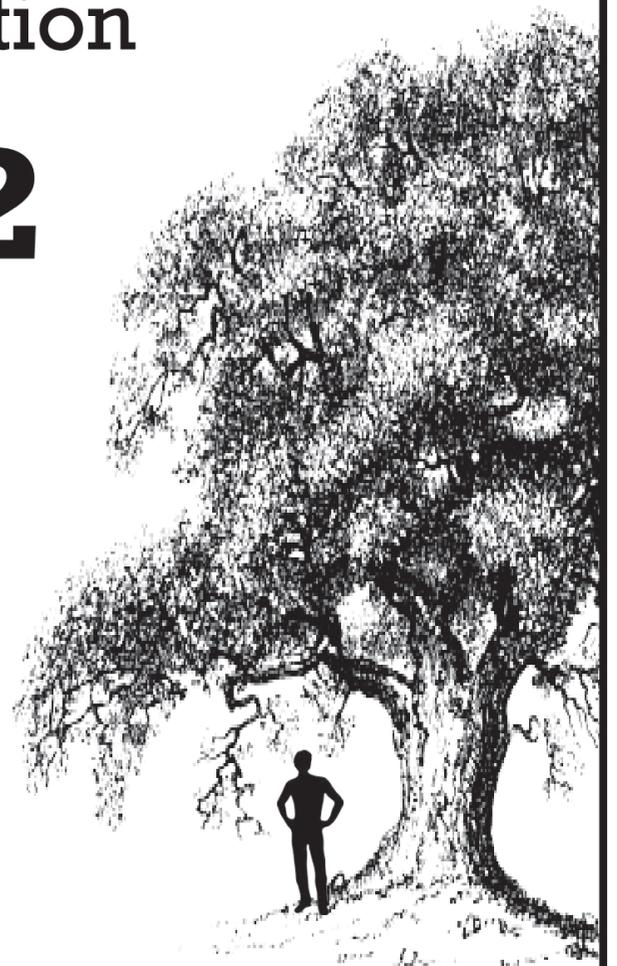
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SOCIAL SECURITY Matters
By Russell Gloor

I'm turning 70. When should I apply for Social Security?

Dear Rusty:

I have a very simple question: I will turn 70 on Sept. 20 and want to start my Social Security benefits in September.

What month should I file my claim? Have there been delays with the reductions in SSA staff? Thank you for your help.

Signed: Ready to Claim.

Dear Ready to Claim: Social Security allows you to submit your application for benefits up to four months prior to the month you wish benefits to start (you will specify your desired benefit-start-month on the application).

Thus, to have your benefits begin in September (the month you turn 70), you can submit your application as early as May 2025. That will give SS plenty of time to get your benefits started on time.

Remember, though, that SS pays benefits in the month following the month earned, so if you start benefits in September, you will receive your first SS payment in October on the third Wednesday.

And, since you will be turning 70 in September you are entitled to full benefits effective from the first of that month. Congratulations on choosing a strategy, which maximizes your monthly payment. By claiming at age 70, your monthly SS benefit will be about 31% more than it would have been at your Full Retirement Age and you will get that higher monthly amount for the rest of your life.

Re your question about possible delays, Social Security staff reductions have not included "front line" agents, those who handle applications, so the SS recent staff adjustments should not likely delay processing your ap-

plication.

Although some back-office staffing turmoil currently exists at SSA, they have been moving more people to front-line positions to try to improve their service. Just be aware, however, that it normally takes the SSA about two to three months to process new applications, which is why they allow applications up to 4 months in advance. You will specify the month you wish benefits to start on your application. In any case, although your application should be fine if you submit it this month, rest assured that they will pay you starting with the month you requested, even if they must do so retroactively.

FYI, people can apply for Social Security in person by making a telephone appointment to do so at 1-800-772-1213 or they can apply online at www.ssa.gov/apply. To apply online, they need to have first created their "my Social Security" online account at www.ssa.gov/myaccount. Here is a video which explains the online application process: www.ssa.gov/hlp/video/iclaim_r01.htm.

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

Letters to the Editor
Support the 2026 Wilbraham Hill Climb

To the Editor:

The upcoming Hill Climb in Wilbraham is not just an event; it is a celebration of community, spirit, and the vibrancy of our town.

This cherished tradition unites residents and visitors alike in a shared experience that transcends generations, providing an opportunity for families and friends to cheer each other on and build lasting memories. As participants push their limits, they inspire

those around them to embrace an active lifestyle while simultaneously boosting our local economy by drawing visitors who will dine at our restaurants, shop at our stores, and explore our scenic attractions.

It is imperative that our town selectmen hear from us and understand how much this event means to our community. We must make our support for the Hill Climb well-known, as we cannot

afford to have this beloved event jeopardized.

Let us rally together as participants, volunteers, and enthusiastic spectators, ensuring our voices are heard. By showcasing the vibrant spirit of Wilbraham, we can make next year's event one for the history books—a proud tradition that enriches our lives in countless ways.

Stanley Kowalski,
Wilbraham

Alternative to buying flood insurance...



From hallways to Habitat: Students brew up big wins with Bean Boutique

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

WEST SPRINGFIELD - Greater Springfield Habitat for Humanity (GSHFH) marketing interns continue to prove age doesn't determine impact.

In December 2024, the three high school sophomores opened their in-school iced-coffee fundraising endeavor "Bean Boutique," which donates its proceeds to Habitat. As of June 1, their efforts brewed up \$1,200. Now, the boys are faced with a new challenge: raise a minimum of \$1,500 to qualify for a matching grant from State Farm and Habitat for Humanity International (HFHI).

"Watching three 15-year-old boys build something like Bean Boutique from the ground up is truly inspiring," said Jill Brewer, Springdale Education Center (SEC) director. "They didn't just create a coffee shop, they created a space that brings people together, teaches real-life skills, and makes a difference in the community. Their passion, drive, and heart have turned a simple idea into something powerful."

The grant, in collaboration with HFHI, encourages youth leaders to engage in community projects that support local affordable housing efforts. The State Farm Youth Matching Grant program officially kicked off June 15, but funds submitted to Greater Springfield Habitat as early as June 1 can be counted toward the grant. By May 31, 2026, the students need to raise a minimum of \$1,500 to receive \$2,000 from State Farm. The students have already raised 26% of their minimum goal. All of their earnings will go toward supporting GSHFH's homeownership and home preservation programs.

The interns and SEC young adult teacher Trina Winans have discussed ways to raise more funds for Habitat, and the team ultimately decided to expand their



Greater Springfield Habitat for Humanity (GSHFH) marketing intern Dakota Wirf creates a fundraising thermometer to track the progress of donations coming into Bean Boutique, an iced coffee shop inside Chicopee's Springdale Education Center. To earn the matching grant from State Farm Insurance and Habitat for Humanity International, Bean Boutique needs to raise at least \$1,500 by May 31, 2026. To date, the coffee shop has earned approximately \$385 toward the grant.

menu. Bean Boutique now also offers lemonade, iced tea, and popsicles.

"Popsicles are a big hit. The staff had already been asking for them," said Trina. "Our school community strongly supports Bean Boutique and has really rallied behind it. They enjoy supporting the students through this opportunity."

To keep track of the progress and create excitement within the school, Chicopee's SEC and the neighboring Center for School Crisis Intervention and Assessment, the interns created a fundraising thermometer and will design and post social media messaging throughout the year.

The idea of iced coffee shop came from Dakota Wirf in summer 2024. He and his peer, Nate Shlosser, had interned at Greater Springfield Habitat during their freshman year to promote a Hampden County-wide read-a-thon fundraiser. Following the read-a-thon, the boys planned and attended a wrap-up party. Dakota then presented the idea to Jill, who approved the concept.

"It was a hot summer day and I was outside at Habitat with Nate and just asked 'Why don't we sell iced coffee?'" said Dakota. "At

school, we saw staff with coffee and they had to go to Dunkin' to get it. But, if they got coffee at work, they could step out for a minute and still help Habitat.

"I think this grant is wonderful," Dakota said. "I think it's great that Habitat will get more money to take care of more people."

Dakota, Nate, and new intern Yandel Alameda, returned to Habitat at the start of their sophomore year to flesh out their idea. They created the name "Bean Boutique" and a marketing guide - including logo, branding colors and fonts - and a plan to get the word out. They designed flyers to be distributed in the school, drafted morning announcement messages to be read over the intercom, plus budgeted and shopped for supplies. Bean Boutique opened its doors to teachers and administrative staff at the Chicopee school just before Christmas.

"We loved the proposal and the enthusiasm the students had for the project," said GSHFH Executive Director Aimee Giroux.

To donate to Bean Boutique, text "COFFEE413" to 44-321 and follow the prompts, or go to bit.ly/45Q0Ecb

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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.



Nate and Yandel: Greater Springfield Habitat for Humanity marketing interns Nate Shlosser (left) and Yandel Alameda pose at Bean Boutique, their iced-coffee shop inside Chicopee's Springdale Education Center, which raises funds for the nonprofit organization.

Life in

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

WILBRAHAM HAMPDEN

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

COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD

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

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



Paint Sip Fun Mason Jars

Submitted photo Rachel Hapgood

The teens were excited to show off their painted mason jars after taking part in Paint Sip Fun on July 15.

10UA Falcons Baseball Squad are JLS 10UA Division Champions!



Submitted photo and caption Jessie Donovan

Congratulations to our 10UA Falcons baseball squad for bringing home the JLS 10UA division championship for the 2025 season. In an extra innings victory, they defeated Batter's Box Renegades 12- 11. Players: Jake Appleby, Maddox Blair, Ben Chesky, Michael Clark, Evan Donovan, Townes Edgar, Sean Farrell, Bryce Fatse, Isaiah Gee, Grayson Lemelin, Dominic Moretti, and Vince Morin. Coaches: Pete Appleby, Jessie Donovan, Brayden O'Sullivan and Nick Morin.



Happy Birthday Pauline Prince-Lamothe!

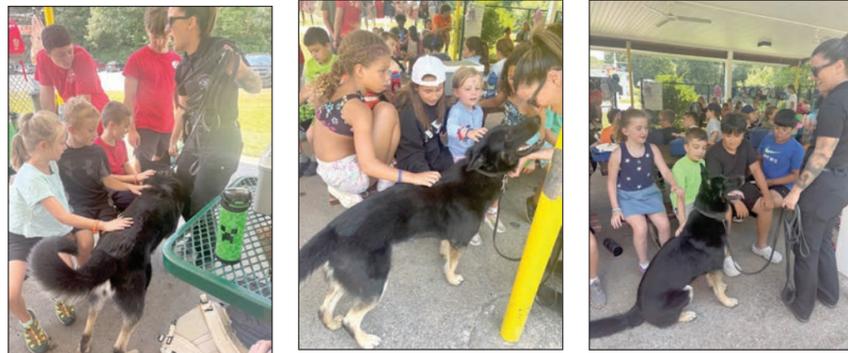
Submitted photo and caption Elaine Gernux

OPRO celebrates 103rd birthday of oldest member, Pauline Prince-Lamothe!

The Hampden Parks & Recreation Department reached out to the Hampden Police Department to see if they would come to our Memorial Park Summer Program and do a K-9 demonstration. Hampden doesn't have a K-9 unit, so Sgt. Thomas Yvon from Hampden reached out to Longmeadow Police Department about doing a K-9 demo with their K-9 Unit. From there, Sgt. Amanda Vanbuskirk from Longmeadow Police Department and her K-9 partner did a demonstration on July 23 and the kids loved it! Huge thank you to Longmeadow PD and Hampden PD.



Summer Program K9 Demonstration



Submitted photos and caption Dan Blanchard

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George F. Vitek Scholarship recipients announced



REGION - Pediatric & Adolescent Medicine awards The George F. Vitek Scholarship to a deserving high school senior with excellent academic achievement, dedication to their community and a plan to study in the field of science or medicine. This year we were able to award the scholarship to five deserving students.

Dr. Martins presented the 2025 George F. Vitek Scholarship to Ela Dias from Ludlow, who will be attending Quinnipiac University. Dr. Lareau presented the 2025 George F. Vitek Scholarship



George F. Vitek Scholarship to Victoria Gonzalez from Wilbraham, who will be attending Bowdoin College. Dr. Dewey presented the 2025 George F. Vitek Scholarship to Lillian Knight from Ware, who will be attending the University of Rhode Island. Dr. Malik presented the 2025 George F. Vitek Scholarship to Rachelle Morse from Monson, who will be attending Western New England University.

Congratulations, we wish you all the best!

to Nina Gallagher from Wilbraham, who will be attending Suffolk University. Dr. Kasper presented the 2025

PET PAGE



PET OF THE MONTH

Meet Finian Weir O'Rourke

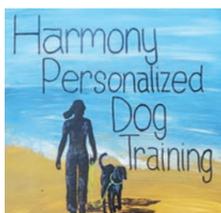


He is 7 years old. He is a blue Tuxedo Teddy Roosevelt Terrier. He loves his Dunkin Donuts jelly Munchkins. He lives in Wilbraham with Suzanne Shaw.

ATTENTION READERS!

Send in your pet picture for our "Pet of the Month" and receive a FREE weekend get-away or spa package for your pet courtesy of Porter Road Pet Care.

Email your photos to: jwalker@turley.com. Please include your name and your pet's name.



Coming in September

- Basic obedience & socialization
- Fundamentals of Scent Training
- Behavior training for dogs who struggle in the real world

All at the Belchertown Recreational Department

- "Saturday In the Park!" Every Saturday at Post Office Park, Wilbraham 12 noon - Pack Walk 1:30 p.m - Basic Obedience & Socialization All ages & breeds - \$20 each - Attend 1 class or both!
- Wednesday Nights in Belchertown Obedience & Socialization Group Classes. Located on the common area in front of Christopher Heights & Belchertown Day School. All ages & breeds. 5:30 p.m. - \$20 each
- Private training in your home
- Intro to your puppy or new rescue training
- Basic obedience, life and manners training
- Behavior modification

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Lynn Dgetluck, DVM
William D. Anderson, DVM
Hannah Belcher-Timme, DVM
Denise Chiminiello, DVM
Leah Guidry, DVM
Madison Harris, DVM
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We Teach You How to Train Your Dog!

The Dog Days of Summer ... Bites

As summer, the season of picnics, days at the beach and outdoor parties with friends. But summer is also the season of dog bites. Like humans, our dogs are potentially being put in more social-gathering situations where they don't always feel comfortable. And like us dogs can be irritable in the heat and grumpy when another person gets in their space. Here are a few tips to avoid your dog snapping.

- **Learn to read the signs:** Indicators of a grumpy dog are pinned-back ears, tight lips, a tucked tail, stiff body and heavy panting. These are usually good signals that your dog is pretty uncomfortable, and you should create some space for him. Pups should never be left alone on sidewalks without their humans because you can't be there to look out for them if someone approaches them and they get uncomfortable.

- **Provide plenty of exercise and socialization:** The two biggest ways of fending off any behavior problems or aggression are exercise and socializing. Hit the dog park where he can be around other dogs and people running off leash, wrestling with other dogs, jumping, sprinting and chasing the ball.

- **Avoid summer stress:** Going to a beach party or a picnic and bringing your dog along? Make sure your pup gets a break from the

action. The longer parties go on the more stressful it can be for him.

- **Heat is also a factor:** Make sure you avoid walking or exercising your dog during the hottest part of the day and provide lots of cool fresh water. And never, ever leave your dog in the car, even if it's just for a "few minutes" and you leave the windows cracked. Your car's temperature can rise 20 degrees in just 10 minutes!



UMass Amherst Announces Spring 2025 Dean's List

AMHERST - The following students were named to the Spring 2025 Dean's List at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

Students are appointed to the Dean's List at the end of a semester in which they have completed a minimum of 12 graded credits and have earned a grade point average of 3.500 or better.

Hampden, MA

Blaise Barbeau and Allison Santos

Wilbraham, MA

Camryn Baroni, Jing Chen, John Chen, Adriana Cosentini, Reighan Demers, Ani Diefenderfer, Jeremy Diehl, Grace Dufour, Ca-triona Ferreira, Cameron

Gilrein, Andrew Guglielmo, Chase Harrison, Jackson Healy, Harrison Hill, Patrick Jahn, Timothy Jodoin, Kylie Kane, Emma Kennedy, Jonah Kozub, Filip Kumięga, Willy Li, Samantha Long, Jaclyn Maller, Thomas Manning, Jillian Mawaka, Trent Maziarz, Madeline Murphy, Cade Norris, Dev Patel, Briana Ricketts, Gabriella Rita, Jada Rosario, Jonas Saabye, Erik Saarela, Georgia Serra, Cally Seyler, Matthew Sherman, Ava Sirois, Alexander Tirabassi, Ruth Tucker, Samantha VanZandt, Caleigh Wall, Corrina Williams, Megan Youmell and Joseph Zebian

Local student graduates from Northfield Mount Hermon

MOUNT HERMON - Elliott Humphries of Hampden was among 192 students, from 24 states and 25 nations, who graduated from Northfield Mount Hermon on May 25.

Alumni Mariah Calagione Draper, NMH class of

1989, and Sam Calagione III, class of 1988, co-founders of Dogfish Head Brewing, delivered the keynote address. The Calagiones, whose two children also attended NMH, are longtime, dedicated supporters of the school.

Hampden VFW and Auxiliary presents Designer Purse and Tools Bingo

HAMPDEN - The Hampden VFW and Auxiliary will be holding a Designer Purse and Tools Bingo event on Friday, Aug. 15.

Doors open at 5:30 p.m. and the first game begins at 6 p.m.

\$40 per person. This includes a book of 10 games (one for each round) and additional game cards can be purchased.

Bring your own food! Drinks will be available for purchase.

Wilbraham Select Board approves police officer hire before background check

The 24-year-old must go to the police academy before serving.

By Dalton Zbierski
Correspondent

WILBRAHAM - The Wilbraham Select Board voted 2-1 on July 14 to appoint a new full-time police officer, but the process that led to the decision strayed from the norm.

Cole Rigney, a 24-year-old resident who has lived in Wilbraham all his life, is now in position to join his hometown's police department.

First, he must attend the police academy, which takes about 25 months. Rigney must also pass a background check, physical fitness test and psychological exam.

Due to various factors that are out of the town's control, Rigney's appointment was accelerated.

Town Administrator Nick Breault explained that the applicant pool for new police officer candidates was not as robust as it normally is, as many of the potential employees did not have academy training.

"It's not required but preferred," Breault said. "In this case here, the process was coming to a natural end before we would put candidates before the Select Board or stop the process and perhaps start over again. Mr. Rigney was part of this candidate pool."

Rigney is currently a dispatcher for Wilbraham and comes from a firefighting family - his father John is the Longmeadow fire chief.

Wilbraham Police Chief Ed Lennon felt that Rigney has displayed the qualities needed to be a good police officer and recommended him to the board.

This occurred quickly because the town had only until July 25 to submit a candidate for the police academy that begins in Boylston on Aug. 25.

Given that the July 14 Select Board meeting was the final one before this deadline, town officials decided to put Rigney's interview on the agenda.

Noting that it wasn't a reflection of Rigney, the Select Board members expressed hesitation to approve the dispatcher as a police officer.

Vice Chair Marc Ducey ultimately voted against Rigney's appointment, citing the altered timeline and not an indictment on the candidate's character.

"I think we have processes for a reason. I don't think for convenience, for lack of a better term, is necessarily the best way or time to deviate from those processes," Ducey said. "Process is really a bureaucratic term, and I'm not really a bureaucratic person, but what it does is create a standard that the public expects. It creates trust. That's why I worry so much about deviating from the norms. It will save us a few months, but it might be worthwhile to spend those few months."

Select Board Chair Michael Squindo noted his reservation. He explained the position the board found itself in.

"Because of some realities before us, the process has slightly deviated from

what we've previously seen. So, I think that the board is also wrestling with what that means in this moment," Squindo said.

Squindo added that the most important thing with the use of the word "compressed" is that it doesn't eliminate any portions of the process. He stressed that even after being appointed by the board, Rigney must still pass a variety of tests and complete the police academy.

Squindo also cited the reality that the town is unlikely to see any academy-trained police officer candidates join the department any time soon.

"So, to delay this process in my opinion for a future academy, I'm not sure it would yield a different result relevant to that concern," Squindo said, adding that the interview of Rigney was one of the most thorough the board has completed.

Squindo also put his trust in Lennon and Breault, noting that they would not back a candidate who would misrepresent the town.

"If any point either the chief, his team or Nick felt the candidate shouldn't be before us, he wouldn't be before us," Squindo said. "I think to that point we've hired a qualified group of department heads and leaders in the town, and I think this is one of those moments where we need to trust their decisions and capacities in order to do what our town does best in serving the public. That's where I stand right now."

Squindo voted in favor of hiring Rigney. That left Select Board Clerk Sue Bunnell to decide if Rigney would join

the town's police department. Bunnell said she learned that the candidate pool only consisted of 10 people, and Rigney was the one individual chosen to appear before the board.

The longtime town official also noted that she has seen the decline in police officer candidates over the years.

Ultimately, Bunnell sided with Squindo.

"I also feel a delay here is not going to necessarily guarantee an expansion of the pool of non-academy trained candidates," Bunnell said. "That leads me to have a degree of comfort with moving forward in this circumstance."

With that, Rigney was approved, pending him passing the tests and graduating from the academy.

Throughout their decision-making process, members of the board expressed that their reservations were not reflective of Rigney and his potential as a police officer.

Rigney answered questions for nearly a half-hour, expressing great interest in serving his hometown. The dispatcher is ready to get to work.

"I feel as though every time that 911 phone rings and I pick it up, I immediately want to jump out of my seat and go help somebody," Rigney said. "I want to get there too. I want to get out on the road and help people. I've always been a help-driven guy, making relationships with people. I'd like to get on the other side of the glass, out on the road, hopefully helping the people of my community."



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BlazeXpress "Big E Blaze to Win" Sweepstakes, PO Box 6403, Holyoke, MA 01041. Mail-in entries must be postmarked by Sept. 9, 2025, and received by September 10th, 2025. Limit one mail-in entry per person.

Rep. Puppolo announces August 9-10 Sales Tax-Free Weekend

SPRINGFIELD - State Representative Angelo J. Puppolo, Jr. (D- Springfield), is pleased to announce the official dates for Massachusetts' annual sales tax holiday thanks to the actions taken by the Massachusetts State Legislature yesterday. This year's dates, August 9 and 10, were adopted yesterday by both the House and Senate. During the holiday, the state's 6.25 per cent sales tax will be suspended for most retail items priced under \$2,500.

"In times of economic uncertainty, lowering costs

for Massachusetts residents is crucial. This year's temporary suspension of the sales tax will hopefully bring some much-needed economic relief to citizens of the Commonwealth," stated Puppolo.

It is reported by the Department of Revenue that the sales tax holiday regularly boosts indirect tax revenues, with the 2024 sales tax holiday generating \$3.54 million in indirect tax revenues due to increased economic activity.

At a time where shoppers are facing more economic uncertainty than

ever due to price spikes, this year's sales tax holiday will give consumers a long overdue break. Additionally, with back-to-school season around the corner, the sales tax holiday will hopefully encourage families to support local retailers.

"I want to thank my colleagues for helping to pass this legislation, I hope our constituents can take full advantage of the sales tax holiday this year and make the purchases they have been putting off due to economic strain," said Representative Puppolo.

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

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

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

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

FREE Demo Sessions will be held to offer guidance and spark

ideas: Aug. 28; 6 to 8 p.m.

Location details available on our website

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

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

Proceeds from the event will support the Scantic River Artisans Scholarship Fund and local arts programming, helping to fos-

ter the next generation of creative talent.

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Reflect. Create. Connect. Your voice belongs here.

THEATRE from page 1

he was asked to start a theater company in town after directing several variety shows for kids to raise money for a playground at Green Meadows Elementary School.

After deciding not to at first, he woke up one morning and decided to do it, reaching out to Rick Rubin, who said, "I'm in!"

"I went door to door asking for donations of neighbors and people and businesses in town. Some gave \$10, some gave \$50, some even gave \$100 to get the theater company going," Giza said. "Our first show was a youth production of 'Guys and Dolls' with all the kids and the kids were little as seven, eight--my son, Harrison, was in it, he played Nathan Detroit, he was only 10 at the time--and it was a real big hit. It took off and it just snowballed from there."

Then, Rubin suggested an adult production, with the guild doing "Barefoot in the Park" at the Old Hampden Country Club, now known as GreatHorse.

The Old Hampden Country Club, Giza added, was one of several locations for productions, with others including the former Thornton W. Burgess Middle School, Wilbraham & Monson Academy, the Green House in Hampden across from La Cucina and, more recently, the senior center for "Jerry's Girls."

"Now we're back to TWB, which is great because it's a



As the Theatre Guild of Hampden marks 20 years, these throwbacks show the many performers who have shined on stage over the years.

great stage, it's right in town and it has accessible bathrooms for people to get in and out of," Giza said. "It's going to be, I think, our hot spot right now."

Giza expressed excitement for the milestone and noted the historical firsts from the guild including being the first company to do "The Producers" after leaving Broadway, the first company to do "The Normal Heart" after that also left Broadway and the first company to do "Doubt" after the 2008 film version was released.

"I'm very proud in that respect that we've expanded and now we're bringing in people from different groups. A lot of people come from Connecticut to audition for us or heard about our group or the word had spread, 'Oh, they're doing this!' or 'Mark is in charge, Mark's directing, I like working with him, I really want to work with him.' 'What's the show?' Giza said. "That makes me feel good."

Giza is most proud of the guild being maintained all of these years and that "we have done some really good stuff," including the breakthrough productions of "The Normal Heart" and "The Full Monty: The Musical."

Also, getting bolder.

"It comes down to--I've done it a lot--is I pick a play and then I think in my mind, 'Who could play this part?' 'Who do I know?' and then I usually have open auditions--I'm very open, everyone can come--and there's

A gala event at the Country Club of Wilbraham will celebrate the Theatre Guild of Hampden's 20th anniversary.



The community is invited to celebrate 20 years of the Theatre Guild of Hampden in a gala event on Sept. 14.

been times where I've had thinking of somebody for a role and then somebody else would come and blow me out of the water and it's like, 'Okay, this person is a little bit better for this part,'" Giza said. "That's the joy of casting and so forth."

Giza credits the community's support, sponsors including Monson Savings Bank and Hampden Engineering and supporters including Selectboard Chair John Flynn--who has performed small parts in productions himself--and Flynn's wife, Diane, who has also played parts with the guild including Charity in "Sweet Charity."

He also noted Fountain Park, where "Steel Magnolias" was performed outdoors during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"It's those staple people that have been with you so long and you rely on them," Giza said. "It was just very supportive, which is always nice."

Giza's biggest joy as director has been the rehearsal process from the staging to

the blocking. As a director, he stressed the most important part was choosing the right people for their roles and working with them on their characters.

"I love going two nights a week and blocking the script. Some people think these shows just happen and people walk around the stage. Directors--good directors--sift meticulously with each page of those scripts and block out where the actor is to enter and exit, what they're supposed to do, what is their motivation at that point. When the blackouts should be, when the lights should come up and then working with the characters," Giza said.

Giza encourages the community--including anyone who has seen the guild's productions, fans of the guild and more--to come out for the event, thanking them for their continued support.

"We'd love to see a lot of people from our community come support us that night and look back on the special moments," Giza said. "It's been a lovely ride."

HOMETOWN SPOTLIGHT

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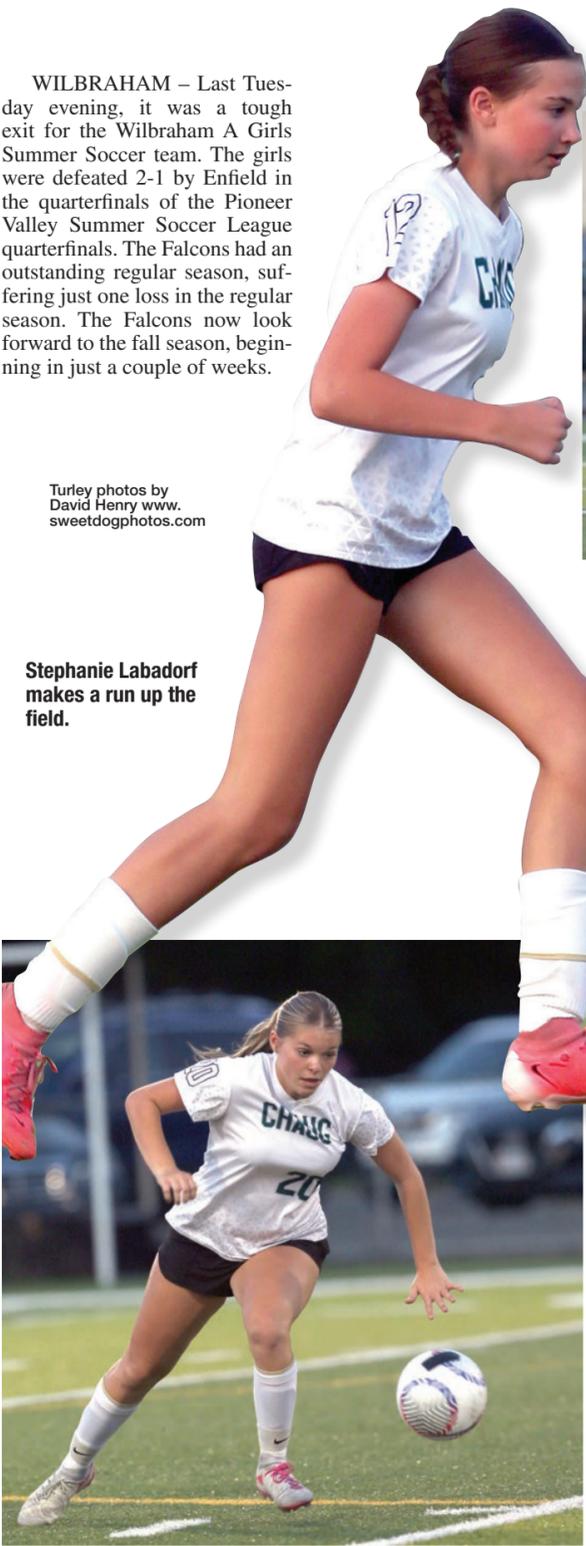
www.sports.turley.com

Wilbraham girls ousted in quarterfinals

WILBRAHAM – Last Tuesday evening, it was a tough exit for the Wilbraham A Girls Summer Soccer team. The girls were defeated 2-1 by Enfield in the quarterfinals of the Pioneer Valley Summer Soccer League quarterfinals. The Falcons had an outstanding regular season, suffering just one loss in the regular season. The Falcons now look forward to the fall season, beginning in just a couple of weeks.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

Stephanie Labadorf makes a run up the field.



McKenna Sacco looks to fake her opponent out.



Maya Usher gets a foot on the loose ball.



Paige Holt runs down the ball.

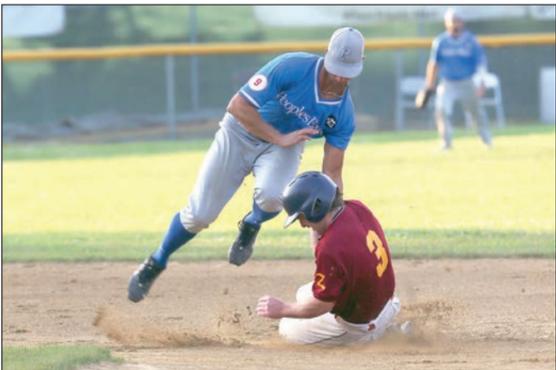


Avery Knox tries to settle the bouncing ball.



Brooklyn Manning looks to pass up the field.

Rivalry renewed as PeoplesBank takes title over St. Joe's



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com Dave Clark gets the out at second.



Sam Allen swings for PeoplesBank.



James Flahive delivers a pitch home in the championship series.

By Tim Peterson Sports Correspondent

HOLYOKE — The Tri-County Baseball League will be celebrating its 100th anniversary in 2029.

PeoplesBank, who has been the best team in the league during the past thirty years, swept St. Joseph's in this year's best of three championship series.

"Feels great to win another championship. It's our goal every summer," said PeoplesBank player/manager Joe Ferry. "We just enjoy playing baseball with each other. Our chemistry is a key to our success. I can't thank the players

enough." Ferry, who started both games against St. Joe's in left field, was aided by assistant coach Rey Rivera, who had three base hits and an RBI in game two.

PeoplesBank has captured the championship title in each of the past twelve seasons and a total of twenty times since 1995.

PeoplesBank and St. Joseph's both finished the 2025 regular season with ten victories.

"Our season was a success and great bonds were created," said St. Joe's player/manager Brian Hayes. "We had a team composed of mostly

college players this year."

PeoplesBank, who was the top-seeded team, advanced into the finals after sweeping fourth-seeded Teddy Bear Pools & Spas in the semifinals.

Second-seeded St. Joseph's needed three games to eliminate third-seeded bank-ESB in the semifinal round.

The Bankers scored seven runs on seven base hits in the bottom of the first inning enroute to a 10-0 victory in game one of the championship series last Monday night. The contest ended after 4 1/2 innings due to the ten run mercy rule.

It was also PeoplesBank

last game of the season at Mackenzie Stadium in Holyoke.

"We just love playing games on this field," said Ferry following game one. "We played very well in tonight's, but as Kobe Bryant, who was my favorite athlete growing up once said, 'the jobs not finished'."

PeoplesBank finished the job twenty four hours later with a 10-7 win in an old fashion slugfest at St. Joe's Field in Thorndike.

The winning pitcher in game one was lefthander James Flahive, who's sidearmer. He allowed only two base hits and issued

two walks in his final start of the 2025 campaign.

"Jimmy has been the best pitcher in the league during the past four or five years," Ferry said. "I don't ever recall him losing a game since he put on a Peoplesbank jersey."

St. Joe's shortstop Devin Slattery, who was an outstanding three-sport athlete at Ware High School, drew a walk with one-out in the top of the first inning. After the next batter flied out to right, Slattery was thrown out trying to steal second base by catcher Pete Hogan.

Centerfielder Seth Allen hit a ground ball up the middle into centerfield for a single

leading off the bottom of the first inning against St. Joe's righthander Jack Feltovic.

Then Hogan walked before second baseman Dave Clark launched a 3-run homer that landed beneath the giant scoreboard in left field.

Following back-to-back singles by first baseman Kyle Platner and right fielder Cam Rivest, DH Johnny Gegetskas delivered an RBI single to left giving the home team a 4-0 advantage.

Another run crossed the plate following a sacrifice fly to left by shortstop Sam Allen.

Please see **BASEBALL**, page 12

Patnode, Brousseau take modified wins

WINCHESTER, N.H. - Todd Patnode and Andrew Brousseau each won a Modified feature on the high banks of Monadnock Speedway Saturday, July 26, the potent pair each roaring to victory on New England's fastest quarter-mile oval.

Andrea St. Amour was awarded the Pure Stocks win after a post-race inspection penalized Kyle Begos, and Erik Smith was victorious in the Super Street main event.

Young Gun Hunter Duquette continued his summer of success, scoring his fourth 2025 feature win. And while top 604 Modified point man Brian Robie came up short of winning for the fifth time this season, he still had a strong night all the same.

Todd Patnode and Brian Chapin led the Allstates Materials Group 604 Modifieds to the green in round one of the open-wheeled rocket ships twin 35-lap main events. Patnode jumped all over the opening lead, bringing teen blaster Ty Leclerc - launching from row two - with him.

The Swanzey competitor, a past speedway champion and winner of volumes of both Modified and Pro Stock main events here, would be sorely tested but would never bend en route to ending a two-season personal drought on the high banks.

Robie, charging from row four, got up for second on lap 13, yielded it back to rookie phenom Ty Leclerc on lap 20, and the battle was on, as Leclerc, Robie, and Chapin fought tooth-and-nail for the number two spot. Leclerc prevailed for a career-best runner-up finish, and Robie nudged past Chapin to steal third on the final lap.

In the nightcap 35, Brousseau started up front and never looked back. The second-generation hot shoe survived several strong restart bids by Colton Martin to stay on top as he blasted to his second win of the summer.

In a post-race inspection, 604 Modified competitor Brian Chapin was disqualified from both features as result of not complying to the engine rules of having a sealed engine.

Erik Smith had raced to many near misses in Twin State Truck Services Super Street features this summer but had never quite sealed the deal. Saturday, he put all that behind him, as the Green Mountain State hat shoe roared to victory.

Smith's win didn't come easily though. Had he extended his arm out the window, he could have high-fived points leader Dylan Zullo almost all the way, as the high-flying Claremont speedster rode in his shadow from start to finish.

With JD Stockwell finishing at Zullo's bumper in third, Zullo finished the night still a handful of points atop the leader board. Zach Zalinski and Hillary Renaud were close behind in Saturday's nose-to-tail top five finish.

In the Pure Stocks, Kyle Begos led the field from the green to the checkers. Defending track Pure Stock champ Andrea St. Amour trailed Begos and ended in second on the night with Markus O'Neil in third. In a post-race inspection, Begos was penalized to ninth place finish for a camber rule violation.

Hunter Duquette wired the Doug's Auto Body Young Gun feature to earn his fourth victory lap of the season. Heat race winner Ella Grabowski was second, and Sofia Rego, aboard a loner ride, came home third.

In Senior Tour Auto Racers support card events, Chris Jarrett, aboard his 1970 Pinto open-wheeled entry, topped the STAR Sportsmen, with Ken Archambault second and Skip Stearns third. Windham, Maine's Alan Zemla was victorious in the STAR Modifieds, leading a trio of vintage coupe racers under the checkers, just ahead of Dennis Desautels and Skip Swiantek.

T-Birds makes moves in operations staff

SPRINGFIELD - The Springfield Thunderbirds announced hockey operations staff changes on Wednesday. Julia Snow has been promoted to Head Athletic Trainer, and Dylan Schoen has been hired as the team's Video Coach. In addition, former Thunderbirds Head Athletic Trainer Koryd Lavimoniere has accepted a position with the NHL's Carolina Hurricanes as an Assistant Athletic Trainer.

"We're thrilled for Koryd on his much-deserved promotion to the NHL and want to thank him for his dedication to the Blues and Thunderbirds organizations," said Thunderbirds general manager Kevin Maxwell. "Our team will be in great hands with Julia moving into the head athletic trainer position, where she will remain a key resource for our players and staff. We look forward to continuing to work with her."

Snow is entering her fourth season in the Thunderbirds organization after serving as Assistant Athletic Trainer since August of 2022. She becomes the fourth female actively to serve as a head athletic trainer in the AHL. Prior to joining the T-Birds, Snow served as the Head Athletic Trainer for the ECHL's Worcester Railers, as well as stints with the Hyannis Harbor Hawks of the Cape Cod Baseball League and the Massachusetts Pirates indoor football team.

Snow graduated from Worcester State University with a health education and therapeutic studies degree in 2018 before obtaining her masters in athletic training at Boston University.

Schoen is entering his first season in the Thunderbirds organization after serving as an assistant coach last season with Bowling Green State University.

"We are pleased to welcome Dylan into the Thunderbirds organization," said Maxwell. "His background in coaching at the junior and collegiate levels has prepared him to take on this new opportunity in Springfield, and we are happy to have him join our coaching staff."

A former NCAA Division III goaltender at SUNY-Geneseo and Stevenson University, Schoen has also served as a goaltending coach and assistant coach, respectively, for the North American Hockey League's Amarillo Bulls and Maryland Black Bears.

Springfield Thunderbirds fans are encouraged to visit www.SpringfieldThunderbirds.com to learn more about 2025-26 Ticket Memberships, which feature the best benefits, including a special 10th anniversary season ticket holder jersey. For more information or to order now, call (413) 739-GOAL (4625).

Central takes silver, West bronze in field hockey games

FITCHBURG - Utilizing the turf fields at Game On Sports Complex, the Bay State Games for field hockey were held, featuring teams from Western and Central Massachusetts, both of which have had great success in the sport in past Bay State Games competitions. The games, which were held the weekend of July 11 to 13, started off with a strong 3-0 victory from Central over the Metro/Northeast team.

Western Mass. got into the action right after, taking on a Central team that has just played a few hours earlier. But Central was equal to the task and scored a 4-2 win over West.

West then had its second game of the day, facing off with the Coastal team, and rebounding with a 4-3 win.

On Saturday, July 12, West fell for a second time 4-1 against the Southeast team while Central also suffered a loss, falling 5-2 against Southeast.

Both teams would rebound with wins later in the day. Central beat Coastal 5-3 while West shut out Metro/Northeast with a 4-0 decision. That put the West team in the bronze medal game on Sunday, July 13.

West would defeat Coastal in a rematch of their second game of the tournament, winning 3-2. Central made the gold medal game, but suffered a 2-0 shutout against the Southeast team.

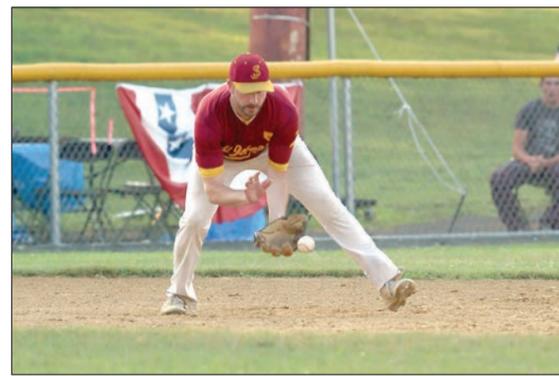
This year, representing Central Mass. in the games were Quabbin High School's Makenzie Casey and Tantasqua's Sophia Bochicchio.

Tantasqua's Dessa Demears played for the Western Mass. team, while Anna Taylor and Kendall Placzek represented Minnechaug Regional.

Agawam High School placed four players on the team. Alyssa DaSilva, Finnola Mahoney, Olivia Govoni, and Lily Charest represented the Brownies.



Greg Vouros fields a grounder to second.



Brandon Magni makes a play for St. Joe's.



Nate Carrill makes an off-balance play.

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BASEBALL from page 11

After catching the ball, St. Joe's left fielder Jacob Petrin threw the ball to third baseman Brandon Magni, who tagged out the runner who was trying to advance to third base on the play.

Shortstop Seth Allen, who's Sam's twin brother, capped off the opening frame by hitting a two run double off the left field fence.

"We kept passing the bat and put a lot of pressure on them in the first inning," Ferry said. "We had some hard hits and a couple of walks in that inning. We also batted around in the first inning of last year's finals. I capped the inning off with a bases loaded triple in that game."

St. Joe's DH Pat Fitzgibbons drew a walk leading off the second inning, but he was thrown out trying to steal by Hogan.

PeoplesBank scored three more runs in the third inning. Clark, who was hit-by-a-pitch in the second inning, knocked home the first run of the frame with a double to left. Platner followed with a two-run double to right.

Trailing, 10-0, St. Joe's

began the fourth inning with a line-drive single by Petrin, who was thrown out trying to steal second base. Slattery also singled, but the next batter grounded into a 6-4-3 inning ending double play.

St. Joe's standard two runs on base in the top of the fifth, as PeoplesBank took a 1-0 lead in the series.

The Bankers jumped out a 7-0 lead in game two before St. Joe's battled with five runs in the bottom of the fourth inning.

Center fielder Aaron Little knocked home two runs with a double and right fielder Colby Harrington contributed with an RBI single. The other two runs crossed the plate following errors.

The Bankers, who were led offensively by third baseman Cam MacDonald with two hits and two RBIs,

responded with three runs in the sixth inning giving the visitors a 10-5 advantage.

St. Joe's scored two more runs in the bottom of the sixth inning. Danny Gaines was the winning pitcher in game two, which capped off another memorable season for PeoplesBank.

Pirates indoor football season comes to the end

LOWELL – Pirates quarterback Taulia Tagovailoa made the first start of his Indoor Football League career. The Bay Area Panthers, the best team in the league, proved to be a little too much for the former Maryland Terrapin and the rest of the Pirates as Bay Area defeated Massachusetts 45-30 at the Tsongas Center. The Panthers secured home-field advantage throughout the upcoming playoffs, finishing the year with a 13-3 record. The Pirates ended the 2025 campaign with a mark of 7-9.

The Panthers wasted little time showing Tagovailoa the ropes as defensive back Joe Foucha intercepted his first throw on the second play of the game. On the next play, Bay Area quarterback Josh Jones threw a 31-yard touchdown pass to Tyrese Chambers for a 7-0 lead. The rookie's indoctrination continued as the next drive ended the same way. After a 13-yard run by Tagovailoa to set up a first and ten at the Panthers' 13-yard line, his second pass of the night, intended for Dontay Demus, was picked off again by Foucha. For Foucha, it was his seventh interception of the season. Panthers backup quarterback Liam Thompson then came on to lead Bay Area on a seven-play, 40-yard drive that ended with Trey Goodman taking a pitchout and scoring on a two-yard run for a 14-0 lead with 5:13 to play in the first quarter.

The Pirates then picked up the pace as Pooka Williams Jr. returned the ensuing kickoff 46 yards to the three-yard line. On the next play,

the top running back in the IFL scored his 11th rushing touchdown of the season to put the Pirates down by seven. The Massachusetts defense then stepped up, as on the next possession, defensive lineman Michael Mason pressured Thompson in his own end zone. Mason was held on the play as Thompson was called for intentional grounding. The result of the play was a safety, making the score 14 to 9 as the first quarter ended.

With the ball to start the second quarter, Massachusetts attempted a 46-yard field goal that was missed by Josh Gable. Thompson and the Panthers seized the opportunity as the quarterback scored on a nine-yard run for a 21-9 advantage.

The Bay Area defense then made a statement, as after an 18-yard run by Tagovailoa to set up first and goal at the seven, they pushed the Pirates back to the 24. The Pirates attempted a 39-yard field goal, but the snap never got back to the holder. After the turnover on downs, the Panthers need four plays to go 24 yards for a score. Thompson connected with Chambers for his second touchdown reception of the game with a ten-yard pass for a 28-9 advantage.

The Bay Area defense then made a statement, as after an 18-yard run by Tagovailoa to set up first and goal at the seven, they pushed the Pirates back to the 24. The Pirates attempted a 39-yard field goal, but the snap never got back to the holder. After the turnover on downs, the Panthers need four plays to go 24 yards for a score. Thompson connected

with Chambers for his second touchdown reception of the game with a ten-yard pass for a 28-9 advantage.

Tagovailoa then engineered a seven-play, 18-yard drive for a score that was highlighted by a leaping catch by Steven McBride as he vaulted into the stands for a nine-yard reception. Then, on fourth and goal from the one, the rookie quarterback recorded his first IFL touchdown pass as Teo Redding's catch made the score 28-15 at halftime.

The teams exchanged touchdowns in the third quarter as Thompson completed a six-play, 44-yard march to the goal line with a five-yard run for his second score of the game that pushed the score to 34-15. Tagovailoa answered with a six-yard scoring run for his first career rushing touchdown as the Pirates trailed 34-22.

After a missed field goal from 34 yards by the Panthers' Axel Perez, the Bay Area defense pressured Tagovailoa. On a third and 11, Jonathan Ross rushed the passer and was held in the end zone, which resulted in the second safety of the game. The third quarter ended 36-22 with Bay Area out front.

In the final quarter, Thompson scored his third rushing touchdown of the night on a three-yard run, and Perez added the point after and a "Deuce", giving the Panthers a 45-22 lead. Tagovailoa added his second rushing touchdown of the night on a nifty 19-yard run for the game's final points. His two-point conversion pass to Demus made the score 45-30.

READING from page 1

and each 15 minutes would earn them one bead," Rumplik said. "So, the more that they read, the more beads they can collect, and they can create their own cool personalized necklace!"

The event added onto the rewards that the kids earned during the summer, rewarding them for their hard work.

"All the kids get a gift card for a free slice of pizza at Gio's, a free ice cream at Mountain View, a free round of minigolf at Fenway Golf, as well as a book they can choose and keep. We have a range of books, from picture to chapter, so everyone who participated can have a book that's a good fit for their level," Rumplik said.

Rumplik also stressed the importance of reading during the summer months.

"Summer reading is super important for kids, not just because of the prizes, but it helps prepare them for school in the fall and practice for a regular routine of reading," Rumplik said.

The Summer Reading program happens at the Hampden and Wilbraham Libraries every summer and is available for kids to sign up before the school year ends.

At the party, guests were served pasta, salad, bread and cake, which was also courtesy of the Hampden Cultural Council's support.

Before young readers received their awards, Rumplik thanked "local businesses for their help with the party, awards, and other events during the summer."

Some of these businesses include Big Y, Gio's Pizzeria, GreatHorse, Isham Construction and Landscaping, Monson Savings Bank,



Turley photos by Angelina Acevedo
Youth Services Librarian Kate Rumplik reading out the winners of the raffle for the youth Basketball Hall of Fame passes.

Polish National Credit Union and the Village Food Mart.

There was also a shout-out and "a big thanks to the parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, and adults that helped not only get the children here, but also helped them on their reading journey."

Along with the gift cards and books each young reader received, there were also raffle prizes that could be won. These included a youth pass to the Basketball Hall of Fame—which had multiple winners—a pass to the Holyoke Children's Museum, a free wax hand at Yankee Candle, a family pass to a visit at the U.S.S.

Constitution and a family pass to the Eric Carle Museum.

"This party, and every event run during the summer, was only possible through the support of the community's time and donations, and we were grateful that children were able to experience another summer filled with fun activities for them and their friends," Rumplik said.

While the 2025 Summer Reading Program has come to a close, the memories made will not be forgotten anytime soon, and the library can't wait to see what next year brings for the young readers in the community.



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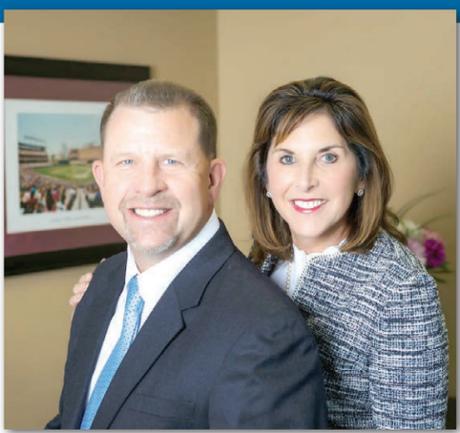
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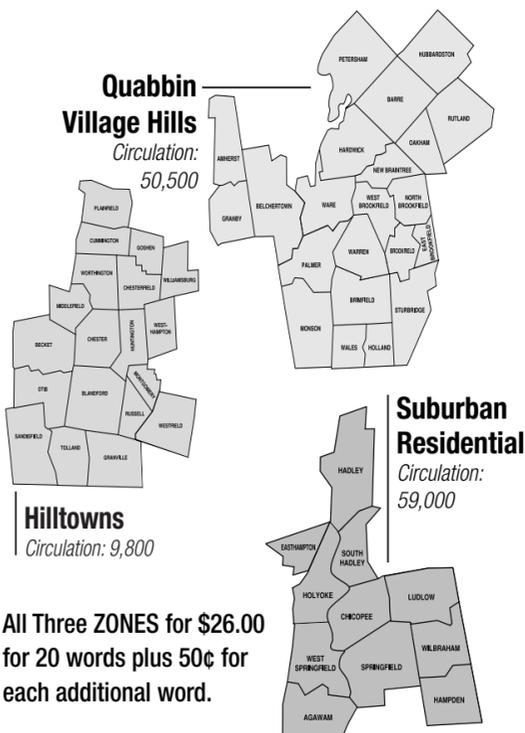
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CLIMB from page 1

years "with open arms and great enthusiasm," enjoying the opportunity to meet Wayne Carini, check out the cars and see the vendors and others in attendance.

"The police did a marvelous job with traffic control and crowds were extremely courteous to all. If this historical event gets canceled for the coming years, then it would truly be a shame for the massive crowds that have attended this year and past," Bucknell wrote.

Kevin Burke was first introduced to the Hill Climb when living on Tinkham Road extension and "was one of the people that was --insert--negative connotation here."

After his family checked out the event, Burke said his son "is absolutely in love with cars" and his wife and daughter have attended and enjoyed it.

"I think one of the things that I've seen is we think about this Hill Climb event and we see Ed and we see Jeff, but I think this year, more than anything, we've had so many other people that have been a part of it; Ed and Jeff can't do it alone. There's going to be challenges and I think we're going to have

even more people--hopefully, God-Willing--assist further next year to make it go even smoother," Burke said.

He urged the board to note the feedback from the town "and not necessarily look at it as a negative," but "what are the opportunities for us to coordinate, hear those people out, work with Jeff and Ed on resolving those issues."

Also, if the Hill Climb does not take place, there's a risk of losing sponsorships and groups as calendars are booked in advance.

"I think if we vote no on the Hill Climb next year, the town needs to be prepared that it will never happen and the Hill Climb is done," Burke said.

Leslie Wood traced the history of town worker Paul Maguire--known as "Irish Paul"--who found and polished a sign from the year 1908 that was used for the Wilbraham Hill Climb.

"In Irish Paul's wisdom he decided that he would take this sign to the leaders of his village. He presented them his idea of going back in time to race up the hill. He hoped people would come from near and far with their old cars and reenact that race," Wood read. "But Irish Paul needed help. So thanks to his



Turley photo by Patricia Sullivan Residents can scan this QR code or check out the survey link at this beginning of this week's article to share their thoughts on the Wilbraham Hill Climb.

friends George Holman Sr. and George Holman Jr. and Joan Paris they worked long and hard with no money but a desire to bring their village of Wilbraham a day of joy to all its townspeople. Many people in the village saw his vision and they all begin to pitch in and give of their money and time. Even people from the surrounding villages wanted to help."

Wood read when the day came, "cars and people came and music played and the people rejoiced."

"And to this day Irish Paul, George Holman Sr. and George Holman Jr., Joan

Paris, and their newer friend Ed Cenedella work tirelessly to bring the Wilbraham Hill Climb to their village. Not the end," Wood read.

She added the event committee also received support from Peter Picknelly and the police department and they spoke with neighbors and residents along Ridge Road.

"You're not going to have everybody happy, but the vision really was to bring the community together, to bring something back that was a history of Wilbraham, that the sign represented and not about making money because there's not a soul that made money," Wood said. "We really wanted this to be for the town."

It should also be noted funds from the event support the Springfield to Boston Education Foundation.

Mark Pafumi, owner of Pafumi's on Main, said the event helps introduce local businesses to attendees and other community members.

"It just drives so much new business. It's helped everything; it just helps the whole community," Pafumi said.

He also noted the loss of the Peach Festival and no parades going through town.

"What do we have? What do we have as a community to get together? This might not be community people, but it's bringing our community together for local people to have a good time," Pafumi said. "It's five hours out of a weekend. I get it's going to be a headache for some people because anything's going to be a headache for some people, but it's such a great thing in my eyes."

Select Board Thoughts

Vice Chair Marc Ducey--who served as acting chair for the meeting--said his take was to give "an answer one way or the other sooner versus later" and noted there wasn't a set date as of yet, which Clerk Sue Bunnell agreed and wondered if the board had been asked.

Squindo then noted a letter from Ed Cenedella, one of the co-organizers for the Wilbraham Hill Climb, on the intent to hold the event every year and seeking feedback.

Bunnell next clarified her perspective from the previous meeting.

"I have certainly plenty of concerns and I would not want it to be any less well managed than it was this year,

in terms of particularly the interactions with Town Hall. I think they made some significant improvements for that, particularly in light of the volume of support they have brought forward to us and obviously, if there are folks with negative opinions, we want to hear that too," Bunnell said. "I'm inclined to move ahead and let the event happen next year."

Squindo said he respects and appreciates the community engagement the event creates and shared his concerns focused on "it does shut down a main artery and consumes major resources for an entire day."

"Which may not seem like a lot out of the grand scheme of the year, but I think it's something that we need to consider. Obviously, we've had some concerned residents reach out who live in that area, but I think there are also people who are just impacted more broadly within the community. Not necessarily that live in the exact corridor where we're discussing," Squindo said. "And to that point, I think I'm very amenable to something happening every year. I don't think that it needs to be a Hill Climb every year. I think that a lot of what I heard tonight being discussed as popular has very little to do with the actual Hill Climb itself and more to do with the community engagement of everything else that came with it--and that's not to say that people don't enjoy the Hill Climb itself of those who spoke tonight--but, I think that when you're shutting down an entire main street corridor for an entire day. There are many community events that have been hosted--and communities including Wilbraham throughout the years--that don't require as much impact and direct resource engagement as the Hill Climb action itself."

Squindo then asked hypothetical questions about "if the car show could be moved to another location, could they have the food trucks and the--for lack of a better phrase--the carnival-type feel that is enjoyed--at a different location where there's less impact to the traffic." "I think they could," Squindo said. "But, I stand committed to what I said previously, which is that I'm open to having some sort of an engagement with this organization on a yearly basis. I don't think it needs to be a

Hill Climb every year."

For Ducey, he said many community events in town are impactful and "some people are very supportive of them, other people are not."

"It was good to hear from the people who are supportive of it tonight because I think we've received much email from people who are negatively impacted and are probably neighbors with them," Ducey said. "I am supportive of it, frankly, although I still remain concerned."

His major concern is the safety.

"If a wheel comes off one of these cars when they're traveling up the road at 75 or 80 miles an hour or however fast they're going, someone's going to get hurt and that is a concern of mine," Ducey said. "I think the event itself is unique, it's part of the character--if you will--so I'm very fairly supportive of it, other than I do have that remaining concern on the safety side of it."

Cenedella, DeMarey hopeful

Since last Monday's meeting, Cenedella and his fellow co-organizer, Jeff DeMarey, also shared their thoughts.

Cenedella is hopeful the board approves the event and explained concerns for this year's event were addressed, including changing the shuttle bus routes from going up and down Main Street to going to and from Memorial School to Wilbraham & Monson Academy and Minnechaug Regional High School to the bottom of Monson Road and the permitting for food trucks.

"I'm just hoping that we solved enough problems for them to give us the green light on it this year to do it again. Because I do think it's pretty popular, I think it draws a lot of people in and if there's any problems that happen this year, I'd like them to tell us and we can work on solving that," Cenedella said.

He added he wants to work with the Select Board.

"I think it's a great thing for the town," Cenedella said. "I think the Select Board has been very amenable to us and I think very reasonable. I think they have some concerns that I hope we can allay and I hope we can move on."

DeMarey also expressed hope for next year's event.

"I'm looking to have a wonderful event in 2026," DeMarey said.

PUBLIC NOTICES

WILBRAHAM BOARD OF APPEALS PUBLIC HEARING

The Wilbraham Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing on Thursday, August 21, 2025 at 5:30 PM on the application of Peter Zimmerman for a special permit (ZBA25-06) under the provisions of Sections 3.4.5.20(B) and 6.5.11 of the Wilbraham Zoning By-Law to allow retail sales of used automobiles and trucks ancillary to the existing motor vehicle repair business on property owned by Railroad Ave Realty NOM Trust at 3 Railroad Avenue as further specified in the application on file in the Planning Office and posted for public viewing on the Zoning Board of Appeals page of the Town of Wilbraham website at www.wilbraham-ma.gov/135/Zoning-Board-of-Appeals.

Both in person and virtual participation are available. To participate virtually go to https://meet.goto.com/421143013 or call 877-309-2073 (Access Code: 421-143-013).

Edward Kivari Jr., Chairman 08/07, 08/14/2025

WILBRAHAM BOARD OF APPEALS PUBLIC HEARING

The Wilbraham Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing on Thursday, August 21, 2025 at 6:00 PM on the application of Justine Antunes for an appeal (ZBA25-08) under Section 15.5.2.3.A of the Wilbraham Zoning By-Law to allow continuation of a dog training and boarding business on property owned by Justine and Matthew Antunes located at 6 Blueberry Hill Road as further specified in the application on file in the Planning Office and posted for public viewing on the Zoning Board of Appeals page of the Town of Wilbraham website at www.wilbraham-ma.gov/135/Zoning-Board-of-Appeals.

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Edward Kivari Jr., Chairman 08/07, 08/14/2025

Wilbraham Conservation Commission LEGAL NOTICE

The Wilbraham Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing Wednesday, August 20, 2025, at 6:30PM in Conference Room 1 at the Wilbraham Town Hall, 240 Springfield Street, on the Notice of Intent filed by Mike Serricchio under the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act and the Wilbraham Wetlands Bylaw.

The proposed project includes the construction of a single family home, septic, and well within the buffer zone of a BVW. The property is located at 48V and 50V Lake Drive. Information relating to this application is on file with the Conservation Commission.

Christopher Brown, Chairman 08/07/2025

WILBRAHAM BOARD OF APPEALS PUBLIC HEARING

The Wilbraham Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing on Thursday, August 21, 2025 at 5:45 PM on the application of Robert J. Roy, Jr., Garrick R. Legault, Sharon M. Marshall, and Frank A. Crinella III, for a special permit under the provisions of Section 3.4.5.2.C of the Wilbraham Zoning By-Law to change the use in the existing structure located at 2511 Boston Road (owned by WKP Enterprises LLC) from a retail business to a professional and business office as further specified in the application on file in the Planning Office and posted for public viewing on the Zoning Board of Appeals page of the Town of Wilbraham website at www.wilbraham-ma.gov/135/Zoning-Board-of-Appeals.

Both in person and virtual participation are available. To participate virtually go to https://meet.goto.com/421143013 or call 877-309-2073 (Access Code: 421-143-013).

Edward Kivari Jr., Chairman 08/07, 08/14/2025

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Division Docket No. HD25P0506EA Estate of: Carla Ann Boutin Date of Death: 04/13/2024 CITATION ON GENERAL PROBATE PETITION

To all interested persons: A Petition has been filed by: Daniel R Boutin of Wilbraham, MA requesting To Access Information in the Decedent's Apple Account.

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 08/15/2025.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to

this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an Affidavit of Objections within thirty (30) days of the return date, action may be taken without further notice to you.

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

Date: July 18, 2025 Rosemary A Saccomani, Register of Probate 08/07/2025

PUBLIC NOTICE

This ad is pursuant to MA Gen. Law Ch.255, Sec. 39A as of August 8, 2025 the following motor vehicle will be for sale to satisfy a garage keepers lien: Vehicle : 2016 Jeep Patriot VIN:1CAN4NJRBB5GD654789 COLOR: Blue LKO: Tyler James Washington 8051 North Denver St Apt 123 Kansas City MO 64151 R & S Assoc. Inc PO Box 543 Wilbraham MA 01095 413-596-4374 07/24, 07/31, 08/07/2025

Town of Hampden Notice of Public Hearing

The Hampden Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on Wednesday, August 27, 2025 at 6:30 PM in the Town House, 625 Main Street, Hampden, MA on the application of Sherry Himmelstein for a Special Permit under Section 7.2.4 of the Zoning Bylaws for a sub-standard frontage lot within the R-6 District, Parcel ID 08-020-001 located on South Road owned by Sherry Himmelstein and Kenneth Bernstein. Information related to this application is on file in the Town Clerk's Office and is available for review by the public during normal business hours.

For the Board, Madison Pixley, Chair Hampden Planning Board 08/07, 08/14/2025

Advertisement for Five Islands in Georgetown, Maine. Features a photo of a modern kitchen and dining area. Text includes: FIVE ISLANDS, Georgetown, Maine, 2 Bedrooms, 2 Bathroom, Washer/Dryer, Fully Equipped, Walk to Five Islands Wharf and Ledgewood Preserve Beach, Close to Reid State Park, \$1200/week, 207-607-9333.

Advertisement for Rozell's Landscaping & Bobcat Service. Features a photo of a Bobcat excavator. Text includes: ROZELL'S LANDSCAPING & Bobcat Service, 413-636-5957, Overgrown property?, Excavator Services, Extreme Brush Cutting!, Shrub, Stump, Tree Removal, Lawn/Arborvitae Installed, Loam, Stone, Mulch, Sand, Storm Clean-up, Small Demo, Insured, JOSH ROZELL 413.636.5957.



Madison Guertin, Audriana Stasio of Audi's Amigurumi, and Maura Guertin in this photo. The Guertins were assisting Stasio during the exciting day.



From the left, the trio behind Tangerine Creations, consisting of Will Quinn, Morgan Lape and Marily Remaly.



Luke and Halle Kelsen were also among the youngest youth entrepreneurs.



Bella Rosado, Mya Kirkpatrick and Taylor Minahan of McKenna Lee Rose Jewelry pose for a group photo.



Jonathan Wei showed off Chinese crafts and his artwork.



Ollie Williams of Just Bead It poses with her mom, Angelina Jones.

YOUTH from page 1

"For (the) future, you learn what you can do better," Wojtowicz said.

Will Quinn, Morgan Lape and Marily Remaly of Tangerine Creations are recent Minnechaug graduates and heading to college this fall, with their varying creations including stickers, bracelets and necklaces, drawings and other art pieces.

"I think it's a really nice opportunity for the town in general. It brings people together in a lot of different ways and just to have this sort of gathering makes the town feel more alive, more put together," Quinn said. "We did

sell a good amount, but even if we're not selling stuff, it's still good experience to make things and sell things, make prices and interact with people. So, I think it's really good experience as well."

"Like doing things that we don't normally do to just get out there in the community. Before we leave, one final thing of bringing everyone together," Lape said.

Jackie Hafner, coalition coordinator for the Hampden-Wilbraham Partners for Youth, was proud of the entrepreneurs and thanked the Wilbraham Farmers Market



Madeline Bleu of Pumpkin Spice Fairy shows off her crafts.



Jillian True of Cottontail Creations with a crochet duck.

for their partnership. "We've been attending biweekly and it's been amazing," Hafner said. "From first grade all the way to high school graduates and they're just amazing young people. So talented, so gifted and so creative and just giving it

Farmers Market, shared that in the past, the market held a day for Youth Entrepreneurs, but since expanded it to multiple days after talking with parents.

After connecting with HWP4Y, it became a biweekly schedule.

"We have absolutely loved having them here. For the market, it just brings more vendors here, brings more customers here. It just really filled out our market and, for them, it's a huge learning opportunity," Hummel said. "They get to learn responsibility, commitment, communication and they're making the products, they're talking to the customers and they're just doing the whole process

of being an entrepreneur and having a business."

Hummel said since opening back in June, the Wilbraham Farmers Market has been doing well and welcoming visitors even during the recent heatwaves.

"People have been coming out. They've been supporting us, we've had new vendors this year, so it's going really well and we're looking forward to next year already," Hummel said.

Remaly's message was this.

"Embrace the things that you like and (do) not be afraid of showing others what you make," Remaly said.

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SINGLE FAMILY LISTINGS				
STATUS	ADDRESS	DESCRIPTION	LIST PRICE	SOLD PRICE
CTG	53 Wood End Road, Springfield	5 room, 3 bed, 1f 0h bath Ranch	\$275,000	
UAG	47 Mayfair St., East Longmeadow	7 room, 4 bed, 1f 1h bath Ranch	\$309,900	
UAG	313 Bennett Rd., Hampden	7 room, 3 bed, 2f 1h bath Cape	\$510,000	
UAG	75 Puritan Rd., Springfield, Sixteen Acres	9 room, 3 bed, 2f 0h bath Ranch	\$299,900	
SLD	12 Federal St. Ext., Agawam,	8 room, 3 bed, 1f 1h bath Dutch Colonial	\$465,000	\$478,000
SLD	26 S. Main St., Belchertown	22 room, 9 bed, 4f 0h bath Victorian, Other (See Remarks)	\$739,999	\$695,000
SLD	2 Anna Marie Lane, East Longmeadow,	8 room, 4 bed, 2f 1h bath Colonial	\$849,900	\$825,000
SLD	65 River Park Dr., Hampden	7 room, 3 bed, 1f 1h bath Colonial	\$449,000	\$450,000
SLD	98 Town Farm Rd., Monson	11 room, 5 bed, 3f 0h bath Contemporary	\$619,900	\$647,500
SLD	302 West Allen Ridge Rd., Springfield	East Forest Park, 6 room, 4 bed, 2f 0h bath Ranch	\$309,000	\$325,000
SLD	143 Gardens Dr., Springfield	6 room, 4 bed, 1f 0h bath Cape	\$314,900	\$330,000
SLD	59 Chalmers St., Springfield	6 room, 3 bed, 1f 1h bath Cape	\$335,000	\$335,000
SLD	4 Mark Twain Dr., Wilbraham	9 room, 4 bed, 2f 2h bath Colonial	\$599,900	\$622,000
MULTI FAMILY LISTINGS				
SLD	26 S. Main St., Belchertown,	3 unit, 22 total rooms, 9 total bedrooms 3 Family	\$739,999	\$695,000
SLD	141-143 Berkshire St., Springfield	2 unit, 11 total rooms, 6 total bdms., 2 Family - 2 Units Side by Side	\$315,000	\$316,326
LAND LISTINGS				
ACT	7 Old Reed Rd lot:6, Monson	8.50 Residential acres (370,260 SqFt)	\$99,000	
ACT	454 Ridge Road, Wilbraham	1.78 Residential acres (77,555 SqFt)	\$218,000	
UAG	160 Silver Street, Monson	4.93 Residential acres (214,751 SqFt)	\$99,000	

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