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Teens, adults mark Summer Reading's end

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
krivers@turley.com

HAMPDEN - After the Children's Summer Reading Finale party on July 31, it was time for the teens and adults to celebrate with their respec-

tive finale parties on Aug. 2. The adults gathered in the Rochford Reading Room to discuss their top reads of the summer and win raffle prizes of gift cards from Mountain View Restaurant, La Cucina, Gio's, Casa Bella, Village Food Mart, Bilton's and The

Bagel Nook. As for the teens, they joined Young Adult Librarian Maxine Girard downstairs in the Town House Auditorium for raffle basket prizes and a Barnes & Noble gift card, games of Plinko, pizza and other yummy treats.

Kim Converse was one of the attendees for the Adult Finale Party and enjoyed seeing people win the raffle prizes. She read four books, including "Archie and the Accidental Chicken Heroes."

"Ellen was just catching up on stuff, which I know we're moving and I know they're going to create the Rochford Room. But, I just didn't know all the details and neither does anybody else yet," Converse said. "Ellen was very positive saying, 'We're going to create this there,' and I thought that was very encouraging to how she phrased it and framed it. That it was like, 'We get to move there and it'll be great and



Turley photo by Kristin Rivers

Teens line up to get a prize from the Plinko game.

Please see **END**, page 12

HSC enjoys the 'Dog Days of Summer'

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
krivers@turley.com

HAMPDEN - The senior center was packed at lunchtime on Aug. 1 for the Dog Days of Summer Luncheon to celebrate the summer.

The hot dogs for the festive luncheon were provided by Mountain View Restaurant and the cake for dessert was provided by Vantage Health and Rehab of Hampden.

Attendees also enjoyed musical entertainment provided by Baird Souls.

Executive Director Rebecca Moriarty was excited about the event.

"The Dog Days of Summer event was a fun way for the senior center to bring people together and have a summer celebration during some of the hottest days of the year," Moriarty said.



Turley photos by Kristin Rivers

Joan Shea and Claudia Kapinos pose for a photo, with a nice cold glass of lemonade.

Please see **HSC**, page 13

Noelle Hisgen reflects on the Times

By Noelle Hisgen
Correspondent

WILBRAHAM - The time has come for me to say goodbye to the *Times*. I will be embarking on a new journey this fall as a college student - heading off to Keene State, majoring in communications, and continuing my athletic career on the cross country and track teams.

Working with *The Wilbraham-Hampden Times* was a unique experience that I am so grateful to have gotten the opportunity to do.



Noelle Hisgen

I met the *Times* Editor, Kristin Rivers, by coincidence last year, both of us covering the Wilbraham United Players' production of "The Mystery of Edwin Drood" for two different purposes: While she was previewing the production for the newspaper and I was creating content for WUP's social media pages.

The next day, I happened to recognize her at Minnechaug's Career Fair, and that was the start of something special. I gave her my email and soon began working for *The Wilbraham-Hampden Times* as a correspondent.

Soon, I was traveling throughout Wilbraham and Hampden, covering events, interacting with many community members, and sharing both towns wonderful attributes. It was a blessing to witness what these towns have to offer.

Working with the *Times*

Please see **HISGEN**, page 14

Catching up with Barbara Kirby as she turns 95



Photos courtesy of Maureen Burns

Barbara Kirby with three of her daughters, Sallie Jobson, Colleen Schneider and Maureen Burns.

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
krivers@turley.com

WILBRAHAM - Readers may remember a story a couple of years back celebrating the 90th birthday of Barbara Kirby, a longtime resident of Wilbraham.

Well, after celebrating her 95th birthday on July 11, the *Times* is catching up with Kirby after another special milestone.

Kirby's birthday was July 13.

Kirby's birthday was an extravagant celebration at GreatHorse in Hampden, where she was joined by her daughters, grandkids, great grandkids and many extended family members for the milestone.

Kirby, who came to the area in 1967 and had built her house on Wright Place alongside her late husband,

was a kindergarten teacher in Springfield for 30 years and, also, was the first woman to serve on the School Committee. Other endeavors included the Conservation Commission, the Wilbraham Democratic Town Committee, participating in a Peace Vigil in the center of town during the Iraq War and tutoring inner-city kids.

Currently, she's also involved in the Spiritual Growth group at St. Cecilia Parish and is an active bridge player at the senior center.

She also has traveled across the country and around the world, including throughout Europe, Egypt, China, Guatemala and Haiti. There were, also, special 50th birthday trips she took with each of her four daughters.

Kirby had also sponsored a little girl in Guatemala.

Please see **KIRBY**, page 13

Wilbraham Public Library hosts Henna Tattoos event

By Noelle Hisgen
Correspondent

WILBRAHAM - On Aug. 6, teens and children came to the library's Brooks Room for a very fun and creative event: Henna Art.

The henna was done by Mandy Roberge with Wicked Good Henna, who supplies henna art for libraries, corporate events, parties and various festivals.

The event was also split into two sessions with the first for those entering grade two through five and the second for those entering grade six through 12.

For this event, it's an opportunity for attendees to explore temporary body art in a safe way, with Henna being safe for all skin types and lasting for a duration of one to two weeks.

Henna Art is also called Mehndi, which is a form of temporary skin decoration that uses a paste made from the dried and ground Lawsonia inermis plant.

Roberge has been doing henna art for over 19 years and formed Wicked Good Henna in 2015. With her passion and drive to share her creativity and henna art with everyone, she gave everyone a design that was unique to each and every person.

People were able to enter the Brooks Room and choose a variety of designs off of the table. Then, they were able to go up to Roberge and she put the design on them with a henna cone.

In regards to the event, Roberge said this.

"I want them to know it's okay to adorn yourself in whatever way you want to be adorned: Boys can have flowers, girls can have baseballs, everybody can have whatever they want in whatever way they want to express themselves on any given day," Roberge said.

While working with the Wilbraham Library, Roberge emphasized her love of them.

"I do love libraries, and I've always loved libraries,

and I love to read, so I love being here," Roberge said. "I consider myself very lucky to be able to go to libraries all over Massachusetts, Maine and New Hampshire, and see all the different buildings and get to know the librarians and the patrons. I absolutely love what I do."

Jaime Hageman, the children's librarian, also spoke about the event that day and what it means to the library, and the various activities that they offer.

"She's a crowd favorite. Residents love what she's able to offer. And she provides our gingerbread hous-

es in December for us too," Hageman said. "The library is a welcome place for everyone and they can find their identity here."

Everyone was able to have a great time and go home with a very fun design

Please see **HENNA**, page 14



Teens hold out their hands and show off their henna art.

Photo courtesy of Rachel Hapgood

Selectboard receives Highway Dept. construction update

Also, Chapter 90 funding

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
krivers@turley.com

HAMPDEN - The Selectboard received a construction schedule update from Highway Superintendent Mark Langone during their Aug. 4 meeting.

Langone explained the week before, he met with Chris Bouchard, the district 2 state aid engineer.

"I was having--and I wasn't the only one--I was having a hard time understanding; it was right after that our new allotment came out for this year. It was that plus our balance sheet that we get from MassDOT," Langone said. "So, I had some questions."

Langone noted while it hasn't been "officially approved, it's been confirmed that this money is going to go through and pass and the governor is going to sign it."

"I had sent out kind of a little breakdown last week. They're raising the Chapter 90 to \$300 million. That's going to follow the same formula, which is road miles," Langone said.

"Based on miles of road," Chair John Flynn said.

"Well, there's some other

factors," Langone said.

Langone added while other towns "may be adding miles," Hampden isn't currently.

"We may see a decline in that money and our apportionment," Langone said. "And they also added in an \$80 million supplemental apportionment this year and that's based strictly on road miles, and again, he didn't have the formula for that."

Flynn noted how there were "two different fundings--if you will--two different ways" as some was Chapter 90 money and some was not.

"So, the Chapter 90 money you have to, obviously, get approval from the state, the type of project, etc. and the local money you kind of use it under your own guidance," Flynn said. "Secondly, we go to Town Meeting and we usually read an amount into the warrant. Are we seeing here that this is a different amount?"

After conferring with Town Administrator Brian Domina, he believed "we did not include an amount this year" when that was read into the warrant.

"I think it was just all available funding," Domina said. "We accept all available funding from MassDOT. I think there was a change this year because we had no idea

what the amount was going to be from."

When Flynn asked if that was put in the consent agenda, Selectboard Member Don Davenport said it was.

"Unusual, we usually put an amount on that," Flynn said. "We should look at that, because obviously it's much bigger than any amount we would have said in the spring."

"It is," Langone said.

"So--not to get too deep into it--you have more money than you thought you would have for paving projects this year," Flynn said.

Langone replied yes.

"So what I'd like to do is I'd like to move forward with the last submitted project schedule," Langone said. "The only thing is, with this, I may have to change around funding sources and I'm going to add about \$130,000, because we ended here about \$861,000 and the new number is about \$990,000. So, I can actually include one of the projects I had deleted previously. Certainly, that's something I can put together and submit to the board for review. But, I would like to at least have this schedule approved if you choose."

After reviewing the project list for the next fiscal year, Langon elaborated on the plans.

"What I had planned to do was some of the roads that were affected by the water project, but I still want to have that company that's under contract come in and do their permanent patch and perhaps let some of those areas settle over the winter because they're going to settle some more," Langone said. "I don't want to put a new road on that. So, a few of those roads I would probably like to tackle in the spring. Everything else that's left over for either the state money or the local money, I'd like to try to do this late summer or fall."

After Langone confirmed Main Street would be the first water project, Flynn noted South Monson Road wasn't listed, which he explained.

"In part of the Scantic Road portion, we're going to do the intersection at South Monson," Langone said. "But then they're going to have about four or five cross trenches that they're going to do a permanent patch on."

"But, most of the actual work has been done off the road surface," Flynn said.

"Correct," Langone said. "The main mess is really in the intersection of Scantic and South. I'm really hoping their patches will be sufficient for long term. That road wasn't that old, especially that portion. In hind-

sight, I kind of wished or hoped they ran that main up the left-hand side of South Monson, so they wouldn't have to go clear across the road for each."

Flynn also brought up the South Road Bridge "in terms of timing."

"You hope for this to be next year, but it's a state project, which means it could be 2036?" Flynn said.

Langone said the main engineer was lost for this project, but the Highway Department got reconnected with the new team.

"There was some back and forth as to what the updated town's portion would be for this project and that was--I want to say--that was in the early spring and it was a certain number--it was \$115,000--to the best of my memory. Brian and I were on a meeting with them and it just kept going up and up and up and, finally, when we got this new team together, we met a couple weeks ago and I said, 'Look it. I mean, give us a projected price of what this is going to cost and we need to have a timeline of how this is going to happen,'" Langone said. "So, they're looking to bid that project this fall and to start construction in the spring, and honestly, I think that that's a pretty good schedule. I honestly see that

happening."

He added the new number also includes a contingency.

"So, that would be the town's responsibility. They would pay the first \$500,000," Langone said.

Referring back to the state aid engineer, Langone shared he had asked about tabling Rock-a-Dundee "and maybe shifting focus onto Main Street."

"Focus meaning like the TIPS because they're using a TIPS program for Rock-a-Dundee on our behalf when we didn't even ask for it. But, in our opinion, Main Street is a higher priority," Langone said. "He disagreed."

He added the main reason was "the proximity to state line and tours and so forth."

"So, unfortunately, we'll keep looking for a funding source for Main Street," Langone said. "And I did not get an update on Rock-a-Dundee when I reached out."

After further discussion, the 2025 construction project list was unanimously approved.

Chapter 90 Update

Since this meeting, the Chapter 90 Funds for the state were approved by Gov. Maura Healey on Aug. 8 as part of a transportation funding bill.

The Times will have more on the numbers soon.

Alzheimer's Fundraiser Dinner Dance Aug. 23

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.

Musical Guests: Off the Record

Brush off your dancing shoes and get ready for the event of the year!

Enjoy a stuffed chicken

breast dinner and delicious dessert while supporting a great cause, the Alzheimer's Association!

This event is generously sponsored by GreatHorse, Tudor House and Monson Savings Bank.

Garden Club announces 'Petals to Pantry' event

HAMPDEN - The Hampden Garden Club will be hosting an August Program at the Hampden Town House on Aug. 21 at 7 p.m.

It's called "Petals to

Pantry" Crafting Botanical Goodness by Juanita Markham.

She will share ways herbs can support body, heart, mind and spirit.



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THE FERN VALLEY MARKET

New Cemetery Commissioner appointed

By Dalton Zbierski
Correspondent

WILBRAHAM – The Wilbraham Cemetery Commission filled its roster on July 28 when the town Select Board approved Erica Sabia as the group's third member.

Sabia, a high school math teacher, is preparing to begin her 20th year in the classroom. She is also a wife and mother of an eight-year-old boy.

Explaining her desire to join the commission, Sabia described her childhood and how the cemetery played a prominent role.

"I've always had a connection to the cemetery," Sabia said. "My grandmother used to take us all the time, and she lived in Brooklyn, so we would take a bus and a subway to get there. She would bring the shovel and

everything and she would clean everybody's stones."

Sabia added that she has fond memories of sharing that time with her grandmother.

Sabia learned about the open commissioner seat when she met Commissioner Natasha Ayres, who attended the Monday night Select Board meeting to give her approval of the new member. Commissioner Todd Michael Magill did not attend but also approved of Sabia.

Ayres did ask Sabia how she would go about dealing with a Cemetery Commission issue if it occurred during the school day. Sabia responded well.

"I would have to lean on my fellow commissioners and perhaps I could do something for them off hours, or obviously I'm off all summer, so I have some flexibility there," Sabia said. "So, I think work-

ing together as a team with the other two commissioners would be key because I would have certain days that I would [be unavailable] because I would be at school."

Confidently, Sabia concluded, "As long as we work together, I think we could handle whatever pops up."

Ayres appreciated the comment. With a smile, she responded, "I like that plan."

Select Board Chair Michael Squindo was also complimentary of Sabia's desire to serve the community. He said that the technical aspects of the job can be learned and that he really liked Sabia's attitude.

"It's the compassion that I think you bring and the personal ties that have made this an easy decision for me at least," Squindo said. "I'm optimistic that between now and the time that the elections roll

around that you've made a more permanent decision and if not that somebody else has stepped in. Good luck."

Town Administrator Nick Breault explained that Sabia's responsibilities began immediately after being approved, and her term lasts until next May. At that point, she can run for a longer term.

"What will happen is if you appoint, it will be until May 16, 2026, and then that will be an election cycle," Breault said. "I think this is one that will have two more years, so you would need to consider running again for the remaining two years of that term, and then it will eventually get back to the three."

Sabia was then unanimously approved by the Select Board to serve on the Cemetery Commission beginning now until May 16, 2026.

Attorney breaks down DESE guidance on approving school budgets

By Dalton Zbierski
Correspondent

WILBRAHAM – New state guidance requests that municipalities present school district budgets in presentable ways at town meetings, regardless of whether town and school officials agree on the number.

Wilbraham Town Attorney Brian Winner spoke extensively at a Select Board meeting on July 28 regarding a report from the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, or DESE, giving guidance on municipal approval of regional school district budgets.

Ahead of the meeting, Winner created a memo that was several pages in length. Before sharing his interpretations with the board, he prepared its members for the complexity of the discussion.

"It's a complicated topic. It's a nuanced topic. So, reasonable minds may disagree on some of these things," Winner said. "We need to present [budgets from the regional School Committee] in such a way that town meeting is in a position to consider and vote it. That's what this document

says."

Select Board Clerk Sue Bunnell, who spent more than two decades on the Finance Committee before committing the past 9 years to her current position, said that the Town of Wilbraham has a proud history of working well with the Hampden-Wilbraham Regional School District, or HWRSD. However, she acknowledged there has been a recent change.

"Things have certainly shifted over the past few years I would say in ways that I don't know as beneficial for the community and for the district as would be optimal in my opinion," Bunnell said.

She added, however, that this is no reason to give up. She believes it is critical moving forward to mend whatever rifts exist for the good of both Wilbraham and Hampden.

"So, I am going to take the posture that I believe, as we have looked to do over decades, that we [should] have a high level of collaboration, cooperation and engagement with the district as early as possible on the budget process to help us and our sister community manage to get to town meeting with consensus

around the tax burden we're trying to put on our residents," Bunnell said.

According to Winner, it was difficult to create a memo because there are very few reputable opinions published on DESE's guidance.

"I wasn't able to find any more concrete guidance other than what you've seen referenced here. We have a statute, we have a regulation, and we have a document interpreting the regulation. That's kind of where it ends," Winner said.

Winner added that he is still searching for any other material he can consider before giving official advice for how the town should proceed.

The attorney did say that the town could present its own school budget line item. What is required, however, is that the HWRSD budget be presented.

"There's a pretty lengthy analysis of what I think is required, what I think is still a little bit ambiguous and what I think still allows a bit of flexibility," Winner said. "So, I don't think there's anything that prohibits the Select Board or the Finance Committee from presenting another line item, for example."

Senior Center to hold tag sale

HAMPDEN - The Friends of The Hampden Senior Center will hold a HUGE indoor Tag Sale from Tuesday, 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.

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EMAIL
Advertising Sales
Jocelyn Walker
jwalker@turley.com

Editor
Kristin Rivers
krivers@turley.com

Subscriptions
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Random Acts of Kindness

By Barb Turcotte

The worst imaginable thing for any parent would be having to endure the loss of their child.

Mike Jan Kuzdzal was a stand-up guy by all accounts. If he hadn't been, his family would not have created a Foundation in his name nor would there be so many supporters for its cause. As his mother says on their Facebook page, "After his untimely passing we decided to start a non-profit Foundation so his 'giving spirit' could live on." The Foundation is just two years old but growing with the dedication of family and friends.

Joseph Hutchison III and Mike, though cousins were

like brothers. Both grew up as only children with their divorced mom's. After Mike passed unexpectedly in March of 2023 at the age of 42, leaving a wife and three young daughters, Joe wanted to do something as a tribute in his honor. Mike had reached the level of General Manager at Bertera Metro and was always ready with a helping hand for others. Because of this quality, the MJK Foundation was formed, committed to helping young people.

The MJK Foundation's mission is to empower mentors with the knowledge, tools, and support necessary to effectively guide and nurture the mental health and wellness of

adolescents.

Joe, who has been married to Lisa for thirteen years and together have two beautiful daughters, has dealt with his own hardships in life. With a lot of personal effort and good guidance, he's overcome much of these things. He was a Correctional Officer for thirteen years at the Hampden County Sheriff's Department and for the past eight years has worked at the Juvenile Detention Center working with youths aged twelve to twenty-one. He explained how much of a need there is helping kids turn their young lives around to go down the right pathway.

The goal of the Foundation is to first recognize, then train and certify anyone who deals with children such as youth coaches, teachers, after school programs, etc. The free workshops would entail a four-hour training that would then qualify the attendee a certificate stating they were a Certified Mental Health Instructor. The Foundation will pay the thirty-five-dollar fee for the appli-

cants to become certified.

Joe is the President of this family Foundation and puts much of his time into its growth by planning various events. They just had a golf tournament with amazing success and two more events are planned in the near future. The first one will be at O'Brien's Corner on Saturday, September 13th from 5pm to 8pm called "Pints of the Past". The other event will be held at Nathan Bill's on October 4th, the "MJK Foundation Garvey Law Music Fest" with three incredible musical attractions. Both establishments are located in Springfield.

Joe spent several years part-time bartending while in college and after at various places. But along with many of his cousins as well as an uncle, O'Brien's was where they did their stunts for years, it felt like Springfield's own 'Cheers'. It's going to be a different kind of 'Celebrity Bartending' event as you'll be served by many of the 'old-time bartenders' from the original O'Brien's

Corner. Myself as a former bartender of O'Brien's Corner, am honored that I've been asked to help with "Pints from the Past." In fact, I'll be the 'OLD' bartender so make sure to say hi! All tips are being donated to the Foundation and of course all donations will be graciously accepted! If you can't attend the event but would like to contribute, please contact Joe on how to support this cause.

What a fun way to welcome the fall. We're going to have live music, food will be available to purchase and naturally what would a fundraiser be without a whole lotta raffles. We'll also have a TV with a continual loop of all kinds of pictures from the past that have been shared. You can enjoy a special tasty shot or delicious cocktail with the ingredients of course having the initials, MJK.

Such a tragedy and loss of this incredible young man, yet his family has turned his passing into something that will be doing Random Acts of Kindness for young peo-

ple and their families for a long time. The Foundation members may never know the amount of young people they have helped, but you can bet they are doing just that with their endeavors.

For more information on these events, how to get involved or to learn more about the mission of the MJK Foundation, you can contact Joe Hutchison, President, directly at 413-478-4592 or mjkmem-foundation@gmail.com. You can also follow them on Instagram or Facebook.

Hope to see you at O'Brien's Corner for this entertaining night while supporting a great cause! Don't forget to say hi!

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

Class '70 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 re-

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

MRHS Class of '75 to host 50th reunion

WILBRAHAM - The Minnechaug Class of 1975 will be gathering to celebrate their 50th Reunion with a weekend of fun activities Friday, Oct. 3 through Sunday, Oct. 5.

Classmates will have several opportunities to get to-

gether to catch up on the past 50 years. We have planned for golfing, hiking, Home Football Game, tour of high school, lunch at Fern Valley and a parting Breakfast Buffet the morning of Oct. 5.

The main event, dinner and socializing, will be

held at Wilbraham Country Club on Oct. 4 from 6 to 10 p.m. Additional information is available, can be sent to you if you send a request to Jim Chambers at mrhsclassof1975@gmail.com.

We hope you'll be able to join us to celebrate this

milestone. If you can't attend in person, you can still have a presence by sending a photo / information for our slide show to Donna Sclafani Parker at donnaparker357@yahoo.com. Please let others in our class know about the reunion.

Theatre Guild celebrating 20 Years

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.

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.

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

Hampden Historical Society to hold Ice Cream Social Aug. 28

HAMPDEN - On Thursday, Aug. 28 at 6:30 p.m., The Hampden (MA) Historical Society presents an Ice Cream Social at Academy Hall, 616 Main Street.

This month's speaker will be Dana Pixley, a lifelong resident of Hampden. He will be presenting a talk on "History of the Roads of Hampden".

He will share his knowledge and expertise acquired from his 43 years working in the highway department and as superintendent until his retirement in 2016. He

is presently the town's Tree Warden.

We welcome you to join us for this interesting group as we enjoy some complimentary ice cream. Let's make some new acquaintances, and get together with old friends and neighbors, and make new ones.

It is a nice friendly group. All are welcome!

We are also looking to recruit new members of all ages to revitalize the group by bringing in new energy and fresh perspectives and

ideas and to modernize our methods of communication. Looking for IT people to help us create a website.

On behalf of Linda Krawiec, President of The Historical Society. She can be reached by phone at (413) 566-8447. with any questions.

Written and submitted by new member- Linda Paquette who is in charge of Communication and Publishing. She can be reached at Hampden-HistoricalSociety.lp@gmail.com.

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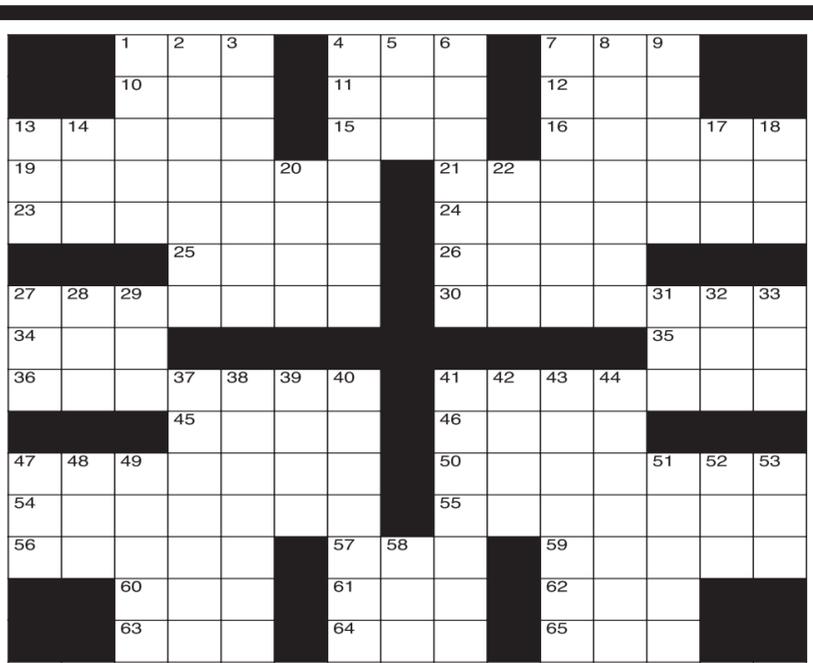
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4. Each completed delivery using the promo code **BIGE** between now and Sept. 9, 2025, will automatically earn you one (1) entry into the sweepstakes. Limit one entry via this method per person, per day.

Free Mail-in Entry NO PURCHASE NECESSARY TO ENTER OR WIN

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.



CLUES ACROSS

1. Auto manufacturer
4. The 23rd letter of the Greek alphabet
7. Two-year-old sheep
10. Member of indigenous people in Asia
11. Airborne (abbr.)
12. Actress de Armas
13. Not moving
15. Cool!
16. Plants of the arum family
19. Perceptible by touch
21. Rorschach test
23. Monetary units
24. Art
25. Cardinal number
26. Dueling sword
27. Hates
30. Fixed in one place
34. Pie ___ mode
35. Moved on foot on a motorcycle
41. A way through
45. "Rule, Britannia" composer
46. Leader
47. Flowing
50. Common greetings in Arabic countries
54. Solution for all difficulties
55. Soft clothing fabric
56. Building material
57. Sea bream
59. A way to cause to be swollen
60. One and only
61. Skin color
62. Wreath
63. Nevertheless
64. They ___
65. Sea eagle

CLUES DOWN

1. Policemen (French)
2. Toy dog
3. Inflamed colon disease
4. Muscular weaknesses
5. Helps little firms
6. References
7. Takes down
8. Facilitates
9. One-time empress of the Roman Empire
13. Engine additive
14. Chemistry solution
17. Written account
18. Consumed
20. Coming after all others
22. No (slang)
27. Government lawyers
28. Super Bowl winner Manning
29. Small amount
31. A way to save for your future
32. A way to travel behind
33. Midway between northeast and east
37. Head pain
38. Loud lawn insect
39. Actress Hathaway
40. Boat race
41. About fish
42. Nursemaid in India
43. Marketable
44. Tinier
47. Parts per billion (abbr.)
48. Paddle
49. Oneness
51. Bitter compound
52. Not around
53. Very fast airplane
58. Swiss river

An Open Letter to Wilbraham and Hampden Residents

As you may know, the Friends of Wilbraham Seniors, Inc. is a nonprofit fundraising organization that was formed in 1985. Our Mission was, and still is, to support and raise funds for the needs of Senior citizens in Wilbraham and to assist in the funding of their programs and activities.

Our organization is managed by a volunteer-driven Board of Directors which is made up of 8 individuals who are absolutely dedicated to keeping our Mission alive and well.

However, like many volunteer organizations throughout the country, the Friends are in need of volunteers to help us accomplish our plans. In addition, age and health issues are catching up with many.

Let's face it; we're all busy in our everyday life whether you're raising a family, caring for your elderly parents, working a full or part time job, or more.

Please know that helping us to support our Seniors is not only beneficial to them, but is also a very rewarding, heartwarming experience for the volunteer.

Over the years when our Seniors were younger, they supported our town in many ways, and now it's our turn to step up and support them. That's where the Friends come in. We need your help to make this happen.

Our Board of Directors does all the planning, but we're in need for more assistance to execute these plans. We appreciate the many who have helped us in the past, and it's our hope more will consider stepping up and lend us a hand. The old cliché "*Many hands make light work*" is very fitting here.

If you'd like to help, we're looking for people with a positive attitude who can work with a team; one with experience in implementing and managing fundraising programs; one to help increase membership, one to produce excel spreadsheets; experience with quickbooks for financial reports; printing and graphic design; social media. We also welcome your ideas and comments.

When you volunteer there is no long-term commitment and you may work in any area you wish.

If you are interested, please contact Kate Belsky at KateBelsky13@gmail.com

The Friends are committed to providing on-going products, programs and services at the Wilbraham Senior Center that will help preserve Seniors' independence, promote mental, nutritional and physical well-being, and protect their rights and dignity. This in turn can help them to live a longer, happier, and healthier life.

Volunteering is also a good way to make new friends and a great way to serve our community.

Please consider assisting us in any manner because *You Can Make a Difference.*

Thank you for your consideration, and we hope to hear from you.

Sincerely,

Matt Villamaino

Text/Cell 413-896-2206

President

Friends of Wilbraham Seniors, Inc.



VIEWPOINTS

SOCIAL SECURITY Matters

By Russell Gloor

Why hasn't my SS benefit changed because I am still working?

Dear Rusty:

I am currently receiving Social Security benefits while continuing to work full time.

There are no restrictions on my wage earnings because I waited until full retirement age before beginning benefits. However, I was also told that my benefit amount would be reviewed each year if my current earnings were higher than past earnings.

That held true for the first two years, but has yet to be adjusted for 2025. I thought it might be because of HR 82, which does not impact me directly, but I think it may be the reason my payment has not yet been changed. Has enough time passed so I should contact SSA now to see if this is the case?

Signed: Waiting Anxiously

Dear Waiting:

If you are already collecting benefits, Social Security reviews your earnings each year to see if your more recent earnings are high enough to warrant an increase in your monthly benefit. They do this automatically, after they get your most recent earnings data from the IRS and they typically do that review by the end of the third quarter of each year. If a higher benefit is indicated, they will increase your monthly amount and pay you retroactively to the beginning of the year for any difference in your benefit.

SSA has, indeed, been vigorously working on changes resulting from HR82 (the Social Security Fairness Act), which may have affected the timeliness of their review of your recent earnings. However, I suspect that is not why your SS benefit has not yet changed. More likely, it has to do with the fact that your past earnings have been adjusted for inflation, which is a normal part of Social Security's process when

calculating your benefit amount.

Your earnings for each year in your lifetime up to age 60 were adjusted for inflation when you originally claimed SS and your recent earnings would need to be higher than the inflation-adjusted amounts used by SS when you claimed. They use the 35 highest earnings years adjusted for inflation over your lifetime to calculate your benefit and inflation has a substantial effect. For example, \$50,000 earned in 1990 would require over \$100,000 in earnings today to cause an increase in your benefit. Thus, you cannot go by the actual dollars you earned in earlier years, because SS uses inflated amounts to calculate your benefit.

In any case, if you believe that the Social Security Administration neglected reviewing your earnings from last year or in any year since you claimed, you can make an appointment to review that with them by calling 1-800-772-1213. SSA typically does such appointments over the phone, so you likely won't need to make a personal visit to your local SSA office to investigate this.

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.

Maintenance keeps annuals going strong

The half dead pot of petunias on the rental house's steps got me thinking about the perfect column for this time of year! After all, we invest hard earned money in annual flowers and plants, and we expect that they will provide us with color through the first frost. What steps can we take now to ensure that they will?

Read on for some useful advice, straight from the archives.

Remove spent flowers

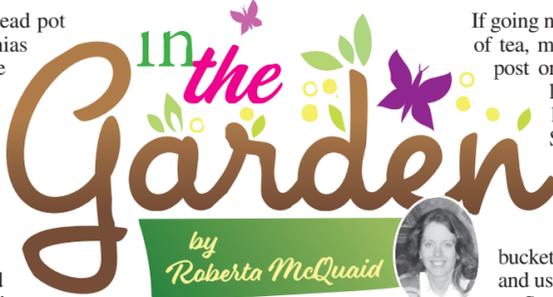
Most annuals will continue to bloom abundantly if they are deadheaded on a regular basis. Deadheading is an entertaining term used to define the removal of spent flowers.

A plant produces flowers for one purpose: to survive. You see, once a flower has been pollinated it will produce seed; seed that will grow future plants.

If a plant has produced enough flowers that have gone to seed it will consider its job to be done, flower production will cease, and it will begin to decline. By deadheading, we keep the plant in reproductive mode, in other words, in flower!

When you remove dying blossoms, make sure to pinch off the entire flower, not just the petals, or it will do no good. Include the stem as well to keep the plant tidy.

Petunias, marigolds, zinnias and salvia, among others, are examples of plants



by Roberta McQuaid



If going natural is your cup of tea, make some! Compost or manure tea has long been used to keep growth lush. Steep a burlap bag of either compost or aged manure in a large trash bucket filled with water and use as needed.

Smaller batches can be made right in a watering can. Likewise, there are numerous blends of seaweed and fish emulsion on the market that can be watered in or used as a foliar feed.

Shear them back to encourage new growth

Some annuals start to get a leggy appearance about now. Others may have brown tips.

These plants require more drastic measures to bring back their youthful good looks. Give them a good haircut.

Simply look within the plant and find healthy, green growth. Cut calendulas, pansies and snapdragon back to that point. Alyssum or lobelia can often be sheared to within inches of the ground.

Don't worry; they won't look bad for long! You can jump start regrowth with a bit of liquid fertilizer.

Feed your plants

Annuals that are well fertilized at planting time likely look a bit pale by now. If foliage is off-color and flower production is nil, pull back the bark mulch and sprinkle some organic fertilizer granules at the base of each plant.

Cultivate gently and water in a little bit. You can also use a water soluble liquid fertilizer every couple of weeks.

Water, water, water

Be careful not to let your plants dry out. When you need to water the garden, remember to do so in the early morning, if possible, to avoid evaporation. Early evening is another good option, but try to get the job done with enough time for the foliage to dry before darkness sets in.

Deep waterings twice a week are far better than numerous quick showers. The former will promote deep, penetrating roots and future drought tolerance.

Well-watered, well-fed and well-groomed annuals will reward you with beautiful bountiful blossoms for another two months – well worth the effort indeed!

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

The Wilbraham-Hampden TIMES TEAM



EDITOR Kristin Rivers krivers@turley.com



ADVERTISING SALES Jocelyn Walker jwalker@turley.com



SPORTS EDITOR Greg Scibelli sports@turley.com

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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

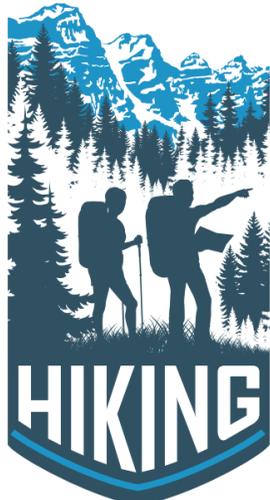
As part of its election coverage, the newspaper plans to print stories about contested races for Congress, state Senate, state House, district attorney and Governor's Council during the weeks leading up to the election, as well as a question-and-answer voters guide. In order to ensure fairness to all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



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The Terrifying Tripyramid Slide



By Julie Midura Guest Columnist

When you're attempting to hike EVERY trail in all six of the Federally Designated Wilderness areas in the White Mountains, you can't just skip a trail just because it takes you out of your comfort zone.

At 1,200 vertical feet in just half a mile, North Tripyramid Slide is known as one of the steepest trails in New England and is also on the

Please see **HIKING**, page 11



in my BACKYARD

By Ellenor Downer

My neighbor has a Cooper's hawk in his yard. Cooper's hawks are common woodland hawks and skilled fliers.

They will fly at high speed through cluttered tree canopies in pursuit of other birds. They may be seen at the forest edge or a field taking a few wingbeats followed by a glide.

Males are smaller than the females. They build the nest and supply nearly all the food to females and young during the nesting period.

During migration, ridge tops in both the East and West are great places to spot Cooper's hawks in large numbers. Coopers hawks perch upright and have a long, rounded tail with dark banding. The band at the end of the tail is white. They have a small, hooked beak.

Adults have a gray back, reddish barred chest and red eyes. They also have a black cap.



Cooper's hawk

Cooper's hawks are similar to sharp-shinned hawks, but are larger. They inhabit deep forest to backyards.

Grape jelly warning

I received a link about

Please see **BIRDS**, page 11

A COMMUNITY GALLERY

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

Happy Birthday to Harper Hatch who turns 11 on August 15!

Love,
Mom & Dad,
Charley, Jaxson,
Nana, Grammy,
and Grampy.



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

Oh Deer!



Enjoy this deer family sighting!

Submitted photo Shelby Hines



Celebrating 80th milestone...

Photo and caption Charlie Bennett

Longtime Wilbraham resident Susan Hintze (center) was celebrated for her 80th birthday July 27 at the Milbrook Drive home of her daughter Sara Falconer (right). Her oldest daughter Elizabeth Sullivan (left) was the co-host. Over 60 people were on hand for the occasion.

HPD Chief Scott Trombly retires



Photo and caption courtesy of Hampden Police Department

Congratulations to Chief Trombly! The chief is pictured here with past Hampden Police Chiefs! Good luck!!

HPD enjoys lemonade



Photo and caption courtesy of Hampden Police Department

Sgt. Roath and Officer Kane made a stop on South Monson Road for some lemonade on the afternoon of July 26. She is raising money to buy a birthday present for her sister who will be turning two soon!

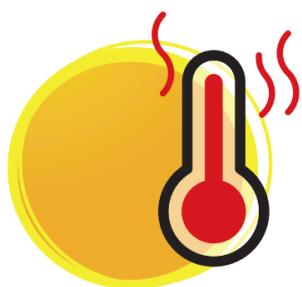
Wilbraham United Church hosts Vacation Bible Camp



Submitted photo and caption Deb Trimble

Wilbraham United Church hosted their annual Vacation Bible Camp July 28 through Aug. 1 for 30 campers aged 4 - 11. Almost 50 volunteers (pictured here) helped with the children as they learned about Messengers of God and had fun with a variety of camp activities.

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Events & announcements schedule

Matt York to perform songs of Willie Nelson at WPL

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.

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.

Led by Lisa Kern, OT, reiki master/holistic therapist. Fitness goals include strength, balance, agility, aerobics and flexibility.

Exercises are designed to improve fitness goals and 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.

SRA presents community art project

Join a creative journey of thought, memory and expression 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 foster the next generation of creative talent.

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

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

munity. For more information, visit scanticriverartisans.com. Questions? Email us at info@scanticriverartisans.com. Follow the journey on social media. Facebook: Scantic River Artisans Instagram: @scanticriverartisans Reflect. Create. Connect. Your voice belongs here.

Hampden Community Garden accepting plot reservations

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

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

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

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

Hampden Transfer Station Sticker Sales

HAMPDEN - The Hampden Selectmen voted on April 28, 2025 to increase the price of the Transfer Station permits. The increase will start May 23, 2025.

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

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

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

Krawczynski brothers receive U.S. Coast Guard Award

WILBRAHAM/HOLYOKE – Paul J Krawczynski of Wilbraham and his brother Richard M Krawczynski of Holyoke received The Larry and Lenore Closson Family Award for their extended participation in US Coast Guard Auxiliary Programs at the recent US Coast Guard Auxiliary District Training Conference on April 26.

Recently, Division 9 gathered to celebrate Richard Krawczynski's 55 years of active service to the US Coast Guard Auxiliary. For the Krawczynski family, that's just the tip of the iceberg. Richard became a member along with his brother-in-law, A. Paul Dexdrader on December 8, 1969. Slightly less than two years later, they were joined by Richard's brother, Paul Krawczynski (September 2, 1971). Following in family tradition, the three were joined by Richard's son, An-

thony, in 1996, who served for 10 years.

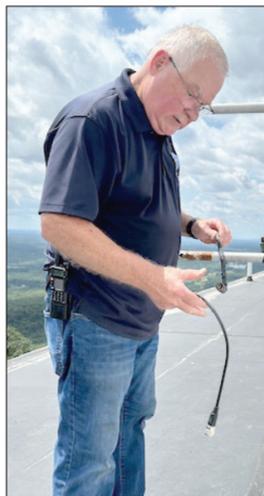
The brothers and brother-in-law, all AUXOP Members, served as Flotilla and Division elected officers and held staff appointments over their entire careers, while simultaneously mentoring and supporting those who followed them.

Mr. Dexdrader crossed the bar in 2004 with 34.4 years of service. A proud WWII veteran, he was designated as a Master Instructor, Vessel Examiner, Program Visitor and Cox'n. He served as FSO and SO-PV, FSO and SO-PE, FSO-AN and FSO-HR. Auxdata shows 20 Member Offices. He received numerous awards including the Auxiliary Achievement Medal, an Auxiliary Commendation Medal and two Sustained Auxiliary Service Awards.

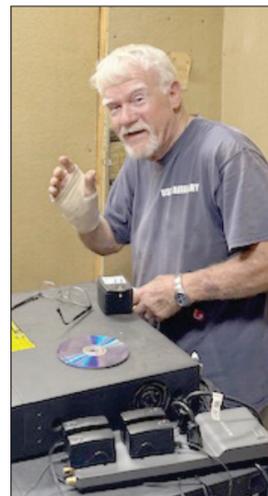
Richard Krawczynski has 55.3 years of active par-

ticipation in Auxiliary activities. He has served in boat crew, Program Visitation, Vessel Examination, and as an instructor. His 27 Member Offices include service as ADSO-VE, FSO and SO-VE, FSO and SO-OP, FSO and SO-PV and FSO-HR. Richard's awards include 11 Membership Service Awards, 3 CG Meritorious Team Commendations, 2 Sustained Auxiliary Service Awards and an Auxiliary Operations Service Ribbon.

Paul Krawczynski has 53.5 years as an active member. Paul is active in telecommunications, boat crew and as an instructor. The 29 Member Offices in his record include Flotilla and Division appointments in CM, FN, MT, OP and HR. Paul's many Awards include 10 Membership Service Awards, 3 CG Meritorious Team Commendations and 5 Sustained Auxiliary Service Awards.



Paul Krawczynski working on the installation of new repeater antennae on top of Skinner House on Skinner Mountain.



Richard Krawczynski working recently installing a new repeater antennae up at Skinner Mountain in South Hadley/Hadley, MA.



Richard Krawczynski with his 55 year award plaque. Submitted photos

Auxdata shows just over 153 years of service for the Krawczynski clan, so far. From the records, which are

understandably incomplete, one can see unusual levels of exemplary effort, sustained over lifetimes. What records

do not show is their value as leaders, mentors and workers. The Krawczynski's lead by example, always present, reliable and ready to share their talents and lend a hand.

Celebrating 25 Years of Dance!

The Dance Studio

Classes Start Sept. 8th!

Classes for Toddler through Adults! We specialize in preschool and early elementary aged dancers!

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Wilbraham-Hampden Times
OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$275, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.

SPORTS

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Flamingo falls in Spec Pond playoffs

WILBRAHAM – Last Monday evening, Flamingo Motorsports, which sponsored a Wilbraham 5-6 girls basketball team, was defeated in the Spec Pond Summer Basketball League playoffs 29-20 by Agawam Cyclones. The season ended for Flamingo as they went 5-6 overall for the year.



Macayla Lawle gets low to take a shot.



Aubrey Stephen gets the shot all alone.



Robin Straitiff shoots on the run.



Kylie Smith makes her way down the court.



Skyler Dillahunt looks to shoot.



Evelyn Blair shoots from the left.



Aubrey Boudreau takes the layup.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Ellis Nelson looks to get around an opponent.



Ella Bonodcaull sends a long pass away.

Play for MKJ defeats B-Town

WILBRAHAM – Last Wednesday evening, Play for MKJ scored a 24-14 win

over Belchertown to advance to the finals in the Spec Pond Summer Basketball league.

They were scheduled to play against Tantasqua in the finals on Sunday morning.



Lexii Viegas heads for the hoop.



Lainey Kudryk makes her way down the court.



Amelia Pluciehnik dribbles down the court.

FALCONS JR. TENNIS TEAM HOLDS JAMBOREE



Submitted photo
On Aug. 6, Toby's Tennis Clinics and the Falcon Jr. Tennis team celebrated their third annual Tennis Jamboree with parents and friends. Thanks to the Wilbraham Recreation Department, especially Erin Carroll for her organization in helping aid this program and event. Also, a special thanks to assistant tennis coaches Lili DeGrande, Ethan Ray and Kelvin Ohemeng, all players and parents for their continued support of this great game.

SPORTS

Kendall wins Mini 40, Leary tops Mods, Saturday

WINCHESTER, N.H. – Defending track 604 Modified champion Tyler Leary wired the night's main event Saturday, blasting to his second win of the summer on the high banks of Monadnock Speedway.

On the same card, Julia Kendall, she of the famed Bernardston, Mass. Raymond racing family, roared to victory in a special 40-lap Mini Stock feature. Points leader Dylan Zullo won a thriller in the Super Streets, four-holer ace Gordon Farnum stormed to victory in the Pure Stocks, and 15-year-old Hunter Duquette won his fifth Young Guns event of the summer.

The New England Dwarf Car Series was in town, and Andrew Harmon had a huge night, dominating both ends of a 25-lap twinbill to earn two victory laps around the high banks, but also picking up a cool \$250 SERVPRO bonus for sweeping the feature event pair.

Leary and Joey Jarvis sat up front as the Allstates Materials Group 604 Modifieds

went into battle. Leary, whose earlier victory was scored on July 5, would never look back.

Veteran ace Todd Patnode, of Swanzy, who'd won a week earlier, blasted into second on lap nine and would then run the rest of the race in Leary's shadow, settling for his second strong outing in as many weeks as he tries to claw his way to the top of the 2025 leaderboard.

The best battle in this one was for third. Back from a pit side engine change a week earlier, Trevor Bleau was up to third early but soon had divisional points leader draped all over him. Robie, though, frantically trying high and low, could never find a path to the three spot, as Bleau joined Leary and Patnode in trophy row.

It is said that a full moon over a race track spells pure chaos. If that's true, what do you get with a half moon on a clear August night? On this one, you got three ultra-focused Twin State Truck Services Super Streets frantically

dicating through a wall of non-cooperative lapped cars, with a large crowd at the edge of its seats from green to checkers.

JD Stockwell got to the front first, with his buddy Zach Zilinski riding in his shadow.

Top points man Dylan Zullo was quickly up to second and closing fast, and the sea of lappers was getting closer and closer. Zilinski took the top spot in heavy traffic on lap eight, bringing Zullo with him. On lap 16, it was Zullo to the point, Stockwell following forward and looking for a path to the lead, But the final

14 laps would belong to Zullo, as the potent trio made its way to victory lane. Zullo hit the stripe four lengths quicker than Stockwell, with Zilinski in tow too, Wesley Stedt fourth. Hillary Renaud rounded the top five.

Hot shoe Louie Ma-

her led early in the Fabian Fuels Mini Stock 40-lap main event, pulling away easily. Julia Kendall, blasting from row four, was up to second on lap six but still way behind Maher.

A lap-19 caution, though, brought both Kendall and high-flying John Fultz to Maher's bumper, with the trio then racing under a blanket

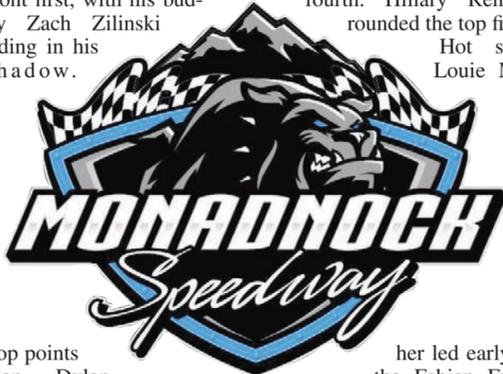
until Fultz took the top spot on lap 28. Kendall wasn't done though, rocketing into the lead on lap 32 and then soaring off to win by a comfortable eight lengths, Tim Paquette impressed with a season-best third, just ahead of Cameron Sontag and Maher.

five place finisher, Jimmy Zellman was penalized for a camber rule infraction.

Doug's Auto Body Young Gun top gun Hunter Duquette took the lead from Ella Grabowski on lap three of the youth division feature and dashed off to his fifth win of the summer. Maya Bell was strong in second, and Grabowski came home third.

Andrew Harmon twice took the lead on lap three in the two New England Dwarf Car 25-lap features, and each time he rocketed off into a different time zone to win easily and pocket the \$250 SERVPRO bonus cash.

Top Dwarf Car points man Tom Harwood sent a scare through the stands during qualifying, when contact with another car launched him into a violent up-and-over multiple flip in turn one. Uninjured, he returned for the features aboard a loner but finished out of the money. Cody Hodgdon was second in each of the 25-lappers, and Chris Sullivan third.



Basketball Hall announces enshrinement presenters

SPRINGFIELD – The Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame has announced the list of Hall of Famers who will present the Class of 2025 at the Enshrinement Ceremony on Saturday, Sept. 6, at Symphony Hall in Springfield, Massachusetts, the "Birthplace of Basketball." Over 50 Hall of Famers are expected to be in attendance for the ceremony.

Each member of the Class of 2025 was asked to select previously inducted Hall of Famers to serve as their presenter. The decision is made solely by the incoming Hall of Famers or, in the case of posthumous honor-

ees, by their family.

The 2008 USA Men's National Team will be presented by members of the team who have been previously inducted into the Hall of Fame.

The 2025 Hall of Fame Inductees and Presenters:

Carmelo Anthony - Allen Iverson (Class of 2016), Dwyane Wade ('23)

Micky Arison - Alonzo Mourning ('14), Pat Riley ('08), Dwyane Wade ('23)

Sue Bird - Geno Auriemma ('06), Swin Cash ('22)

Danny Crawford - Tim Hardaway ('22), Isaiah Thomas ('00)

Billy Donovan - Maurice

Cheeks ('18), Rick Pitino ('13)

Sylvia Fowles - Katie Smith ('18), Lindsay Whalen ('22)

Dwight Howard - Patrick Ewing ('08), Robert Parish ('03), Dennis Rodman ('11), Dominique Wilkins ('06)

Maya Moore - Seimone Augustus ('24), Geno Auriemma ('06), Swin Cash ('22), Tamika Catchings ('20), Lindsay Whalen ('22)

2008 USA Men's National Team - Jim Boeheim ('05), Chris Bosh ('21), Jerry Colangelo ('04), Jason Kidd ('18), Mike Krzyzewski ('01), Dwyane Wade ('23)

This Week in Rec

Forge Athletics Hosts Elite Baseball Camp

WILBRAHAM – This August, Forge Athletics presents its signature Baseball Summer Camp, running Monday, Aug. 18 through Thursday, Aug. 21, with a rain date of Friday, Aug. 22. The camp will be held from 9 a.m. to Noon daily at Spec Pond in Wilbraham, welcoming players of all skill levels for high-impact baseball instruction in a fun, supportive environment.

Led by former pros, current college coaches, and respected specialists, Forge's staff includes:

- **Dustin Brisson** – Former professional with the Boston Red Sox and St. Louis Cardinals organizations
 - **Ace Adams** – Over 25 years as a professional pitching coach
 - **Dan Gomez** – Current head coach at Western New England University, leading one of New England's most competitive collegiate programs
 - **Dave Wendt** – Catching instructor and former pro with the Tampa Bay Rays
 - **Chad Shade** – newly appointed head baseball coach at Springfield College and a standout local athlete with deep roots in the Western Mass baseball community
 - **Terry Doyle** – Played 8+ years professionally, now head coach of the NECBL's New England Collegiate Pilgrims
- In addition to elite in-

struction in hitting, fielding, pitching, and game IQ, campers will benefit from several incredible guest appearances throughout the week:

- **Ray Fagnant** – New England Scouting Supervisor for the Boston Red Sox, offering insight into player development and what scouts look for
 - **Dr. Rob Robinson** – Clinical Director of Family Care Counseling, speaking on mental toughness, focus, and emotional wellness for young athletes
 - **Erin Fitzgerald, P.T.** – From Action Chiropractic, sharing strategies on injury prevention and recovery
 - **Don Lavalley** – 30-year NCAA umpire and 2023 Western Mass Baseball Hall of Fame inductee, who'll speak on the rules of the game and respect for umpires
 - **Dr. Maurice "Mo" Disley, DPT, CP-S, TRS-C** – Owner of Elevation PT and Performance in Chicopee, sharing expertise in athletic training and sports performance
 - **Kip Rutto & Family (Rutto Bats)** – Local bat makers and MLB-certified vendors from Holyoke who will share their story and display their handcrafted bats
 - **Thomas Henry Photography** - specializes in sports photography, capturing dynamic action shots and unique moments with creativity and professionalism.
- Plus, all campers and their families will receive exclusive discount codes from Forge's partners:
- **Rutto Bats** –

MLB-certified handcrafted bats built for balance and performance

• **Good Hop Gloves** – High-quality, custom fielding gloves for serious players

• **C4 Glove Company** – Durable and stylish glove designs with pro-level construction

• **CamWood Bats** – Powerfully engineered training bats to improve swing speed and mechanics

• **Thorne Research** – A trusted leader in science-backed wellness, Thorne offers NSF Certified for Sport® supplements used by professional athletes, Olympians, and UFC fighters to support energy, recovery, immune health, and peak performance

"This camp is about more than just baseball," says Dustin Brisson, camp director and founder of Forge Athletics. "It's about building confidence, work ethic, and love for the game—while being coached by people who've played and coached at the highest levels."

Brisson adds, "I'm passionate about bringing the best of baseball instruction and development to every athlete who attends our camps. Every player will have a great time, learn from true professionals, and leave as a better ballplayer—and hopefully with an even greater love for the game."

Spots are limited, and registration is now open.

Use code FORGE50 at checkout to receive \$50 off per camper.

Visit: <https://wilbraham-ma.myrec.com/>



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College Notes

UMass Amherst announces 2025 Grads

AMHERST – Approximately 5,000 students received bachelor's degrees in over 100 majors at the University of Massachusetts Amherst's Undergraduate Commencement on May 16, 2025 at the McGuirk Alumni Stadium.

Below is a list of students from your area that received a bachelor's degree from the University of Massachusetts Amherst:

Hampden, MA
Blaise Joseph Barbeau

Wilbraham, MA
Stephanie M Bisnett, Jing Li Chen, John Chen, Ani Joyce Diefenderfer, James DiRico, Cameron Mathew Gilrein, Ethan Parker Grycel, Timothy Jodoin, Kylie Hope Kane, Joelle Nicole Kovarik, Jonah Kozub, Filip Stanislaw Kumiega, Nick S Lang, Jaclyn Lee Maller, Sofia Marie Manuel, Jillian Paige Mawaka, Erik Olavi Saarela, Ava Marie Sirois, Samantha Anne Vanzandt, Joseph Zebian

VFW, Auxiliary 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.

Monthly Highlights for August at the Hampden Senior Center

Alzheimer's Association Benefit Raffle

Aug. 11 through Aug. 22 in the Hampden Senior Center Lobby.

Come and see all of the amazing raffle prizes that are up for grabs in our annual benefit raffle for the Alzheimer's Association. Tickets are six for \$5 and can be purchased at the front desk.

Raffle prizes include LEGO sets, Gift cards, Gift Baskets and more.

Ukulele Classes with Amy Scott

The new 8-week session will begin Aug. 18—Oct. 20.

No classes on 9/1 & 10/13
New Times: Mondays
Beginner Ukulele – 11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.

Cost is \$50 for the session if paid in full or \$7 per class for drop-ins.

Advanced Ukulele – 1 to 2:30 pm

Cost is \$80 for the session. Please call 566-5588 to sign up for classes or the new session. Drop-ins are welcome.

Crafts with Kim Scrapbooking Class

Tuesdays,

from 10 a.m. to Noon

Please bring 7-8 photographs, scissors, a tape runner, and any stickers you may wish to use. Kim will provide scrapbooking paper and all the tools necessary to make your book gift-worthy.

Cost is \$10 per class.

Learn to do Scratchboard Art with Cathy

Tuesday, Aug. 19; 1 to 3 p.m.

Create this beautiful flowery art project on a 5 1/2" x 7" scratchboard. Cathy will teach you the techniques to create projects of your own. Project is displayed in the lobby. Cost is \$10 per project. All supplies are provided. Please call 566-5588 to reserve your spot. Space is limited.

Lobby Learning

Aug. 28,

Shiloh Angels Home Care
Don't have time to come in and sit for a long presentation? We understand!

Lobby Learning is aimed at welcoming businesses and organizations to provide helpful information to you.

You are welcome to stop in to pick up information and speak one-on-one with representatives in the senior center lobby and stay for as long as you need to get your questions answered.

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

Local Author and Historian, J.R. Green to visit the Hampden Senior Center to discuss his book

Friday, Sept. 5 at 12:30 p.m.

Join us for lunch at noon and a 12:30 p.m. presentation from J.R. Green as he discusses his recently published book that chronicles daily life in the four small towns of Dana, Enfield, Greenwich, and Prescott, which were abandoned and destroyed to make way for the Quabbin Reservoir in the 1930s. "The Old Quabbin Valley in 100 Objects"

Sign up today! This is a FREE presentation sponsored by the Friends of Hampden Senior Citizens.

Do you have Parkinson's Disease or you know someone who does?

Mondays from 9 to 10 a.m.

PWR! Moves Group Exercise Classes with Lisa Kern, OT, Reiki Master/Holistic Therapist

A Parkinson-specific exercise class that "makes function exercise" to keep you moving and doing more of what you want to do! As you practice, you will be challenged physically and cognitively while working on fitness goals: strength, balance, agility, aerobics, and flexibility.

Exercises are designed to

improve your fitness, counteract your PD symptoms and increase your daily activity. This whole body, function-focused exercise class will push you to do more than you think you can in a fun, empowering, and enriched environment!

Pre-paid rate for eight classes: \$65 Drop-in rate: \$10 per class. Please call 566-5588 to sign up.

Common Threads Led by Joan Tompkins, PhD

Mondays, from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.

Come join our friendly group... We share memories and learn new coping skills on how to deal with loss, loneliness, and adapting to life changes. There is no charge to join this group. All are welcome.

Please call 566-5588 to let us know you're coming.

Living Stronger... Longer...

with Lamar Moore

Tuesdays from 2:15 to 3 p.m.

Classes in August will be on the 19th, and 26th.

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

"It's never too late to start making progress on your health span. Muscles and balance are the two things you can train and improve even as you age."

Cost is \$6 per class. Please call 566-5588 to reserve your spot.

Ballroom Dance for Balance and Longevity!

Thursdays, from 2:15 to 3:15 p.m.

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

Next 8-week session:

Sept. 18—Nov. 6

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

Please call 566-5588 to reserve your spot.

"African Drumming" with Jason

New 14-week session begins Sept. 5 through Dec. 12. No class on 11/28.

NEW TIME** Fridays from 2 to 3 p.m.

All are welcome! No previous experience necessary.

Cost is \$80 for the 14-week session if paid in full, or \$7 per class for drop-ins.

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

Choral Group

Are you interested in singing in a choral group? Please let us know by calling 566-5588.

Help us stock our shelves

with mouthwash

Thank you to those who donated toothpaste last month. Every month, we will target a different item to help fill monthly Personal Needs Bags.

Due to space constraints, please refrain from purchasing warehouse-sized items.

D & R Farm,

Summer Farm Share

PICK-UP is on Wednesdays, Aug. 20 at 9:30 am.

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

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

Please let us know if you need your shares delivered.

"Come What May"

Boutique... is open in our lobby for all to shop during normal business hours

Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

We accept donations of new or gently used clothing,

Upcoming HSC Trips

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

Tues, Sept 30 - Lakeside Turkey Train (Lake Winnepesaukee) Harts Turkey Dinner on board, Country Farm Store stop (on own) & NH Liquor Store - \$140pp. Get on the Waitlist for a second train car.

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

Full Payment Deadlines are usually 2 weeks before the event. Flyers are available @ the Sr Ctr or via email. Questions call Bobbi @ 413-566-8271 or email bobbi2@charter.net.

outerwear, accessories, and footwear.

All proceeds from Boutique sales will benefit the needs of the Senior Center.

Did you know we offer the following services....

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

Tuesdays with Ann Maggion, RN, or Ruth Haley, RN Thursdays with Karen Blair, RN

Facials with Diane Neill Diane is on Summer Vacation.

Manicures with Cat Please call Cat directly at 413-335-7422 for an appointment and pricing. Anyone is welcome to schedule appointments for these services. Please call 566-5588 to schedule your appointments.

HIKING from page 4

NH Terrifying 25 hiking list. The granite slide requires hand-over-hand climbing using 3 points of contact on steep, exposed rock slabs and is not recommended for the descent.

There are actually three potential routes up the slide; left, middle, and right.

The far left route is not the actual slide, but appears to be very popular based on how well-worn the steep dirt path has become over the years. I'm guessing that anyone with an ounce of self-preservation and a strong desire to hug trees chooses this route.

The far right route is clearly the least used-covered in slick moss, with no trees to grab onto and providing little in the way of traction. I would say this is the route you take when your brain hasn't fully developed yet. Which, "scientifically" speaking, is anyone under the age of 28.

And the space in between the left and the right? Well, that's the route for those who want to experience the thrill of rock scrambling without the benefit of rope, while still feeling like Spider-Man on the way up.

When Tom and I reached the base of the slide, I told him I wanted to take the dirt path on the left. My 68-year-old husband replied, "I came here to climb a rockslide, so I'm going to stay to the right."

Now, at 60 years old, I fall somewhere in between the age at which brain cells become fully developed and the age at which they start to decline, so I was completely

against taking the moss-covered route on the right. I suggested we compromise and stay on the middle section, which is still part of the slide, but with far less moss, meaning far less chance of plunging to our death. However, Tom—who is usually the more rational one—was intent on taking the hardest route to the top. Unwilling to stray far from my safety net, I reluctantly followed behind.

Until, that is, my feet began slipping on the wet moss, at which point, I found a small crevice in the granite and slowly worked my way left until I was on the middle section. Tom, however, remained undeterred, and continued up the mountain a couple dozen feet to the right of me.

Although I was relieved to be on dry rock, the middle part of the slope was no less steep. I managed to scramble upward on all fours for about 25 feet, until the angle of the slope became so perilously steep that it was impossible to continue upward. I scanned the smooth granite to the left and right of me, looking for something, anything, to grab onto. I saw nothing. With my toes balancing on a mere half-inch lip in the rock, I didn't have enough momentum to hurl myself upwards. And there was no possibility of down-climbing. I clung to the rock, unable to move in any direction, paralyzed with fear.

The sound of my racing heart assaulted my ears and my arms began shaking. My entire body became drenched in perspiration. Sweat dripped down my face, stinging my eyes, but

I dared not pull one hand away from the rock to wipe it away. All rational thought evaporated and panic surged within me with every ragged breath.

Tom attempted to encourage me from his own precarious position. "There's a slight projection on your left," he said. "Trust your trail runners. You got this!"

It was fight or flight, and there was no way to flee. I extended my left hand as far as I could to feel for the slight protrusion Tom was referring to. Once my fingers found it, I took a deep breath, then used every ounce of strength I had in my quaking arms to haul myself up onto a slight depression in the rock above me. I grabbed onto the trunk of a nearby shrub and clung to it in a death-grip while waiting for my heart rate to settle back into a normal rhythm.

Tom, in the meantime, was facing his own set of challenges just twenty feet to my right. He was unable to move upward himself due to how steep the slide had become. However, unlike me, he has no fear of steep, open rock slabs. He felt the

rock below his hands until he found a small split and used the very tips of his fingers to work his way over to me.

Thankfully, the trail soon turned from large, open slabs to loose boulders and gravel. No less physically challenging, but somewhat less mentally demanding. I find that taking a step upward and feeling the mountain slide down below my feet is far less terrifying than scrambling on all fours on a smooth slab of granite.

When we finally reached the top of the slide, Tom and I heaved a sigh of relief. I was filled with jubilation, not only for having completed EVERY trail in the Sandwich Wilderness, but also for making it up the single most terrifying trail we had ever attempted. I did not feel brave, rather, empowered.

I had not overcome my fears, rather I had charged into them with shaking arms and quaking legs. In doing so, I learned that sometimes the fear does not go away, so you just need to do it afraid. And perhaps, just perhaps, that is where courage begins.

See you in the wild places, my friends.



Monson Savings Bank Donates \$3K to Scantic Valley YMCA

MONSON – Monson Savings Bank President & CEO Dan Moriarty and EVP & COO Michael Rouette, who also serves as Board Chair & Chief Volunteer Officer of the YMCA of Greater Springfield, recently presented a \$3,000 donation to the Scantic Valley YMCA Branch. They met with Branch Executive Director Debbie Kelder and YMCA of Greater Springfield President and CEO Dexter Johnson to deliver the gift in person.

“Monson Savings Bank has proudly supported the YMCA for many years,” said Monson Savings Bank President & CEO Dan Moriarty. “We are happy to continue that support with this donation. The Scantic Valley Y is a vital part of our community—many of our team members use this location, Michael and me included. We see the positive impact this facility has on the people it serves.”

The Scantic Valley YMCA earned this donation by being one of the top ten vote recipients in Monson Savings

Bank’s 2025 Community Giving Initiative. Through this annual initiative, community members are invited to vote for their favorite local nonprofit organizations. The Scantic Valley Y received significant community support, securing their place as a donation recipient.

“As both a representative of Monson Savings Bank and as Board Chair and Chief Volunteer Officer of the YMCA of Greater Springfield, this partnership holds a special place in my heart,” said Monson Savings Bank Executive Vice President & COO Michael Rouette. “I’ve seen firsthand how the Scantic Valley YMCA enriches lives and strengthens our community. It’s an honor to help support their mission through this donation, and I’m incredibly proud to see so many community members rally behind them through the Bank’s Community Giving Initiative.”

Located at 45 Post Office Park in Wilbraham, the Scantic Valley YMCA offers

a wide variety of programs for individuals and families of all ages—ranging from aquatics, cycling, yoga, and pickleball, to childcare services, wellness programs, and community-building opportunities. As part of the YMCA of Greater Springfield, the branch serves to strengthen the community through health, wellness, and social connection. To learn more about the Scantic Valley YMCA, please visit: <https://springfieldy.org/family-centers/scantic-valley-y-family-center/>

“We are so grateful for the support of Monson Savings Bank,” said Dexter Johnson, President and CEO of the YMCA of Greater Springfield. “Donations like this allow us to provide financial assistance to families in need, expand our wellness offerings, and maintain our facilities. Thank you to everyone who voted for us, and to Monson Savings Bank for their continued generosity and community leadership.”

Debbie Kelder, Executive



Dan Moriarty, Monson Savings Bank President & CEO (left), and Michael Rouette, Monson Savings Bank EVP & COO and YMCA of Greater Springfield Board Chair & Chief Volunteer Officer (right), presented a \$3,000 donation to Dexter Johnson, President and CEO of the YMCA of Greater Springfield, and Debbie Kelder, Executive Director of the Scantic Valley YMCA Branch.

Director of the Scantic Valley YMCA, echoed this appreciation.

“The relationship between Monson Savings Bank and the Scantic Valley Y is truly special,” said Kelder. “We’re

honored to receive this donation and thankful to our community for showing up to vote for us through the Bank’s Community Giving Initiative.”

To learn more about the

Monson Savings Bank Community Giving Initiative, visit:

www.monsonsavingsbank/connect/our-community/community-giving-initiative.html.



A group photo of the adult readers with Hampden Free Public Library Director Ellen Moriarty.



The teens got to enjoy a game of Plinko, the classic game from “The Price is Right!” during their Summer Finale Party.

END from page 1 we’ll recreate it.”

Converse shared she was more of a reader when she was younger, but as an adult, she wants to keep reading whenever she can, offering this advice.

“I have a reading chair now and that is like my favorite thing. I just like to put it there and go, ‘Oh, I can take 15 minutes to read.’ Because life gets busy and I’d love to be able to sit down,” Converse said.

Girard said 43 teens signed up for summer reading this year, with 25 of them reading for at least 20 hours. Over 1,100 hours were read in total among the participants.

“Diary of a Wimpy Kid” was a favorite, especially for the middle-graders.

“It was a really, really great year and it’s just fun to have everyone gather for the wrap-up and see the excitement for winning the raffle prizes and all of that good stuff. Have some pizza,” Girard said. “It’s just a nice way to wrap things up.”

Girard said that the Plinko

game was also an opportunity to raffle off little prizes so every attendee went home with something special.

“I know there’s a lot of other things you could be doing during the summer, so for our teens who read, we really like to give them a little incentive,” Girard said.

Girard also emphasized the importance of reading during the summer for kids and teens.

“It’s nice to have a fun and engaging way to encourage teens to read throughout the summer. When they start a series and they’re ready for the next book or they get to discover a new author that they like or explore a new medium. We have our playaways, graphic novels, Manga, traditional novels,” Girard said. “So, it’s nice to provide a variety and give them a chance to explore it on their own without having a grade attached to it. There is time to explore what they want which I think is important because you learn a lot by reading.”

Director Ellen Moriarty said for the adults, meanwhile, over 500 books were

read, with 206 given five-star ratings by participants.

“The Women” by Kristin Hannah was a top favorite.

“Lot of reading going on here in Hampden!” Moriarty said.

Moriarty added that participants also utilized eBooks, audiobooks and playaways for their reading.

“Those count as books too. Our statistics for eBooks

and e-audiobooks are very high. Usually around 700 a month,” Moriarty said. “The libraries have a lot to offer, it’s not just books, but wonderful programming and all different ways to take in your reading.”

Moriarty stressed reading also brings community together, especially when joining friends and neighbors for a book club.

“We have three different

book clubs that go throughout the year and it’s wonderful to get together with other book lovers to talk about books that we’ve read and books that we might want to read. It’s a very active book club and just get out and to socialize with other book lovers,” Moriarty said. “Our book club is very strong and well-attended and a lot of different points of view, different ages, which I really

enjoy.”

Converse had nothing but praise for Moriarty.

“Ellen does a lot of work and she makes it seem so easy and she gets up and is just so excited about anybody reading anything,” Converse said. “I think a lot of people use the library. Every time I’m here, I’m seeing new people at the library.”

She also encouraged the community to make time for a good book.

“Just take time next year—if you can—just to read one book that you love or that’s on your list and just make it your time,” Converse said.

In addition to the community, Moriarty also thanked the Friends of the Hampden Free Public Library for their support. She will keep residents updated on the library’s upcoming move from the Town House as well.

“As soon as we know anything, we’ll post information on our Facebook, on our website, as well as our front counter. We’ll have all kinds of information about the move. As soon as we know it, we’ll post it,” Moriarty said.



Young Adult Librarian Maxine Girard reads off the raffle basket winners.



Hampden Free Public Library Director Ellen Moriarty chats with attendees in the Rochford Reading Room.



The adults also got to enjoy some delicious cupcake treats to cap off a successful summer reading season.

KIRBY from page 1

“That little girl was about the same age as my granddaughter and she was the one that selected her because one time, they were putting these pictures of various people that they wanted sponsors after Mass—it was in the vestibule—and so my granddaughter, Ellie, wanted me to choose one of these girls and so I said, ‘Okay, well you have to pick her out.’ So, she picked her out and she picked out one that was her age,” Kirby said. “This organization that I belong to actually sponsors them when they’re being educated, so that’s the idea.”

In Haiti, meanwhile, it was through a group at St. Cecilia Parish led by Dr. Peter Kelly.

“I worked in the hospital doing volunteer work and then I also took care of the little children and tried to feed them,” Kirby said.

Kirby shared she feels “about the same” since turning 95.

“I’m just fortunate to have pretty good health and just live as long as the Lord lets me live, and that’s the way it goes,” Kirby said.

Kirby also enjoyed seeing her family together at her birthday party.

“It was beautiful. It was

very wonderful and it was on the patio upstairs, so which is really nice,” Kirby said. “And they had an orchestra and the orchestra played ‘Happy Birthday’ three times!”

Kirby’s daughter, Maureen Burns, elaborated on the musical serenade.

“It’s so funny she calls it an orchestra. There’s always usually music up there because I’m a member up there so we go up a lot, but usually it’s pretty reserved-like dinner music,” Burns said. “It was like this heavy-metal like hardcore rock and roll band and it’s so funny she calls it an orchestra. But, they were so good.”

For her mother’s party, Burns added the grandkids and great-grandkids flew in from all across the country.

“That was just so exciting. It was such a wonderful experience for my sisters and I, because it was really such an emotional night for her and it was just so,

so nice to see that she

was so happy and so excited about everybody coming together for her,” Burns said. “And the kids just all sat with her and talked with her all night and that was just wonderful, and she just loves that. She loves having the kids around her and everybody really seemed like they were really enjoying being there.”

Kirby shared what her secret is to a long life.



Photos courtesy of Maureen Burns

Above, grandchildren Mark Schneider, Ali Normandeau, Miles Burns and Matthew Schneider in a group photo with their grandma, Barbara Kirby. Inset, a placard showcasing Barbara Kirby for her 95th birthday celebration.

“To live this long, I think you have to have a good attitude. If you’re not going to have a good attitude, that’s not going to happen,” Kirby said. “I’m just very lucky, that’s all.”

Burns added besides a positive attitude, her mother also enjoys life, with people telling her and her sisters just how lucky they are to have her mother

too.

“My mom loves being here and she is very social. I think that’s a huge part of why she enjoys life so much. She loves being around people, she calls, she would just pick up the phone and start thinking about people in her life that she hasn’t spoken to in a long time and she’ll just start calling people. Friends from a long time ago or relatives,” Burns said. “Just to keep that connection. She’s always wanted to maintain connection with people and people just seem to enjoy

really being around her and she’s just very social.”

After Burns credited her mother for her and her sisters achieving their goals in life, Kirby said raising them “was a joy.”

“Life is good,” Kirby said. “I’m pretty lucky.”

“Life is good for Barbara Kirby!” Burns said.

Kirby’s message to the community was this: enjoy life to the fullest and cherish every moment.

“Wonderful place. I just love it,” Kirby said. “I just think it’s a good place to live.”

HSC from page 1

Noting the turnout, Moriarty was thrilled to see many people stop by to enjoy a summer-themed meal and catch up with friends and neighbors.

“It is great to see so many people coming to the senior center, not only for this event, but every day! We are happy to be able to provide programs and services that are beneficial and fun to so many people and this was no exception. This Summer Luncheon was very popular and the feedback we received was great. We will certainly do something like this again next summer!” Moriarty said.

Moriarty credited Outreach Coordinator Wendy Cowles for the event idea, explaining how she thought “it would be fun to put together a luncheon with entertainment during the summer.”

“We don’t generally have a lot of programs with a band during the summer because we know people go on vacation, enjoy spending time outside and many are spending time with grandchildren who are out of school, but decided to give it a try and it was very successful,” Moriarty said.

When asked what she and

the senior center staff most enjoyed about hosting the event, Moriarty said this.

“It was great to see so many people come for the luncheon and we were thrilled to have one of our favorite performing groups, Baird Souls, back for another great afternoon of music,” Moriarty said. “We were also glad to have the support of our sponsors, Mountain View Restaurant and Vantage Health and Rehab of Hampden who made the event pos-

sible.”

On upcoming events residents should keep an eye out for the rest of the month, Moriarty said the Alzheimer’s Association Dinner Dance is a big one to note.

Tickets are \$30 and there will be dinner consisting of a stuffed chicken breast dinner and dessert, dancing, raffles and a cash bar, with Off the Record serving as the musical entertainment.

“Our next big event is the Alzheimer’s Association

Fundraiser Dinner on Saturday, Aug. 23, starting at 5:30,” Moriarty said. “While this isn’t a summer-theme, we are pleased to support and raise funds for the Alzheimer’s Association on an annual basis. Tickets are available at the senior center or by calling 566-5588.”

Moriarty thanked the community for always supporting events at the senior center, encouraging others to stop by and see what they have to offer.

“The Dog Days of Summer was a great event and successful thanks to our amazing sponsors and entertainment. We encourage residents to come to the senior center to participate in all the programs and activities that are offered here,” Moriarty said.

Also, local businesses are welcome to sponsor a future event.

“If there are any local businesses that would like to sponsor an event, please call us; we would love to connect and talk about ways that organizations can get involved,” Moriarty said.

To learn more about upcoming events, check out the Scantic Scribe—the senior center’s newsletter—or call 566-5588.



Hampden Senior Center Volunteers pick up the meals to distribute to the attendees.



Out comes the cake!



A shot of attendees enjoying their summer-themed treats.



Baird Souls performs.



Volunteer served attendees the delectable lunch of hot dogs and cake during the event. Also, ice cold glasses of lemonade, another summer staple.



A moment of kindness shared between attendees as they pass around the plate of condiments at the luncheon.

Turley photos by Kristin Rivers

OBITUARY



Doreen Nelsson

1937 – 2025

WILBRAHAM – Doreen Nelsson, nee Dibble, of Wilbraham, passed away peacefully, surrounded by family on Friday, August 8, 2025, at home. Formerly residing in Springfield and East Longmeadow, she was

predeceased by her beloved husband of 54 years Wesley Nelsson. She is survived by her six children, nine grandchildren, five great grandchildren and one sister. She was a school bus driver for many years be-

fore working as a secretary in the Springfield school system. Doreen was a member of the Wesleyan Church and had been a longtime member of the Order of the Eastern Star and Rainbow Girls. In lieu of flowers, memo-

rial contributions may be made to Shriners' Hospitals for Children, 561 Carew St., Springfield, MA 01104 or to the charity of one's choice. Wilbraham Funeral Home has been entrusted with the arrangements.

Death Notice

Nelsson, Doreen
Died August 8, 2025
Wilbraham
Funeral Home

HISGEN from page 1

has been amazing, but it wouldn't have been as special without Kristin Rivers. Working with her has been an absolute joy. Having her as my mentor on my writing journey inspired me and also pushed my writing abilities further.

As a correspondent, there were surprises around every corner, which helped me hone my communication and public speaking skills. I was grateful to meet so many people at both towns' many events who were gracious and willing to talk about their causes.

I always finished my articles with a smile on my face, ready to share my stories, and when the paper came in the mail, I beamed with pride knowing that people's voices are being heard through my articles.

Some of my favorite articles that come to mind include highlighting my friend's athletic accomplishments, the Play for MKJ Basketball Tournament, Father John's retirement mass and celebration barbeque at St. Cecilia Parish, school events such as the Student Council Pickleball Tournament, holiday traditions such as the St. Cecilia's Christmas Pageant, Bunny Breakfast and VFW Post 9397 Cookies with Santa, and library events such as the always entertaining Trevor the Games Man and "Shaving Cream: That's it. That's the Event."

While I will be going off to Keene State, I hope to continue writing for you all over school breaks.

Thank you to Turley Publications for the valuable experience. I love writing and being granted the opportunity to share that with others is something that I am fortunate to do.

Thank you to everyone in Wilbraham and Hampden that have supported my writing journey.

Please continue reading and supporting your local newspaper; you never know what you'll find next.



Photos courtesy of Rachel Hapgood
A teenager displays their henna art on their hand.



Claire and Patrick O'Connor show off their henna tattoos.



HENNA from page 1

on their arms by a very talented henna artist.

For more information about Wicked Good Henna, check out their website at <https://www.wickedgoodhenna.com/>.

For more events going on at the library, visit wilbraham.libnet.info/events.



Maeve (Left) and Emma (Right) Magill showcase their henna tattoos on their arms



Mandy Roberge is a very talented henna artist who founded Wicked Good Henna in 2015.

These teenagers show off their henna tattoos.

Commerce holding 50th Class Reunion

SPRINGFIELD – The High School of Commerce Class of 75 is holding their 50th class reunion. It will take place at the Storrowton Tavern, West Springfield, MA, on Saturday August 30, 2025 at 6 p.m. Contact Janet at jan0826@comcast.net to learn more.

Polish food available for purchase at Immaculate Conception Church

INDIAN ORCHARD – A DOZYNKI Celebration will be held at Immaculate Conception Church Hall, 25 Parker Street, Indian Orchard, MA. on August 23, 2025 from 2 to 6 p.m. with a Polish

Plate Dinner.
Polish Plate Dinner (4 Pierogi, Golabek, Kielbasa, Kapusta and Rye Bread)
\$20 Per Plate-Eat in or Take Out.
Cash Bar-Wine and Beer,

Water and Soda
No outside food or drink allowed. Homemade Baked Goods available for purchase from the Youth. Tickets are available by calling: Maria Kowalski- 413-222-6229,

Irena Wurszt-413-427-5846, Parish Office-413-543-3627 opt for Monday and Tuesday 0 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Frozen Polish Food will also be available: Golabki (3) \$12, Kapusta (Large) \$10.

Pierogi (Cabbage, Potato & cheese \$14, Sweet Cheese, Blueberries \$15)
There will Not be a sale from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. as previously published, only from 2 to 6 p.m.

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.

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

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

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 Probate and Family Court

50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD25P1546EA
Estate of:
Charles Anthony Santinello
Date of Death: 03/21/2025
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Anthony R Santinello of Agawam, MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as re-

quested in the Petition.
The Petitioner requests that: **Anthony R Santinello of Agawam, MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **With Personal Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 09/02/2025. 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 day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

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

including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

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

Date: August 05, 2025
Rosemary A Saccomani,
Register of Probate
08/14/2025

TOWN OF HAMPDEN CONSERVATION COMMISSION NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

In accordance with the provisions of the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act, (MGL CH 131, S 40), it's implementing regulations (310 CMP 10.00) and the Town of Hampden's Wetlands Protection Bylaws, the Hampden Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on **Wednesday, August 20, 2025 at 6 PM** at the Town House, 625 Main Street, Hampden, for a Notice of Intent, (NOI), submitted by SWCA Environmental Consultants on behalf of the Massachusetts Audubon Society for the property known as Laughing Brook Wildlife Sanctuary Restoration for Invasive Plant Management Restoration. Additional information relating to this request is on file in the Conservation Commission office and available for review by the public by contacting the Commission. Anyone interested in or wishing to be heard on the request may appear at the time and place designated.

Hampden Conservation Commission
08/14/2025

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MULTI-FAMILY TAG SALE. Aug. 15-16-17, 8:30am-5pm. 25 Shore Drive, Wales. Households, appliances, collectibles & more.

TAG SALE: AUG. 16TH, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. 162 Breckenridge St., Palmer.

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The Town of North Brookfield is looking for a **PART-TIME OUTREACH COORDINATOR** for the Senior Center. Please submit a resume with a letter of interest to the **Selectmen's Office, 215 Main St., North Brookfield, MA 01535** or by email to selectmen@northbrookfield.net.

Town of Blandford
Town of Blandford is hiring a **PART-TIME ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT** to the Assessors. Duties include administrative support for daily operations of the Assessors' office. Pay: \$18-\$20/hr, based on experience. Communication, customer service, organizational, and tech skills required. Send cover letter and resume to: dhopson@townofblandford.com.

HELP WANTED

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, WILBRAHAM HOUSING AUTHORITY

The Wilbraham Housing Authority seeks highly qualified applicants for the position of Executive Director. Responsibilities include the administration of 69 Chapter 667 Elderly housing units and 9 Chapter 705 Family housing units. The Executive Director reports to a five-member Board of Commissioners. Work schedule shall be a minimum of 22 hours per week during normal business hours, flexible as needed. The estimated salary range \$46,177.00 To \$54,326.00 is based on the Executive Office of Housing & Livable Communities' Executive Director Salary Schedule. The ideal candidate must have two years' experience in a housing, community development, public administration or a closely related field. Knowledge of the principles and practices of housing management, finances and maintenance systems in public or private housing. Excellent written and verbal communication skills required. Willingness to work with people of various socio-economic backgrounds. Must be bondable. Certification as a Public Housing Manager from an approved organization desired, and may be substituted as a property manager or similar classification by a nationally recognized housing or real estate organization such as an EOHLCA-approved Massachusetts Public Housing Administrator Certification Program or HUD. Two-year full time post-secondary education in a related field may substitute for up to one year of experience. Applications will be accepted until 12pm, August 29, 2025. Please submit cover letter, resume and contact information for 3 references to: **Mr. Peter Manolakis, Chairman Executive Director Search Committee, Wilbraham Housing Authority, 88 Stony Hill Road, Wilbraham, MA 01095. Contact: Peter Manolakis (413) 519-8195**
Wilbraham Housing Authority is an Equal Opportunity Employer

Town of Blandford is seeking a fulltime **ASSISTANT TREASURER/COLLECTOR**. Pay range \$29.50-\$37.50/hour. Please visit our website for full job description. Submit resume to **Administrator@townofblandford.com**

TOWN OF WILBRAHAM EMERGENCY DISPATCHER PT & FT FIREFIGHTER/EMT POLICE OFFICER

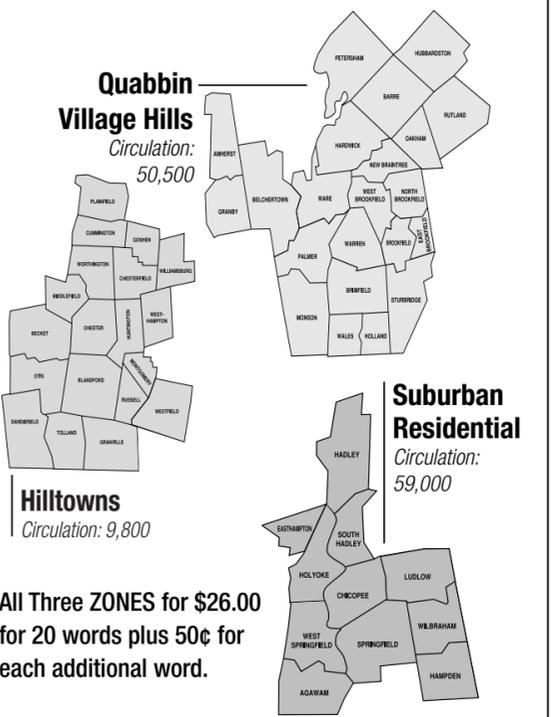
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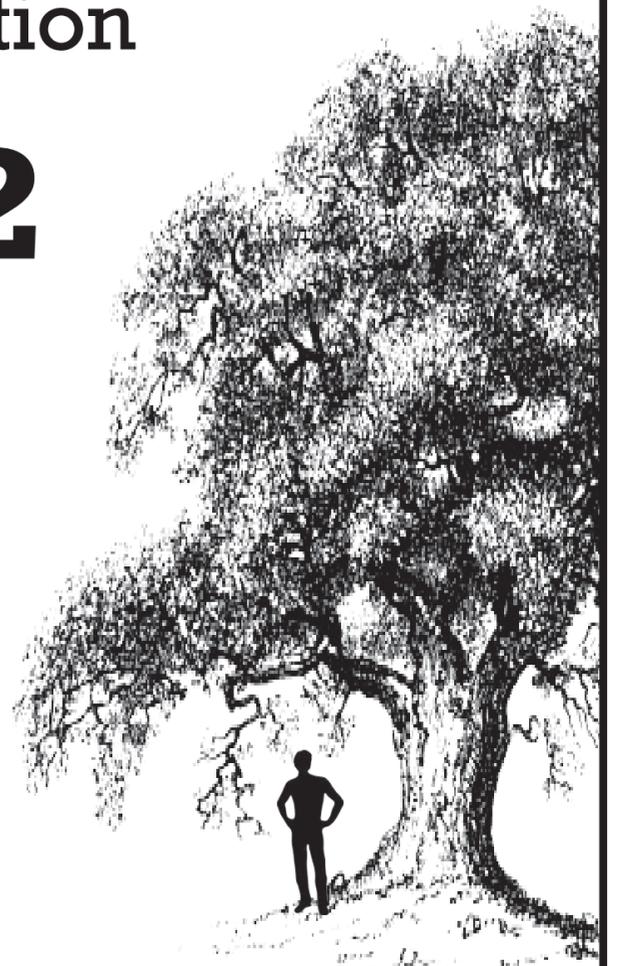
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