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Hill Climb talks continue

Goal is decision by Sept. 8

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
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WILBRAHAM - The Select Board will continue reviewing the Wilbraham Hill Climb after hearing from the event organizers, supporters and more during their Aug. 11 meeting.

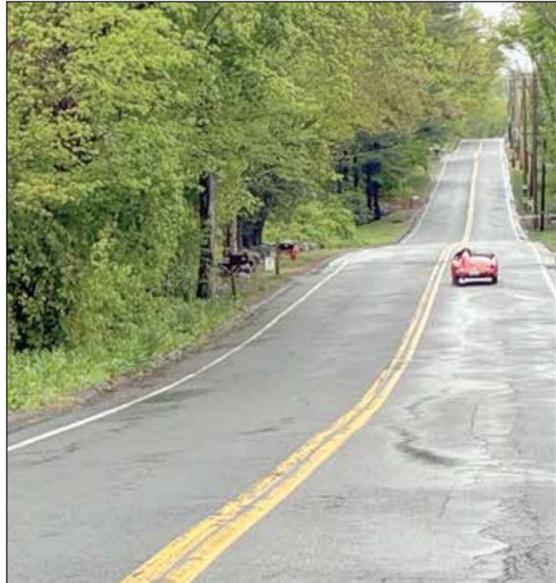
This latest discussion—which lasted nearly 90 minutes—comes after community members voiced support for the event during the board's July 28 meeting, with the board approving at that time to remain in discussion with event co-organizers Ed Cenedella and Jeff DeMarey regarding an event on a date to be determined in May 2026.

On June 30, reservations were expressed by the Select Board about holding the event next year and a summary report was presented by Police Chief Ed Lennon.

After the discussion and an order presented by Vice Chair Marc Ducey was withdrawn, the board agreed on a goal to review information for a decision by their Sept. 8 meeting.

Chair Michael Squindo also stated that residents can reach out to the board members and Select Board's office with their suggestions.

For more on the community response at this meeting, check out this week's edition.



Turley photo by Patricia Sullivan

The Wilbraham Hill Climb was again discussed during the Select Board's Aug. 11 meeting.

Addressing Concerns

Clerk Sue Bunnell shared concerns raised by a resident about parking at the library during the event, with DeMarey explaining the people parked there were the craft vendors.

"We can certainly reschedule them and move them over to in front of The Sugar Chalet. We have the owner's permission to use that parking lot, also, so we could just move the craft vendors over there for convenience," DeMarey said. "We were using The Sugar Chalet and that parking lot in front of Mar-golis and Sugar for EMS and

services and things of that nature because it was closer to the road. But, we're certainly more than welcome to open it up for the library."

Ducey's questions focused on safety, ranging from who conducts the pre-race inspections—with the answer being the VSCCA, with Race Marshal Benjamin Bragg inspecting them—to noting the advertising was for cars up to 1970 to participate.

"From what I've read, it was a way for the car makers to get people more comfort-

Please see **DECISION**, page 10



Janet Crosier discussed her two novels, "Shadows on the Heath" and "Weymouth House," at the Wilbraham Senior Center.

A mystery explained

By Patricia Sullivan
Correspondent

WILBRAHAM - Janet Crosier spent more than 20 years writing her first novel, "Shadows on the Heath," which imagines the lost years of Heathcliff, one of the principal characters of Emily Brontë's classic "Wuthering Heights."

"I worked hard to make sure my Heathcliff matched Brontë's," she told a group of interested listeners at the Wilbraham Senior Center on Aug. 12. "I hope if she read

it, she would find the book respectful."

Crosier came to the senior center to discuss "Shadows on the Heath," published in 2023, and her most recent novel, also set in nineteenth-century England, "Weymouth House."

"Weymouth House" is a more lighthearted, easier read," Crosier said.

An adjunct professor of English Literature at Western New England University, Crosier, of Ware, has a PhD in English Literature and has long been fascinated with

Brontë. "Nineteenth-century Britain seems to be my place," Crosier said.

Her love of "Wuthering Heights" began as a child when she saw the film, starring Laurence Olivier as Heathcliff.

Like many readers, Crosier wondered what happened to Heathcliff in the years he's missing from the novel. He runs out in a storm after hearing Cathy say it

Please see **MYSTERY**, page 5

Community comes together for Hampden gazebo project

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
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HAMPDEN - Community members came together with the Parks & Recreation Department to help refurbish a gazebo on the lawn of the former Thornton W. Burgess Middle School.

Parks & Rec Director Dan Blanchard said the effort was possible through the Rotary Club of Wilbraham-Hampden, who donate a day of service to the department every year.

"Generally, they do a project at Memorial Park. This

year our staff has Memorial Park looking great and there wasn't a need for work at the park. We thought about other projects where we could use assistance, and the gazebo was in definite need of some TLC," Blanchard said.

Blanchard added the Rotary Club also partners with volunteers from Minnechaug Regional High School's Above The Influence Club to perform the day of service to the community.

"Long story short, due to poor weather we had to keep postponing the volunteer day and eventually the kids' school year was over and we

lost our volunteers. So, Parks & Rec pivoted and filled the gaps by reaching out to town departments, clubs and local businesses," Blanchard said. "The Hampden Highway Department pulled the overgrown plantings, Parks & Recreation staff repaired, prepped and painted the gazebo, Keith Isham Landscaping donated topsoil, mulch and his crew to redo the flower beds, the Hampden Garden Club donated and planted perennials. It was a great community effort, and we just fin-

Please see **GAZEBO**, page 13



Photo courtesy of Dan Blanchard

Through the community coming together, this gazebo on the lawn of the former Thornton W. Burgess Middle School received some TLC to give it new life for all to enjoy.

Families enjoy Bilingual Storytime at WPL

By Angelina Acevedo
Correspondent

WILBRAHAM - On the morning of Aug. 15, young children were welcomed to Bilingual Storytime with Miss Brooklyn Rosas at the library.

Held in the Brooks Room, kids learned words in Spanish, and practiced speaking and listening to Rosas during the event. The focus for this session was learning numbers up to 10.

Rosas started by reading the kids a picture book about numbers and friendship, all while the kids sat on mats with a number beneath them. After listening to the story, Rosas and her mother, Mrs. Rosas, would ask the kids to say their number in Spanish, and then hop that many times.

After learning how to count in Spanish up to 10, the kids had the opportunity to get either one or two stickers from Rosas by telling her either "uno" or "dos", and if they requested a specific color, she taught them how to say it in Spanish.

Once everyone returned to their mat, Rosas and Mrs. Rosas taught the commonly known song "Open Shut Them," but in Spanish. Along with the comparison of open-

Please see **BILINGUAL**, page 8

HISTORICAL WILBRAHAM

Another look at the Colonial Valuations of Wilbraham

Who was on the list of taxpayers in 1771?

By Charles F. Bennett
Times Editor Emeritus

We are taking another look at the 1771 valuations that were included in two histories of Wilbraham, the one by Rufus P. Stebbings in 1863 and the second one written for 1913 by Civil War and Gettysburg cavalry veteran Chauncey



Peck. In our July 31 issue of the Times we had included four well-known early settlers of town just prior to the Revolutionary War. We thought it appropriate to include Lt. Thomas Merrick, Daniel Warner, Isaac Brewer and Lt. William King, this month.

As we mentioned in the last month's column, there were 92 dwelling houses and three tan houses listed. The population in 1771 was about 800. The valuation of 1771 gives us an important piece of the historical record that provides



(Charles F. Bennett photo)

The Isaac Brewer House, at 473 Main St. in the center of Wilbraham, is now owned by Paul and Holly Murray.

us some interesting facts about what life was like for Wilbraham folks back then.

Lt. Thomas Merrick

The Merrick family name is well known in Wilbraham. Probably the most notable Merrick was the first minister of the first church in town Rev. Noah Merrick.

There is a granite marker on the corner of the east side of Federal Lane and Main Street, soon to be replaced by the Historic Commission, that reads: "First Church Wilbraham Organized here, June 24, 1741." It commemorates the site of where the first church was established and

Please see **HISTORY**, page 8

COMMUNITY

Selectboard shares updates on hiring searches

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
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HAMPDEN - The Selectboard provided updates on several hiring searches during their Aug. 4 meeting.

First, the part-time accounting position.

Town Administrator Brian Domina said the job was advertised for several weeks, yielding 16 applications.

"Four candidates were interviewed Tuesday and Wednesday of last week. The interviews were conducted by myself, the treasurer, the collector and assistant collector," Domina said. "We have a recommendation to the board if you want to hear it."

For this role, the unanimous recommendation was for Elise Diemand contingent upon a favorable reference and background check conducted by Domina.

After Chair John Flynn asked if salary or wages were discussed, he asked this.

"So, she was familiar with what the advertised ranged was listed, etc?" Flynn said.

"Yes, it was listed in the job advertisement," Domina said.

When Selectboard Member Don Davenport asked to learn more, Domina replied Diemand has "extensive accounting experience in the private sector for many years, some with a quite large international corporation."

"Took time off from work to do some family stuff, so they're looking to get back into the workforce. The part-time position seems appropriate. I'm not concerned that they're looking for something full-time and accepting part-time because there's nothing else," Domina said. "They live in a nearby town, so I think they're within a 20-minute drive. I did inform them of the resources available so that they can become proficient in municipal accounting which is a little different than private sector accounting, but I think overall their attitude and demeanor is going to be a good fit for the town hall staff here."

On the hours, the role was listed as 15 to 20 hours a week.

"We think that would be appropriate for the level of work that's required," Domina said. "We don't see this position going full-time in a long, long, long time, if ever because our budget and our work is semi-fixed."

On the question of remote and/or on-site, Domina said at least one day on-site would be wanted.

"But my understanding is that they would be looking to do two, if not all the time in the office," Domina said. "Two or three days in the office."

As for the start date, that is still in the works.

After unanimous approval from the board, the next role discussed was the Town Facilities Manager.

"This position was advertised around the same time period. We had a total of 29 applicants, interviews were offered to seven candidates, five accepted interviews, four actually showed up to the interview," Domina said.

"Four candidates were interviewed last Wednesday and last Thursday by myself, Chairman Flynn and Mark

Langone, highway superintendent."

The unanimous recommendation for this one was to Herb Foley contingent upon a favorable reference and background check conducted by Domina.

Flynn said "there were some good candidates."

"One of the things that did sway us obviously for Mr. Foley is the knowledge he brings to the position, and with the short window we have with our aggressive schedule getting over there, it's important that Brian has somebody who's already intimately familiar with the building and he can delegate something to rather having someone babysit a new person coming on, and that was kind of critical," Flynn said.

"The other thing, he was pretty forthright in saying he was not planning on making this a short-term thing. He planned on making this—if you will—even the rest of his career. So, that does speak to me. I'm not looking to pick somebody that's going to be there for a year and then

move on. That doesn't help

the town at all."

After further discussion, Foley was unanimously approved by the board with the contingencies in place.

Flynn then added the Board of Assessors is also working on replacing the Chief Assessor.

And finally, an update on the hiring search for a new police chief.

The update comes after Chief Scott Trombly retired from the police department on July 17.

Domina explained that the deadline for priority applications was Aug. 1 and responses were received from 12 applicants.

"So, we'll compile those together and the first step with our consultant is to narrow that number down so that number down. So, those 12 down to possibly four or five candidates to send to the Assessment Center," Domina said. "So, that'll be likely at the next meeting as a topic for discussion."

The Selectboard's next meeting is on Aug. 18.

Alzheimer's Fundraiser Dinner Dance

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

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

Dinner, dancing, raffle prizes and Cash Bar.

Tickets are \$30 per person paid in advance.

Call 566-5588 to reserve your seat or stop in to the Hampden Senior Center Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. to purchase your tickets.

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.

Lakeside Inn to return to Wilbraham's Nine Mile Pond



WILBRAHAM - Hampden residents John Sullivan and Joseph Sullivan have purchased the former Lakeside Inn at 2589 Boston Road in Wilbraham.

The pair, who closed on the property in December, plan to restore and remodel the Boston Road landmark into a 15-room boutique hotel with an attached restaurant and private kayak launch. In addition to their



Photos courtesy of Greg Cormier Media

hospitality businesses - Nathan Bill's Bar & Restaurant, East Village Tavern, The Boulevard Tavern & Grill,

and Sullivan's Allen Package Store - the Sullivans are also redeveloping Island Pond Plaza.

They say the Lakeside Inn project will honor the site's mid-century history while adding modern comfort and amenities, with a 2026 opening planned.

25 MPH town-wide speed limit goes into effect

WILBRAHAM - In May 2025, the Wilbraham annual town meeting voted to adopt MGL 90/17C, instituting a 25 MPH town-wide speed limit for town owned roads in unposted thickly settled residential & business districts.

Simply put, all thickly settled roads currently lacking speed limit signage will default to a 25 MPH speed limit. This will primarily enhance the safety of our residential neighborhoods where most roadways have always defaulted to a 30 MPH speed limit.

This change is part of our ongoing efforts to improve road safety for drivers and vulnerable road users like pedestrians and cyclists. Signs have been installed at nearly all roadways as you enter the town.

Please note: This new speed limit does not apply

to roads where speed limits have been posted. The existing speed limits will remain in effect.

This includes all major Town roadways:

- Boston Road, Route 20
- Main Street
- Stony Hill Road
- Springfield Street
- Tinkham Road
- Soule Road
- Dipping Hole Road,

etc. In the next few weeks officers will begin educating violators, full enforcement will begin on Sept. 1. We appreciate your cooperation in helping to make Wilbraham a safer community for everyone.

For questions or more information, please contact the Wilbraham Police Department at 413-596-3838 or the Wilbraham Highway Department at 413-596-3060.

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Community makes voices heard on Wilbraham Hill Climb

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
krivers@turley.com

WILBRAHAM - The community made their voices heard on the Wilbraham Hill Climb during the Select Board's Aug. 11 meeting.

This latest discussion—which lasted nearly 90 minutes—comes after community members voiced their support for the event during the board's July 28 meeting, with the board approving at that time to remain in discussion with event co-organizers Ed Cenedella and Jeff DeMarey regarding an event on a date to be determined in May 2026.

On June 30, reservations were expressed by the Select Board about holding the event next year and a summary report was presented by Police Chief Ed Lennon.

After the discussion and a motion presented by Vice Chair Marc Ducey was withdrawn, the board agreed on a goal to review information—including legal feedback—for a decision by their Sept. 8 meeting.

Chair Michael Squindo also stated near the end of the discussion that residents can reach out to the board members and Select Board's office with their suggestions.

Check out this week's edition to read more about the concerns that were addressed.

Community Response

Rachel Connor experienced her first Hill Climb in 2017 and had shared her concerns with DeMarey when he met with her about bringing it back.

"I said 'I'm worried about a, b and c' and he said, 'I am so sorry, I'm going to fix it with a, b and c' and he has done an amazing job doing that. Putting up the barriers, having the hotline established, all of those things have made this event one that we love and we look

forward to," Connor said.

Connor said the community portion of the event is amazing.

"I'm from Wilbraham, I grew up here, my parents grew up here, so I've seen kind of some of the other things in town go to the wayside. We lost the Peach Festival, that was really upsetting. I'm raising my kids here and they don't have the same kind of community events anymore that I grew up with," Connor said. "The Hill Climb is an amazing kind of replacement for that event. It's kind of how we look at it and we would love to see it come back every year. I think if we're going to be a historical town and talk about how proud we are to be a historical town, it's important to not only preserve our history, but kind of push that history forward and evolve that history and I think that's something that this event has done really excellently and I would love to see it continue to evolve."

Patrick Kiernan shared this request.

"If you do it annually, can we please make sure that those that live in the affected area have the ability to access their house from the north and from the south on Main Street, so it is not easy to have to go all the way around and deal with the traffic that occurs because of the Hill Climb to get to your house," Kiernan said. "So, if it's going to be annual, that would just be the one big ask I would have. Make sure that that ability exists and that those on Monson Road or in of the roads off Monson Road also have the ability to exit or enter their house at certain times. Because it's not an easy day to navigate."

Kiernan added this thought on yearly approval.

"Whatever decision you make, I would encourage it not to be a yearly they have to come and ask for approval. Because you should be able to give some information for

the next five years, next three years, whatever it may be as long as it meets certain criteria. That way people can plan, the vendors can plan, the racers can plan. Whatever decision you make, I would just encourage you to not have it be a year-by-year scenario," Kiernan said. "I think the point was made earlier that it's hard when you get approval in January to then do the things that you need to do, so if you could grant approval to say, 'Hey, it's going to be every other year for the next five years,' great. If you say it's going to be every year for the next five years, give them some period of time that they can work with to meet with some of these constraints, and please, for the curmudgeons out there, if you can let us access our houses, we'd love it."

Benjamin Bragg, who inspects the vehicles, said the VSCCA is a "very, very safety-conscious club," addressing earlier concerns presented by Ducey about safety.

"Every vehicle is inspected, every driver is vetted. To become a member that has driving credentials, we would have to go through school and any driver that has infractions are severely dealt with very quickly. The most is 1313, which is 13 months suspension, 13 months probation," Bragg said. "All of the people on the hill are trained in safety measures, crowd control and know what to do if there's an unlikely incident."

Bragg added everyone who's part of the club is happy to be part of it.

"I cannot emphasize more how we as a club love this event and would love to see it continue," Bragg said.

A statement from Mary-Kate Holman and the Holman Family was also read into the record at this meeting. Check out this week's edition for that statement.

Hampden Historical Society holding Ice Cream Social

HAMPDEN - On Thursday, August 28, 2025 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 life-long 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 HampdenHistoricalSociety.lp@gmail.com.

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MRHS Class of 1970 55th Class Reunion

WILBRAHAM - Hello fellow classmates!

The Reunion Committee for the 50 + 2 reunion held in 2022 has stayed together and planned a reunion for September 13, 2025 from 1 to 5

p.m. at the Taproom on Boston Road In Wilbraham.

It is probably our last reunion and we very much want to see as many classmates as we can get together. This event is casual and food

being served buffet style.

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

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



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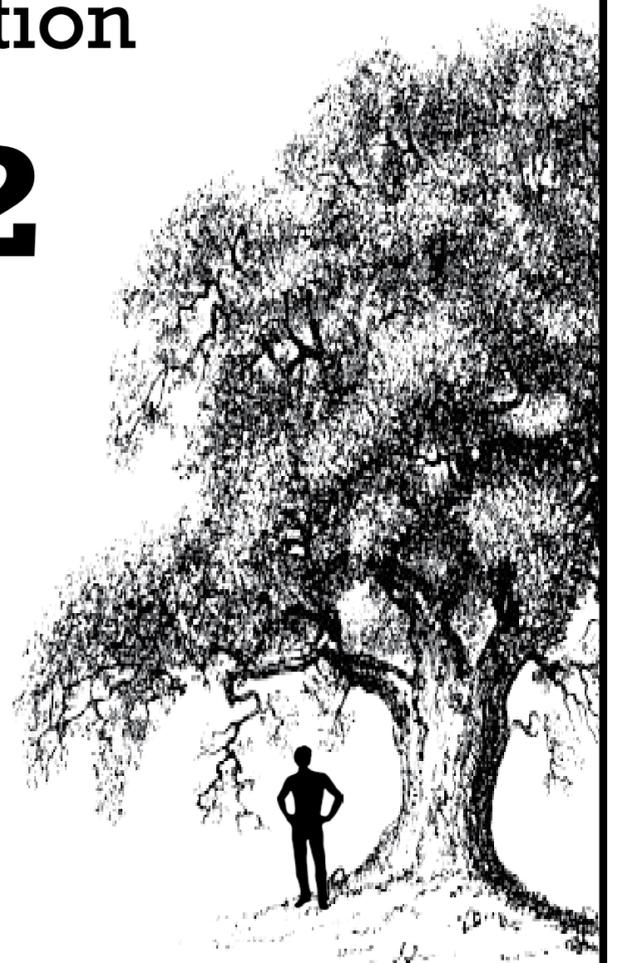
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INSURED AND CERTIFIED

Holman Family statement on Wilbraham Hill Climb

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
krivers@turley.com

WILBRAHAM - During the Aug. 11 discussion with the Select Board on the Wilbraham Hill Climb, a statement from Mary-Kate Holman and the Holman Family was read into the record.

The statement, read by Clerk Sue Bunnell, was received earlier that day.

It was part of a nearly 90-minute discussion on the event where event co-organizers Jeff DeMarey and Ed Cenedella and the Select Board addressed concerns and residents shared their thoughts.

After the discussion and an order presented by Vice Chair Marc Ducey was withdrawn, the board agreed on a goal to review information—including legal feedback—for a decision on the event by their Sept. 8 meeting.

Chair Michael Squindo also stated that residents can reach out to the board members and Select Board's office with their suggestions.

The Statement

For the history, Bunnell read it was a "one-time event in 1908 during which car manufacturers used Monson Road—the hill—for early automobile testing" and was not continual.

"The modern incarnation was also, originally, a one-time event as part of the overall Wilbraham 250 celebra-

tion. The founding members of this modern event were Paul Maguire, DPW Retired, and Joan Paris who brought the idea to the town to internationally recognize resident auto expert and racer George Holman Sr., George Holman Jr. and family including myself, Mary Holman. Keith Corbitt was brought on board to help with the additional Early Brass Era HCC Auto Show," Bunnell read.

Holman's statement said given the history of the event, a decision was made to restrict to entrants with Pre-War and Pre-World War I Era cars.

"Studying the route and road restrictions of the proposed event, the state of Massachusetts upon review forbade any actual racing and required this be held and referred to only as a historical recreation," Bunnell read. "Only using Early Era cars because holding any actual races on Massachusetts public ways is illegal. For this reason, a similar event in Springfield we were working on was ultimately shelved as it proved too much a liability along their streets. We received restricted permission to hold a historical reenactment only as an exception and were careful to limit references to this versus racing and to limit to very Early Era, which were less likely to become dangerous on this route. There have sadly been deadly crashes along mountain and Monson Roads during the decades and we were keen to

run a slow and safe event not only to protect the racers, but the residents and the town as well."

Size and scope were limited too, including the entrants to members of VSCCA with Pre-War and Pre-World War I classes "and others."

"Drawing from this group, we established the event under their auspices, which provided safe race-trained drivers who observe the special safety limitations, etc, as well as most importantly, requiring their special race oversight, expert safety oversight, mechanical evaluations of every auto and driver guidelines, flaggers, timers, experts from the start line the entire way through the course and return (to) town. Our family property at 583 Main was used as 'The Pit' and we held inspections there, etc," Bunnell read.

The most important issue of all Holman mentioned was liability insurance "covering not only the drivers and club, but the town in the case of an unforeseen accident, etc."

"Sadly, things do go wrong even in the best of circumstances and Wilbraham as a town would face potentially bankrupting liability if not covered by the VSCCA event safety oversight and liability coverage," Bunnell read.

The statement also said the event was "only ever intended" to be held as a VSCCA-Only official event.

"This gives safety and liability to the experts and while Jeff (DeMarey) is a helpful

volunteer, he has been interested in doing this event and has already as a non-VSCCA event, which is highly dangerous and concerning. We admire his enthusiasm, but as an insurance person, not a racer himself, our concern (is) he may not realize what these risks are and how the town is very exposed running it yearly as a non-VSCCA official event," Bunnell read. "We are dismayed to hear public commentary that this motion is political when it simply revolves around safety and liability, protecting the town from a potentially dangerous outcome should an accident occur."

Holman's statement also said DeMarey came on to assist when the family took a step back after the COVID-19 pandemic due to healthcare limitations, with the event suspended and unsure "if we would resurrect it at all because, again, it was a one-time event in 1908" and "intended one time in 2013."

"But given its popularity then, upon request from the public, we sought to run it occasionally—no more than bi-annually—and we identified this going forward in all of the literature. So, we did in 2013, 2015, 2017, etc. Then COVID hit," Bunnell read. "When we were doing biannual, we were also taking into account the amount the event disrupted the town based on street shutdowns, etc, etc and always tried to work with neighbors affected and assure them that

this was only ever going to be a two or three year event, etc."

Holman's statement noted after COVID and DeMarey stepped in as a volunteer and with health issues amongst other board members, "there seemed to be a misunderstanding."

"The stated intent was that the event be occasional rather than yearly due to its cost logistics, inconvenience as well as the draining and dampening effect it had on other beloved local activities such as the Library Plant Sale that originally suffered, the Peach Festival which originally we worked with to hold discreet and separate events to alternate years to preserve their sponsors and vendors because most likely will participate in one large event per year," Bunnell read. "The more recent additions of the Wilbraham Hill Climb have greatly expanded to include modern cars, modern racers, craft fair, etc etc, far beyond its approved scope by Mass General Law anti-racing laws as it was supposed to emphasize vintage racing autos, etc."

The last point was about it being a nonprofit Wilbraham-focused event, with funds above-cost donated to the Minnechaug Regional High School Scholarship Committee.

"Jeff has shifted this event to his private foundation. He may have good intent, but this is not the original intent for extra funds. They were to stay with students at Minnechaug

and be administered by the School Committee/Foundation," Bunnell read.

Holman's statement concluded that while "we are not against the WHC continuing, but think for safety and liability reasons as well as common courtesy for those for whom this event would legitimately inconvenience travel-wise" the Select Board should review and consider the following items "to maintain its original scope, safety and intent."

- The event be biannual at the most.
- The event be contingent "upon an officially-sanctioned and via run-VSCCA event with full safety programming, mechanical oversight, liability coverage, etc" along with a VSCCA liaison—a separate role from the event coordinator—like a Holman family member or another VSCCA member in good standing, for example, to oversee coordination and safety
- Cars should be limited to Pre-War/World War I VSCCA-group racers with "adequate training and safety oversight"
- Minnechaug Scholarship Committee/Foundation should be reinstated/required "as the sole benefiting charity" and "any and all financials be public/transparent and reported to the town's admin for oversight, transfer and administration"

MYSTERY from page 1

would be beneath her to marry him but doesn't stay to hear Cathy declare that he is her soulmate, Crosier explained.

Heathcliff leaves rough and uneducated but returns three years later wealthy and polished. "Shadows on the Heath" details the process of his transformation.

Crosier visited the Brontë home in West Yorkshire, England, and spent hours walking with her son, named Heath, on the adjacent moors.

"I wondered how Brontë's view of the moors covered in heath and heather and the cemetery in front of her home influenced what she wrote," Crosier said.

Over years of writing and revising, Crosier labored to ensure the language in her

book was true to the time period and that her descriptions of plants, animals and even card games are all accurate.

"After a while it was hard to let Heathcliff go," Crosier said. "When I finished the book it felt as if something was missing in my life because I'd been working with him every day."

One audience member wondered what Crosier would ask Emily Brontë if she had the

opportunity to meet her.

"I would want to know if she based Heathcliff on someone she knew," Crosier said.

Crosier is currently writing another book, a "Wuthering Heights" prequel tentatively titled "Boy Unknown." This one imagines Heathcliff's backstory before he appears in

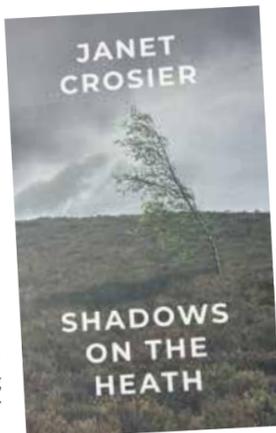
Simultaneously she is writing "Stained Tears," a novel set in a Massachusetts state asylum, where those with mental deficiencies, orphans and others were housed.

Deb Gormley of Ludlow, a retired Soule Road School teacher, purchased both "Heathcliff" and "Weymouth House" at the reading.

Before coming to hear Crosier, she had brushed up on her remembrance of "Wuthering Heights." Hearing Crosier speak, Gormley said, inspired her to find time to read novels again.

"This was fantastic," Gormley said. "It gives you the impetus to get going."

Crosier's books are independently published and can be purchased on Amazon.



Janet Crosier took this haunting photo of a lone tree on the British moors for the cover of "Shadows on the Heath."

Local author talk at Hampden Senior Center Sept. 5

HAMPDEN - On Friday Sept. 5, 12:30 pm at The Hampden Senior Center, 104 Allen Street Hampden.

A local author and historian, JR Greene will be visiting and talking about his book, "The Creation of Quabbin Reservoir." Mr. Greene has published many books about the Quabbin and Pre-Quabbin history of The Swift River Valley.

Mr. Greene also published an Atlas about the Quabbin region in 1975 and he said that the history of the four towns that disappeared from the map more than 85 years ago remains a fascinating subject for readers.

Come and hear the stories he has to tell and learn all about the towns beneath the Quabbin. JR Greene will bring his books to sell which range from \$10 to \$25 and will be autographed upon request.

Cash only will be accepted to purchase the books, as a reminder.

Please call the Hampden Senior Center at (413) 566 5588 to reserve your space and if you would like lunch that day at the center at Noon, please advise the receptionist when you make your call.

If you have any questions, please contact Joan Shea 566-8224. Looking forward to seeing all of you.

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VIEWPOINTS

SOCIAL SECURITY Matters
By Russell Gloor

I'm still confused about Medicare Part A and Part B enrollment

Dear Rusty:

I'm 64 and still working full time, and plan to continue working at least until I'm 70 ~ it's a good job, and I enjoy it.

My job comes with health insurance, so I don't really need additional coverage, but I understand I will be required to sign up for Medicare Part A anyway when I turn 65 next year. What I don't understand is Part B: A colleague of mine, who is a little older than I am, said she signed up for Part B because a penalty will be incurred if we wait until we retire from our jobs and actually need the additional insurance. I'm not sure she's right. Can you explain what I should do?

Signed:

Confused About Medicare

Dear Confused:

We're happy to assist you with understanding this. First, enrolling in Medicare Part A (coverage for inpatient hospitalization service) is mandatory to collect Social Security after age 65. If you do not plan to take your Social Security benefits yet, you can defer enrolling in Part A until you claim Social Security. But Medicare Part A is also free to those eligible for Social Security, so there is little reason not to enroll in Part A at age 65 and, when you claim Social Security, you will be automatically enrolled.

Part B, which is coverage for outpatient healthcare services (doctors, medical tests, etc.), is different. Part B is always optional because there is a premium associated with it (standard premium is \$185/month in 2025), but nearly everyone over age 65 requires healthcare coverage. If, however, you are employed and have "creditable" healthcare coverage from your employer ("creditable" is a group plan with more than 20 participants), then you can defer enrolling in Medicare Part B until your creditable employer coverage ends. And you can do so without incurring a "late enrollment penalty" for enrolling in Part B outside of your Initial Enrollment Period. When your creditable coverage from your employer ends, you will enter an 8-month Medicare "Special Enrollment Period," which permits you to enroll in Part B without penalty.

Thus, as long as your

employer coverage is "creditable," you can defer enrolling in Part B without penalty. FYI, you can also enroll in Part B a couple of months prior to your employer coverage ending, asking that your Part B coverage starts when your employer coverage ends, to avoid any gap in healthcare coverage. Note you will likely need your employer to provide you with proof of creditable coverage when you later enroll in Part B.

A couple of extra thoughts:

If you require prescription drug coverage when your employer coverage ends after age 65, you only have 63 days to acquire that drug coverage without incurring a "Part D" (drug plan) late enrollment penalty. So, if needed, you should not wait to get insurance coverage for prescription drugs after your employer coverage ends.

If you now have a Health Savings Account through your employer, you should discontinue any HSA contributions well before (perhaps as much as six months before) your enrollment in Medicare Part A. That's because Part A is not considered a "high deductible" insurance plan (a "high deductible" plan is a requirement for having a Health Savings Account). If you do not have an HSA, you need not be concerned about this. If you do, we can also provide you with more info on this.

I hope this answers your questions, but we are always here to assist if you need anything further. Contact us at SSAdvisor@amacfoundation.org or at(800-750-2622.

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

This summer try freezing the harvest

Freezing fruits and vegetables is an easy way to preserve the harvest. More nutrients are retained by this method of food preservation than any other, and the color, flavor and texture are as close to fresh as you can get.

Freezing works by curbing the growth of organisms that cause food to spoil. The key to longevity is to use packaging that will keep out air and moisture. Thick plastic freezer bags, tight-fitting plastic containers (square make better use of freezer space than round), or boilable bags that are made for vacuum sealers are all great options for that purpose.

Fresh berries are easily frozen whole. I've been doing my share of that lately. Any blackberries we don't eat get popped on an aluminum pie tin to freeze, once frozen they are moved into freezer containers where I can easily take out just what I need.

Many people also freeze tomatoes whole, figuring that it's too hot to make sauce now, but it won't be in a couple of months. Thawing frozen whole tomatoes makes for easy skin removal.

Vegetables such as peas, yellow and green beans, broccoli and more are all easily frozen once you know the method.

Here is how you do it: Grab a pot from your cupboard to blanch your produce - this part of the process will help to retain the desirable characteristics that I mentioned above. You can blanch by steaming or boiling.

Reportedly, steaming is superior for nutrient preservation.

While you wash and chop your veggies to bite-size pieces, bring a few inches of

Arrange your dry produce in a single layer and pre-freeze for an hour or two, then fill your bag.

This way you will be able to grab exactly what you need when making a meal- pieces won't be frozen together in a big block.

Vacuum packers are great for freezing dinner-sized portions.

Simply pack the bags with your blanched, air-dried veggies and seal. Without one you can do a good job of removing air from your freezer bags by simply squeezing out as you can manually then inserting a straw into an unsealed corner and inhaling to draw out what remains.

The kids will find this part of the preservation process to be a lot of fun! Be sure to label the contents with the date - most produce will keep for at least a year at zero degrees.

For a more detailed look at freezing and other types of food preservation consult these great books by Storey Publishing: "The Beginner's Guide to Preserving Food at Home" by Janet Chadwick and "The Big Book of Preserving the Harvest" by Carol W. Costenbader.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 32 years she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to pouimette@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.



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The Wilbraham-Hampden Times is published every Thursday by Turley Publications, Inc., 24 Water St., Palmer, Mass. 01069. Telephone (413) 283-8393, Fax (413) 289-1977.



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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 800-824-8458 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.

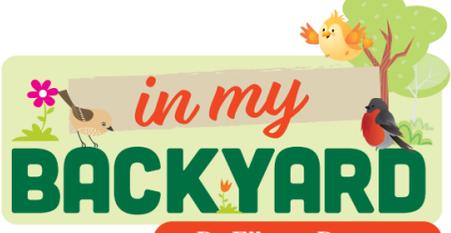
Campaign news
As part of its election coverage, the newspaper plans to print stories about contested races for Congress, state Senate, state House, district attorney and Governor's Council during the weeks leading up to the election, as well as a question-and-answer voters guide. In order to ensure fairness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



DAVE GRANLUND © www.davegranlund.com

My daughter, Paula and family enjoy watching a large flock of cedar waxwings by the bridge near Hardwick Pizza in Gilbertville. They also watch "tons" of bats leave the chimney of the old senior center each night at dusk. Some nights there must be about 50 of them. They fly out and then make big circles around the building while screeching. They do a great job of controlling the mosquitoes population.

The cedar waxwing is one of the few North American birds that specialize in eating fruit. It can survive on fruit alone for several months. It is a silky smooth songbird with a black mask, tan head and breast, yellow belly and grayish brown under parts. The tail has a yellow band at the tip and some wing feathers



By Ellenor Downer

have waxy red tips, hence the name waxwing.

Adults perch on high, exposed perches where they are easily seen and heard. They also have a prominent crest. During courtship males and females pass a small fruit or other item back and forth. The cedar waxwing is medium sized and sleek. Their crest often lies flat and droops over the back of the head. Waxwings are social birds and often seen in flocks year round. They sit in fruiting trees swallowing berries whole or pluck them I mid-air with a brief fluttering hover. They also course over water

for insects, "flying like slightly, clumsy swallows."

It takes the female about five to six days to build a nest. They occasionally take nesting materials from other birds nests.

Helping birds

A reader from South Hadley suggested I include a section about ways to help birds. She even provided several tips for future columns. In hot weather and during dry periods, it is important for birds to have a clean, cool source of water. Even something as simple as putting out a bird bath and water dishes and keeping the water clean and cool during the summer heat will help birds.

Many people don't realize that birds get dehydrated and the bird baths help them keep cool but equally important, maintain the health of their



Cedar waxwing

feathers. A bird bath doesn't have to be fancy, even an old ceramic serving dish would work as long as the water isn't too deep. One reader, who sends emails quite frequently has a more elaborate system with a dripping water.

South Hadley birds

A South Hadley resident emailed she hears an owl in her neighborhood, but has never seen it. She reported

seeing red tailed hawks and turkey vultures. When she sees road kill, she moves it to a safe spot away from traffic so that vultures don't get hit by cars.

Great blue heron at McDonalds

Saturday night my daughter, Paula, took the girls to the McDonald's in Ware just as it was getting dark. A great blue heron flew into the parking lot from the river across the street and tried to unsuccessfully land on top of a lamp post. When it couldn't, it flew just a few feet over their heads into the swamp in the back of the parking lot.

People may report a bird sighting or bird related experience by calling me at 413-967-3505, leaving a message at extension 100, emailing mybackyard88@aol.com or edowner@turley.com or mailing to Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005.

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

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

Firefighter Nick Noto completes probationary year

Congratulations to firefighter Nick Noto on completing his year as a probationary firefighter! Nick has successfully completed numerous skill check-offs, training evolutions, and in-house training. Chief Andrews presented firefighter Noto with his Wilbraham firefighter shield this morning.



Photo and caption courtesy of Wilbraham Fire Department

‘Things happen that can’t be explained’ . . .



Submitted photo and caption Charlie Bennett Vice President of the Atheneum Society Karen Geaghan leads a discussion about ghostful experiences at the Aug. 10 Open House of the Old Meeting House Museum. “Things happen over and over again that can’t be explained, but you can feel the energy,” said Geaghan.

Day Campers enjoy K9 Demonstration

Officers Gagner, Glenn & Ryan spent time with Wilbraham Parks & Recreation Department Day Camp at Spec Pond alongside Monson Police Department Massachusetts State Police and Hampden County Sheriff’s Office providing K9 Demonstrations and public safety information for campers

Photo and caption courtesy of Wilbraham Police Department



Another HPD Lemonade Visit



Photo and caption courtesy of Hampden Fire Department Officer Seega and Sergeant Roath stopped and visited some energetic future business entrepreneurs. Excellent work on your stand and thank you!



Guests enjoyed their favorite Scantic River beers and live music.

Scantic River Brewery Taproom turns one!

The Scantic River Brewery Taproom One Year Anniversary Celebration was held on Saturday, July 26. Featuring their own Scantic River craft beers, live music and a buffet including sliders and hotdogs.



ABOVE: Owners Dave Buel and Dave Avery celebrated with customers and friends.

Photos by Jocelyn Walker



Live music featuring BRB Band in the afternoon and Jacob Kordas in the evening.

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|  | <p>Friday Aug. 22 CHARLIE BONGIOVI</p>  | <p>Friday Aug. 29 KEIR WHITE</p>  | <p>Friday Sept. 5 LUTHER</p>  | <p>Friday Sept. 12 ATOA RIPLEY</p>  | <p>Friday Sept. 19 LIVIO</p>  |
| | <p>Saturday Aug. 23 LIVIO</p>  | <p>Saturday Aug. 30 FREDDIE MARION</p>  | <p>Saturday Sept. 6 PETER NEWLAND</p>  | <p>Saturday Sept. 13 CHARLIE BONGIOVI</p>  | <p>Saturday Sept. 20 ATOA RIPLEY</p>  |



Turley photos by Angelina Acevedo

Kids and parents attending Bilingual Storytime with Miss Brooklyn Rosas.

BILINGUAL from page 1

ing and closing, they sang along with other important foundation words.

Big and small, please and thank you, and fast and slow were all learned in Spanish, which are “grande y pequeño”, “por favor y gracias”, and “rapido y lento”.

To end the storytime, another Spanish remix of “Open Shut Them” played, and kids and their parents had a dance party. The dance party was the highlight of the event for many of the kids, and they enjoyed being able to move along with their friends to a fun, and educational, song.

When asked more about the event, Rosas and Mrs. Rosas said, “This was actually our idea that we came to the library with. We saw that events like this were available in other libraries, and we thought we could help teach Spanish to young kids too.”

“We’ve only had a few sessions of Bilingual Storytime, but each one focuses on a specific theme, something that the kids would learn in a kindergarten class. Our last storytime focused on colors, and we want to keep teaching kids at the basic level. It’s such a good thing to expose kids to different cultures so they can just, keep learning



Miss Brooklyn Rosas reading a Spanish picture book about numbers and friendship.

new things,” they said.

Rosas is a high school student at Minnechaug Regional High School who grew up speaking Spanish, but also takes rigorous honors Spanish classes at school. She has taken honors Spanish two, three, and is planning to take four during her junior year.

Rosas has also received the Sophomore World Language Award, as well as taken a trip to Spain to further her Spanish education.

“Learning another language, like Spanish, is such

an important and useful skill to have, especially for young kids. Knowing two languages helps with growing up and learning, and also gives them an upper hand in school. It’s just such a huge benefit for the kids to know now and later in life,” Rosas said.

The next Bilingual Storytime with Rosas is scheduled for Friday, Aug. 22 at 9:30 a.m. and registration is currently open for the event, and it is a guarantee that any child will have an amazing time starting their journey to learn other languages.

HISTORY from page 1

its minister, Rev. Noah Merrick, a 1731 graduate of Yale, was ordained.

In 1748, after much wrangling by the citizenry, a church building (or meetinghouse) was erected on Wigwam Hill off of Tinkham Road where Noah Merrick resided and preached.

In the modern era Charles Merrick and his son Llewellyn were popular figures in town. Charles Merrick, an authoritative historian, was the editor of the 1963 “History of Wilbraham” and one of the founders of the Atheneum Society of Wilbraham. Llewellyn was a trustee of the Wilbraham Library and an active member of United Church. There was hardly anyone in mid-20th century and into the 2000’s who didn’t know them.

For our purposes, we noted that Lt. Thomas Merrick, a cousin of Rev. Noah Merrick, was at the top of the list of the 1771 Valuations, which reported that Thomas Merrick owned a large amount of money, 220 English pounds. Only Deacon Nathaniel Warriner had more money at 754 pounds.

Thomas served as a lieutenant in the French and Indian War (1755-1760) on the Green Mountain Patrol. He was moderator of the first Annual Town Meeting and led the important town meeting of 1770 that first supported patriots in Boston and their efforts to cease trading and stop importing taxed goods from England. It was the beginning of revolutionary fervor against the British Crown and showed that Wilbraham was sympathetic to the cause.

The Valuations showed he owned two horses, 12 cattle and 23 goats and sheep. Thomas Merrick had 31 acres of pasture and tillage and grew nine tons of hay a year on his farm in the south of town near the current Hampden line. But he did not brew any cider like his contemporary Moses Burt who brew 20 barrels a year. Merrick died at the age of 82 in 1785 and is buried in Adams Cemetery.

Daniel Warner

Daniel Warner is another early settler who was connected to the organizing of the first church and the ordaining of Rev. Merrick as the first minister that we mentioned above. In fact, the piece of land we spoke about that was to host the formal ceremony that was scheduled to be on the lawn owned Warner at 574 Main St., right by where Federal Lane is now. It is the same spot where the Historic Commission will replace the worn out granite monument.

When Merrick, Warner, Nathaniel Warriner and others gathered, it started to rain, so the group moved to shelter in the Warriner’s barn, later to become part of the Bennett Turkey Farm.

Warner and his wife Jerusha came to town in 1733, the third family to settle here. His daughter Comfort was the first child born here in 1734.

Warner owned three horses, 10 cattle and eight goats. In 1771 he had 40 acres of tillage that he mowed. He brewed 12 barrels of cider and yielded 14 tons of hay a year.

Isaac Brewer

A religious man, Isaac Brewer was born in 1713. His father, Rev. Daniel Brewer was one of the first pastors

57 Years Ago
Political Signs Ordered Down

Here is a news clipping reported by my mom, Ethel M. Bennett, who was the Wilbraham correspondent for the Springfield daily newspaper The Morning Union from the 1940s through 1970s. From a August 1968 edition. “Anthony Mascaro, building inspector, Friday ordered immedi-

ate removal of all political signs from properties in residential areas. Zoning regulations prohibit unauthorized signs in such areas.

The only areas where political signs are not in violation of zoning regulations are business districts, excluding town-owned property.”



(Charles F. Bennett photo)

Do you know the story behind these lonely steps on the south side of the Village Store? What was behind the walled off section above them? If you know what these steps served, email cbennett4765@charter.net.

of Old First Church in Court Square. Issac came to Wilbraham in 1736, not long after marrying Mary Bliss of Springfield. They settled and farmed just down the street from the first settler Nathaniel Hitchcock at 603 Main St. and his neighbor Deacon Nathaniel Warriner at 599 Main St.

Their dwelling at 473 Main St. was also a tavern during its early years and was the scene of many town meetings. The Brewer family occupied the house for 160 years until 1898. You couldn’t tell it from the evaluation in 1771 but the Merrick History book lists them as becoming substantial landowners, owning land all the way up to the Memorial School property.

Today the house is owned by Paul and Holly Murray, longtime Wilbraham residents who cherish the house for its historical value and take good care of it.

Isaac Brewer owned two horses, four cattle, seven goats, and had 24 acres of tillage. He raised a large amount of bushels of grain, 132 acres, and probably that he was acquiring more and more land then. But, he wasn’t much of a drinker and only brewed six barrels of cider compared to his friend Nathaniel Bliss who brewed 25 barrels.

Lt. William King

Nowadays, when you look back, we think its important that some of our own men from Wilbraham responded to the Lexington Alarm, what we now call the Battle of Concord and Lexington 250 years ago. They were true “Minute Men”.

According to the “Historical Address at the Centennial Celebration in 1863” by Rufus Stebbins, Wilbraham sent a contingent of 34 “Minute Men” to what they called “The Lexington Alarm”. The Wilbraham men were led by Capt. James Warriner in April of 1775 for 10 days. The State Rolls recorded in December of 1775:

“We marched in defense of Ammerican (sic) Liberty on ye Alarm last April (1775) occasioned by the Lexington

Fight with ye number of officers & soldiers, time of service distance from home what due to each according to his character agreeable to a late Resolve of the great and Gen. court of this Colony.”

Lt. William King and two other officers marched with the men for 180 miles from home. Stories were handed down that the Wilbraham Selectmen gave each soldier a horse, musket and powder horn and sent them off on their patriotic way.

King had served in the French and Indian War at Crown Point in 1755. After Lexington he became Commander of the 7th Co. He lived on Glendale Road with a lot of goats. It was said that a goat, found dead on a mountain in Hampden, was his and that was why Goat Rock was so named.

The 1771 Evaluation, four years before the Lexington Alarm, showed that King had four horses, 28 cattle and 18 goats. He had 64 acres of land under tillage and 28 tons of hay a year. King let others brew the cider and brewed none.

Revolutionary Moment

We continue to honor our country’s birthday, 250 years of freedom, each month.

One of the great causes of the Revolutionary War, wrote historian Rufus Stebbins, was, “taxation without representation”. That phrase was deep in the heart of our Wilbraham ancestors and had stirred up a deep feeling of hostility to the “Mother Country” by way of a tariff on imported goods from Great Britain. Accordingly an association was formed by the merchants of Boston in 1769 to fight the policy and it was supported by the citizens of Wilbraham.

Sources: Bennett family history. History of Wilbraham Bicentennial Edition 1763-1963” edited by Charles Merrick; Chauncey Peck who wrote “The History of Wilbraham, 1731, 1763-1913. “Military Rolls of the Outward Commons – Soldiers of Wilbraham, Massachusetts 1730 – 1840” by J. Bruce Tingle. Ultimatelexicon.com. The history books mentioned in this column are all available for sale at the Old Meetinghouse Museum Gift Shop. “Historic Tales of Wilbraham” by David F. Bourcier, 2025, based on his “Historical Tidbits website.

Editor Emeritus Charlie Bennett is a member of the Historic Commission and a trustee of the Wilbraham Atheneum Society. Readers can contact him with comments or ideas for the column at cbennett4765@charter.net.



(Digital Commonwealth photo)

The Issac Brewer House in 1893. The house was a tavern during its early years and was the scene of many town meetings.

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

Adults enjoy Crafternoon at the library

By Angelina Acevedo
Correspondent

WILBRAHAM - On Aug. 15, the library hosted a pressed flower bookmark making event for adults to get crafty and creative.

This event was the third in the library's Adult Crafternoon series, where adults can spend time creating in a calm, relaxing, and quiet environment. The Adult Crafternoon events consisted of rock painting and hand-stamped tea towels, along with the flower bookmarks.

When asked about how these events started, instructor for the event, Caroline Welch, shared the inspiration behind it were the library patrons.

"Many adults were indirectly asking for events just for them. We have a lot of crafting events for kids and teens, but adults wanted a craft activity just for themselves. We also needed something to do on Friday afternoons, so the Adult Crafternoon series took that spot," Welch said.

The bookmarks themselves were very easy to make, as Welch explained.

"The process is straightforward enough, you take a strip of clear plastic and lay your dried flowers out and line up in whatever way you'd like," Welch said. "After that, you put modge podge on top of the flowers to set them firmly in place, then you put another piece of plastic on top. Once it's all done, you can loop a ribbon through a hole on the top, if you'd like."

The event was located in the Brooks Room off of the



Adults making their own floral bookmarks.

Turley photos by Angelina Acevedo

main library, and had dim lighting to enforce a relaxing crafting space. The tables were set up in a "U" shape so everyone could see other designs, and enjoy each other's company, all while visual instructions were displayed on a screen nearby.

Along with creating the bookmarks, another important part of the event was connecting with others.

The major draw for this event was its creative aspect, which Welch said, "was one of the most fun parts of the Adult Crafternoon series, or any crafting event at the library for that matter, seeing what ideas and designs people come up with."

The library wants to be appealing to all types of age groups, and those with all types of interests. Crafting seems to be something many enjoy doing in their free time, but it's even better when you can craft with your friends, or even make new ones.

The Adult Crafternoon

series was intended to help bring more adults to the library, giving them a well deserved break from a hectic summer, or whatever might be causing stress. These calming activities are also another way to enforce the library's role to foster community and creativity for all ages, in a casual and welcoming environment.

If the Adult Crafternoon series seems like something you or another adult would enjoy, the next session is on Friday, Sept. 19, from 2 to 3:30 p.m. The focus of it will be creating fall napkin rings, just in time for the cooler weather and season.

Registration opens for the event on Aug. 29, and the library gladly welcomes any adults who want to be a part of this fun crafting experience.

A fun, colorful bookmark an attendee created.



Luncheon Card & Game Party Luncheon Sept. 25

WILBRAHAM - Fall into Fun at the Luncheon Card & Game Party sponsored by the Wilbraham Women's Club on Thursday, Sept. 25, at the Saint Cecilia Parish Center, 42 Main St., Wilbraham.

Check-in begins at 11:30 a.m. with a delicious luncheon served at Noon. Bring friends and come to play any game of your

choice (dominoes, mahjong, bridge, canasta, scrabble, etc.).

Donation is \$10 and there will be a raffle for cash prizes. Proceeds help to fund our scholarships and donations to charitable organizations in the area.

For reservations, please call Sue Agnew, 596-9480. Hope you will join us for a fun afternoon.

Theatre Guild of Hampden 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.

St. Cecilia Women's Club Meeting set for Sept. 9

WILBRAHAM - Our Annual Membership Tea will be held on Tuesday, Sept. 9 with Mass at 5:30 p.m. followed by tea, coffee and delicious treats!

We take this time every year to honor our past president and to acknowledge members with significant

years of membership.

It's a wonderful chance to greet old friends and perhaps make new ones as well! Please come and join us!

The meeting takes place at St. Cecilia Church at 42 Main St. in Wilbraham.

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SENIORS

Monthly Highlights for August at the Hampden Senior Center:

Alzheimer's Association Benefit Raffle

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 Drop-ins are welcome!

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.

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.

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.

SAVE THE DATE! Local Author and Historian, J.R. Green to visit the Hampden Senior Center to discuss his book "The Old Quabbin Valley in 100 Objects"

Friday, Sept. 5, 2025 at 12:30 p.m.

Join us for lunch at noon and a 12:30 p.m. presentation from J.R. Green as he discuss-

es 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.

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?

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

Mondays from 9 to 10 a.m.

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, lone-

Please see SENIORS, page 13

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. Second Train Car Now Available! 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 bobbij2@charter.net.

DECISION from page 1 able with cars," Ducey said.

DeMarey said this was correct as the event's original scope when started in 1908 was to test the vehicles because "no one could test drive them or no one actually saw them."

"If you were of the elite and you were able to buy a car or look at a car, you would just buy it off a catalog or just a whim," DeMarey said.

Ducey elaborated on the up to 1970 item, saying he thought "we were bringing on a different element than what we initially thought when this was brought back by George Holman and others."

"But I think it was really meant to be pre-World War II

cars or pre-World War I cars," Ducey said. "And this seems to me that the danger factor to me is more escalated as the speed increases and if we're going to bring cars up on the road and demonstrate what they can do and they're going over 80 miles an hour, I get more concerned, a lot more concerned."

On the case of bad weather, DeMarey and Cenedella said the event doesn't get canceled and if a decision had to be made, the VSCCA would make it.

"We can hold off the racing, obviously, like we did last year when it rained. It was supposed to start earlier and we waited until the rain stopped. So, that's within our

realm, but if it's going to rain all day there's not a lot we can do about saying, 'Hey, it's tomorrow,'" Cenedella said.

"And Jim Bottomley is the race master who runs the green flag at the bottom of the hill and he is the guy that travels all over the country, organizing the racers, organizing all the marshals. There's 12 marshals on the hill that can see each other all the way up the hill, so there's never any cars that go by—as soon as a car goes by—they sound off and they know where all the cars are. They keep the entire field completely clear," DeMarey said. "When someone calls in and they want to go out—on our hotline—the race marshals are all told,

'Okay, wait.' We tell them when to pull out, they pull out, wait, they go up the hill, they go down Ridge Road. 'Okay, the coast is clear.' He gets six clears from the marshals and then the race starts again. It's a very professional organization that runs the hill. It's not just a bunch of people blocking off a road racing up the hill. It's treated like a race course."

Cenedella added concrete barriers were also recently secured for future events to put at the beginning of Bolles Road.

On the funds raised when the event returned in 2013, it was clarified they were originally presented to the Minnechaug Regional High

School Scholarship Fund. Cenedella said it's since gone to the Springfield to Boston Education Foundation.

"It's organized to bring the old car hobby to young kids, to introduce them to the old car hobby," Cenedella said.

Ducey noted how residents said they enjoy the event and added he feels Cenedella and DeMarey do "a really good job organizing it," again stressing his concerns center on safety.

"I still have some concerns—I think we can work through them—but I do have some concerns around that and I'm not necessarily always sold on it has to be an annual event, but I'm not hung up totally on that either," Ducey said. "I hope we can keep it going. I just got to make sure it's safe for everybody."

Wayne Carini, the host of "Chasing Classic Cars," said the cars go an average of 52.9 miles an hour and up the hill in a span of 58 to 60 seconds, adding how "nobody's really eclipsing—of course—100 miles an hour."

Carini is also one of the racers at the event and said he feels "very safe" going up the hill.

"The VSCCA does a fantastic job, they're very professional, their gentleman that waves the flag at the bottom doesn't miss a beat. He'll hold you for 10 minutes, 15 minutes, if it's necessary," Carini said.

Safety is also a concern for him, having talked with DeMarey about ideas, including moving the finish line down about 100 feet from where it is currently.

"I think, though, that you have such a great group of people that live there. They're so excited about it. I mean, kids are on the side of the road selling lemonades as we go down the hill. Everybody embraces the event and that's the key," Carini said.

He also explained why the event should be held every year as he himself has a schedule of events he does every year.

"But if that's not happening, I'll go to the other event on that weekend and then maybe the next year I'll just

continue to go to that event and I think you'll see as time goes by, you'll lose that enthusiasm of the people not being able to come because they have other things on their calendars," Carini said.

Carini ended his thoughts with this.

"I really put my support behind the event continuing and if I can be of any help in the future, I'd be happy to help," Carini said.

After Squindo asked his questions, DeMarey emphasized the organizers "just truly want to be a supportive partner."

"One of our biggest pride and joys is to be in the golf cart driving around and seeing—like Wayne says—the lemonade stand or seeing the cars go up the hill or seeing just people happy. I'm just so tired of everything that's in our world right now that's not happy and this is a great event that we put on and really try to bring the community together and have fun with the crafters and the food and the cars and the show," DeMarey said.

Bunnell then asked about the raised funds, another piece of feedback received from residents.

"What, if any kind of actual activities, have been able to be funded as a result of running it and running it as a foundation kind of activity?" Bunnell said.

Cenedella replied how "most of the finances come from sponsors" which is a "net no expense" and one idea for next year is to look for sponsors for the portapotties and shuttle buses.

DeMarey added "close to \$40,000" is spent with no expense to the town for the event.

On what the funds have supported, he emphasized education and supporting car lovers such as Kevin Burke's son Nolan, who got a Pontiac Catalina, cars that were donated to the foundation that get taken to the local schools and are showed off and a Trunk or Treat event.

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SPORTS

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Ellis Nelson looks to make a shot under pressure.



Lainey Kudryk looks for an open teammate.



Ella Bondocaul makes her way down the court.

Play for MKJ falls in Spec finals



Lexii Viegas heads for the hoop.

WILBRAHAM — On Sunday, Aug. 10, Play for MKJ was defeated by Tantasqua 20-6 in the finals of the 5-6 A Division in the Spec Pond Summer Basketball League. Play for MKJ defeated West Side and Belchertown to reach the championship game.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com



Amelia Plucienik goes for the shot.

Short-handed Villa FC captures PVSSL Men's Championship

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW—After being forced to play the final 20 minutes of regulation with only ten players, the chances of winning the Pioneer Valley Summer Soccer League men's championship title for the second consecutive year didn't look very promising for third-seeded Villa FC.

The defending champions, who were trailing 1-0, managed to tie the match against top-seeded Cap & Hitch of New England with less than a minute remaining in the second half.

The score remained tied during the two 10-minute overtime periods.

During the ninth round of the penalty shootout, Villa goalie Lucas Morales-Fernandez made an outstanding diving save giving his team an exciting 1-1 (9-8 PK's) win over Cap & Hitch at Lusitano Stadium in Ludlow earlier this month.

"This is our second championship in a year, and it feels excellent," said Villa player/coach Mike Lima following the match, which lasted more than two hours. "We're one of the better teams in this league, so everybody always wants to be beat us. We were trailing late in second half, but we were able to battle back."

Please see **MEN'S**, page 12



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

Anthony Basile, an Agawam High School graduate, poses with the trophy and league co-president Dianna Kolodziej.

West Side wins Women's PVSSL Championship

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW—Back in the middle of July, Olivia Crespo and her New England Mutiny teammates lost in the United Women's Soccer League finals for the second year in a row.

On Friday, Aug. 2, Crespo guided the third-seeded Westside Sport Shop to a 5-0 shut-out victory over top-seeded Here for Beer in the women's finals of the Pioneer Valley Summer Soccer League at Lusitano Stadium in Ludlow.

"It was a little bit frustrating coming up a little bit short in the National Finals once again this year," said Crespo, who graduated from Ludlow High School. "I had a lot of confidence coming into tonight's championship match and I knew that we would be able to do it."

Crespo, who scored four goals and had an assist against Here for Beer, was selected as the M.V.P. following the match.

"My teammates deserve a lot of credit," Crespo said. "They helped set up my goals. I wouldn't have been able to do it without them."

Last fall, Crespo was a member of the women's soccer team at Franklin Pierce University, which captured the NE 10 conference championship title. Her college soccer team played in the NCAA Division 2 Final Four. "It was a really special

season," she said. "We're looking forward to having another successful season this fall."

Westside Sport Shop (9-2-1) won the championship title for the third time since Crespo has been a member of the team. They beat sixth-seeded Heat, 2-1 in overtime in the quarterfinals before squeaking out a 3-2 win over the second seeded Monson Mustangs in the semifinals.

Here For Beer, who defeated Westside Sport Shop in last year's finals, won the regular season match-up between the two squads. They entered the 2025 playoffs with an 11-1-0 record and earned a quarterfinal bye. They advanced into the finals after defeating the fourth-seeded Lusitano Women, 2-1, in the semifinals.

"Westside is a very good team this year," said Here for Beer player/coach Cassie Ashwell "If we were going to lose to anyone, I'm okay losing to them."

Longtime Minnechaug Regional girls' varsity soccer coach Nundi Goncalves attended the championship match. Several of his former players were playing on both sides.

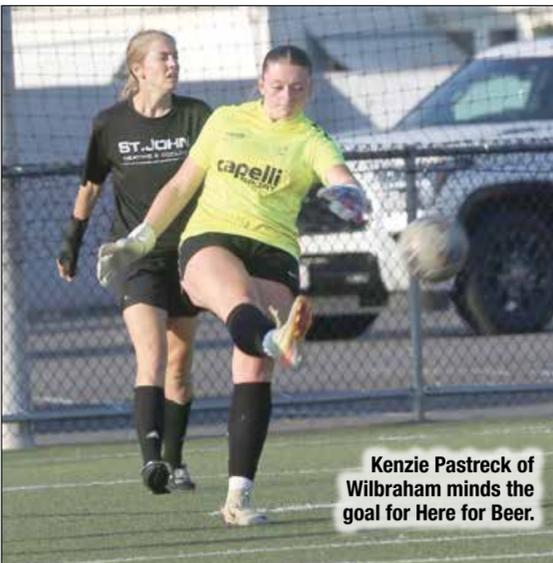
The former Lady Falcons players wearing Westside uniforms were Emily Howard, Rhiann Ryan, Claire Poindexter, Gaby Williams, Lylah Jeannotte, and Chapin Jeannotte.

The Jeannotte sisters weren't teammates when they



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

West Side Sports Shop won the Women's Title this year in the Pioneer Valley Summer Soccer League.



Kenzie Pastreck of Wilbraham minds the goal for Here for Beer.

were in high school.

"We missed playing on the same soccer team at Minnechaug by only one year, but we've been playing together on this team for the past couple of years, which has been a lot of fun," said Lylah Jeannotte, who was a starting defender. "It feels awesome winning a championship together."

Here For Beer goalie Kenzie Pastreck also played soccer at Minnechaug Regional.

The other players listed on the Westside roster from the Turley Publications coverage area are Reese Carey (South Hadley), Gabriella Fiahlo, Sydney Mercier (South Hadley), and Maya Tellier (Belchertown).

Here For Beer also had

several players from the Turley Publications coverage area. They are Macie Bolton (Belchertown), Taryn Carrièreau (Chicopee), Katie Gilhooly (Chicopee), Gwen Duggan (Palmer), and Lauren Marjanski (South Hadley), who didn't play in the finals.

Westside Sport Shop scored a pair of goals during the first ten minutes of the match.

Crespo, who's entering her senior season at Franklin Pierce, gave her team a 1-0 lead in the fourth minute after firing a low shot into the back of the net.

A couple of minutes later, Crespo delivered a crossing

Please see **WOMEN'S**, page 12

SPORTS

This week in recreation



Alex Soares
Recreation Clerk

WILBRAHAM - As the newest member of the department, I am excited to introduce myself to the community. My name is Alex Soares, and I recently started my new position as Recreation Clerk with the Wilbraham Parks and Recreation Department. My first day in the office was July 30, and I'm quickly learning about the vast array of programming offered at WPRD.

Like many here in the department, I am local, having grown up in Ludlow, MA, where I currently reside. I played sports growing up, primarily baseball and basketball. My first introduction to Spec Pond was playing baseball as a middle schooler. I graduated from Springfield College in the spring of 2024 with my M.Ed. in Sport Management. I am also the Recreation

Coordinator for the town of Hampden.

I am excited to work with the Wilbraham community and help manage the many programs and sports offered here at WPRD. It is so encouraging to join such a vibrant recreation department with so much going on. I look forward to speaking with and meeting many of you here in the office!

REMINDER: You can visit wilbrahamrec.com for details on all of the programs and activities offered, and to register. Program information is posted as registration dates approach, so keep an eye on the website and watch for our monthly e-newsletter, *The Wilbraham Whistle*, as well as our email blasts, which are sent to those with accounts in our wilbrahamrec.com database.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Rachel McKenna of Granby heads up the field.

WOMEN

from page 11

pass from the right side of the box to Natalie Matz, who poked a shot into the net past Pastreck.

Westside had several shots on goal during the final 30 minutes of the first half, but the score was still 2-0 at the break.

Crespo scored three more goals during the second half.

Crespo's first goal after halftime was unassisted, while Matz and Julianna Beaulieu were given the assists on her final two goals.

Sara Avery, who was Westside's starting goalie, and Chloe Laizer, who also played for the Mutiny, combined to post the shutout.



Lylah Jeannotte, of Wilbraham gets a quick touch on the ball.



Makenzie Shean, a recent Agawam graduate, winds up for a shot.



Gwen Duggan, of Palmer, looks to pass.



Cassie Ashwell, of Agawam, looks to clear the ball.

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Turley Publications sports department has recently joined Instagram. You can find our account by searching "turleysports." We will regularly feature samples of photos that you will see in our publications on a weekly basis. Please follow

and share with your friends and loved ones. We will be featuring photos from all 11 of our sports sections, but as always, you can see all the photos that appear by subscribing to your local paper or picking up a copy in your community.

MEN'S from page 11

Lima, who shared the coaching duties with Ruben Sousa, is one of the Villa FC players who graduated from Ludlow High School.

The other former Ludlow High School soccer players listed on the Villa FC roster are Kyle Tomas, who received a red card during the 60th minute, Brandon McCarthy and Enzo Botta.

A year ago, Villa FC, who plays their home matches at Minnechaug Regional, defeated Lusitano White in the men's finals. They also took home the championship trophy in 2017 with a 3-2 win over Pros Malaca.

Anthony Basile was selected as this year's MVP award winner. He was also the M.V.P. of the 2017 championship match.

"This is a very special team with a lot of very special players," said Basile, who's from East Longmeadow. "I'm very happy that I'm still able to be a part of it."

Villa FC, who finished the regular season with a 9-1-2 record, advanced into this year's finals after defeating sixth-seeded STCC Alum in a penalty shootout in the quarterfinals, and Lusitano Red, 6-2, in the semifinals.

Cap & Hitch (11-1) joined the prestigious summer league a year ago. They dispatched eighth-seeded Empower Health, 5-0, in the quarterfinals and the White's 6-2 in the semifinals.

"This was just an unbelievable match by both teams. It's tough that someone had to lose," said Cap & Hitch head coach Bennett Walsh. "I've never been involved in a match where they were 18 shots in the penalty shootout. I'm very proud of my guys."



Villa FC captured the PVSSL Men's Championship earlier this month.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com



Kamer Nuhiu, of Agawam, possesses the ball for Cap & Hitch.



Brandon McCarthy, heads up the field.

Both teams had chances to take the lead during the first half, which was 40 minutes long.

Cap & Hitch had the first opportunity during the 26th minute.

Ethan Czaparowski, who played soccer at Belchertown

High School, weaved around a couple of defenders inside the box before firing a shot that deflected off the crossbar.

Another former Belchertown player listed on the Cap & Hitch roster is Shay O'Neill, who's father, Devin, is the longtime men's soccer

coach at Western New England University.

A minute later, Gabriel Ganzer, who plays for Villa, had a breakaway opportunity, but his shot attempt bounced off the left post.

Ganzer, who's a former member of the Western Mass.

Pioneers, recorded a hat-trick in last year's finals. He was also selected as the 2024 MVP winner.

This year's championship match was still scoreless at the half.

Cap & Hitch was given a penalty shot by referee Fabio

Cardoso following a foul in the box twenty minutes into the second half.

Kamer Nuhiu, who graduated from Agawam High School, stepped up to the line and fired a shot into the net past Morales-Fernandez.

During that sequence, Cardoso gave Tomas a red card leaving Villa with only ten players on the field.

Cardoso continued to issue yellow cards like they were parking tickets, which kept the match from getting out of control.

Basile tied the score at 1-1 after putting a shot into the net past goalie Alberto Truoiolo with only a couple seconds remaining in regulation.

"I just saw an opportunity," he said. "I just swung my foot and watched the ball roll to the back of the net. It just felt great."

At the end of the second overtime period, Bryant Keeney had a chance to be the hero for Villa, but his line-drive shot hooked wide.

The nine Villa players that made PK's during the shootout were Andre Morrison, Joao Miranda, Shane Sewell, Andrew Ortiz, Quin Serafino, Mason Perham, Mike Willis, McCarthy, and Ganzer.

The eight PK's made by the Cap & Hitch players were Simba Pelletier, Bennett Walsh Jr., John Senn-McNally, Dominic Cirelli, Connor Weslocki, Czaparowski, O'Neill, and Nuhiu.

Morales-Fernandez finally ended the match by making a save on a shot attempt by Nathan Sanchez.

It was another memorable summer for the members of Villa FC.

GAZEBO from page 1

ished this week.”

Blanchard said there were a few factors that led to the decision to focus on the gazebo for this special project.

“One, it needed it. Two, I think there has been an increased focus in town on maintaining our facilities, so this fit the bill. When I was hired, one of my goals included improving and maintaining Hampden’s Parks & Recreation facilities,” Blanchard said. “Plus, when we decided to take on this project, there were whispers of the possibility of Hampden Town Offices moving to TWB, so in the event that occurred, it would be nice to have the place looking its best.”

Blanchard expressed gratitude to everyone who lent their support to give the gazebo new life and beauty.

“It means a tremendous amount. Hampden is such a great community and everyone is so generous,” Blanchard said. “To have all these groups willing to support a Hampden Park & Recreation project means a great deal.”

There’s also future projects Blanchard hopes the Parks & Recreation Department can work on next.

“From a Parks & Recreation perspective, it would be great to design and create a master recreation facility at the sports fields at TWB



Photos courtesy of Dan Blanchard

The refurbished gazebo on the lawn of the former Thornton W. Burgess Middle School in Hampden after the railings were completed.

that includes new basketball, pickleball and tennis courts,” Blanchard said. “This would certainly take a giant community effort, but the payoff would be something that the whole community could enjoy.”

Blanchard also encourages young people in the community to get involved and volunteer.

“Parks and Recreation is always looking for volunteers. People should feel free to reach out to us at parks@hampdenma.gov for opportunities. We would also be happy to put people in touch with

other departments who may be looking for volunteers to assist,” Blanchard said. “There are a tremendous amount of opportunities to get involved with town departments, so we welcome anyone to reach out to us and we will get them to the right person.”

He also hopes to keep all spaces in Hampden beautiful so all can enjoy them.

“People take pride in the town where they live. Maintaining and improving spaces goes a long way for that sense of pride, and it’s a core part of the mission of the Hampden Parks & Recreation Depart-

ment,” Blanchard said.

His message to the volunteers and his staff at Parks & Recreation was this.

“A very big thank you! We are very lucky to live and work in a town with such generous and caring people who donate their time and expertise for special projects like this. These spaces make it possible for our community to come together for special events like Rock into Summer and other gatherings,” Blanchard said.



Volunteers paint the gazebo.



Another shot of a volunteer painting inside the gazebo on Wilbraham Road in Hampden.

SENIORS from page 10

liness, and adapting to life changes. There is no charge to join this group. All are welcome.

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through Dec. 12

No class on 11/28.

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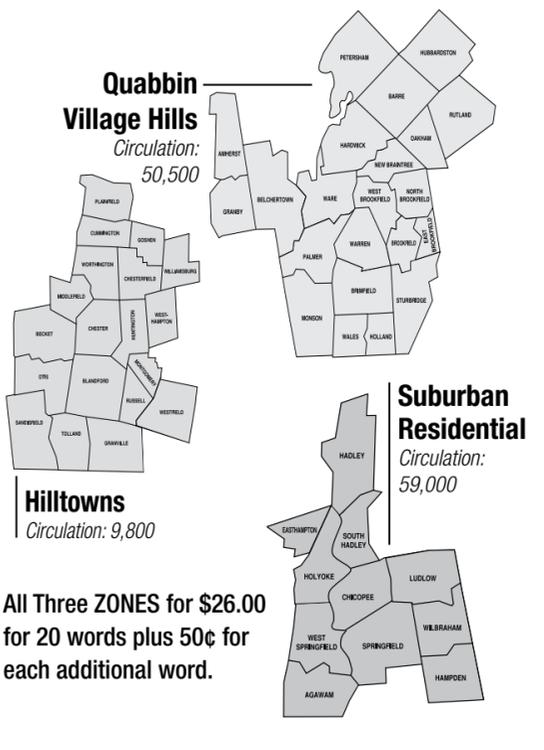
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PUBLIC NOTICES

Representative Puppolo announces Chapter 90 Funding for local infrastructure improvements

SPRINGFIELD – State Representative Angelo J. Puppolo Jr. is pleased to announce the allocation of Chapter 90 funding aimed at enhancing local infrastructure throughout the community. This funding is essential for maintaining and improving roads, bridges, and other critical transportation infrastructure.

“Investing in our local infrastructure is vital for the safety and well-being of our residents,” said Rep. Puppolo. “Chapter 90 funding allows us to address necessary repairs and improvements, ensuring that our roads and bridges are safe and reliable for everyone.”

The bill outlines the amounts that will be given to municipalities to repair local roads and bridges across the state, with \$200 million being distributed by utilizing traditional fund distribution formulas and \$100 million being distributed solely based on road mileage in an effort to support rural communities. Additionally, the bill also incorporates \$885 million in borrowing to support other infrastructure initiatives across the state.

The announcement of this funding comes at a crucial time as many municipalities are facing increasing demands for infrastructure maintenance and upgrades. Rep. Puppolo remains committed to advocating for additional resources to support local needs.

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CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

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

The Petitioner requests that: Cheryl A Albano of Wilbraham, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in unsupervised administration.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 09/09/2025. 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 12, 2025
Rosemary A Saccomani, Register of Probate
08/21/2025

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. HD25C0257CA
In the matter of:
Destiny Jenee Beasley
CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME
A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by Destiny Jenee Beasley of Wilbraham, MA requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:
Veena James Beasley

IMPORTANT NOTICE
Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: **Hampden Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 09/12/2025.**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.
WITNESS, Hon. Barbara M Hyland, First Justice of this Court.
Date: August 14, 2025
Rosemary A Saccomani, Register of Probate
08/21/2025

FY26 MULTI-TOWN INVITATION TO BID ROCK SALT FOR SNOW & ICE CONTROL

Sealed bids for Sodium Chloride (Rock Salt), for the purpose of snow and ice control, will be received by the Director of Facilities & Operations Department of the Hampden-Wilbraham Regional School District at the office of the Superintendent of Schools, 621 Main Street, Wilbraham, MA 01095, until **Thursday, September 11, 2025 at 10:00 AM**, at which time they will be opened and read aloud. Bids received after the above stated time and date will be rejected.

Towns included in this Multi-Town Bid are as follows: Agawam, Brimfield, East Longmeadow, Hampden, Holland, Ludlow, Monson, Palmer, Wales, Ware, Warren, Wilbraham, and the Hampden-Wilbraham Regional School District. Bid specifications and other bid related information is available Monday through Friday, 8:00 A.M. to

3:00 P.M., excluding holidays, at the office of the Superintendent of Schools, 621 Main Street, Wilbraham, MA 01095, located at Minnechaug Regional High School, and on the HWRSD website, www.hwrso.org, beginning Thursday, August 11, 2025.

No Specs will be Faxed. Envelope to be marked: **“MULTI-TOWN BID: ROCK SALT FOR SNOW & ICE CONTROL - FY26”**

The Director may reject any and all bids or waive defects in same in the best interest of the towns.

This procurement shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Uniform Procurement Act, M.G.L. Chapter 30B, Section 5, and those provisions are hereby incorporated by reference into this Invitation for Bid.

Michael Messier
Director of Facilities and Operations
Hampden-Wilbraham Regional School District
08/21/2025

Wilbraham Conservation Commission Notice of Public Hearing

The Wilbraham Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on **Monday, September 8, 2025 at 6:30PM** in Conference Room 1 at the Wilbraham Town Hall, 240 Springfield Street, on the Notice of Intent filed by the Town of Wilbraham Department of Public Works under the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act and the Wilbraham Wetlands Bylaw. The proposed project is for maintenance, repair, and improvements of existing public and private roadways, easements, drainage features, and infrastructure. The proposed project in-

cludes properties throughout the Town. Information relating to this application is on file with the Conservation Commission.
Christopher Brown, Chairman
08/21/2025

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. HD25C0247CA
In the matter of:
June Constance Keeler
CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME

A Petition to Change Name of Minor has been filed by June Constance Keeler of Hampden, MA requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:

June Constance DeCesare
IMPORTANT NOTICE

Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: **Hampden Probate and Family 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 if you object to this proceeding.

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

Date: August 04, 2025
Rosemary A Saccomani, Register of Probate
08/21/2025

Please check the accuracy of your legal notice prior to submission (i.e., date, time, spelling). Also, be sure the requested publication date coincides with the purpose of the notice, or as the law demands. Thank you.

Wilbraham-Hampden Times
OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.
One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.
The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$275, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

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

PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

- 1 Email all notices to notices@turley.com
- 2 Access archives and digital tear sheets by newspaper title.
- 3 Find a quick link to the state of Massachusetts' public notice web site to search all notices in Massachusetts newspapers.

Public notice deadlines are Friday at 3 p.m.
visit www.publicnotices.turley.com

EARLY DEADLINES
In observance of LABOR DAY,
PUBLIC NOTICES
EARLY AD DEADLINE
Place your public notice
no later than NOON
Thursday, August 28
– Thank you!

EARLY DEADLINES
In observance of LABOR DAY,
the Classifieds have an
EARLY AD DEADLINE.
To advertise,
place your ad no later than NOON
Thursday, August 28
Thank you!

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CLUES ACROSS
1. Mongolian politician
5. Coconut palms
10. Rounded knob
14. Japanese city
15. Covers in soft material
16. Walk around
17. Ancient region in Syria
18. French painter
19. Grandmother
20. Cow part
22. Rocky peak
23. Secret plan
24. Sing to one's lover
27. More (Spanish)
30. Father
31. Chinese philosophical principle
32. Hat
35. In agreement
37. A person's brother or sister
38. Evil spirit
39. Monetary units
40. Partner to cheese

CLUES DOWN
41. About Sun
42. A place to dance
43. Performer __ Lo Green
44. Beach accessory
45. Recipe measurement (abbr.)
46. Partly digested food
47. Pooch
48. Honorific title added to family name
49. Salts
52. Lichens genus
55. Lowest point of a ridge
56. Type of sword
60. Albanian language
61. Gold measurement
63. Italian seaport
64. Longtime late night host
65. Extremely angry
66. U. of Miami mascot
67. Mid-month day
68. Omitted from printed matter
69. Upper body part

CLUES DOWN
1. Two-toed sloth
2. Cooking ingredient
3. Iranian city
4. Publicly outs
5. Steep-sided hollow
6. Spoke
7. General law or rule
8. Extravagantly theatrical
9. Very fast airplane
10. Arm bones
11. Ancient kingdom near Dead Sea
12. __ fide; legitimate
13. Gemstone
21. Counsels
23. Top exec
25. Cool!
26. Touch lightly
27. Extract money via taxation
28. Dyes
29. Dying sweetness
32. Soft drinks
33. Capital of Guam
34. Chemical compound
36. The bill in a restaurant
37. Car mechanics group
38. Late comedian Newhart
40. Health care for the aged
41. Wise individuals
43. A passage with access only at one end
44. Trim
46. Former OSS
47. The upper surface of the mouth
49. Edible lily bulbs
50. Type of reef
51. Vaccine developer
52. Mottled citrus fruit
53. A place to store lawn tools
54. Rare goose native to Hawaii
57. Hollywood pig
58. Musician Clapton
59. Take a chance
61. Spanish soldier
62. Mark Wahlberg comedy

Local company takes on blighted Wilbraham property

Helps seller in need

WILBRAHAM - In a heartwarming example of local impact, Naples Home Buyers recently stepped in to help a homeowner in need by purchasing a severely distressed property in the center of Wilbraham, MA, turning a challenging situation into a win-win for both the homeowner and the community.

The sellers were overwhelmed and unsure where to turn. Naples not only purchased the property AS-IS, but also put money in their pocket, coordinated a smooth move, and helped them relocate into a better situation. What could have become a worsening problem became a positive outcome for everyone.

This effort was led by Luke Giusto and Dom Santaniello, first-generation entrepreneurs and community leaders who co-founded TheNaples Brand. Together,

they've built a trusted, home-grown business and have helped over 250+ families navigate complex real estate situations with care, creativity and integrity.

The transformation was made possible through the Naples Brand, which consists of: Naples Home Buyers, Naples Realty Group, and Naples Waste Removal, allowing them to purchase the property, clean it out, and relocate the sellers all in parallel.

Dom and Luke also credit their hardworking and dedicated team for making these results possible. "None of this happens without our amazing team behind the scenes," said Giusto.

The property will be fully renovated and will soon become a beautiful home, improving neighborhood curb appeal and turning a difficult chapter into a new beginning.



Dementia Friendly Wilbraham sponsors a Dementia Caregiver Support Group

WILBRAHAM - Join our Caregiver Support Group. Find strength and understanding together.

Are you caregiver for someone and feeling overwhelmed and would like a safe place to talk and gather information and resources?

The Wilbraham Senior Center will host a Caregiver Support Group on the second Wednesday of each month from 6 to 7 p.m.

RSVP to Barbara at 413-596-8379 or bhar-rington@wilbraham-ma.gov. The group is open to everyone.

CALL YOUR TURLEY REP TODAY! 283-8393



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