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Cub Scout Pack 177 *hosts kickoff*

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
krivers@turley.com

WILBRAHAM - Cub Scout Pack 177 hosted their annual kickoff event outside Wilbraham United Church on Sept. 16.

The pack focuses on community, personal development, and getting kids outdoors and engaged with nature and each other.

During the kickoff, families enjoyed a variety of activities as they signed up their children for the group, including an inflatable archery set, a water balloon launcher, creating their own trail mixes, launching air rockets and more.

Scoutmaster Jeff Choinski was excited to see scouts from the past year return, along with meeting the new ones coming in.

“We send out some letters to the schools a couple weeks before and let them know and this is just really an

Please see **SCOUTS**, page 5



The volunteers and leadership for Cub Scout Pack 177 in a group photo.

Turley photo by Kristin Rivers

Regional agreement, WMS talks cont.

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
krivers@turley.com

WILBRAHAM/HAMPDEN - The town boards and School Committee continued discussions of the regional agreement and Wilbraham Middle School at two meetings on Sept. 23 and 24.

The Sept. 23 meeting was a joint meeting between the Wilbraham Select Board and Hampden Selectboard, while the Sept. 24 meeting was the School Committee, where Superintendent Dr. John Provost recapped the prior evening’s discussion to committee members.

Readers can watch both meetings in full on YouTube by looking up the Town of Hampden and Erin Dowding.

Please see **REGIONAL TALKS**, page 8

Library to share collection of banned books

Submitted by Hampden Free Public Library Intern, Emma Grover

HAMPDEN – Oct. 4 marks the first day of Banned Books Week.

People challenge books for a number of reasons including LGBTQ+ content, violence, and religious viewpoints. The purpose of this week of recognition is to shed light upon the harms of censorship in literature.

Governor Maura Healey of Massachusetts recently signed the “Freedom to Read” law that outlines expectations regarding content selection and book challenges. This piece of legislation also ensures that books cannot

Please see **BANNED BOOKS**, page 2



Turley photo by Kristin Rivers

Wilbraham United Church welcomes new pastor

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
krivers@turley.com

WILBRAHAM - Wilbraham United Church has welcomed Reverend Paul Nesbit as its new pastor.

Nesbit shared that he was at the church previously as director of Family Ministries and an associate pastor from

2015 to 2021.

“It’s coming home. I’ve been here since Aug. 31. Before this, I was the pastor at First Congregational Church in Westfield and Southwick Congregational Church. They shared me as a pastor, so I’m now here and thrilled to be

Please see **PASTOR WELCOMED**, page 11

Community gathers for annual ‘Live Like Scott Family Fun Day’

By Harold Anderson
Correspondent

HAMPDEN – The Eighth Annual “Live Like Scott Family Fun Day” event took place this year on Saturday, September 19th at the Hampden Memorial Park.

Held in loving memory of W. Scott Godon-Decoteau, who tragically passed away in 2018, the yearly gathering takes place in September, the month of Scott’s birthday. Over 100 participants from the local area and across the country attended.

Those unable to be there in person were able to register virtually.

This year, the theme for the gathering was “Readers are Leaders!” with the activities schedule consisting of numerous events throughout the day for both adults and children. All

Please see **FUN DAY**, page 11



Turley photo by Harold Anderson

Christine Callahan (Longmeadow), 7-year-old Lily, 10-year-old Liam and Al Callahan (Longmeadow).

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COMMUNITY

Hampden Garden Club presents talk on berries

By Harold Anderson
Correspondent

HAMPDEN – The Hampden Garden Club gathered at the Town Hall (formerly Thornton W. Burgess Middle School) on Wilbraham Rd. on Thursday, Sept. 17 for their latest meeting. Included was a “berry” informative talk by John Galvan, M.S., Small Fruit Specialist, UMass Extension.

Galvan works with growers across Massachusetts and New England to support blueberry, strawberry, grape and bramble – raspberries and blackberries – production.

His talk, entitled “All About Berries”, offered an overview of the many aspects involved in caring for these plants in order to maintain their health and continue to enjoy an abundance of fresh fruit year after year.

Galvin began his talk with some important advice.

“Before we get started, I want you guys to think about what your goals are and what you’re doing in your backyard.....So...going forward, you don’t get overwhelmed.....Knowing how much you need and where to put it...is very important,” Galvan said.

While showing a slide of the various types of berries that he would be discussing that evening, he noted the surprising fact that, of the four types of berries listed for his talk, “the blueberry is the only true botanical berry. It develops from a single ovary, with the seeds contained inside the fruit.”

Galvan provided details about plant anatomy, detailing how strawberries grow and reproduce through pushing out flowers or new runners. He further explained the differences between the two main types of strawberries that grow well in New England, June Bearing and Day Neutral.

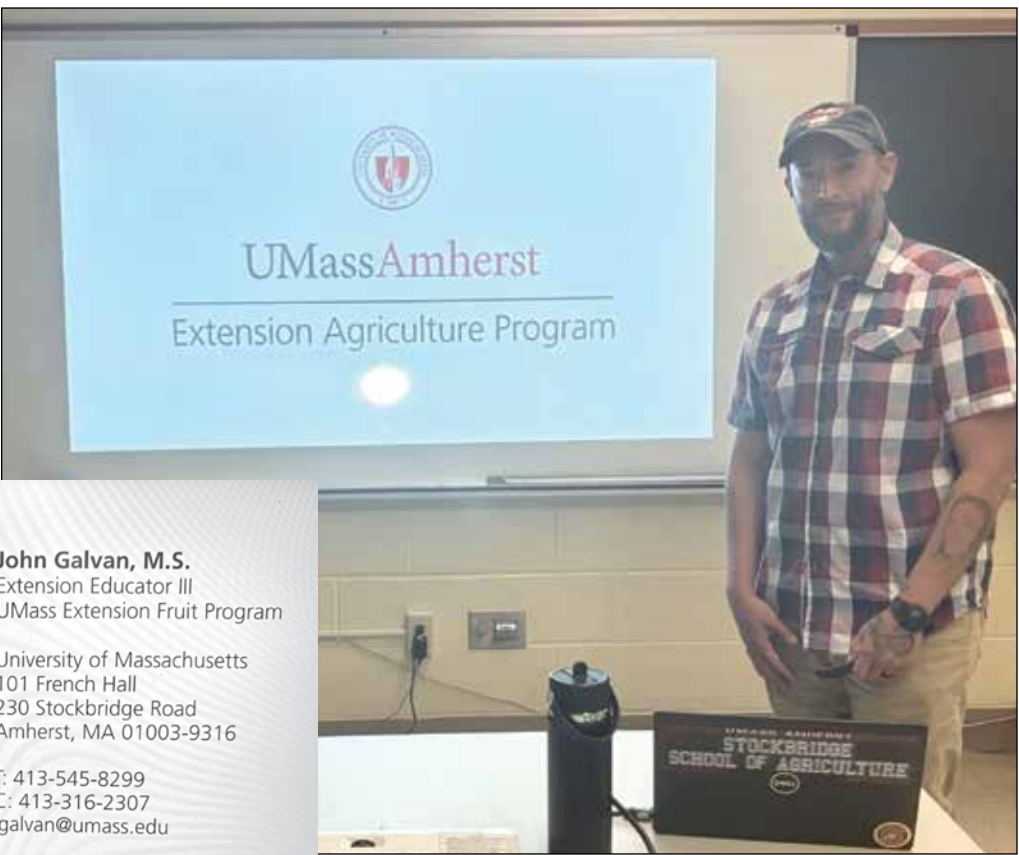
“June Bearing varieties, as the name implies, they’re all harvested in June,” Galvan said.

Regarding Day Neutral plants, he noted that “They’ll give you a small, sporadic harvest throughout the season, the whole season.”

However, he cautioned that, “In order to keep that Day Neutral strawberry producing, you have to cut the runner in order to get the next fruit.”

Galvan provided practical guidance on things such as the recommended spacing for a raised bed garden and maintaining the proper soil conditions.

“The soil pH for strawberries,” Galvan said, “is about 5.8 to 6.2, and that’s for



Turley photos by Harold Anderson

Here is John Galvan, M.S., Small Fruit Specialist, UMass Extension.

fruiting habits that can occur.

“Summer-bearing raspberries generally produce fruit on second-year canes, called floricanes. Fall-bearing, or primocane-fruiting, raspberries can produce fruit on first-year canes later in the season,” Galvan said.

Galvan provided an extensive review of how brambles grow, produce fruit and reproduce and how to identify the different kinds of growth (canes) they have, so that, “whenever you’re out there doing your pruning, you can know that you’re cutting the right thing.”

He presented a slide with information about insect pests that raspberry plants can expect to encounter, noting that “these insects are also pressures in the other berries that I was talking about, too.”

“Diseases,” Galvan said, “can be a little bit tricky because you may not know what you’re looking at. A lot of these things look the same”, and advised contacting him for help.

Turning to blueberry bushes, Galvan explained, “You’re going to treat (them) completely different than anything else in your garden.

You’re going to have a separate fertilizer regimen for it; you’re going to water it completely different; You’re going to have a complete different location.”

In addition to a lot of detail on how blueberry bushes grow, practical tips for the audience included differences between young and old canes, the different buds produced and how and when to prune the bushes.

Galvin ended his talk with ways to contact the Extension Service with any questions.

- Soil & Plant Nutrient Testing Lab
120 Paige Laboratory
161 Holdsworth Way
Amherst MA 01003
Email: soiltest@umass.edu
- Plant Diagnostic Lab
#3 French Hall
230 Stockbridge Road
Amherst MA 01003
Email: umpdl@umass.edu
- John Galvan
101 French Hall
230 Stockbridge Road
Amherst MA 01003
Email: jgalvan@umass.edu

University of Massachusetts Amherst

John Galvan, M.S.
Extension Educator III
UMass Extension Fruit Program

University of Massachusetts
101 French Hall
230 Stockbridge Road
Amherst, MA 01003-9316

T: 413-545-8299
C: 413-316-2307
jgalvan@umass.edu

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Email: soiltest@umass.edu

Plant Diagnostic Lab

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#3 French Hall
230 Stockbridge Road,
Amherst, MA, 01003

Email: umpdl@umass.edu

UMassAmherst John Galvan Small Fruit Specialist

Information slides with QR codes for attendees to grab information about the berries presentation.

blackberries and raspberries as well, in general,” adding, “You want well drained soil. You want some place that has full, full sun.”

Regarding fertilizing the soil, Galvan said, “I always recommend that everybody, at the very beginning of the season, get a soil test done..... It’ll give you an exact breakdown of all the nutrients that are in your soil so that you know what to buy and you’re not just throwing extra stuff in there.”

He stressed the need to provide proper winter frost

protection for strawberries using straw, not hay.

“Don’t put hay,” Galvin said. “because then you’ll put seeds into your beds.” He added the caution that “It’s very important to make sure that you put your winter protection on, but you also want to make sure that you take it off at the right time.”

Switching to brambles -- blackberries and raspberries -- Galvan explained some of the different varieties and added, “You need to be mindful of what you have, so that you manage it the right way.”

He noted the different

Wilbraham Women’s Club Membership Tea Oct. 8

WILBRAHAM - Please come and join the Wilbraham Women’s Club Annual Membership Tea. We are located at St. Cecilia’s Parish Hall, on Main Street in Wilbraham.

Oct. 8 at 11:30 a.m., with lunch served at Noon. Our presentation, which will begin at approximately 1:15 p.m., will feature local Wilbraham authors, David and Kelly Bourcier who will speak about their

newly released children’s book. “Marty’s Big Day on The Lake,” based on their dog a Shih Tzu named Marty.

Books will be on hand for purchasing and signing. A perfect gift for a child, grandchild or just a special person. Please feel free to bring your friends.

Please call Bobbi- Lee Nelson for a reservation if you are not a member 413-427-9351.

BANNED BOOKS

from page 1
be removed from libraries due to one’s own convictions.

Hampden Free Public Library is showing off their collection of banned books with a display that will be up throughout Banned Books Week. Stop by during their open hours and read the infographics on the bulletin board to find out why people challenged these books nationwide. Libraries are often the targets of censorship, but Hampden Public Library encourages transparency, diversity, and your freedom to read.

Oct. 10 concludes Banned Books Week with “Let Freedom Read” Day. This is the American Library Association’s way to call citizens to action. Standing up to censorship can take just five minutes and is as easy as following the Banned Books Coalition on social media or calling an elected representative and asking them to support your freedom to read!

Photo submitted by Hampden Library Intern Emma Grover
The Banned Books display at the Hampden Free Public Library.



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Wilbraham in-person early voting hours

WILBRAHAM - The State Election is being held on Tuesday, November 3, 2026 at Minnechaug Regional High School, 621 Main St.

Registered voters in Massachusetts have the opportunity to cast their ballot in-person before the State Election. In-person early voting for Wilbraham registered voters is being held at the Wilbraham Town Hall, 240 Springfield Street, on the following dates and times:

Hours of Early Voting:

- Saturday, Oct. 17 7 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Monday, Oct. 19 thru Friday, Oct. 23, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- Saturday, Oct. 24 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Monday, Oct. 26 thru Friday, Oct. 30 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Note: The ballot is two pages, the first page is double sided.

For more information visit our website at Wilbraham-ma.gov or contact the Wilbraham Town Clerk's Office with any questions. (413) 596-2800 x200 or Clerks@Wilbraham-ma.gov.

Heritage Pops Orchestra Ballroom Dance

LUDLOW – The Heritage Pops Orchestra will be holding a Ballroom Dance event on Friday, Oct. 2.

The Heritage Pops Orchestra will perform for your dancing and listening pleasure from 7 to 9:30 p.m.

Tickets are \$10 per person and the event takes place at the Polish American Citizens Club at 355 East Street in Ludlow.

We hope to see you there.

Highway Dept. updates, requests presented to Selectboard

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
krivers@turley.com

HAMPDEN - Highway Superintendent Marc Langone visited the Selectboard on Sept. 23 to present updates and requests from the Highway Department.

The first item focused on a new loader.

“The last update I received was it’s on schedule to be delivered mid-October,” Langone said.

He also had a question about a plow for a loader, which Chair John Flynn explained.

“Which couldn’t be paid for out of Chapter 90 funds,” Flynn said.

“Correct,” Langone said.

“It could be purchased as a warrant article in the fall. It could be paid for out of snow and ice,” Flynn said. “If we wanted to.”

Langone said the updated price for this came in at \$13,500 as opposed to the original estimation of \$15,000 to \$16,000.

“So, I’ll take it. I’ll take that and he did say, right now...so about a week and a half ago, the lead time was two to four weeks. Now the lead time is five weeks. So, that’s why I wanted to kind of jump on this sooner rather than later,” Langone said.

After Flynn and Selectboard Member Don Davenport agreed this could be paid for through the snow and ice account, it was moved and unanimously approved for authorization.

“That way it should be in for plenty of time for the season,” Flynn said.

On requiring a trade-in, Langone said it did and when asked if he wanted to send it over in advance of the new loader arriving, he added it was fine because it wasn’t taking up a lot of space.

Next on the list was a road surfacing and paving contract.

“You put it out to bid. You got some nice numbers back,” Flynn said.

“We did. Surprisingly,” Langone said.

Flynn noted six people that were recommended, including Precise Paving, whose bid was \$542,622.

“Good, because you had budgeted \$692,405, which would—if we’re going to use those numbers—allow you \$150,000 to retarget to other projects,” Flynn said. “And I’m going to assume you’re going to look over your list, the ones that didn’t make the cut—the phase b ones—you might shift something back on?”

“Correct. I have some ideas, but I’ll be looking at my road inventory list, and before I make any moves I’ll certainly come back before the board,” Langone said. “So, that \$150,000 is an overall between the two different pools of money. So, what I need to do as well is refigure—like the town hall project—with the new unit prices and see where that’ll get because what happened was is all the unit prices came in a lot cheaper than I had ever expected. I was watching liquid asphalt rise about \$100 more per gallon now than it was a year ago. Of course, diesel is up.”

Langone said in talking with some of the other estimators, “I had some heavy numbers on my estimates.”

“And when these numbers came in, I was pleasantly surprised,” Langone said. “So, I can refigure to see if there’s anything else we can do here at the town hall with the local money and then, yes, with the Chapter 90 money,” Langone said.

After the board reviewed the contracts, Langone added one was the general contract and the other is for Supplement C for construction.

The board then unanimously approved the contracts to Precise Paving.

Langone also provided an update on the South Bridge project.

“Last week, we received a letter from Northern stating that they had just received word back from MassDOT. Now, MassDOT kind of delayed their end of the process for about two months. I will

say that our project wasn’t the only one affected by their delay,” Langone said. “So, they reached out and asked if it’s possible they could start phase one in the spring. It’s not official yet...”

Langone said the situation “could be just a blessing in disguise.”

“So, they won’t be choking down that road through the winter. However, they will still be doing some useful work. They want to set a temporary eyebeam, they can do some abutment work and some wind wall work and some stuff like that and then come spring, we’ll get into closing the land down and starting phase one and then probably rolling right into phase two,” Langone said. “I don’t have any dates yet. This is unofficial. I’m waiting for confirmation this week. That’s the way it looks.”

One of his big questions concerned costs between now and then “because they haven’t secured all of their materials.”

“This was VHB I was talking to. It was unofficially relayed to VHB that MassDOT acknowledges that their delay not only held up not just ours, but other bridge projects and that, apparently, there’s plenty of money in the small bridge project pool and that any increases, MassDOT would cover,” Langone said. “Hopefully, there won’t be a lot.”

Once things are confirmed, Langone will again reach back out to the schools, there will be notices to residents and information posted online.

On the Milld Pond Road Bridge project, Langone explained in an email from last week, MassDOT awarded the contract to NEL and he was invited to a preconstruction meeting on Oct. 6 at the Northampton District 2 Office.

“They’re going to get, I think, a little bit deeper into dates and stuff like that,” Langone said.

Other bridge projects are still being discussed and in the works.

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WFOL Clothing and Household Textile Drive to benefit all

WILBRAHAM - Wilbraham Friends of the Library (WFOL), a non-profit committed to raising funds for the Wilbraham Public Library, is holding a clothing and textile drive on Saturday, Oct. 17 from 8 a.m. to Noon.

During back-to-school season, remember the WFOL as you sort through your kids closets and drawers. And don’t stop there...clean out that linen closet and the old dresser in the guest room.

Bag up all the extra clothing and textiles that are just clogging up your home. Clothing, shoes, purses, sheets & blankets, curtains - give them a new lease on life!

Millions of pounds of clothing and household textiles used to end up in U.S. landfills each year. Current Massachusetts laws ban disposal of textiles, easing the burden on landfills but leaving some to wonder just what to do with it all. The WFOL

Clothing & Household Textile Drive gives you the opportunity to take responsible action through donations and upcycling.

The Friends will receive a per pound payment for these items which will go directly to the library for programs, museum passes, equipment, and other needed items. The donated items will be given a second life with new owners - at an affordable price - instead of adding to the already over-

whelming landfill situation.

Join us with your clothing drive donations on Oct. 17, learn more about the Friends, and receive a coupon for a free book at our Annual Book Sale which is scheduled to take place in May 2027.

For more information on the Wilbraham Friends of the Library visit them on the web at <http://wilbrahamlibrary.org/friends.asp>, on Facebook or via email at wfol.info@gmail.com.

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This posterboard highlights the past activities done with Cub Scout Pack 177.

SCOUTS from page 1

information-gathering event and hopefully the parents and scouts are interested enough and then we kick off the year. So, we get them ready for some fun stuff,” Choinski said. “The inflatable archery set that we have too, that is actually from council. Council has materials for us to just go out and get kids to come out and see how fun scouting is.”

Choinski explained the event helps newer parents understand what the pack is about, how they’re structured and what they offer. He was thrilled with the turnout.

“This is awesome. This is probably the biggest turnout we’ve had since COVID, so this is super awesome,” Choinski said. “It just shows that parents are interested in learning about scouting, the good things that we do and just how to teach their kids just about nature and be a good steward for society and people in general.”

He added that after scouting changed a couple of years ago, girls can now be part of the pack.

“We’ve had two girls in the pack that have been here for a couple years. Now, they’ve had other siblings come through so they joined too, so it’s a lot of fun,” Choinski said.

For Choinski, he enjoys seeing the kids have fun.

“Getting them to teach some basic life skills as they’re getting older. Especially as they get into their fourth and fifth grade year and just them having fun and just being with each other,” Choinski said. “Being able to be kids and do fun things. A little bit of hiking, a little bit of arts and crafts type activities and just getting active and getting out behind the screen. Very much against screens here, it’s get out in nature, do something that will stimulate your brain.”

Choinski also emphasized the community aspect as well.

“We do what we can to do community events. We try to help out the church in the fall and we’ll do leaf cleanup for them. We’ve been involved in the past two years in the Wilbraham Clean Up Day, so we definitely have a pretty big presence there and, really, a lot of the trail maintenances,” Choinski said. “Maybe not so



The water balloon launcher was another highlight for the kids.



Time for some archery.

Turley photos by Kristin Rivers

much at the Cub Scout level, but definitely when they get up to the older troop level, they’re doing volunteering activities, they’re cleaning up trails. Especially when they get to become Eagles, they’re doing volunteer projects and everything. So Cub Scouts, it’s prepping them to become those older scouts that know that volunteering for the community is the right thing to do and it just helps out so many people.”

Choinski is looking forward to the new scouting year.

“We’re doing a few new things this year. We’re trying to camp this fall, which we typically go camp in the spring, but we’re doing in the fall here. We’re changing up some of what we’ve done in the past. We’re adding the walk at Silver Bells; we’re

doing that in the December timeframe. We haven’t done that before as a pack,” Choinski said. “We’re going to Battleship Cove again in the spring, which that’s a lot of fun. You get to sleep out on a destroyer for the night and kind of get reign of the ship after it closes down.”

There’s also the annual Egg Drop in the spring with the fire department.

“The fire department loves it,” Choinski said.

His message was this for the families.

“Thanks for showing up and I’m hoping that we have a good year to keep your kids engaged and learning,” Choinski said.

For anyone who wants to check out Cub Scout Pack 177, visit beascout.org and email pack177wma@gmail.com.

SCHOOLS

HWRSD Schools earn Project Lead the Way Honor

WILBRAHAM - The Mass Learning Project, the One8 Foundation and Project Lead the Way (PLTW) will recognize the five schools in the Hampden-Wilbraham Regional School District with a Community Award for outstanding commitment to hands-on science and engineering education at the MA PLTW Fall Conference on October 19, 2026.

Mile Tree School, Stony Hill School, Soule Road School, Green Meadows School and Wilbraham Middle School will be honored with the PLTW School Participation Award. This award is given to schools whose PLTW student participation meets or exceeds MA implementation guidance—a threshold the district achieved by engaging 100% of its elementary students. Notably, this is the 5th year that the elementary schools have received this award and the first for Wilbraham Middle School.

PLTW is a leading nationwide provider of K–12 STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) curricula and teacher training. Through its applied learning approach, students work through compelling, real-world problems using the same tools and problem-solving strategies deployed by industry professionals. In Hampden-Wilbraham, science specialists lead these interactive units after undergoing specialized training and ongoing professional development to bring the material to life in the classroom.



HWRSD students presenting to an industry professional at PLTW Conference.



HWRSD students at the PLTW Conference.

This award reflects HWRSD’s multi-year commitment to expanding STEM education district-wide. Building on a strong foundation, the district expanded PLTW into the middle school. Last year, creative scheduling and program enhancements

increased student participation, earning the Wilbraham Middle School this recognition. PLTW now reaches Minnechaug Regional High School, supporting its Innovation Career Pathway in Advanced Manufacturing with advanced coursework.

URI celebrates new graduates

KINGSTON, R.I. - The University of Rhode Island celebrated more 4,000 of its newest alumni during the University’s 2026 Commencement. Approximately 3,800 undergraduate degrees and 900 graduate degrees were conveyed to students during the ceremonies which took place May 15-17, 2026.

Among the graduates were:

Thomas Leary of Hampden graduated with a Bachelor of Arts, Communication Studies

Casey Bottass of Hampden graduated with a Bachelor of Arts, Psychology

Madelynn Grono of Wilbraham graduated with a Bachelor of Arts, Public Relations

Zachary Capen of Wilbraham graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, Supply Chain Management

SNHU announces Summer 2026 President’s List

MANCHESTER, NH - It is with great pleasure that Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) congratulates the following students on being named to the Summer 2026 President’s List. The summer terms run from May to August.

Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.700 and above

for the reporting term are named to the President’s List. Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits over each 16-week term or paired 8-week terms grouped in fall, winter/spring, and summer.

*John Hubbard
of Wilbraham
Sabrina Siciliano
of Wilbraham*

Local residents named to Simmons University Dean’s List

BOSTON - The following local residents were named to the 2026 spring semester dean’s list at Simmons University in Boston.

* Kayleigh Kinsman, Wilbraham
* Julia Long, Wilbraham

To qualify for dean’s list status, undergraduate students must obtain a grade point average of 3.5 or higher, based on 12 or more credit hours of work in classes using the letter grade system.

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VIEWPOINTS

Raised beds? Why not!

I have to say that today I am having a hard time thinking of something to write about.

As I scan my mind of all the seasonal gardening tips, I come up blank.

Winter squash? Done it. Mums? Ditto. Seed saving. Yup.

So, on this rainy Sunday, I give you all the luck of the draw. I will grab a gardening book off of my shelf, twirl the pages, and where my finger lands, I will expound on the subject. It may not be autumnal, but it will be interesting, I guarantee that.

Here we go... The book I grabbed from the shelf was "The Dirt Cheap Green Thumb," by Rhonda Massingham Hart. My finger landed on page 189, with the heading "Raise Your Beds, Not Your Expenses."

I have some experience with raised beds. In my home garden I have four rock-edged beds. Prior to that I had beds edged in pine slabs.

My friend uses hemlock edged beds and is happy with them. I envy how neat and orderly they are. Another friend is using galvanized metal beds this year. They seem to be all the rage.

Her tomatoes and peppers continue to produce like gangbusters even late in the season. She has just gotten back into gardening after a two year hiatus and I am proud of her and happy she has been so successful.

Let's begin our chat with some of the advantages of raised bed gardening.

The first one that comes to mind is that you can be selective about the soil you fill it with. I've enjoyed using the Coast of Maine Raised Bed Mix.

Blending loam and aged manure or compost at a 2 to 1 ratio is another option. Additionally, raised beds make it easy to concentrate fertilizers where they are needed.

In large garden plots we often broadcast fertilizers and other amendments throughout the bed. Some inevitably gets wasted in walkways or around hills of plants.

Raised beds can be constructed to suit your needs. I wanted to be able to reach into the middle of my beds from either side, so they are about four feet wide.

Some gardeners construct them 36 inches wide so there is less of a stretch.

In my four beds, I have a pretty good crop rotation system going. Each crop does a slide to the next bed each year. That way it is four years before on-

ions are grown in the same space.

Another interesting thing I have set up is that

onions, for example, follow melons in my rotation. I grow the melons on black

plastic. All season long the black plastic is limiting weeds from germinating, so that hopefully next year, the onions, who hate weeds, will see less weed pressure.

Raised beds warm up quicker in the spring, and stay warmer later into the fall. Sometimes the edging material helps with that.

My rock beds, for example, hold heat. So does the metal to some degree.

In mid spring, prior to the frost-free date, raised beds can be easily fitted with hoops on which plastic or polyester row covers can be draped to offer even more frost protection. They can also be covered with the black plastic I mentioned to grow crops like melons or peppers, who appreciate the heat.

With raised beds you will likely never need your rototiller. Beds can effortlessly be turned over by hand from either side. Typically, unless you walk all over them, the soil in the raised beds stays nice and friable, as well.

If I need to get into my beds, say to separate crops, sometimes I will position a plank across the width of the bed, and step on that to disperse my weight, therefore avoiding compaction. Plants always grow better in loose soil.

I almost forgot the obvious! Raised beds are easier to work with. Beds are typically a foot or so tall, sometimes a bit taller.

Bring out a short stool to the garden and you can comfortably sit and work in the beds. No more long periods of stooping or crouching.

Well, I hope you enjoyed reading this luck of the draw column as much as I did writing it! And if you haven't gardened in a couple of years, give raised beds a try and maybe you will be as fortunate as my friend, with six foot tomato plants still going strong at the end of September!

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 34 years she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to pouimette@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.



Submitted Photo by Dawn Rudnansky

Preserving home, honoring service

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

WEST SPRINGFIELD - Springfield resident and disabled Army veteran James knows what goes into homeownership. For years, he's put in the time, work, and money it takes to maintain the place he calls home. James, who shares the two-story home with his wife Tanya, purchased the house in 2010 and has since replaced the siding, interior doors, and windows.

But some repairs are bigger and costlier than a veteran can tackle alone. That's where Greater Springfield Habitat for Humanity (GSHF-H) comes in. Through our Veterans Build Home Preservation program and with support from The Home Depot Foundation, we're partnering with James to address necessary exterior repairs to his East Springfield home.

"I'm thrilled to work with Habitat," said James. "They are professional and courteous. Joe is hilarious and Edgar is so punctual and meticulous."

GSHFH's Veterans Build Home Preservation program is a part of a national initiative to provide housing solutions to U.S. veterans, military service members, and their families. Services include accessibility modifications for bathrooms and kitchens, ramps, roof repair/replace-ment, weatherization, heating system upgrades, porch/ stair repairs, and hard surface flooring to help with mobility.

The Home Depot Foundation provides grant funding to Habitat for Humanity affiliates across the country through its Repair Corps grant. To qualify, an honorably discharged veteran must live in the home



James proudly stands in front of his East Springfield home.

full time, although the veteran doesn't need to own it.

At James' home, Greater Springfield Habitat Construction Manager Joe Schebel and Staffer Edgar Herrera are replacing decayed decking, faulty wiring, and a broken sliding door. A subcontractor will fix the crumbling chimney.

James said he learned about GSHFH's Veterans Build Home Preservation program through fellow veterans Bruce and Wayne, whom he met through the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). Greater Springfield Habitat had replaced the back deck on Bruce's Pine Point colonial and completed repairs at Wayne's West Springfield mobile home. Earlier this year, James reached out to Aimee Giroux, GSHFH executive director, and inquired about the program.



Edgar Herrera of Greater Springfield Habitat for Humanity's construction crew measures a board while working on James' new deck.

James' backyard deck being replaced: James' deck while its under construction.



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EDITOR
Kristin Rivers
krivers@turley.com

ADVERTISING SALES
Jordan Conrad
jconrad@turley.com

SPORTS EDITOR
Greg Scibelli
sports@turley.com

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

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Election letters
to the editor
welcome

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

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

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

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

Life in &

WILBRAHAM
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A COMMUNITY GALLERY

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.



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Some WMS eighth graders volunteered on Sat., Sept. 19 at the Connecticut River Conservancy's 30th Annual Source to Sea Clean-up. We hauled away 45 bags of trash totaling about 1,125 lbs. Cool cause and a great day! The WMS group was one of over 100 registered groups to take part in the cleanup and also submitted a video story after completion to showcase their work. The sponsors were USA Waste, All American Waste and The Antonacci Family Foundation as presenting sponsors, Eversource, The Walker Group, Hypertherm Associates Hope Foundation and Berkshire Home Company as Watershed & Tributary Sponsors and Aquarion Water Company, Connecticut River Gateway Commission, Greenfield Savings Bank and Savings Bank of Walpole as Stream Sponsors and many more.



Submitted photos and caption Amy Schulze



Hampden Garden Club
visits
BRIDGE OF FLOWERS



Submitted photos and caption Sue Austin

The Hampden Garden Club marked the end of summer with a field trip to the Bridge of Flowers in Shelburne Falls. It was a beautiful day and the day was complete with lunch at the Shelburne Falls Pub and Brew. Please consider joining the Club and enjoying our garden events and guest speakers in 2027. New members are always appreciated and welcomed.

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REGIONAL TALKS

from page 1

Town boards joint meeting

During last Wednesday’s hour-plus discussion, Hampden Selectboard Chair John Flynn said he felt the last conversation the two boards had was “we were good with 95% of the stuff proposed by DESE (Department of Elementary and Secondary Education) and the School Committee.”

“We were still having an issue with the regional agreement was going to be talking about a non-regional building and we felt that a great solution to that was the MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) that both boards and the 75 attorneys employed by everybody were going to work on,” Flynn said. “The MOU started out good, but then, in our opinion, it went off the rails a little bit because it seemed a little open-ended going forward. We had that process where we met graciously in your office and we addressed what was coming up in the coming fiscal year for maintenance issues at Wilbraham Middle School and how they could be a portion between the two communities, and we left that meeting with an agreement that both communities would put that on a future town meeting warrant to pay for the FY27 emergency repairs, if you will, for Wilbraham Middle School.”

Flynn added, in the board’s opinion, that process should be mentioned in the MOU of WMS developing a list of emergency needs and a joint meeting with representatives between the two boards and school department held to discuss and “come up with a mutual agreement and bring it forth to the towns for that fiscal year.”

“And go in, add an item until, God willing, the Core program acknowledges and we get a new structure somewhere and we would just keep repeating that process on an annual basis because it works so well this year,” Flynn said. “It seemed like the language of the MOU at the beginning talked about future years; they would just be give you the list. We like the discussion part. It seemed it worked so well and that wasn’t the way it was framed, I thought.”

Wilbraham Select Board Chair Marc Ducey recapped the MSBA’s visit to the middle school, which took place on Sept. 16, saying he felt it went “extraordinarily well.”

“Very informative. They went through a laundry list—a checklist, almost—of school issues, trying to get a deep understanding of where the deficiencies of the school was, and I thought that it was very obvious to me at the end of that discussion—which lasted for some period of time—I think it was led by their architect, if I’m not mistaken, the MSBA’s architect,” Ducey said. “I thought it was very clear to me that this school is a very strong candidate for their MSBA program.”

Two concerns that came up, Ducey said, pertained to community support regarding “what level of community support can you garner for a program” and “how will you educate yourself on how other communities have done it or where it hasn’t gone so well with other communities” and “who’s going to pay for this building or the repairs to this building.”

“They made a comment that would this be just Wilbraham and we then said, ‘Well, no, it wouldn’t be’ and then they started talking about the regional agreement. So, there was significant concern on their part about the regional agreement,” Ducey said. “I think for us to put the best foot forward, it is incumbent upon us to get this resolved...they’re going to vote on it Dec. 9. So it is incumbent upon us, I think, to do everything we can possibly do. It probably means no one’s going to be perfectly happy, but sometimes, don’t let perfection get in the way of good, right? I mean, we have to make progress here. And so, I look forward to talking about that specifically because I think we have to get this done in order to put our best foot forward for the Core program.”

After Flynn later said he thought “we had a good solution” through the MOU to address the regional issue, Ducey shared this was discussed with Town Attorney Brian Winner, who explained it would accomplish that and is “perfectly legal.”

Ducey also emphasized having a plan in place in case the Core program application does not succeed.

“It’s a contract basically between the three parties, the schools and both towns, and I was concerned around that could the MOU override the regional agreement. He says, ‘I don’t think it can override it, but it can certainly add to it.’ Fill in details and that is a very viable solution,” Ducey said. “So, I think we need to resolve the regional agreement prior so that we can get it approved for town meetings. In the meantime, we need to get the MOU resolved so that we can support it at a town meeting.”

Wilbraham Select Board Vice Chair Sue Bunnell said she was open to having an MOU.

“I don’t see the harm in an MOU and I appreciate the fact that it provides flexibility in terms of being adjusted as necessary, subject to what the district brings forward as the sort of one-year snapshot attention the building needs, as you said, John, to provide a safe and reasonable environment for kids for both towns,” Bunnell said.

Selectboard Member Don Davenport later expressed his concerns about costs and how items at the middle school were not addressed before.

“If we’re going to talk about spending \$150 million for a new school, I think the people should know how much it’s going to cost or what it’s going to cost them. There’s been no community involvement; the School Committee doesn’t even go to the damn meeting with the MSBA. How are we supposed to have any credibility with this?” Davenport said.

The overall discussion focused on how to address the MOU supplement, reviewing the language in the regional agreement and additional information to include.

School Committee Recap

The following evening, Provost explained the MOU has been delegated to Winner to revise a draft of an amended agreement already drafted in the past and present it to the town attorney for Hampden and the School Committee’s attorney for “potential ratification at a later date.”

“I think both sides, especially the town of Hampden, see the two documents as going hand in hand, so there’s kind of a parallel process, but a process that has to happen in sequence with each other so the two pieces are linked,” Provost said. “Although I think there’s a greater urgency around the regional agreement because that also had the element of needing to go to the Department of Education for its legal review and the Department of Ed is a fourth party to that agreement. So, that is going to take some time.”

After noting the urgency of the regional agreement in terms of the MSBA senior project study, Provost added how the boards came to a two-term definition for the schools as opposed to a three-term definition.

“That might give us some leverage to move beyond the problem we have in section four. Section four, current paragraph D, tries to talk about the middle school in its current state and in its future state and all the different iterations of possible future states, and that I think is in large part—as I was reflecting on this—the regional agreement talks about three types of schools. There are elementary schools, middle schools and the regional high school,” Provost said. “And so, we’re trying to find language that will harmonize with potential future outcomes for the middle school.”

Provost said the boards also discussed “what if we think about, really, we only need to talk about leased schools and regional buildings.”

“That doesn’t really matter whether they’re elementary, middle or high schools. If you stay within that sort of two-option framework, you don’t even need that paragraph that we’ve been trying to write for the past 18 months,” Provost said.

The proposed language the committee had explained how costs are portioned for a leased building and the apportionment of costs for a regionally-owned building.

“So, if you think about it in those two terms, then you don’t need that paragraph,” Provost said.

After reviewing revisions

Provost made earlier that day to compound with the new proposed language, another change made was in Paragraph A with language that would be retained from the currently approved agreement.

“This is based on conversations that were had around potential need to clarify for future committees and future Select Boards. The capital costs include all these things, the enquiring of land, the cost of constructing and reconstructing and adding to buildings, the cost to remodel, making extraordinary repairs to the buildings including, without limitation, cost of original equipment and furnishings to the buildings, additions, plans, architects, consultants, fees for grading and costs,” Provost said. “Incidental replacing schools and buildings in addition to premises in operating conditions.”

The other changes focused on future proofing the agreement “around terms of future leases around the leased schools” and a change in Paragraph E, section three, with language pertaining to the current three-term type of school definition by taking out elementary and middle schools and replacing it with “town-owned schools.”

Provost also clarified the committee was told throughout the senior project study two outcomes could occur: being invited into the 270-day eligibility period or being asked to resubmit the next year.

“So, I don’t think it should be, in my opinion, considered if the board doesn’t vote to advance the project in December that the project has failed. I think it just means that, to a certain extent, it’s like playing poker. It’s not the cards you’re holding, it’s the other hands you have to beat and they’re looking at different needs across the Commonwealth and we don’t know what other projects they’re looking at,” Provost said.

He also addressed Davenport’s comment about the School Committee’s participation in the MSBA visit to WMS, sharing emails that outlined the process for forming the representation for the Senior Program Study Team.

“There were a specific list of people that they were looking for,” Provost said. “The MSBA encourages the following individuals to be in attendance from the district. The superintendent and the principal, a school facility team member—preferably the individual that’s most familiar with the facility and its systems. Additionally, if this person is not the same individual for municipal buildings, please also invite the municipal official who can speak generally about previous public capital projects and sharing local requirements when considering a local municipal building project and individuals that are well-versed in local funding capacity for potential building project from the regional district.”

The goals were facility-based, he added, to review the deficiencies explained in the statement of interest (SOI) and directly talk to people in the building—including the principal and people who maintain the building—about the challenges, along with talking with town officials about “the capacity to fund locally and the process they would have to go through in order to appropriate local funds needed for the project.”

He was also asked to provide a list of individuals in advance for the MSBA review, which “was found to be acceptable and in line with what the MSBA was looking for.”

Provost defended the School Committee.

“I think the School Committee has had a lot of involvement. I think the School Committee has shown its interest in the project by authorizing the SOI and taking all the formal votes in order to get the SOI, so they know the School Committee is interested there,” Provost said.

On education and community outreach beyond the public meetings, a press release to share where things are in the study and to begin the communication process with the public at large was suggested by the boards.

Provost drafted an item for committee feedback, with members agreeing information should get out and be sent out to local newspapers and other communications. Suggestions included sharing information online about the regional agreement, background information, what the MSBA is and why the district has partnered with them and timelines and emailing a link to parents and employees.

Member concerns centered on misinformation and rumors undermining the project and the online link title “WMS MSBA Proposed Project” indicating ground has broken when it has not.

A button has been added to the district website by clicking “WMS MSBA Proposed Project” at the top of the home page as well.

“It also very clearly spells out in this press release that being part of the senior study visit is not an indication that we’re being invited to eligibility. It’s just part of the due diligence period. We’re at step not even one yet,” Provost said.

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1. “Wicker Man” actor Nic	33. Proceeding	64. Plundered	satisfaction
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15. South American	47. Written works	5. A type of pie	41. Popular cop show of
hummingbird	49. Castle dweller’s safety	6. Metrical foot	yesteryear
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18. Taxi	50. Honorable title	8. Nap	43. Genus of gulls
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cheese made in balls	51. Greatest	10. Immune responses	45. Declare as true
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weapon	58. Member of U.S. Navy	24. Not even	52. Volcanic crater
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31. Avid fan	62. Formerly (archaic)	28. Bird-like dinosaur genus	55. Check for

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Falcons pick up two straight wins

WILBRAHAM – In girls volleyball action last week, the Falcons had a busy week with three matches. After suffering a 3-1 loss against Wachusett of Central Mass., Minnechaug rebounded to defeat Bay State Academy Charter followed by Westfield, both by 3-0 scores. The Falcons are 3-5 on the regular season and Longmeadow coming up on Friday, Oct. 2 at 5:30 p.m.

Jocelyn Zanetti makes a quick tip over the net.



Jenahia Monet gets a bump to start a play.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli
Addison Baldyga eyes a bump.



Aa'mani Blanco and Sireen Awkal try to make a play.



Aa'mani Blanco make a block.



Nehir Elcin goes for a low hit.



Masen Cruz is pressured near midfield by Agawam.



Geoffrey Ohemeng-Kyei tries to protect the ball from an oncoming opponent.



Cameron Salvador socks a clearing kick away.

Boys soccer remains winless on season



Tyler Supczak sends a pass forward.



John Morley picks up the ball for the Falcons.



Micah Maxwell takes the corner kick.

WILBRAHAM – Last week, it was a tough trio of games for Minnechaug Regional High School boys soccer. It started with an evening matchup against rival Agawam High School. The Brownies defeated Minnechaug 3-0. That was followed by one-goal losses against Amherst Regional and Monument Mountain, both on the road. The Falcons are now 0-6 on the season and hope to get their first win of the season against Longmeadow on Friday, Oct. 2 at 6:45 p.m.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

Chaug girls soccer grabs narrow win over Orioles

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

BELCHERTOWN — One of the seven seniors for Minnechaug Regional girls' varsity soccer is Ainsley Holden. She was a starting defender in the first five matches of the regular season.

When the Lady Falcons faced Coombs Division rival Belchertown for the first time this fall, Holden found herself in a new starting role, moving from defense to the center midfield position.

The decision, which was made by longtime Minnechaug head coach Nundi Goncalves, paid off in the end.

The contest was tied with a little more than 10 minutes remaining in regulation when Holden scored a corner kick goal lifting her team to a thrilling 3-2 road victory over the Lady Orioles, last Tuesday afternoon (Sept. 22).

"I wouldn't have been able to score the game winning goal without the help of my teammates," said Holden, who scored the second goal of her varsity career. "This is a very big win for us, especially after we lost at Pope Francis last week."

The Lady Falcons game winning goal began with

sophomore Brooklyn Manning taking the kick from the left corner. The ball was headed inside the box by Minnechaug senior Kate-lynn Hoar before it deflected off a Belchertown player. It then bounced to Holden who poked a shot into the back of the net past freshman goalie Ava Stelmokas (4 saves).

"I've been playing defense so far this season, but I was switched to center mid for today's game," Holden added. "I was just in the right place to score the goal. I also scored a corner kick goal last season against Douglas."

It was the first time that the Lady Falcons (5-1) played a match on a grass field this season.

"Soccer is a completely different game on a grass field," Holden said. "The ball bounces less and it's a lot slower. Our only other game during the regular season on a grass field is at Longmeadow. I prefer playing on a turf field."

Holden, who also plays basketball and tennis, is planning to join the Springfield College women's team next year. This past summer Holden played soccer for the Worcester Wanderers, who

SPORTS

Owls edge rival Worcester State

WESTFIELD — Westfield State controlled the ball with the ground game and got several key defensive stands as the Owls rallied, then held on for a 24-21 over Worcester State to wash out the Lancers’ homecoming in inclement weather at Coughlin Field in Worcester on Saturday.

Westfield fell behind 14-0 midway through the second quarter, as the Lancers scored their second TD of the day with a short drive after the Worcester’s Gio Roman scooped up a fumble and returned it 41 yards to the Westfield 5-yard line, with Gavin Hatfield carrying it in from a yard out three plays later.

The Lancers had a golden opportunity when the Owls fumbled again on the next play from scrimmage, setting Worcester up 1st and 10 at the Westfield 24-yard line. But the Westfield State defense promptly forced a 4-and out scenario, with Chase Goldberg sacking Worcester State’s MJ Bakaysa to end the threat.

Buoyed by the defensive stop, Westfield’s offense marched 73 yards on 13 plays. Quinn Sumner completed a 25-yard pass to Malachi Hymes on third down to keep the drive alive, and Manny Mengata battered his way into the endzone from two yards out to cap the drive and trim the lead to 14-7 after Andrew Currier’s extra point, and the teams went to the half with that score.

Worcester received the ball to start the second half, but the Owls defense forced a three and out inside the Lancers’ own 10-yard line, and a short punt gave the Owls the ball on the Worcester State 19-yard line. Four plays later, Mengata again scored from two yards out and tied the game at 14-14.

Westfield grabbed a 21-14 lead before the third quarter was out, using a 12-play, 67-

yard drive over 6:18 that Mengata capped with an 8-yard touchdown run.

The Owls added a 21-yard field goal from Currier midway through the fourth quarter that would prove valuable insurance.

Worcester immediately answered with a 67-yard TD toss from Bakaysa to Jack Poirer, finding Poirer wide open deep down the left sideline for the score, trimming the lead back to 24-21.

Westfield’s defense needed one more stand late, as the Lancers got to the Owls 33-yard line in the final minute, but three straight incompletions included passes broken up by Westfield’s Tedi Hunt on second down and then Tom Cascio on the final hail mary to seal the win for Westfield, which improves to 2-2 on the season and 2-1 in MASCAC play. Worcester slips to 1-3 overall and 1-1 in the MASCAC.

Westfield was led by 125 yards rushing and three TD’s from Mengata on 25 carries, with Cole Ingham adding 57 yards on the ground. Sumner completed 4-10 passes for 65 yards on a tough passing day, as a nor’easter rolled through southern New England with alternately heavy winds and rain. Westfield controlled the time of possession battle with nearly 36 minutes to Worcester’s 24.

Nick Gauger led the Owls with eight tackles, with Mark Wright-Woodhouse adding seven. Goldberg and Preston Jacoski each had a sack.

Worcester was led by 95 yards on the ground from Gavin Hatfield. Bakaysa finished 15-30 passing for 204 yards.

Westfield will have its bye weekend next, before returning to action with a non-conference game against Mass Maritime on Oct. 10 at Alumni Field.



Six champions crowned in season finale

WINCHESTER, NH — On Saturday, Sept. 19, six champions were crowned at Monadnock Speedway as the 2026 racing season came to an exciting conclusion.

Two of the closest championship battles entering the season finale belonged to the Brattleboro Towing & Recovery Pure Stocks and the All States Materials Group 604 Modifieds, with both titles coming down to the final race of the season.

In the Brattleboro Towing & Recovery Pure Stocks, a full field of cars packed the 1/4-mile high-banked facility for the finale. Jimmy Zellmann entered the night holding just a five-point advantage over rookie Joshua Brigham.

The championship battle took a dramatic turn on lap one when a scuffle sent both contenders spinning, forcing Zellmann and Brigham to restart from the rear of the field. With the title on the line, both drivers began working their way back through traffic.

At the checkered flag, Brigham completed an impressive charge through the field to capture the feature victory, with Zellmann finishing second. Zellmann’s runner-up finish proved to be just enough to secure the 2026 Brattleboro Towing & Recovery Pure Stock Championship.

The All States Materials Group 604 Modified championship battle was just as intense.

Andrew Brousseau entered the night holding a narrow two-point advantage

over Tyler Leary. From the drop of the green flag, the two championship contenders remained close, each waiting for an opportunity to make the move that could decide the title.

Leary eventually slipped ahead of Brousseau and moved into second place. Eddie Gomarlo, competing in Brian Robie’s borrowed #25NH, ran between the two championship contenders in third.

Brousseau repeatedly attempted to work underneath Gomarlo, knowing that gaining just one more position could make the difference in the championship standings. Despite several attempts, Brousseau was unable to make the pass.

When the checkered flag waved, Leary held onto second place with Gomarlo finishing third and Brousseau behind him. The finishing order left Brousseau just two points short of earning his first championship, allowing Tyler Leary to capture the 2026 All States Materials Group 604 Modified Championship.

In the Twin State Truck Services Limited Late Models, JD Stockwell entered the final event with a more comfortable advantage. The number of cars competing in the finale worked in Stockwell’s favor over championship challenger Robert Hagar.

Stockwell capped off an impressive season by securing his first Twin State Truck Services Limited Late Model Championship.

The Keene Towing & Re-

covery Mini Stock championship also entered the finale with Tim Paquette holding a comfortable advantage in the standings. Craig Chaffee remained mathematically in the hunt but needed a larger field of cars to improve his chances of overcoming the points deficit.

Paquette finished his season in style with his first of the season feature victory and was crowned the 2026 Keene Towing & Recovery Mini Stock Champion.

Rob Richardi entered the final event of the season with little pressure in the LaValley Building Supply Pro 4 Modified championship battle. Holding more than a 50-point advantage going into the feature, Richardi had already put himself in a commanding position.

Although Richardi did not earn the victory in the season finale, his strong season was more than enough to secure the 2026 LaValley Building Supply Pro 4 Modified Championship. The Beck’s Automotive Pro V8 Sportsman Series championship was another close battle, with only 16 points separating the top three drivers entering the finale.

Aaron Thompson held the points lead, with Chris Kingsley and Stephen Dubois close behind and still in championship contention.

During practice, Kingsley suffered a mechanical failure that ended his championship hopes, leaving Dubois as the remaining challenger attempting to chase down

Thompson.

Thompson delivered when it mattered most, finishing second in the feature and earning enough points to secure the 2026 Beck’s Automotive Pro V8 Sportsman Series Championship.

In the Doug’s Auto Body Young Gun Divisions, the field does not compete for points. Staiti topped the season with 15 victories. It was great season for the Young competitors with each sharing podium finishes. We can’t wait for these up-and-coming races to be back next season along with quite of few fresh faces joining the Young Gun Division. Great job Dylan Staiti, Maevie Barry, Masoon Bezio and Eli Elliot.

After a season filled with close racing, memorable victories and championship battles that came down to the final laps, six drivers left Monadnock Speedway as 2026 champions.

Congratulations to the 2026 Monadnock Speedway Champions:

- All States Materials Group 604 Modifieds Tyler Leary
- Twin State Truck Services Limited Late Models JD Stockwell
- Keene Towing & Recovery Mini Stocks Tim Paquette
- LaValley Building Supply Pro 4 Modifieds Rob Richardi
- Brattleboro Towing & Recovery Pure Stocks Jimmy Zellmann
- Beck’s Automotive Pro V8 Sportsman Series Aaron Thompson

T-Birds drop preseason finale

PROVIDENCE, R.I. - The Springfield Thunderbirds dropped a 4-1 decision to the Providence Bruins on Saturday night in the back half of a two-game exhibition set.

Will Cranley drew the net for Springfield for the exhibition finale and proved to be busy in the opening period, denying all 10 Bruins shots. Providence would open the scoring just 21 seconds into the second as Robert Cronin tallied his second goal in as many nights to make it 1-0 Bruins.

Not to be outdone, Springfield captain Chris Wagner also tallied his second goal in two nights in the period’s final minute, picking up a short-handed tally at 19:52 and sending a 1-1 tie into the third period.

However, the Bruins would regain the lead when Wyatt Bongiovanni beat Cranley at 6:58 of the third, making it a 2-1 game. Springfield would not get any closer, with Loke Johansson and Ben Allison adding empty-netters with less than two minutes remaining to ice the game.

Springfield begins the 2026-27 regular season in Wilkes-Barre for a rematch of the Atlantic Division Finals against the Penguins. The puck drops at 6:05 p.m. on Saturday, October 3.

Carved in Stone: Early Gravestone Art & Symbolism

Afternoon includes a guided walking tour of Adams Cemetery

WILBRAHAM — The Old Meeting House Museum will host a presentation and guided cemetery walk with local historian and author Derek Strahan on Sunday, Oct. 18, from 2 to 5 p.m.

The presentation begins at 2:30 p.m. at Wilbraham & Monson Academy Library. New England’s gravestones changed dramatically between the 17th and early 19th centuries, moving from the winged skulls of the Puritan era to cherubs and, after the Revolution, neoclassical willows and urns that reflected changing attitudes toward death and memory. Strahan’s presentation traces that evolution, examines how carving styles varied across New England, and introduces the local stonecutters behind the work.

Following the presentation, Strahan will lead a guided walking tour of Adams Cemetery, Wilbraham’s oldest burial ground, offering attendees a chance to see the



symbolism discussed in the program in person.

“Derek was such a hit with our visitors that bringing him back was an easy decision,” said Lindsey Bourcier, Marketing Director of the Old Meeting House Museum. “These stones are right

here in our own backyard, and Derek helps you see them in a completely new way.”

The program is free and open to all. Comfortable walking shoes are recommended for the cemetery portion of the afternoon.

SOCCER from page 9

are members of the United Women’s Soccer League. The New England Mutiny, who play their home matches at historic Lusitano Stadium in Ludlow, are members of the same league.

“Ainsley has been playing very well, so far this season,” Goncalves said. “I thought she was the best player on the field in today’s game.”

The last time that the Lady Falcons won a soccer match at Belchertown High School was a 1-0 victory in 2023. That contest took place on the upper field where the junior varsity games normally take place.

The two squads played a 2-2 tie and a scoreless tie a year ago.

“I can’t remember the last time that we won a game on this field,” Goncalves said. “I’ve watched Belchertown play a couple of games this season and they’re a very good team.”

The Lady Orioles had a 4-2 overall record following the home loss. They also lost at Pope Francis.

“We didn’t play our best during the first half of today’s game,” said Belchertown head coach Kyle Thibeault. “We battled back during the second half and managed to tie the score, but they wound up scoring the game winning goal.”

The Lady Falcons scored their first goal in the middle of the opening half.

Hoar delivered a forward pass to senior Makenna Sacco

at midfield. She then scored a breakaway goal after weaving around the goalie.

A little more than ten minutes later, a shot attempt taken by Minnechaug senior Isabella Usher bounced across the goal line making the score 2-0. Manning was credited with the assist.

The Lady Orioles got on the scoreboard ten minutes into the second half when junior Aubrey Klingensmith received a pass from senior Madelyn Philpott before lofting a high shot over sophomore goalie Isabel Horne (7 saves) into the right corner of the net.

Horne, who was looking into the bright setting sun during the second half, couldn’t make the save on another shot attempt by Klingensmith during the 52nd minute. It was Klingensmith’s team-leading fifth goal of the regular season.

“Aubrey is an outstanding high school soccer player just like her older sister, Avery, was,” Thibeault said. “They do play different positions.”

Senior Morghan Litz, who has verbally committed to playing college soccer at Franklin Pierce University, was credited with the assist on the Lady Orioles tying goal.

The match remained tied until Holden netted the game winning goal during the 67th minute.

The two rivals are scheduled to face each other for the second time on the turf field at Minnechaug Regional on October 15.

Join us for an evening of Music for the Soul

WILBRAHAM – Join us for an evening with Pianist Sergei Novikov on Thursday, Oct. 22 at 7 p.m. at St. Cecilia Parish.

Tickets are \$20 each and

are available after Masses at St. Cecilia Parish Oct. 3, 4, 10, 11, 17 and 18 and at The Scented Garden Gift Shoppe or by calling Sandy Polom at 413-374-3314.

Hosted by Fran and Sandy Polom in honor of Dr. Anthony and Mary Polom. All proceeds benefit the Music Ministry at St. Cecilia Parish.

\$12.50 Each

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FUN DAY from page 1

registrants received a “Live Like Scott” T-shirt.

All proceeds for the day went to the W. Scott Godon-Decoteau Fund, a 501c3 non-profit organization supporting many causes including the sponsorship of one week of summer camp for 10 children through the West Springfield Boys & Girls Club, Inc. and a \$1,000 scholarship to a Minnechaug Regional High School senior. In the coming year, plans are to add a second scholarship and make a donation to Link to Libraries, Inc.

This year’s scholarship awardee was Kelly Balog of Hampden who attended the event with his mom, Ali Balog. He has plans to study business at Western New England University and was noted for his work at the Whispering Horse Therapeutic Riding Center in East Longmeadow with disabled individuals. In keeping with the reading theme, Kelly read out loud to attendees the book “Frogs Have Feelings Too” by local children’s author, Amanda Fee.

The day was a pleasant one, although a bit cool for the Memorial Park’s Spray Park which, although active for the occasion, didn’t have any takers. A large, purple – Scott’s favorite color -- “Live Like Scott” banner was posted near the Spray Park along with a picture of Scott and his dog, Leicester, an English Black Labrador, who passed away in 2024.

Other events for attendees included a “Ride Like Scott” group bike ride on an approximately 2.5-mile loop around town. Participating in the ride were many experienced riders along with other cyclists.

Next to leave the park on their excursion, were those involved in the “Live Like Scott” 5K Run/Walk. Joining the crowd of people ready for the race were Christine Callahan of Longmeadow, who finished the race in first place for the Women’s division as well as being the first finisher overall. She participated in the 5K along with her husband Al, 10-year-old Liam and 7-year-



Turley photos by Harold Anderson and Danielle Godon-Decoteau
Michelle Noonan (Wilbraham) at the craft table.

old Lily.

Al Callahan agreed with his wife about why they come to an event like this.

“It’s really important to come out and support the family....All the donations are going to a good cause,” he said.

Meanwhile, at the Park’s large pavilion, the “LLS Art & Craft Show” was set up with items for purchase with proceeds donated to a local non-profit charity through the W. Scott Godon-Decoteau Fund.

Of course, that wasn’t all for attendees to enjoy, with kids being able to go through an obstacle course to win a free book and a medal for finishing. A silent auction came later with cheese pizza – something that Scott had liked -- and a variety of ice cream and toppings for everyone served by Addie Stiles of Hatfield, co-owner of the local “Ice Cream Emergency” franchise, from their bus parked in the parking lot.

Many of Scott’s friends and family were in attendance and all spoke highly of Scott and recounted their many fond memories of him and the positive effect that he had on their lives.

Trish Decoteau, Scott’s mom, said about Scott, “He’s very passionate about helping underserved children or families. Anybody that needs encouragement to better themselves, he was all about that. So, we try to continue that ef-

fort for him (and) keep those memories alive for him.”

Bill Decoteau, Scott’s Dad.

“Scott was involved in so many things and it was all for positive.....So, to keep Scott’s reach going...we decided to have this event...I really appreciate all the folks that keep coming,” he said.

Scott’s younger brother Seth was in attendance from California along with two-year-old Galvin and remembered growing up with Scott.

“I always looked up to him, wanted to do things with him.... He gave back and put his heart into everything he did. There wasn’t anything he didn’t go all in,” he said.

When asked what it meant to him to “Live Like Scott”, he replied, “Trying things, doing something different and new and not being afraid to fail.”

Danielle Godon-Decoteau from Ohio, Scott’s wife, recalled this about her husband.

“He enthusiastically and emphatically believed in others to the point that made us be able to believe in ourselves,” she said.

Adam Winiewicz of Hampden grew up with Scott and Seth and described Scott as “a major influence in my life growing up. He always was ambitious and always wanted to do something.”

Michael Murray of East Longmeadow, one of the bike riders and Scott’s undergraduate roommate at UMass Am-



From the left, Trish Decoteau (Hampden, Scott’s mom, 2-year-old Gavin and Seth Decoteau (California), Scott’s brother.



From left to right, Dana Dias (Boston), Danielle Godon-Decoteau (Ohio) - Scott’s wife - and Nicole Corbosiero (Franklin, MA).



Bill Decoteau (Hampden), Scott’s dad, with the silent auction.

herst in the late 90s, said, “He was just a ton of fun. He was (a) compassionate, energetic,

creative guy who would give you the shirt off his back and also be the life of the party at the same time.... The energy that he brought to all his endeavors really is something to be celebrated.”

Dana Dias from Boston was there with 10-year-old Logan. When asked what she remembered about Scott, she fondly replied, “I can picture his smiles, his laughs, everything, like it was yesterday. He was such a great friend.”

Gabe Huffstutler from Longmeadow remembered Scott as his manager at LEGO Corporation.

“He was just full of life, full of energy, so funny and just really inspiring....He was

really good at getting people excited about getting involved in things....He was one of the best,” he said.

Michelle Noonan from Wilbraham, who also worked with Scott at LEGO Corporation, when asked what she would tell someone about him, replied, “He was just always awesome to be around, made you smile.... It was fun to be around him. We had a lot of fun times at work.”

Now, the planning begins for next year’s event.

“It takes a lot of work to coordinate the timing of everything to make it all come together successfully!” Trish Decoteau said.

PASTOR WELCOMED from page 1

here,” Nesbit said.

Nesbit explained he came back to the church because he missed everyone and really felt a call to ministry.

“I’m a big believer in what the Holy Spirit has in mind for people, so I really felt called to submit. I had to submit my name and my profile to see what would happen and it all worked out,” Nesbit said.

As a whole, he’s been a ordained pastor for six years, having done pastoral work at WUC during his first tenure.

“I wasn’t really official until 2020. Just before (COVID). The world shut down on March 13. I was ordained on March 8, so people were really concerned about a lot of things even then. They just started being concerned. It’s pretty crazy,” Nesbit said.

Nesbit also taught for 30 years, starting at a high school as athletic director, director of Student Activities and, later, a principal of a Catholic school for four years.

“Also, I worked for a Home Depot for eight years and most of that time was in Human Resources. I was in a district position and did training and development with associates,” Nesbit said.

Nesbit shared, “the spiritual path has always existed” and was in seminary from Fall 1987 to Winter 1991, along with having a Master’s degree in Pastoral Studies from the former Washington Theological Union in 1996/1997. He was also a Marionish Brother.

“So, my time started with the Catholic Church and things changed, as they sometimes do and I started coming to church here a little bit in December of ‘04, then joined in ‘07, ‘08, and just kept doing things here and I was in the choir, I rang handbells, I was a liturgist, deacon and

they realized that I came in with a Master’s in Pastoral Studies and they said, ‘Can he lead worship? Can he preach?’ And we found out, yes,” Nesbit said.

In 2016/2017, the interim pastor at that time had sat Nesbit down and asked why he was not ordained, which encouraged him to pursue it. Also, other people encouraged him.

“The beautiful thing about being a pastor is that you get to teach. You get to be both, and many people have said that they’re the pastor and teacher at a particular church. So, it works out well,” Nesbit said. “I think a lot of my sermons turn into teaching time.”

Since being back, Nesbit has enjoyed reconnecting with the congregation, both familiar faces and new ones.

“It’s been nice to see what they’ve done, what they kept, what new things have happened since I was here and then where we want to go together, where do we see this happening and going in the future,” Nesbit said.

His goal for his first six months is to experience what the church does and has been doing, how he fits in and how he can lead everyone spiritually. A long-range goal, meanwhile, is the town of Wilbraham to see the church as their church.

“Whether you belong to St. Cecilia’s, Christ the King Epiphany, the evangelical church on Stony Hill Road, Bethlehem Church, I don’t care where you go to church, but to know they also have a home at Wilbraham United,” Nesbit said.

Nesbit noted there’s been an influx of younger families at the church, including 15 to 20 kids at church recently. This also keeps him hopeful.

“So, we have a thriving church school and Family

Ministries program that we started working on about 10 years ago—I was a paid employee at that point—and the church members just picked it up and ran and they did it and their volunteers who do all these things,” Nesbit said. “Consequently, people have seen that and they knew that the church was a welcoming place, and so families have continued to join. It’s really cool. We’ve had more people in church on Sunday than we’ve had in a long time. We’re growing; it’s a place where I think people are going to feel comfortable coming and we’ll see what happens.”

He finds guiding people on their journey to strengthen their relationship with God the most fulfilling part of his work now.

“If they’re willing to come or they’re willing to let me walk with them or to try different things in order to strengthen that relationship then that’s the most fulfilling thing for me,” Nesbit said.

On his own spirituality, he emphasized being surprised as the most fulfilling part from the varying jobs he’s had on his journey to where he is today.

On where he sees WAC at the end of this year, he hopes it is more consistently present not just in church, but also in the community.

“They haven’t stopped, but to maybe make a renewed effort at that. So, we’re working on that,” Nesbit said. “We’re in a great spot, so if we’re doing anything on the lawn or we’re doing anything out front, people see it, so hopefully they’ll see us and they’ll want to come be with us.”

His message was this. “To remember that we have been here since 1743, not necessarily on these grounds, but we have been

present in the community. The community was only allowed to be founded because they had the church, the old laws under the Massachusetts

colony,” Nesbit said. “So, we have been the town church, we have been their church and we’ve been here for the people of Wilbraham and be-

yond in the greater area. So, my message is: we’re here, come be with us.”



VETERANS DAY SALUTE

The Wilbraham-Hampden Times
~ November 5, 2026 ~

The Wilbraham-Hampden Times will be saluting our local veterans (from all wars and branches, including honoring deceased veterans), reservists, active duty U.S. Military members.

Please submit a photo of your veteran with his or her name, rank, branch of military and hometown by email to jamie@turley.com or drop off a photo to **The Wilbraham-Hampden Times, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069** All photos will be returned.

Please submit your photo no later than **Monday, October 27, 2026.**

There is no cost to submit a photo. No photos will be accepted after deadline.

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We seek an energetic, enthusiastic, and well-organized person for the position of **OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR/ CLERICAL PART-TIME.** This is a part-time position of 20 to 25 hours per week at \$680, depending on Workload. Need to be detail-oriented, possess good customer service skills, some cash & items handling skills. *Apply Email: wowwhunn@outlook.com*

REAL ESTATE

FOR SALE Duplex for sale at 812/814 East Street Ludlow.

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Call 617- 877- 3455 if interested.

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ALL REAL ESTATE advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation, or discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or intention to make any such preference, limitation, or discrimination." We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.

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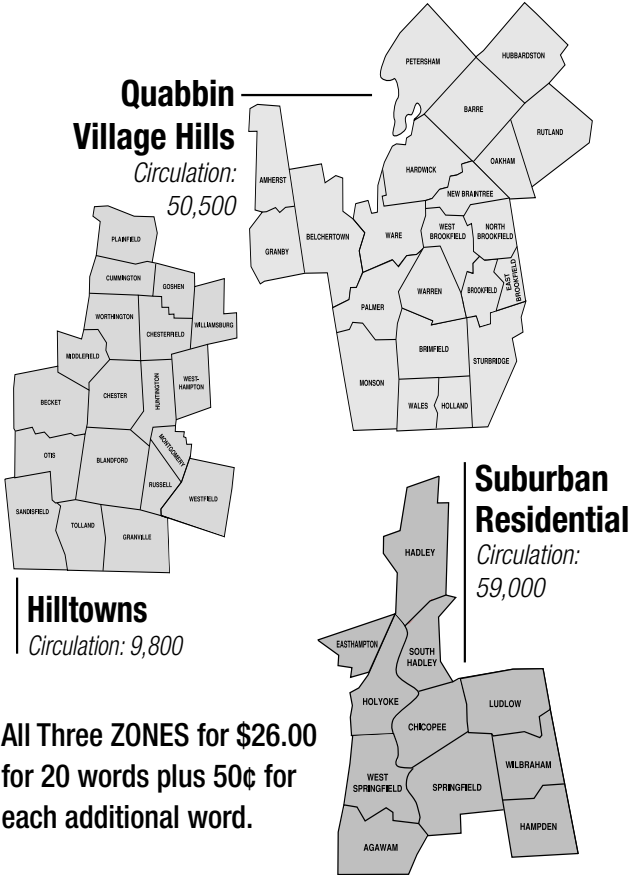
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29 Base Price \$30.50	30 Base Price \$31.00	31 Base Price \$31.50	32 Base Price \$32.00
33 Base Price \$32.50	34 Base Price \$33.00	35 Base Price \$33.50	36 Base Price \$34.00
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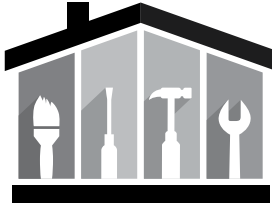


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This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertising in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about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

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Theatre Guild of Hampden presents ‘Gypsy: The Musical’

HAMPDEN – The Theatre Guild of Hampden will be presenting their fall production of “Gypsy: The Musical.” Gypsy tells the story of the dreams and efforts of one hungry, powerhouse of a woman to get her two daughters into show business. Gypsy is loosely based on the 1957 memoir of famous striptease artist Gypsy Rose Lee, entitled “Gypsy: Memoirs of America’s Most Celebrated Stripper.” The memoir and the musical focus on the story of Gypsy Rose Lee’s mother, Rose, and earned Rose a place in the theatrical and literary canon as the quintessential, archetypal “Stage Mother.” The musical features songs that have become standards of the musical theatre canon, including “Some People,” “Let Me Entertain You,” “Rose’s Turn,” and the show-stopping “Everything’s Coming Up Roses.” Gypsy is famous for helping launch lyricist Stephen Sondheim’s career, and features a book by Arthur Laurents that is widely considered to be one of the classic examples of a traditional “book musical.” At the heart of the musical is the gregarious Rose, whose journey made critic Frank Rich call Gypsy, “Broadway’s own brassy, unlikely answer to King Lear.” The shows dates are Oct. 16, 17, 18, 23, 24 and 25. The shows will be at the Hampden Town Hall, (Formerly Thornton Burgess School), 85 Wilbraham Road Hampden, MA. The showtimes are Friday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday Matinees at 2 p.m. To purchase your tickets, visit theatreguildofhampden.org.

Hilarious Irish Comedy Show coming to Wilbraham

WILBRAHAM - The Friends of Wilbraham Seniors will be sponsoring popular comedy show “JOKES MY IRISH FATHER TOLD ME” on Friday evening Oct. 2. Come relax and enjoy an evening from a much-needed break from everyday routines. Comedian Dave Kane, who portrayed Fr. Patrick Aloysius in the comedy show “Misgivings” last year will have you laughing at his one lines and jokes. Last year his show was a sellout here, and we expect

this one will be mobbed. Tickets are only \$20 and are on sale at the Wilbraham Senior Center, 250 Springfield St, Wilbraham, MA. Doors open 6:30 pm. Limited seating. All tickets must be purchased in advance. Stop in today. No reservations. No holds. All proceeds to support multiple programs and services for Wilbraham Seniors. For more information on either event, contact Matt Villamaino 413-896-2206 or visit the Wilbraham Senior Center.

Knights sponsor benefit dinner to support Community Survival Center Oct. 17

WILBRAHAM - The Wilbraham Knights of Columbus Council 10195 will sponsor a major fundraising benefit dinner to support the Community Survival Center in Indian Orchard. The Survival Center helps feed and cloth over 400 individuals each month in Wilbraham, Hampden, Ludlow,

Indian Orchard and 16 Acres. According to Executive Director, Cristal Turcotte, this year is particularly impacted by continued high inflation and cuts in SNAP benefits. “Our shelves are very bare” according to Turcotte, “and with the holidays fast approaching we are asking for assistance to please help us

support those in need.” The benefit dinner will be held Saturday Oct. 17 at 5 p.m. at Saint Cecilia Parish Center, 42 Main Street, Wilbraham and will feature a delicious homemade chicken parm and pasta Italian dinner complete with salad, bread, coffee and cannoli’s. The event will include numerous

raffles and musical entertainment with sing-a-longs and strolling violinist. Tickets are limited and cost \$20. They may be purchased by contacting George Reich at ticketskoc10195@gmail.com or may be picked up after Mass in the St. Cecilia rotunda starting on September 26.

Who Goes There Reveal Oct. 16

WILBRAHAM - Join the Friends of Wilbraham Seniors on Friday, Oct. 16 for the “Who Goes There” Premiere Reveal, a paranormal fundraiser unveiling three area investigations of paranormal activity uncovered by presenter Rob Goff Sr. Director and Founder of Agawam Paranormal and his team along with our three raffle winners from our May 1 fundraiser. This event will be held at the Wilbraham Senior Center, 250 Springfield St., Wilbraham; presentation from 6:30 to 8:30; VIP seating \$15 pp and General Admission \$5 pp. (VIP seating will include early admission; a private group session with

the paranormal team; hands on experience with paranormal equipment and reserved seating at the ‘Reveal’) As an added attraction, A RAFFLE availing one winner and a guest from the VIP and General Admission group, an opportunity to participate in a final investigation at the Old Meeting House, Main Street, Wilbraham. Local author Dave Bourcier will be selling and signing his latest book, “Wilbraham...A Journey Through History.” For more details, visit the Friends of Wilbraham Seniors website friendsofwilbrahamseniors.org or stop by the Wilbraham Senior Center for the flyer.

Evening Book Discussion at the Wilbraham library

WILBRAHAM - The Evening Book Discussion will be discussing Outwitting History by Aaron Lansky on Wednesday, Oct. 21 at 7 p.m. The group meets on the third Wednesday of every month and is facilitated by Assistant Director Mary Bell. Newcomers are always welcome, and no sign ups are necessary. Read the book prior to the meeting, and enjoy a fun hour discussing the story with other book lovers. Outwitting History de-

tails Aaron Lansky’s quest to save Yiddish literature, and the various people he comes into contact with as he does so. It began as a passion project and a way of preserving his heritage, and eventually became the starting point for the Yiddish Book Center in Amherst, which Lansky founded. Copies of the book are available at the library’s front desk. For more information contact Mary Bell at 413-596-6141 or email mbell@wilbrahamlibrary.org.

Cookbook Club at the Wilbraham Public Library meets Oct. 7

WILBRAHAM – The Wilbraham Public Library Cookbook Club is meeting on Wednesday, Oct. 7, at 6:30 p.m. This month’s selection is

“Martha: 100 Favorite Recipes,” by Martha Stewart. Please let the library know what you’re bringing when registering so we do not duplicate recipes. Cooking is encouraged

but not required for attendance. Copies of the book are available now at the Service Desk. The Cookbook Club meets on the first Wednesday of every other month at 6:30 p.m.

This program is free and open to the public, and registration is required. For more information or to register, please call the library at 413-596-6141.

PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE
Town of Wilbraham
The Wilbraham Conservation Commission will hold a public meeting on **Wednesday, October 14, 2026 at 6:30 PM on the Request for Determination of Applicability** filed by Jason Grondin under the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act and the Wilbraham Wetlands Bylaw. The request is to determine whether the area and/or activities depicted on plans submitted is subject to the Wilbraham Wetland Bylaw and the Wetlands Protection Act. The project includes the construction of 24’ x 12’ one-car garage addition, an approximately 18’ x 13’ residential room behind the garage and a primary bedroom suite above the proposed addition within the 100’ Buffer Zone of Bordering Vegetated Wetland. The property is located at 200 Soule Rd. Wilbraham, MA. Information relating to this application is on file with the Conservation Commission. Christopher Brown, Chairman. 10/01/2026

SALE OF MOTOR VEHICLES
This ad is pursuant to MA Gen. Law Ch.255, Sec. 39A as of October 9, 2026 the following motor vehicles will be for sale to satisfy a garage keepers lien:
Vehicle: 2007 Subaru Outback
VIN#: 4S4BP61C977322293
LKO: Karen Francis
1134 Worcester St
Indian Orchard MA 01151
Vehicle: 2017 Toyota Yaris
VIN#: JN1BJ1CW5MW447280
LKO: Samuel Dunham
156 Jeffrey Rd
Springfield MA 01119
Vehicle: 2024 Toyota Corolla
VIN: JTDBDMHXR3008932
LKO: Suleyman Kocaoglu
182 Howard St
Ludlow MA 01056
Lien Holder: Toyota Motor Credit
PO Box 30203
College Station TX 77845
Vehicle: 2011 Honda Accord
VIN: 1HGCP2F75BA016704
LKO: Aissatou Youssouf Gueys

401 Power Rd
Pawtucket RI 02860
Vehicle: 2014 Chevy Equinox
VIN: 2GNALAEK0E6218784
LKO: Katherine Galanis
152 Wilson St Ludlow MA 01056
R & S Assoc. Inc
PO Box 543
Wilbraham MA 01095
413-596-4374
09/24, 10/01, 10/08/2026

Town of Wilbraham PUBLIC HEARING: LIQUOR LICENSE MULTIPLE AMENDMENTS
(Posted 9/1 7/2026)
The Wilbraham Select Board will hold a public hearing under Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 138, Section 12, on **Monday, October 19, 2026 at 7:00pm**, at the Wilbraham Police Department Community Room, 2780 Boston Road, Wilbraham, to hear public comment on an application to amend an annual Section 12: All Alcohol-

ic Beverages License submitted by Dominic John Inc., located at 2039 Boston Road, Wilbraham. The applicant seeks the following amendments: Change of Manager, Change of Officers/Directors/LLC Managers, and Issuance/Transfer of Stock/New Stockholder. All those wishing to comment on the referenced application will be heard. This hearing will be conducted in person and virtually. 10/01/2026

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT HAMPDEN, Div. Probate & Family Court Dept. HD26E0041PP
To Steven Thomas of Wilbraham, Hampden County; and all other persons interested.
A petition has been presented to said Court by Rosemarie Thomas, of East Longmeadow,

Hampden County, representing that they hold as joint tenants in an undivided part or share of land lying in Wilbraham, in the County of Hampden, setting forth that they desire that all of said land may be sold at private sale or public auction for not less than Five Hundred Sixteen Thousand and Eight Hundred Dollars (\$516,800.00), and praying that partition may be made of all the land aforesaid according to law, and to that end that a commissioner be appointed to make such partition and be ordered to make sale and conveyance of all, or any part of said land which the Court finds cannot be advantageously divided either at private sale or public auction, and be ordered to distribute the net proceeds thereof after full adjudication of the equitable claims contained in said petition and supplemental memorandum filed with the Court.
If you desire to object thereto,

you or your attorney should file a written appearance in said Court at Springfield before ten o’clock in the forenoon on the **tenth day of November 2026**, the return day of this citation.
Witness, **Claudine T. Stoudemire**, Esquire, First Justice of said Court, this 10th day of September 2026.
Rosemary A. Saccomani, Register
10/01, 10/08, 10/15/2026

NOTICE
ERRORS: Each advertiser is requested to check their advertisement the first time it appears. This paper will not be responsible for more than one corrected insertion, nor will be liable for any error in an advertisement to a greater extent than the cost of the space occupied by the item in the advertisement.

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

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