

BACKYARD from page 6

The drumming of the yellow-bellied sapsucker is very distinctive, consisting of a roll with clearly separated taps at the end and sometimes at the beginning “tap-tap trrrrrrrrrrr ta-ta- tat-tat-tat.” Both sexes drum. Ritual tapping at the lower rim of the nest hole is a rather common acoustic signal.

The yellow-bellied is the only sapsucker seen in the eastern half of the U.S. and across the northern forests. These sapsuckers are migratory, which is a fairly rare trait for woodpeckers. They live in a variety of habitats from low-lying floodplains to mountainous forests at 10,000

feet. Their breeding range extends from Alaska to Newfoundland and south along the Appalachians. They winter across the East from New Jersey west to Texas and all the way south to Panama.

A common breeding display involves males pointing their bills skyward as they showcase their red throat patch for an interested female. Though both sexes are involved with excavating nesting cavities; males do most of the work. Occasionally, sapsuckers visit bird feeders for suet.

Bald eagle and turkey vultures
Early this month, a Worth-

ington resident sent an email. He said he had a “lucky and thrilling sighting of an eagle, white tail obvious, circling on high with three turkey vultures and he called it “intra species cooperation” or more likely, the eagle using the vulture’s ability to find carrion.

I saw three turkey vultures along Route 122 in Barre near Vernon Avenue on March 16. I saw two turkey vultures in Oakham on St. Patrick’s Day. Their return is a sign of spring.

Robins

Huge flock of robins. Last week, I saw a huge flock of robins, probably close to 100 birds fly over head along

Route 32 in Gilbertville. Robins overwinter in this area, but large flocks are the returning robins that migrate.

Canada geese

The Canada geese are also returning. I saw quite a few geese in a cornfield in Spencerville last week. I also saw about a dozen or saw fly overhead.

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



First Prize winner 4-year-old Peyton Lynch with his Snowman

Snowman contest winners announced

WILBRAHAM/HAMPDEN - The GFWC Wilbraham Junior Women’s Club’s Snowman Contest was held through the winter season.

Thanks to lots of snow and some very creative folks in both Wilbraham and Hampden, we received the greatest number of entries ever!

“The goal of the contest is for families to have lots of fun spending quality time together making their Snowmen. We hope everyone who entered the contest looks back on their time spent as worth wild whether they win or not” said Brenda Willard, President of the Wilbraham Junior Women’s Club.

The third-place winners who receive \$20 are 10-year-old Mila and 2-year-old Remi Ford of Hampden for their “Snowman Family.”

Our Second-place winners who receive \$25 are 2-year-old Jasper and his dad Jake Corbett of Wilbraham for their “Gentleman Snowman” entry and our First-place winner who receives a trophy and \$30 is 4-year-old Peyton Lynch from Wilbraham for his “Snowman with Glasses” entry!

The winners and their families also receive free admission to the Bunny Breakfast on March 28 at St. Cecelia’s Church where they will be presented with their prizes.

DIRECTOR from page 1

“My public health nurse, Annette, who serves the four towns, she’s already started following up on some of those cases. So, I’ll just let her know that, now, you’re the first backstop and that’s really the only change, and, likewise, I have access to those cases. So I’m able to kind of, from a supervisory perspective, make sure that Annette’s getting the workflows done when she’s on vacation or elsewhere. I have training on Maven, so I can jump in and do those,” Paxton said.

Paxton said the electronic database focuses on lab testing after a confirmed case of an infectious disease, followed by gathering information and tracking the case or cases. As for the department’s responsibilities, it’s phone calls to learn more about the symptoms.

The shared health services, he added, are covered through funding from a state grant called the Public Health Excellence Grant.

Davenport next mentioned resident concerns about a manure pile.

“We don’t have a bylaw and I’m not so sure where public health is. Although there is some concern from

our stormwater management that some of the outflows tested positive for E.coli and for high nitrogen,” Davenport said. “I guess I don’t know what the best thing to do is. Should we just approach the owner of the property and talk to him and see...?”

Paxton said that seemed advisable to him and, to his understanding, this is “a relatively large business related to essentially raising horses.”

“So, I think that you do have a legitimate usage of the manure and when we’re talking about nuisances in the community, those are generally governed by the nuisance law in Massachusetts, which is Mass General Law Chapter 111. Boards of Health have a pretty broad authority to declare something a nuisance and do enforcement against it,” Paxton said. “But, I’d be hesitant to start with that as a first step knowing that this is a) a community partner that might be very likely to make some changes on our request, but also because there’s a section of the nuisance law that states that regular manure spreading should not be considered a nuisance.”

After Flynn noted the potential conflicts in the state law and more information was needed along with en-

gaging more parties on a solution, Paxton agreed.

“As a health agent, you’re typically observing things firsthand and then writing inspection reports and orders based on those firsthand observations,” Paxton said. “I’ve driven by the area quite a bit and I’ve seen that they are starting to store manure, but I haven’t quite experienced the breadth of that issue as we move into the summer months.”

Selectboard Member Erik Vanderleeden shared his observations.

“I’m a little bit farther away, but ever since that kind of farming has started, the fly increase, it’s legitimate,” Vanderleeden said. “At first I was wondering where did these flies come from and then a couple complained and I was like, ‘Oh. Yeah, now it makes sense. Yeah, that’s where they’re coming from.’”

After Paxton shared he’d like to hear more specifics about how the business is using the manure, Flynn agreed and asked about outreach.

Paxton replied that he could do it.

“I’m hopeful we can improve the situation without an enforcement order based on what we kind of talked about with the different legalities,”

Paxton said. “I think that’d be a good first step and then we have other business with them that’s regular business, so it’d be a great opportunity to create that relationship as well.”

Paxton will set up a time to meet with the business, with Davenport agreeing to join him.

Paxton next explained that thanks to the state grant, the department is all set for FY27, as most staff is typically funded and there aren’t many expense line items.

“We have a little bit for training, a few thousand dollars, but more or less we get about \$393,000 a year and that funds 20% of my position. So, 20% full-time equivalent. It funds the entirety of the health inspector, which serves all four towns. It funds the entirety of a shared services coordinator who functions for all of our administrative management, and also, as a grant coordinator,” Paxton said.

In the coming year, Paxton said the Finance Committee “did not find a need for any of the towns to contribute in FY27.”

“We try not to ask for a lot when we can, and in this particular case, we’re happy to say that it’ll be all right for FY27,” Paxton said.

RANDOM from page 5

Adele said that just being kind with a simple smile can be a Random Act of Kindness and she is so right. It doesn’t take a lot to just share a kind gesture. As the saying goes, “You can be anything, so just be kind.”

If you’d like to share a

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

PUBLIC NOTICES

WILBRAHAM PLANNING BOARD
The Wilbraham Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on **Wednesday, April 8, 2026, at 5:45 PM** in the Town Office Building, 240 Springfield Street, on the application of Little Ivy Learning Academy LLC for Site Plan Approval (SPA26-01) under Section 3.4.4.4 of the Wilbraham Zoning Bylaw to allow a licensed child care facility on property owned by Theorod LLC located at 2 Crane Park Drive as shown on plans on file in the Planning Office and posted for public viewing on the Planning Board page of the Town of Wilbraham website at www.wilbraham-ma.gov/123/Planning-Board. This meeting will be conducted in person and virtually (see meeting agenda for details).
James Rooney, Chair
03/19, 03/26/2026

Three Rivers, MA 01080
2010 Jeep Liberty
Vin#: 1J4PN2GK9AW178856
Color: Tan
LKO: Mozanth Nazareth
323 South St.
Marlborough, MA 01752-5132
Vehicle : 2015 Honda Civic
VIN#: 19XFB2F53FE220400
LKO: Edward De LaCruz
260 State St.
Palmer, MA 01069
Lien Holder : United Consumer Finance
150 West Grove St Suite 16A
Middleboro, MA 02346
R & S Assoc. Inc

PO Box 543
Wilbraham MA 01095
413-596-4374
03/12, 03/19, 03/26/2026

WILBRAHAM PLANNING BOARD
The Wilbraham Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on **Wednesday, April 8, 2026, at 6:00 PM** in the Town Office Building, 240 Springfield Street, on the application of (1) The Towers BTS of Massachusetts d/b/a Vertical Bridge and (2) Celco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless for a Special Per-

mit (SP26-01) as required under Sections 3.4.3.6 and 10.5 of the Wilbraham Zoning By-Law for the construction of a new Wireless Communications Facility on property to be leased from the owner, Town of Wilbraham, located at 540 Stony Hill Road. The proposed facility consists of a single, free-standing, 120 foot tall monopole tower with antenna and associated telecommunications equipment to be located within a 50 foot by 50 foot

fenced compound as shown on plans on file in the Planning Office and posted for public viewing on the Planning Board page of the Town of Wilbraham website at www.wilbraham-ma.gov/123/Planning-Board. This meeting will be conducted in person and virtually (see meeting agenda for details).

The applicant will be conducting a field test to simulate the visual impact of the proposed tower by displaying a balloon

above ground to mark the height of the highest point of the proposed tower. The field test will be performed on Saturday, April 4, 2026 from 8 AM to 4 PM with a rain date of Monday, April 6, 2026 or Tuesday April 7, 2026 from 8 AM to 4 PM.
03/19, 03/26/2026

PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

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

Public notice deadlines are Friday at 3 p.m.

visit www.publicnotices.turley.com

SALE OF MOTOR VEHICLES
This ad is pursuant to MA Gen. Law Ch.255, Sec. 39A as of March 27, 2026 the following motor vehicle will be for sale to satisfy a garage keepers lien:
2012 Jeep Grand Cherokee
VIN#: 1C4RJFAG7CC115586
COLOR: Red
LKO: Michael Barrett
2027 High St.

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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