

CANDIDATES from page 2

and will continue to perform my duties with the highest professional standards, integrity and fairness.”

On what inspired him to run for reelection, Wesolowski discussed the many years he’s lived in town.

“As a resident of Wilbraham for the past 47 years, I am proud of the town my wife Cheryl and I live in and where we raised and educated our children, Marty, Evonne and AnnMarie. Wilbraham has a beautiful rural setting with a wonderful culture of caring neighbors. I have been inspired by the community members volunteering their time to get involved and be a part of the culture, and working to enrich it. Contributing my skill set on the Board of Assessors is my contribution, and it has been gratifying, as much as participating in and supporting the school system, sport programs, social services, town library, church and cultural events,” Wesolowski said. “I, too, like all the residents, am impacted by the increasing tax rates needed to cover the towns operating expenses approved by the Wilbraham voters at the Annual Town Meeting. My skill set allows me to contribute to the community in setting the tax rate equitably, within state regulations and to manage the Assessor’s Office operations efficiently as noted below.

For successes and improvements, he noted these items.

“My successes as an Assessor include managing and improving the Assessor’s office and its operations. The hiring of qualified individuals was a daunting task during and after COVID. A focus on training and skill development, along with the purchase of new software systems, has enhanced staff efficiency. I believe we now have one of the best Assessor’s office staff in Western Massachusetts. These efforts have resulted in bringing more work in-house while reducing operating expenses and staffing by nearly 50%. This success is attributable to my continuity of service as a Board member and ded-

ication to improving the Assessor’s office operations,” Wesolowski said.

Wesolowski said he envisions these goals if reelected.

“Looking ahead, I’m prepared for future challenges, including new state regulations, staff development, implementing a succession plan, controlling operating costs, with the end goal of minimizing the tax burden for all residents. I envision achieving a lower tax rate for the town of Wilbraham and providing tax relief for residents, veterans, disabled and especially seniors who have built this desirable community and wish to continue and afford to live in town. I support expanding the Senior Work Off Abatement Program and addressing the Community Preservation Act,” Wesolowski said. “My emphasis has been and will continue to be minimizing the tax rate while meeting state regulations. I will continue to focus on operating efficiencies, improving technology use, while ensuring equitable and impartial assessment of all properties in our wonderful town. I would appreciate your vote for John Wesolowski for the Wilbraham Board of Assessors on May 16 between 8:30 am and 6:30 pm at Minnechaug Regional High School.”

Daniel Fernandes

Fernandes explained that his experience with the exterior infrastructure repair field gave him insight to learn more about town properties.

“My years of experience in the exterior infrastructure repair field have helped me gather real-life information on costs associated with the maintenance of homes and businesses alike. With that said, I have performed this work primarily in Wilbraham, which has allowed me to learn about town properties and the citizens that own them,” Fernandes said.

On what inspired him to run for the Board of Assessors, Fernandes said this.

“My inspiration to run for this position came from a place that I was not expecting. My experience with the

assessors had always been a pleasant one of professional nature and kindness. A few years ago, we had what I would consider a culture shift in the office of the assessors,” Fernandes said.

He elaborated further on this.

“One of the processes that a land owner with over five acres may have to complete is chapter paperwork, which notates what type of land is within that acreage, i.e., hay, vegetables, orchard etc. This process, normally a simple one, had become quite complicated. When I asked if this could make it more difficult for town residents to navigate and could actually cause inaccuracies resulting in higher taxes. The assistant assessor answered with “we aren’t talking about a lot of money here,” Fernandes said. “The new assessors, began a process to reclassify lands that have been in active agricultural for years. This has effectively increased taxes on dozens of landowners in town. When asked by a resident how they can afford to pay the additional taxes, the Assistant Assessor answered, ‘Don’t worry, you have the money.’ I have brought these issues up to the principal assessor and the Board of Assessors without any solution. If this is the new policy behind the Principal and Assistant Assessor, it will have a largely negative impact on all town residents.”

Fernandes emphasized his ultimate goal, if elected, is transparency and more solutions.

“My goal on the Board of Assessors is to bring transparency to a board that I have found there is not enough information on what role they play. Also to bring more solutions to the seniors and veterans who are on fixed incomes as the taxes continue to increase,” Fernandes said.

ELECTION INFO:
Saturday, May 16
Minnechaug Regional High School from
8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m

OBITUARIES

DEATH NOTICES

Wilkinson Sr., James E.
Died April 22, 2026
Sampson Family Chapels

Ham, Helen
Died April 27, 2026
Sampson Family Chapels

Helen Ham, 99

On April 27, Helen Ham passed away. She was born in Ludlow on September 11th, 1926, she was the daughter of Joseph and Julia (Krzyszowski) Ostrowski. She graduated with honors from Ludlow High School in 1944 and was hired by the town to work in the Town Clerk’s office. At age 21 Helen was appointed Assistant Town Clerk, the youngest in the state.

She furthered her education by taking night courses at AIC, Bennetts Secretarial School, and Commerce where she met Dana in a Radio, Speech, and Drama class. In 1952 after working eight years for the town, she left to

marry Dana. They had a wonderful life together until his death in 2011.

When Wilbraham was considering fluoridating its water supply, Helen was chairman of “Save Our Water”. The measure was overwhelmingly defeated. She gave the town land on the un-paved portion of Shady Lane for recreational purposes, now used by many.

A love of animals, she helped form Concerned Citizens for Animals and was on the board of directors for many years. She also enjoyed painting, and started evening lessons at Bay Path. In 1959 Helen had six different teach-

ers. She leaves many treasured relatives and friends and an angel, Mura. Thank you all for being a part of my life. In my memory, donations may be made to the TJ O’Connor or Dakin to help care for animals. All services for Helen were held privately. Sampson Family Chapels has been entrusted with her arrangements.

James E. Wilkinson Sr., 80

James E. Wilkinson Sr., 80, of Wilbraham, passed away peacefully at home on Wednesday, April 22, 2026, surrounded by his loving family. Born in Bridgeport, Connecticut, on March 21, 1946, Jim was the son of the late George E. and Elizabeth (Spinelli) Wilkinson.

Jim graduated from Bridgeport High School before serving in the United States Air Force. He went on to earn both his bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Western New England College. Jim was a Professor of Economics at Asnuntuck Community College, where he served on numerous committees and played a key role in establishing the Veterans Center on campus. During his tenure, he received multiple awards for instructional and teaching excellence. Colleagues and students alike remember him as a mentor, motivator, and larger-than-life presence. Prior to becoming a full-time professor, Jim was employed by MassMutual Financial Group for close to 20 years, holding various roles throughout his tenure. He also served as an adjunct professor at Western New England College and Bay Path University.

Jim was predeceased by his parents and his brothers,

George, Nicholas, and Thomas Wilkinson.

Jim is survived by his beloved wife and best friend, Wendy (Peck) Wilkinson of Wilbraham; his sons, James “Jim” Wilkinson Jr. and his wife Laura of Davenport, Florida, and Steve Wilkinson and his fiancée Dawn Vivencio of Cape Cod, Massachusetts; his daughters, Kelsey May Wilkinson of Woburn, Massachusetts, and Aleena Wilkinson of Wilbraham; his cherished grandchildren, Tami Barrington, Alejandra Wilkinson, and Spencer Vivencio; his great-grandchildren Lucas DePalo and Kylee Barrington; and his

sister Nancy Kettles. He is also survived by his sister-in-law, Alesia Peck; brother-in-law, Albert Dionne; niece, Samantha Peck-Dionne and grand-nephew, Elias Alan Ouellette.

Funeral services were held May 8, 2026 at Wilbraham United Church. Burial with military honors followed at Woodland Dell Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made in Jim’s memory to the Asnuntuck Veterans Oasis Center, c/o the Asnuntuck Foundation, 170 Elm Street, Enfield, CT 06082.

Wilbraham-Hampden Times
OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries. One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$275, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice (with a word limit of up to 500 words) and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

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

PUBLIC NOTICES

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Division
Docket No.
HD26P0952EA
Estate of:
Rachel Anne Colen
Also Known As:
Rachel Colen
Date of Death: 07/22/2025
INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE
To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Lee Ann Hegarty of Wilbraham, MA**.
Lee Ann Hegarty of Wilbraham, MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve **without surety** on the bond.
The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration

from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.
05/14/2026

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No.
HD26P0977EA
Estate of:
Emma Margaret MacDonald
Date of Death: 04/22/2026
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL

ADJUDICATION
To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Mark H Moutinho of Pompano Beach, FL** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.
The Petitioner requests that **Mark H Moutinho of Pompano Beach, FL** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 06/03/2026. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a

timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.
UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.
WITNESS, Hon. Claudine T. Stoudemire, First Justice of this Court.
Date: May 06, 2026
Rosemary A Saccomani,
Register of Probate
05/14/2026

SALE OF MOTOR VEHICLES
This ad is pursuant to MA Gen. Law Ch.255, Sec. 39A as of May 22, 2026 the following motor vehicles will be for sale to satisfy a garage keepers lien:
Vehicle: 2001 GMC Sierra
VIN: 1GHTHK29U31E25G247
LKO: Tina Kearns
40 Sutton Rd.
Millbury, MA
PO BOX 181
South Grafton, MA 01560
Vehicle: 2014 Ford Escape
VIN: 1FMCU9G99EVA31771
LKO: Richard Weldon
24 Lower Hampden Rd.
Monson, MA 01057
Vehicle: 2012 Chevy Impala
VIN: 2G1WG5E3XC1252863
LKO: Krystaczka Phoxy-Flascher
567 East St.
Ludlow, MA 01056
R & S Assoc. Inc
PO Box 543
Wilbraham MA 01095
413-596-4374
05/07, 05/14, 05/21/2026

WILBRAHAM BOARD OF APPEALS PUBLIC HEARING
The Wilbraham Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing on **Thursday, May 21, 2026 starting at 5:30 PM** on the application of Gregory S. Harris for a variance (ZBA26-01) from Section 4.4.10 of the Wilbraham Zoning By-Law to construct a 240 square foot front porch within the front yard setback at 5 Russell Road as further specified in the application and plan that are on file in the Planning Office and posted for public viewing on the Zoning Board of Appeals page of the Town of Wilbraham website at www.wilbraham-ma.gov/135/Zoning-Board-of-Appeals.
This meeting will be conducted in person and virtually (see meeting agenda for details).
Edward Kivari Jr., Chairman
05/07, 05/14/2026

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

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EARLY DEADLINES

In observance of Memorial Day,
PUBLIC NOTICES
EARLY AD DEADLINE
Place your public notice
no later than **NOON**

Thursday, May 21

- Thank you!