

HILL CLIMB 2026



The cars on display at the car show.



Wayne Carini and his grandson at the wheel.



It's time for the Hill Climb to start!



Showing off the classic cars to the masses.



One of the pop up vendors was this little girl with a lemonade stand.



Photos courtesy of Joshua Sweeney

A shot of one of the cycle karts, a new feature this year.



A wide shot of attendees checking out the festivities.

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of "Chasing Classic Cars," and Steve Magnante, Barrett-Jackson Host and YouTuber.

This year's sponsors included Stonewall Insurance Group, Lia Auto Group, LUSO Federal Credit Union, 97.7 FM WARE, Bonhams, Hagerty, Sampson Funeral Homes, the Joseph and Anna C. Dias Foundation and more.

him this year was the smiles on everyone's faces.

"I love the smiles. I love walking around. I take the middle of the day and I put everything aside—and I start at the starting line—and I walk the entire thing thanking every vendor and talking to them and from the people selling plants to the barber, it's wonderful to just sit there and watch the laughter in people. I think that's the great thing," DeMarey said.

Another was the tribute to George Holman at the start of the race and the National Anthem performance.

"I never really had anything hit me like that. I was at the mic, I was talking about it. The little girl at the bottom of the hill, Katie Lotterer, she sang the National Anthem. Oh my God, knocked it out of the park, I thought it was absolutely unbelievable, and then when we did the moment of silence for George, which was his son taking a car up the hill all by himself while we were silent. We held the mic down by the exhaust and he took off and everything else," DeMarey said. "I was in tears. It was crazy. I'm going to miss him."

He also reflected on the Springfield to Boston Education Foundation, which he started several years ago to help kids and adults get involved in cars, hoping to do more in the future.

"It's not a foundation where you're going to apply for a scholarship. I don't want to be the guy that hands out the money. I want to be the foundation that helps the kids and the adults get into the hobby," DeMarey said. "Nolan Burke, he was just one of the first people that was part of it and it was interesting to introduce him to people and then he then takes off with it and has now—I opened that door—and he can now walk down a pathway. Before I was involved, Nolan had no access to it. His parents are not car people, they're nothing like that. He loved cars and then I cracked open a door and he kind of walked through it and then I guided him to 'What do you like? What do you want to do?'"

DeMarey also shared how he supported Pete Zimmerman at Wilbraham Tire, who opened a new business called Jimmy's with help, support and mentorship.

"I reassured him that the foundation was behind him, we're going to help him, there's tons of work out there, and right now he's busy," DeMarey said. "I love to get people involved."

DeMarey said plans for next year's Hill Climb will begin in the next month or so and he is always looking for volunteers.

To learn more about the foundation, visit springfield-toboston.com.

DeMarey also expressed thanks to the residents, the town departments, sponsors and community for their support. There's also an online survey for people to share their feedback, including what he can do better next year.

More information on the online survey soon.

Jeff DeMarey, who co-organizes the event alongside Ed Cenedella and is the founder of the Springfield to Boston Education Foundation, was pleased things went well and noted one of the new upgrades this year was the sound system "so that the announcer—starting line—was also heard all the way down to WMA and at the top of the finish line."

"The finish line worked out really well. We made some huge safety improvements up there. We had some big lights we put up, we coned off the road a little bit and we moved the finish line back a little bit so they couldn't take that left turn onto Ridge, so that worked out really well," DeMarey said. "It was a great event. Wayne Carini gave us a great compliment: 'Jeff, you have a very special town and a very special event,' he said. 'For me to be in my car looking over my left shoulder and seeing three to 500 people in the pouring rain watching me go up the hill. There's really some passion there about having it.'"

DeMarey also heard positive feedback from the food and craft vendors, noting some other booths popped up including lemonade stands from kids. Wilbraham & Monson Academy also provided space for the event, which had the car show and other vendors.

"The rain really hampers it, but the attitudes were really good. Everyone was smiling and happy," DeMarey said. "It's pretty enlightening and heartwarming to see how much good stuff there was going on."

Another highlight—which was also new this year—was the cycle karts.

"The little cycle karts are really cool because they're all homemade designs by the guys that own them and they went up the hill in a swarm. They don't go very fast—they're nothing more than on a golf cart like a Melha Shriners car—but we sent them all up at the start. We had like six or eight of them going up the hill," DeMarey said. "Those guys were great."

One thing that stayed with

PUBLIC NOTICE

INVITATION TO BID Boiler Replacement Minnechaug Regional High School

Wilbraham, Massachusetts
The project consists of the replacement of one of the five boilers at Minnechaug Regional High School, 621 Main Street, Wilbraham, MA.

HVAC GC Bid will be due, publicly opened and read on Thursday, June 18th at 9:00 a.m. in the Superintendents Conference Room, at Minnechaug Regional High School, 621 Main Street, Wilbraham, MA.

Bids must be addressed to Michael Messier, Director of Facilities & Operations, Hampden Wilbraham Regional School District, 621 Main Street, Wilbraham MA 01095, securely sealed, showing the name and address of bidder. All bids must be clearly marked "Boiler Replacement at to the Minnechaug Regional High School" on the outside of

the envelope. Proposals received after the due date and time will not be accepted under any conditions.

The Project involves the replacement of one of the five boilers at Minnechaug Regional High School.

The estimated cost of the work is \$125,000.

Bids shall be accompanied by a proposal guaranty in the form of a bid bond, cash, or a certified check or a treasurer's check issued by a responsible bank or trust company having offices in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The proposal guarantee shall be in the amount of five percent (5%) of the bid made payable to the Hampden Wilbraham Regional School District.

Contract Documents are available from the Engineer after 2:00 PM on May 22, 2026. Each Bidder may obtain sets of bidding documents from Robt. W. Hall Consulting Engineers by email-

ing Richard Willoughby (rwiloughby@rwhall.com)

A Prebid Conference will be held on June 10, 3:00 PM at the School. The meeting place will be outside the Loading Dock on the east side of the school.

A Payment Bond will be required of the successful bidder.

Attorney-in-fact who signs Payment Bonds must file with each Bond a certified and effective dated copy of their power of attorney. Prevailing Wage rates have been established for this project by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

The Hampden Wilbraham Regional School District reserves the right to waive any informalities, to reject any and all bids or any part thereof, and to take whatever action it believes to be in the best interest of the School District.

06/04/2026

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