

Celebrate the benefits of planting at Fountain Park

WILBRAHAM – Volunteers from Graziano Gardens from East Longmeadow will coordinate a public planting as part of the “Don’t Just Stand There...Plant Something!” campaign taking place across the state May 15.

“Don’t Just Stand There” is an initiative to encourage everyone in Massachusetts to enjoy the benefits of planting.

Residents will gather at Fountain Park at 3 p.m. on May 15 to plant a tree.

“Plants are good for the people who

are doing the actual gardening, but they also benefit the community,” said Chris Graziano of the Wilbraham Graziano family who own Graziano Gardens.

Plants and trees absorb carbon, filter dust and pollutants out of rainwater, and contribute to a sense of well-being. People who grow their own food increase their vegetable consumption and save an average of \$500 a year on their food budget.

For more info, visit plantsomethingma.org/May15.

Wilbraham Middle School ‘Sticks It’ to Principal Dan Roy

WILBRAHAM – An avid supporter of the Scantic Valley YMCA, Middle School Principal Dan Roy positioned himself in the school’s cafeteria during lunch hours on Thursday, April 25, allowing students to purchase and apply strips of tape for \$1 each. All of the funds raised will support the Y’s Strengthening COMMUNITY Scholarship Campaign.

Each year, the Y provides \$700,000 in scholarship assistance to youth, teens, families and seniors throughout the greater Springfield region, who otherwise could not afford to play for the Y’s programs and services.

This includes the before- and after-school programs, along with other programs for youth development, healthy living and social responsibility made



TIMES staff photo by David Miles

Wilbraham Middle School Principal Dan Roy gets taped to the wall in support of the YMCA watched by Y CEO Kirk Smith and student Kelsey Allard.

available to children at schools in Wilbraham and throughout the region.

To donate to the campaign or to learn more about the Y, visit springfield.y.org or call 739-6951.

Markey and Gomez win, Hampden passes road bond

WILBRAHAM – In the Special State Primary Election April 30 for U. S. Senator from Massachusetts Rep. Edward J. Markey (D-Massachusetts) of Malden won easily in the Democratic Primary over Rep. Stephen Lynch (D-Massachusetts) of Boston.

Markey garnered 480 votes to Lynch’s 284.

In the Republican Primary former Navy SEAL Gabriel E. Gomez of Cohasset won with 361 votes. Former U. S. Attorney Michael J. Sullivan came in second with 246 votes and state Rep. Daniel B. Winslow (D-Norfolk) received 63 votes.

Road bond passes

HAMPDEN – The five year \$2 million infrastructure bond approved at Town Meeting April 29, passed through Town

Election April 30, as voters approved the proposition 2 ½ override. The measure was approved by a final vote tally of 281 – 185.

All candidates on the Town Election ballot were elected, as each were unopposed.

In the Democratic Primary, candidate Edward K. Markey beat Stephen F. Lynch by a tally of 156 – 115. Three voters left their ballots blank. Markey won the state primary and will be the Democratic Party candidate for U.S. Senator.

Republican candidate Gabriel Gomez received 162 votes on his way to a successful campaign as the state’s Republican candidate for U.S. Senator. Candidate Michael J. Sullivan received 79 votes and Daniel B. Winslow received 31 votes. One voter left a blank ballot.

Local author brings ‘Pink Bear’ to visit

HAMPDEN - Local Author Betsy Knode Newton and Illustrator Lucy Mueller Young, both originally from Hampden and longtime friends, made a recent visit to the Hampden Public Library to share their wonderful book “Pink Bear”.

This illustrated young children’s book tells the story of a pink bear who overcomes his feeling of being different. By hard work and growing an unusual garden, Pink Bear finds a path to friends and self-acceptance.

“This remarkable story is a delight to read aloud to young children and for new readers to explore on their own,” said librarian Ellen Henry.



TIMES photo submitted

Author Betsy Knode Newton

Come to the Gardens...

Graziano Gardens

Mother’s Day Special

Frankie says come in and get a great deal on flowering azaleas for Mom!

2 DAYS ONLY
Saturday, May 11th & Sunday, May 12th

50% OFF All Azaleas!

1 Gallon
Reg. \$10 Now \$5

3 Gallon
Reg. \$29.99 Now \$15

ON SALE FOR 2 DAYS ONLY!

280 Elm Street, East Longmeadow, MA • (413) 525-6137 • www.GrazianoGardens.com

Hours: Monday-Saturday 9-7, Sunday 9-5