

HasBeen Collectible Toys & Comics hosts Holiday Toy Drive



Mike Bolduc, owner and runner of Lunch Money Comics YouTube channel, poses with just some of the early donations.

By Hannah Yeasley
Correspondent

WILBRAHAM - The first annual Holiday Toy Drive at HasBeen Collectible Toys & Comics in Wilbraham kicked off at Noon on Sunday, Dec. 8, with owner Rik Alvarez partnering with Lunch Money Comics owner Mike Bolduc to host the event.

The drive, which lasted from Noon to 4 p.m., aimed to collect unopened toys to donate to local children in need as well as raise money for the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

Rik Alvarez, long-time Wilbraham local, just opened HasBeen in March and jumped at the opportunity to host a community-oriented event this holiday season.

"I love my town," Alvarez said. "So, the fact that these gifts are mainly going to local families is so special."

The donated items are picked up by the police department, sent out to families in the area, and then the remaining items are sent to a church in Ware to be more largely distributed.

Along with bringing their own items, donors had the opportunity to buy toys from HasBeen and donate them. One item brought got an attendee one raffle ticket, while anything bought on site and donated could earn as many as 15 raffle tickets.

Raffle winners could choose from a plethora of comics and memorabilia provided by Lunch Money Comics [LMC], including t-shirts donated by a local shirt maker with their logo on them.

LMC is a local comics YouTube channel that has been running for years and has 16.5K subscribers.

Owner Mike Bolduc has been a close friend of Alvarez's and decided to partner on this year's event.

"We both love comics, and we both wanted to help other people out, especially local children," Bolduc said. "So, the decision to throw an event like this was incredibly easy."

Not only was it a Toy Drive, but Bolduc wanted to extend be-



Aaron Archer, long time toy designer and the day's special guest, sits behind his table. Stickers, paintings, and character cards were just some of the items available for purchase.



From the left, Casey Alvarez, Maddie Alvarez and Allana Alvarez pose, dressed as Santa's Helpers, behind the food and drink station, offering fresh coffee or hot cocoa to shoppers and donators alike.

yond that and send money to charity.

"Any additional monetary donations from today are going to the Muscular Dystrophy Association," Bolduc said. "So, it's nice to be able to kind of do two things at once today."

In preparation for this event, Bolduc released a video on his YouTube channel as a promotion for it. It was viewed almost 7,000 times, even if not everyone was local.

One viewer did attend, making the drive from Londonderry, New Hampshire.

"Me and my dad watch every video that he makes," Michael Hegarty said. "We saw the video for this event, and figured it would be cool to check out. It was definitely worth the drive."

While attendees shopped, chatted and drank hot cocoa, they could also visit with special guest Aaron Archer.

Archer worked as a toy de-

signer and character creator at Hasbro, designing characters and toys for brands like G.I. Joe, Batman, Jurassic Park and Transformers.

"At Hasbro I would do a thorough build of a character," Archer said. "Imagining what it looked like, if it had any powers or weapons, drawing it and even adjusting prototypes to figure out how it would actually function as a toy."

While Archer worked on many different brands over the years, his favorites are Batman and Transformers, even working as a creative partner for all things Transformers: films, toys, video games, rides and animations.

Original Archer art and commissions were available at his table during Sunday's event.

Alvarez also worked at Hasbro toys for many years as a Toy Designer and Creative Manager, never losing his love for all things Transformers.

"I'm going for the Guinness



Two young local comic book creators, Sam (left) and Jack (right) stand behind the raffle prize table, showing off the Lunch Money Comics T-shirts, which were also prizes or available to buy.



From left to right: A Christmas Polar Bear, Santa, and an Elf all visiting from the North Pole wave to drivers outside the store.

World Record of most Transformers items owned," Alvarez said.

The current record is 10,568 items, but Alvarez has at least one thing that the current record holder is missing: a large, original Optimus Prime statue.

Local artist and metalworker Lars Johnson was commissioned to create a statue of Optimus Prime that could be a permanent fixture outside of HasBeen.

Johnson made the statue out of flat sheet metal and other various parts that were found, bought or collected from scrap yards. The Prime statue can be seen right outside HasBeen's front door, holding their flag and currently festively decorated with a Santa hat.

The HasBeen and LMC team are looking forward to making this holiday toy drive an annual event.

In the meantime, one can turn to the famous words of Optimus Prime:

"Autobots, transform and roll out!"

PUBLIC NOTICES

TOWN OF HAMPDEN CONSERVATION COMMISSION NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

In accordance with the provisions of the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act, (MGL CH 131, S 40), it's implementing regulations (310 CMP 10.00) and the Town of Hampden's Wetlands Protection Bylaws, the Hampden Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, December 18, 2024 at 6 PM at the Town House, 625 Main Street, Hampden, for a Notice of Intent, (NOI), submitted by the Town of Hampden for Bridge Repairs: South Road over Ballard Brook (H-04-007). Additional information relating to this request is on file in the Conservation Commission office and available for review by the public by contacting the Commission. Anyone interested in or wishing to be heard on the request may appear at the time and place designated.

Hampden Conservation Commission

12/20/2024

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. HD24P2350EA
Estate of:
Matthew Phillip Metzler
Date of Death: 02/22/2024
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:
A Petition for Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by John E Pearson of Greenfield, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: John E Pearson of Greenfield, MA 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 12/31/2024. 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. Barbara M Hyland, First Justice of this Court.

Date: December 03, 2024
Rosemary A Saccomani,
Register of Probate
12/13/2024

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. HD24P2498EA
Estate of:
Jacqueline Steele
Also known as:
Jacqueline Kittridge
Date of Death: 01/22/2024
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL

ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:
A Petition for Formal Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by William A Steele of Wilbraham, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: William A Steele of Wilbraham, MA 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 01/03/2024. 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. Barbara M Hyland, First Justice of this Court.

Date: December 02, 2024
Rosemary A Saccomani,
Register of Probate
12/12/2024