

TOWN Reminder

FREE
March 1, 2024
Vol. 54, No. 44

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Serving the town of South Hadley

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Neighbors Helping Neighbors

*where people
care about people*

By Dalton Zbierski
Editor
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SOUTH HADLEY – Since its inception on Jan. 22, 2011, the Neighbors Helping Neighbors nonprofit food pantry on Carew Street has represented the best that South Hadley has to offer.

Each week, pantry volunteers pick up approximately 3,000 pounds of food from the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts in Chicopee to distribute meals to residents in need. Neighbors Helping Neighbors Executive Director Mary Lou Guarnera explained the mindset that has made the operation successful for well over a decade.

“Here, the volunteers, we’re all like family, but we also feel that way about the customers. They’re family too. We love each other and we love our people, and many of the customers feel that way about us too,” Guarnera said.

Regardless of the day or circumstances, Guarnera can often be heard saying that a healthy mind requires a healthy body, and a healthy body requires an adequate amount of food. It is the mission of the pantry to ensure that the residents of South Hadley and Granby are fed.

Last year, the pantry had approximately 19,000 visits, giving out 248,000 pounds of food that cost \$85,306, reported John Hine, president of the pantry’s board, to the Selectboard on Feb.



Turley photos by Dalton Zbierski

Neighbors Helping Neighbors Executive Director Mary Lou Guarnera has been affiliated with the pantry since before it opened in early 2011.

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Changes for trash system

By Tina Lesniak
Correspondent

SOUTH HADLEY - In July, the town will see significant changes to its trash system, most likely including moving away from the green bag program and using an automated cart system and fee increases.

“We’re looking at what is in the best interest of the residents and the town,” said Director of Public Works John Broderick. “There is a lot of number crunching to get the best deal.”

At the Feb. 20 Tri-Board meeting, Broderick explained that the town’s current trash collection provider, Republic Services, does not want to extend its current contract. The company is looking for a new contract that would require trash and recycling carts for automated trash collection, still on a biweekly basis, and would include single-stream recycling where paper products are mixed with plastic and metal items.

Broderick and Town Administrator Lisa Wong noted that there are grants from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection available for the purchasing of the carts, but they are not available for all sizes of carts.

Wong also noted that the new system, which is what most trash vendors provide, has significant issues in terms of equity for residents and environmental impacts. She explained that buying the largest containers would likely be required, but that is a waste for smaller households. In addition, the mixing of all recyclables sometimes means contamination and not being able to recycle the

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Meet the Candidates forum connects town to government

By Nick Boonstra
Staff Writer
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SOUTH HADLEY — Know Your Town held its annual Meet the Candidates forum at the South Hadley Public Library on Thursday, Feb. 22, an event that offered community members an opportunity to engage with and voice their feelings about their local government.

Town residents and elected officials gathered in the Community Room of the library to meet candidates for townwide as well as district seats that will be on the ballot in the town’s elections on March 5. Most of the candidates present were running in uncompetitive

elections, though the townwide Trustee Free Public Library race will have four candidates for three seats.

Among the candidates for townwide office present at the forum were John Hine, running for Town Moderator; Jeffrey Cyr and Carol Constant, running for Selectboard; Ronald Coutu, running for Municipal Light Board; Evelyn Masson, running for Board of Assessors; Mitchell Resnick, Lannette Sweeney and Neil Broome, running for Trustee Free Public Library; and Robert Watchilla, running for Planning Board.

District-specific candidates present included Hine, also run-

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Turley photo by Nick Boonstra

Candidates for South Hadley’s upcoming election met with the public on Feb. 22.

► South Hadley

Access, affordable housing embroil Planning Board

By Nick Boonstra
Staff Writer
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SOUTH HADLEY — Members of the community have been taking opportunities in the last week to voice their discontent that Planning Board meetings are only available virtually, with two such residents sharing their thoughts at the board's regular meeting on Monday, Feb. 26.

Hybrid meeting option

Several questions regarding the potential for a hybrid option were raised at the Meet the Candidates forum put on by Know Your Town at the library on Thursday, Feb. 22, many of them directed at Robert Watchilla, who is running for a seat on the board.

Ann Stockton and Martha Terry, both of whom were involved in the organization of the candidates forum, spoke during the public comment portion of the Planning Board's Monday meeting to pass along these concerns.

"I understand that we have tight meeting spaces in town, I know they're trying to work on maybe adjusting things with the senior center," Stockton said. "I know there was discussion about this at a previous meeting."

But she posed the question, "Will the Planning Board address the idea of going to a hybrid meeting?"

brid meeting?"

Terry echoed the same sentiment, saying, "There seems to be a groundswell of people that would like to see the Planning Board meetings become a hybrid format."

Planning Board Chair Diane Mulvaney confirmed that this was an issue that the board wanted to discuss but said that it was not one they were fully prepared to respond to immediately.

Affordable housing

Aside from these comments from the public, a significant portion of the board's Feb. 26 meeting was devoted to furthering the discussion around changes to the town's Flexible Development bylaw, which has also been a topic for consideration at previous meetings.

The intent of the bylaw is to provide a mechanism to encourage developers to preserve open space in the town by allowing for denser residential developments than might have otherwise been allowed in the underlying zoning district, partially through the granting of "density bonuses."

One such density bonus is offered to developments that "provide that at least 25% of the dwelling units are permanently affordable for persons with an income of no more than 80% of the median family income for the area," according to the text of the bylaw.

Planning Director Anne Capra explained that the goal of any changes to the bylaw would be to simplify its application process, which has been sparsely used over the course of its existence. One method that was discussed for achieving this goal was to allow for approval by site plan review of certain developments under the bylaw, as opposed to requiring a more cumbersome special permitting process.

The board's discussions eventually came to revolve around affordable housing in town. Board Clerk Joanna Brown cast her views on the matter into stark relief for her fellow board members.

"Let me be forthright about this; I don't see us as a Planning Board having much stomach for really dealing head-on with how we're going to get affordable housing in South Hadley," she said.

Brown went on to say, "If we are simply interested in expanding ways for developers to come in, build market-rate housing, to give them maximum profitability, it's not going to move us closer to our goal of having affordable housing at 10%."

Referring to the simpler site plan review process, Brown continued, "I'm not interested in finding ways to give developers quicker ways to make more money. That's not the important

thing we should be doing, in my mind."

Board Vice Chair Nate Therien acknowledged the complicated nature of the issue of affordable housing but pushed back on the notion that the Flexible Development bylaw, and the proposed changes to it, were in opposition to the town's affordable housing goals.

"There are ways to combine development enterprise and the search for an income on property with public interest that takes the form of money, like higher taxes for example, or government grants," Therien said. "We need to think about zoning that might attract the kind of housing that would be more affordable, and also answer other needs, say for more housing options."

Therien also elevated points made by board member Brad Hutchison earlier in the meeting, saying in reference to the bylaw's density bonuses that a "larger number of units in a project is attractive for developers."

Therien summarized his thoughts by saying, "If we can bring together that motivation, that incentivizing, with the tradeoff that we're also getting more open space, I think that's a good thing."

Planning Director Capra also spoke to the capacity of the Flexible Development bylaw to encourage sensible affordable housing in town.

"There are two developers right now talking to me about wanting to be able to build small green homes in a denser configuration and conserve open space," Capra said.

However, she explained that they were unable to do so under the town's current bylaws, including the Flexible Development bylaw as in its current configuration.

The Planning Board declined to vote for or against any amendments to the Flexible Development bylaw on the night, opting instead to allow for more time to review and revise the proposed changes and to revisit the bylaw at the board's next regular meeting on March 11.

Before that meeting, the Planning Board will be holding a special meeting on March 4 to have a public hearing regarding a proposed zoning bylaw amendment that would allow for multifamily residences within the town's Business A-1 Zoning District.

The meeting will be held virtually, with access available via Zoom. The board's informational posting on the hearing can be found online at https://www.southhadley.org/AgendaCenter/ViewFile/Agenda/_03042024-5361.

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materials appropriately.

The town had previously extended its contract with Republic Services for the fiscal year 2024. However, many residents, at meetings and on social media, have lamented the use of the green bags, which they describe as wasteful and flimsy, and unreliable service from Republic Services with trucks not coming when they're scheduled.

The current proposal from Republic Services includes a 6.75% increase each year of the contract. It would also mean that the town must purchase independently or go through a rent-to-own process with the vendor to obtain the approximately 13,200 carts necessary for the town's households. In a memo to the selectboard, Wong noted that there are also product availability and supply chain issues with purchasing the carts.

Wong explained that the town is leaning toward going out to bid on the trash system to see what other vendors may offer. However,

er, Broderick noted that the town is really "at the mercy of the vendor."

Regardless of the route the town takes, the green bag program will likely be eliminated or only used for overflow trash.

"With this loss of bag revenue, it will require an increase in the flat rate trash fee. It will also require the need to change the fee for disposing household trash bags at the recycle center, to cover hauling and disposal costs associated with this convenience option," explained Wong in the memo to the selectboard. "The increase in fee will be relatively close, for most residents, to a trash fee increase (which would have occurred regardless) and the cost of green bags to dispose in the past, compared to an increase in the trash fee and the cost associated with the ability to use your own choice of trash bags."

The town will hold a public hearing about the topic in March or April. Wong plans to have more specific options to present at the time.



Photo of Wofa Drum and Dance Company

PVPA's African Drum and Dance Company Wofa presents: 'Sona the Orphan'

SOUTH HADLEY – The Pioneer Valley Performing Arts Charter Public School West African Drum and Dance Company, Wofa, is pleased to present their spring showcase: Sona the Orphan. The show will run on March 8 and 9, with performances beginning at 7 p.m. in the main stage theater at 15 Mulligan Drive, South Hadley. Tickets are as follows: \$10 general admission; \$7 military and seniors; \$5 PVPA alumni and \$3 students. Tickets are available at the door, or online at www.pvpa.org. This performance is part of PVPA's spring production calendar, available at www.pvpa.org.

PVPA dance teacher Kabisko Kaba (Bisko) founded Wofa in 2009, to give PVPA students the opportunity to explore the rich culture and heritage of Guinea, West Africa. Wofa is a Sossou word which means Let's Get Together, which express-

es PVPA's vision of reaching out into the community to share culture and the arts. The show "Sona the Orphan" is inspired by a West African tale of an orphaned girl raised by her stepmother after her own mother dies in child birth. In the tale, Sona is kind and good but poorly treated by her stepmother. In this adaptation, the stepmother is replaced by a grandfather. As the community comes together to support Sona, her grandfather has a change of heart and learns to love Sona for herself.

PVPA Charter Public School is a regional public charter school serving 400 students in grades 7-12, from over 50 towns throughout Western Massachusetts. PVPA's mission is to offer students an intensive exposure to the performing arts within the context of an excellent college preparatory curriculum.

HELP WANTED Water Systems Operator Person (Water Distribution)

The Board of Water Commissioners – Fire District No.1, South Hadley is seeking a qualified individual for an entry-level position as laborer. The position involves semi-skilled manual labor and use of various tools and equipment for installing, maintaining and repairing water systems for South Hadley Water Fire District No.1. Requirements for the position include High School Diploma / G.E.D., Massachusetts Class B CDL Drivers license, Valid D.O.T. medical card, Massachusetts Class 2B Hoisting Engineer License. On-call availability and relevant job experience desirable. Applicants will be required to obtain the required Distribution and Treatment Licenses. Pre-hire drug testing required. Starting pay is competitive with an excellent benefit package. Applications can be filled out at the Water Department office located at 438 Granby Road, South Hadley, MA, Monday thru Friday 8:30 AM – 3:00 PM. Applications can also be requested on-line by emailing shwd1water@gmail.com Application deadline is March 28, 2024

Equal Opportunity Employer



Photo Courtesy of South Hadley Public Library

South Hadley Public Library, Gaylord Memorial Library, Granby Free Public Library and other local libraries will be introducing a new library catalog on Monday, March 4.

New library catalog debuts March 4

SOUTH HADLEY - Local public libraries in South Hadley, Granby, and surrounding towns will be introducing a new online catalog on Monday, March 4. As part of an upgrade to the CW-MARS network, the new catalog will include new features and functionality that make for a smoother and better integrated search of library materials. For the first time, the library's collection of print and digital materials will be searchable from one streamlined search.

The new catalog will provide an improved user experience. When searching for a title the results will be grouped, allowing straightforward access to every

available format of the title in one place, including e-formats. The new interface will also provide spelling suggestions when searching for material. The new interface also includes accessibility improvements, including additional languages and high contrast and dark themes.

Existing library account usernames and passwords will carry over to the new catalog, as will existing holds and requests for items. Patrons having questions are encouraged to visit the library for assistance or to call South Hadley Public Library at 413-538-5045 or Granby Free Public Library at 413-467-3320.

Guided Trek at Mount Holyoke College Campus takes place March 10

SOUTH HADLEY - On Sunday, March 10 at 1 p.m., the South Hadley Bike/Walk Committee has planned a free, guided Trek at the Mount Holyoke College Campus. Wayne Gass, a regular walker on the MHC campus, and recently retired facilities director Paul Breen will accompany us on the Trek. The route will take us from the Kendall Center Complex around the Upper Lake trail, then onto the main campus to visit the Wiliston Memorial Library, with its Chihuly glass sculpture and impressive main reading room. Participants will continue down through the campus to the Community Center for a brief visit to Blanchard Hall and the new Dining Commons. From there, we will walk around the smaller Lower Lake, and return along Lower Lake Road, passing by the Talcott Greenhouse on our way back to the nearby Kendall Center.

This Trek will occur during the March 2-17 run of the annual MHC Spring Flower Show at Talcott Greenhouse, which is open to the public from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Participants may wish to allow time to visit the show before or after the Trek. For more information, visit www.mtholyoke.edu/directory/departments-offices-centers/botanic-garden.

Meet at 12:45 p.m. at the back/west end of the Kendall Center Complex parking lot, which can be reached via Dunlap Place, off Woodbridge

Street on Rt. 116. Wear weather-appropriate clothing and hiking boots or other appropriate footwear, and bring water and walking poles, if desired. Some areas may be muddy, especially around the wooded Upper Lake trail. Please be aware that campus facilities, including restrooms, are not available for public use. Participants of all ages and new Trekkers are always welcomed!

Treks are subject to change or cancellation due to weather or ground conditions. Please be sure to check the Bike/Walk page on the Town website to view a Trek map and for any cancellation notices or other information at www.southhadley.org/bikewalk. Should there be a cancellation decision, information will be posted online by 10:00 a.m. on the day of the hike.

To learn more, contact Ruth Camuse, bike/walk chair, by email at rcamuse@hotmail.com or by phone at 610.509.5932 or Andy Rogers, director, South Hadley Recreation Dept, by email at arogers@southhadleyma.gov or by phone at 413.538.5030 x6132.

Commission on Disabilities discusses making town more accessible

Feb. 21 meeting also discussed updates and new training

By Emily-Rose Pappas
Staff Writer
epappas@turley.com

SOUTH HADLEY – The Commission on Disabilities met last week to discuss updates and new training on the horizon, as well as ways to make the town a more accessible place.

The Feb. 21 meeting was led by Chair Tay Silveira, who was joined by Johnstone Campbell, Larry Dubois, Elizabeth Cooke and Saul Mazur.

Community Access Monitor training and announcements

The state's Office of Disabilities will be holding special CAM training sessions for faculty and staff throughout the year to help give those in the office necessary tools to better assist the community.

"If you take the trainings, you'll then have the skills in preliminary, entry-level qualifications to make assessments within the community," Silveira said. "It's a good training."

The board discussed other updates including welcoming the new formal ADA Coordinator Scott Moore, who is also the director of Building Operations.

The board also discussed updating the online information on the state's Office of Disability's website to aid people who look up the commission online.

The board also discussed ideas from Town Administrator Lisa Wong about improving public access to meeting spaces.

"Look at the spaces that already exist, and then try to make upgrades there," Silveira said. "Identify barriers to current meeting spaces and improve access."

Old business and updates

Johnstone Campbell announced the Unpaved Trails Initiative, which is a state mandate that state-owned trails, should be made accessible in the coming years, "expanding access to trails for people of all abilities".

"Committees like ours sent in our approval (of the initiative)," Campbell said.

"We can create a handicap system within certain trails," Larry Dubois said. "A lot of this also has to do with conservation."

The board moved to agree to Campbell's offer of drafting a letter to the Unpaved Trails Initiative to consider those who need more accessible trails and to consider the matter of land conservation laws through the process.

The board went over various goals and priorities with their updates regarding several ideas around the town.

The first was about the sidewalks around the town and how to go about clearing sidewalks of snow for elderly or disabled people who may not be able to shovel it out themselves.

They discussed the senior center information table again and rounded out the kinds of information that will be found

at the table and when it will be available.

They also discussed acquisition of evacuation chairs, what they would look like and the steps that must be completed to make that possible. Research on acquiring the chairs will be updated as needed.

The Plaza Apartments

The mixed-use development apartments are moving into the construction phase where the old Big Y used to be. Silveira brought to the board what they wanted to see included in the building.

They discussed the matter of a potential community laundry room and about making plumbing go into the units for those who would require separate machines for severe allergies or handicap reasons.

Leaping Well Nature Trail parking lot

The board reviewed the Leaping Well Nature Trail and talked about implementing an improved parking lot and including a new seating area with accessible tables for wheelchairs.

"We want to make it as accessible as possible for people to get down and utilize the area and have a nice place to sit down and breathe in the fresh air," Dubois said.

They talked about the specifics of what to make the parking lot out of and sidewalks, as well as to remain ADA compliant within the standards for size and height of benches and the materials that can be used for the parking lot.

AIC names Carey to Athletic Director's 3.0 Club

SPRINGFIELD – American International College congratulates South Hadley resident Reese Carey, majoring in Healthcare Management, for being inducted into the Athletic Director's 3.0

Club for the Fall 2023 semester.

AIC Athletics Director Jessica Chapin recognized more than 300 student-athletes who have achieved a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or better after one or more years

enrolled at AIC. The primary objective for these students is to stand as academic role models, inspiring fellow student-athletes with their achievements and dedication!

ROUTE 202/33 RE-ZONING PROJECT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS WANTED

**** Applications are due Wednesday, March 13th by 3pm ****

The Advisory Committee will consist of the following members, to be appointed by the Town Administrator:

- Business owner within the study area (1)
- Residential property owner within the corridor (1)
- Resident at large (2) - each representing Town Meeting Precincts other than the corridor (corridor spans A, C and E)
- Planning Board Member (1)

To apply, complete the application form here:

<https://www.southhadley.org/FormCenter/Selectboard-4/Application-for-Appointment-to-Board-Com-44>
In the field "Other" write in "Route 202/33 Corridor Re-Zoning Advisory Committee".

The Advisory Committee will work with the project consultant and Director of Planning and Conservation to review and comment on analyses, draft re-zoning recommendations and draft design guidelines. Committee members are expected to participate in the following meetings and public engagement activities between April 1, 2024 thru May 1, 2025:

- Attend Advisory Committee meetings (6 to 8) – virtual and in person
- Review and comment on draft materials as developed by project consultant
- Attend public workshops (two in person, one virtual)
- Attend Planning Board public hearing (up to 4)

A summary of the project and scope of work is online on the Planning Board webpage:

<https://southhadley.org/1400/Route-202-33-Corridor-Re-Zoning>

Questions: acapra@southhadleyma.gov | (413) 538-5017 x6128

Opinion



Get a head start the old-fashioned way

Just about a week ago I was presenting a Seed Starting Workshop for members at Old Sturbridge Village, and someone asked a question about how seedlings would have been pre-started in the mid-1800s.

It was a logical question considering we have heat cables, supplemental light and greenhouses at our disposal these days. We can grow any number of plants pretty much any time of the year.

How then, did innovative gardeners of old get a head start? Cold frames and hot beds, of course! These season extenders continue to be useful today.

Read on to learn how these are constructed and used successfully.

The easiest way to describe a cold frame is this: a rectangular box fitted with a window sash. It can be as simple as an old storm window on top of hay bales.

Better yet would be to construct your cold frame to capture as much passive solar energy as possible. We achieve this by angling the window sash 35 to 45 degrees to catch the sun.

The window sash you obtain will determine the size of the frame. Keep in mind that you have to be able to reach inside to work; therefore, it is recommended that you make the box no deeper than three feet.

Construct the frame using rot resistant woods like cedar or redwood. Pine is an inexpensive and readily available option, but should be painted with exterior paint prior to assembly to ensure years of use.

White paint will not only make an attractive cold frame, but one that will reflect light to the plants growing in it. The walls should be at least an inch thick, preferably two inches, to further insulate the plants growing inside.

Locate your cold frame in full sun, facing south or southeast. The soil under the cold frame is a "mini plot" that should be enriched as I would any other part of the garden by incorporating an inch or two of compost and a sprinkling of lime and balanced organic fertilizer into the soil prior to use.

The window sash will likely stay shut on overcast days. On sunny days, however, be sure to prop open the window to ventilate the space – it can get quite hot inside and young seedlings could easily be harmed.

The sash can be opened completely (or removed altogether) on very warm days. Don't forget to provide water within the frame – if it is covered it is exempt from the rain.

The cold frame is a great place to start spring greens. There are other uses as well.

Some plants prefer to germinate at cool temperatures and simply won't grow well inside the house, even off the heat cables. Try growing flats of cole crops like kale, broccoli, cabbage and cauliflower right in the cold frame – they'll be the sturdiest plants you ever grew!

Likewise, start small pots of sweet peas, pansies, forget-me-nots and bachelor's buttons inside of it; they germinate better in cool soil. Many native perennials need to chill for a month before they are able to germinate- "stratify" these seeds in the cold frame and then move them to the border once they are off and growing.

You can also harden off plants that were started indoors inside the cold frame.

What about getting a head start with heat-loving vegetables, such as tomatoes or peppers? Or even herbs like basil or flowers such as celosia, marigold or amaranths? Here is where the hot bed comes in.

If you have access to free, fresh manure, you are all set. The general idea is to build a mound about two feet tall of manure and bedding materials not older than six weeks and top it with

Please see **GARDEN**, page 6

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Support Pauline McClaffin for Water Commissioner

Dear District 1 Voters,

I am asking you to support Pauline McClaffin for Water Commissioner in Fire District No.1 on March 5. Pauline has been attending all the Water Commission meetings for the past year in order to educate and understand the role prior to running for this position. Water is our most precious resource and having a board member that understands that importance is crucial to addressing all

the aspects of a Municipal Water Department from a water quality, capital and operational perspective at the lowest possible cost. Pauline embraces this understanding for this important elected 3-year seat. Thank you in advance for your support.

Michael J. Wozniak,
South Hadley
Former Prudential
Committee Chairman

Elect Bob Authier for Water District #1 Commissioner

Letter to the Editor,

Please elect Bob Authier for Water District #1 Commissioner: A proven leader with 32 years of community service.

As our community prepares to elect its next leaders for the local water department, it is imperative to choose someone with a proven track record of excellence, accountability and a deep commitment to serving the needs of our residents. Bob is that candidate, and his 13-year tenure as a dedicated fire chief within our town exemplifies unmatched experience and unwavering dedication to public service.

Throughout his tenure as fire chief, he has demonstrated exceptional leadership skills, fostering a culture of teamwork, innovation and empathy towards taxpayers. His ability to communicate effectively with both colleagues and community members has been instrumental in building trust and maintaining transparency-a quality crucial for any public servant.

With a clear vision for the future, he is poised to lead the water department towards improved services and enhanced fiscal accountability. His passion for our district, coupled with a deep understanding of its unique needs, will drive initiatives aimed at ensuring access to clean, safe water to the

ever-expanding residents of the district all while being mindful of budget constraints.

Moreover, Bob delivers a wealth of experience in crisis management, a skill set particularly relevant in these challenging times. His proven ability to remain calm under pressure, make sound decisions and prioritize the well-being of our community has been consistently demonstrated throughout his career.

Furthermore, Bob is committed to fostering an environment of continuous improvement within the water department, implementing innovative solutions to address emerging challenges and enhance overall efficiency of a what is already a well-run department.

In conclusion, Bob Authier is the ideal candidate to lead our local water department. He has a proven track record of leadership, a commitment to excellence and a passion for serving our community. They embody the qualities necessary to drive positive change and ensure a brighter future for all residents. On election day, let's vote for experience, integrity and vision; let's vote for Bob Authier.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tammy J. O'Neill,
South Hadley

Virtual meeting on zoning bylaw change

To the Editor,

Citizens of South Hadley: On March 4 at 6:30 p.m., the Planning Board will hold a virtual public hearing to consider a change to South Hadley Zoning Bylaw (Chapter 255) to allow multifamily residences within the Business A-1 Zoning District. The applicant is the owner of the Liquor Town property, at 506 Granby Road., currently zoned as Business A-1, which does not permit multifamily residences. The applicant cannot seek a zone change solely for his property as this would constitute spot zoning which is illegal.

So, the applicant seeks to amend the zoning for all Business A-1 properties in town, which number almost 90. This is a major change to the town's Zoning Bylaw and requires much more time, research, vetting, and public outreach and input.

The proposed change appears not to benefit the entire town, but to benefit only the applicant.

The town has been very active in studying Granby Road. The Route 202/33 Corridor Study, a multiyear project, is now complete. This study recommends several new zones along this major thoroughfare:

Gateway District
Low-Density, Mixed-Use District
Open Space/Recreational District

The applicant's property falls within the recommended Gateway District.

An RFP has been issued to hire a consultant to create the detailed language and specifications for each of these three zones.

Moreover, the Route 33/Corridor Study and the newly endorsed Housing Production

Plan both emphasize the crucial need for Affordable Housing in South Hadley. The new recommended zones along Routes 202/33 could, via the work of the to-be-hired consultant, have a requirement for new projects to include a certain % of Affordable units.

Affordable Housing has been identified as a top priority for the town.

However, the applicant's proposed change to the Town's Zoning Bylaw makes no provision whatsoever for Affordable Housing.

The applicant wants his proposal change passed at the May 2024 Town Meeting. This is premature for the reasons identified above.

Let the carefully organized process that began with the 202/33 Corridor Study, continued with the Housing Production Plan, be carried on further with the soon to-be-hired consultant and brought to fruition.

We do not need to rush to amend the Town's Zoning Bylaw to benefit this applicant.

Again, the public hearing for this proposed change is on March 4, at 6:30 p.m., virtually.

The public hearing will be conducted virtually on Zoom. Persons may join as follows: URL to join: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85653125096?pwd=bWF5eWHRNn-hUOFprMkJKYXFXVUxiUT09>.

Or join by phone: +1-646-558 - 8656 Webinar ID: 856 5312 5096 Passcode: 625291

**Martha Terry, Ann Stockton
and Marc Desrosiers**
South Hadley

OPINION PAGE/ LETTERS POLICY

Letters to the Editor have a maximum of 350 words. We require writers to include their name, address and phone number in order for our office to authenticate authorship prior to publication. Addresses and phone numbers are not published.

Unsigned or anonymous letters will NOT be published.

We reserve the right to edit or withhold any submissions. Libelous, unsubstantiated allegations, personal attacks or defamation of character are not allowed. Deadline for submissions is Wednesday at noon.

Please email (preferred) letters to townreminder@turley.com. Mailed letters can be sent to Town Reminder, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069.

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The *Town Reminder* is published every Friday by Turley Publications, Inc., 24 Water St., Palmer, Mass. 01069. Telephone (413) 283-8393, Fax (413) 289-1977.

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South Hadley Senior Center – March highlights

SOUTH HADLEY – The following programs will occur in March at the South Hadley Senior Center, located at 45 Dayton St.

Meet the Artist Reception - March 4 at 2:30 p.m.

Come meet Norman Halpern, a retired physician and a member of the Photographic Society of America. His photos will be on display for the month of March.

Mass EDP Table Talk - March 5 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Come meet Marguerite Szczawinski, Field Service Assist and ask any questions about what services the Massachusetts Equipment Distribution Program has for you.

Holistic Health and Wellness Series – Sound Meditation – March 5 at 5 p.m.

Join Jeffrey Wyda for this hour-long program to find inner harmony and balance with gongs, singing bowls, vocal and percussion instruments.

Diamond Art Spring Bird Coasters. – March 5-26, Tuesdays at 12:30 p.m.

The cost to participate in this four-week series is \$10.

Social and Board Games with the MacDuffie Students – March 6 at 2 p.m.

Tech Help series with Sandy Cahillane – March 7 at 1 p.m.

Download any good books lately? Sandy will show you how.

LGBTQ+ Movie Showcase – March 13 at 1 p.m.

Come and watch “Carol”. Enjoy free refreshments.

Town Administrator – March 8 at 11 a.m.

Lisa Wong, town administrator, will be here to update us about changes at the senior center.

Friends Membership Event – March 11 – 13

Friends of the South Hadley Seniors will be here for their annual Membership

Event. Look for their table and giveaways. *St. Patrick’s Day event - March 12 at 5:30 p.m.*

FREE event. Come meet the St. Patrick’s Day Parade Grand Colleen, her Court and Miss Congeniality. Refreshments will be served.

Healthy Bone and Balance – March 11 at 10 a.m.

In-person registration.

The Heroes Journey presentation with Jan Lucier – March 14 at 2:13 p.m.

Welcome Spring! – March 19 at 8:30 a.m.

Breakfast prepared by the Chefs at Loomis.

Talking History with Leo – March 19 at 3:30 p.m.

Leon Lebonite will hold a discussion about the history of South Hadley – join him for a cup of coffee and some surprising details.

Cosmic Inflation in the Early Universe

with Gay Felder – March 19 at 5 p.m.

Join us for this informational presentation.

Luncheon Outing to the Tiger’s Den

Event is at South Hadley High School. There is limit of 24 people. Tickets cost \$12.99.

Monthly Social Dance Club with Ritchie Mitnik. March 20 from 2 – 4 p.m.

Cost \$4

South Hadley Commission on Disabilities – March 21 from 9 a.m. to Noon

The commission will have a table set up and will answer your questions.

Cornhole Rematch! –March 22 beginning at 9 p.m.

The South Hadley Fire Districts 1 & 2 take on the Cornhole team at the senior center.

Westmass Elder Care presentation – March 22 at 11 a.m.

Katie Defore-Raymond will give a presentation on Heath Health.

NEIGHBORS from page 4

20. That evening, the Selectboard provided the pantry with \$10,000.

“Having that extra \$10,000 from the town is wonderful because we just got a \$600 dairy order from All Star, so \$10,000 goes pretty quick when you’re buying groceries,” Guarnera said. “We’ve had some amazing support from the community. They are so wonderful. They really care about people. They care about their neighbors.”

Through its partnership with the Food Bank, the pantry can produce three meals for every dollar donated. Community donations are key to the pantry’s existence.

Recently, a new resident to South Hadley retired from his company, which offered to donate to a charity or nonprofit of his choice. The man chose to donate about \$5,800 to the pantry, an act that Guarnera considered an incredible blessing and gesture.

“It’s important because it goes so far,” Guarnera said. “Produce and dairy are big (items at the pantry), but we also go beyond your green beans and your tuna fish. So, we have a wider variety of fruits and vegetables, and we have a pretty good range of tomato products. We want people not to be so bored that they don’t come.”

In fact, the pantry carries several shapes of pasta, tomato paste, stew tomatoes, crushed tomatoes, diced tomatoes, tomato sauce, pasta sauce and a range of other items.

“I guess most expensive thing other than the fresh things would be the protein. We buy beef stew and canned corned beef and chicken; all the things that come in cans and boxes,” Guarnera said.

Guarnera stressed the difference between an expiration date and a “best by” date. Beyond dairy items and baby food, most products have “best by” or “use by” dates.

“That means the company guarantees the complete perfection of their product by that date, but only the visuals go down



Turley photos by Dalton Zbierski

The Neighbors Helping Neighbors food pantry boasts several different types of tomatoes.

after that, if at all. Most (food items) last well beyond the ‘best by’ date, so with the help of the USDA, the FDA and the Food Bank, we have extended the dates,” she said.

Guarnera acknowledged that many people are very sensitive and feel the “use by” date is an expiration date, but she noted it really isn’t.

“If it were, it would say ‘expiration.’ Americans throw out billions of pounds of food every year simply because of the date, and it’s perfectly good food,” Guarnera said.

Guarnera said it is a shame that a stigma exists in South Hadley and Granby that leaves residents worried about what it looks like to use the pantry’s services. She said it is critical not to let pride get in the way; the pantry is an inviting place, and it is a resource that exists to be used.

“That’s an important barrier to break down because there is no reason for people to be going without food,” Guarnera



Dairy products are among the most popular items at the Neighbors Helping Neighbors food pantry in South Hadley.

said, especially pointing to parents of school-aged children. “When kids go to school and they haven’t had dinner the night before or breakfast in the morning, all the body can do at that point is just survive. It doesn’t have the energy to take in the information.”

Guarnera said that the Granby-to-Go program has proven that to be true, as by sending food home with children, the district has discovered that grades, attendance and behavior have all improved.

Guarnera credits the pantry’s many volunteers for the hard work they accomplish throughout the week, which includes deliveries to homebound residents and organizing a drive through service where one can stay in their car and order groceries from a menu.

She said it’s hard not to be positive when working at the pantry, considering the impact that the food has on residents.

Crediting the Food Bank, Guarnera said that the operation’s move from Hadley to nearby Chicopee late last year has made a major difference.

“It’s really wonderful because being so much closer makes me feel that we can go as often as we need to, and we have. Sometimes, we go twice a week,” she said. “They’re great people over there, and they also really and truly care.”

When asked what it will take to ensure there is no expiration date on Neighbors Helping Neighbors, Guarnera repeated that community donations are essential.

Meanwhile, Guarnera has been affiliated with the pantry since before it opened, and she isn’t going anywhere any time soon.

“I’ve had a lot of jobs in my life. This is the only one I’ve never woke up to and said, ‘Oh man, I’ve got to go to work,’ because it’s really a joy,” she said. “Everybody here, their heart is in it. It means something when you know that you’re really and truly helping people and know they’re going to benefit.”

Neighbors Helping Neighbors is open on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to Noon and on Wednesday from 12:30 – 6 p.m.

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Events and announcements

SOUTH HADLEY – The following announcements pertain to events that will be occurring in and around South Hadley.

Plains School Kindergarten packet pickup for South Hadley residents

SOUTH HADLEY – Plains School will be having Kindergarten and Grade One students new to South Hadley pick up packets from March 1 – 29.

Please stop by the school between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. to pick up your packet. Any questions please call the main office at 538-5068.

Lenten Lunches return to All Saints Church

SOUTH HADLEY – Celebrating its 54th year of serving lunches, All Saints Church Lenten Lunches will again be available this year from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the church parking area behind the church off Rt. 116 and Dunlop Place. First Come! First Served! Make your advanced reservations for lunch by emailing the chairperson, Laura Marsh, at l.marsh1250@yahoo.com

Lunches are conveniently offered “grab and go,” and will be ready for pickup on two more Fridays: March 8 and March 22, prepared and served by the “lunch bunch”: Laura Marsh, Marietta Campbell, Cammie Daigle, Sue Frazier, Marilyn Gass, Dee Martin, Marilyn O’Connor, Mary Alice Osgood, Michele Pietras, Carol Reynolds, Annie Spinks and Emily Young.

This year the menu will include two choices: a complete lunch of the famous All Saints’ lobster rolls, a cup of vegetable soup or clam chowder, chips and a dessert brownie. The smaller lunch includes a cup of soup or chowder and a dessert brownie.

Lunch sales will benefit the All Saints’ local mission ministry. Also for sale, plan to pick up the All Saints’ Cookbook filled with “tried and true” recipes by parishioners and friends. A great gift for a kitchen shower or a housewarming!

CANDIDATES from page 1

ning for District 1 Moderator; Pauline McClaffin, running for District 1 Water Commissioner; Mitchel Malinowski, running for District 1 Prudential Committee; and Carlene Hamlin, running for District 2 Moderator.

Members of the public had the opportunity to ask questions of the candidates, and a number of these questions were directed at Watchilla, a first-time candidate in town running unopposed to fill the Planning Board seat being vacated by Mike Davis.

Watchilla fielded questions on topics ranging from conservation to housing to the potential for the Planning Board to pivot from fully virtual to hybrid-access meetings. The young candidate took time to point out that he was not on the board yet but assured residents that he would do his best to consider and address all of these issues if elected as a board member.

The two Selectboard candidates, both running for re-election, also received a number of questions on subjects including the potential upcoming changes to trash pickup in town, as well as how the town government can work to increase engagement among residents.

Selectboard candidate Jeffrey Cyr responded to that latter question by emphasizing the importance of education as well as maintaining a working and up-to-date website and highlighted the work of South Hadley Community Television, which broadcast the event live. Carol Constant, also running for the Selectboard, responded to the question, saying in part, “It’s disappointing that there are so few contested elections here.”

Among the district-specific candidates, Mitchel Malinowski made clear that he felt a lot of work was needed to improve the District 1 Prudential Board, and he voiced his support for the non-binding ballot question proposing the merger of Fire/Water District 2 into Fire District 1.

“I know very little about the fire department, but I know that they put out fires,” Malinowski told attendees, a sentiment he reiterated multiple times throughout the night.

In-person early voting at the Town Clerk’s Office closes on March 1. In-person Election Day voting will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, March 5. All precincts vote at South Hadley High School, located at 153 Newton St.



John Hine, a candidate for town moderator.



Jeff Cyr, a candidate for the South Hadley Selectboard.



Evelyn Masson, a candidate for the Board of Assessors.



Carlene Hamlin moderated Know Your Town's Candidates Night.



Carol Constant, a candidate for South Hadley's Selectboard.



Mitchel Malinowski, a candidate for the District 1 Prudential Board, listens to an audience member.



Lanette Sweeney, in red, speaks during Candidates Night on Feb. 22.

GARDEN from page 4

soil you will be growing your seedling in, then top that with one of the frame set-ups described above.

The heat generated from the manure will warm the soil and the surrounding air. Seeds should germinate easily and readily.

It’s important not to set up your hot bed too early – mid April to early May is perfect because you will still need to be past the frost free date before planting the seedlings you’ve grown into the garden. Hot beds take a little trial and error, but are worth the experiment.

When we used them

our fancy greenhouse!

It was fun to think about getting a head start. Soon enough, soon enough!

Over the last decade, tremendous gains have been made in rose breeding, resulting in rose bushes that blend well into landscape plantings and require less maintenance for the homeowner. I still enjoy my heirlooms, and grow the Rugosa to remind me of the beach.

Still others prefer climbers or hybrid teas. Whatever your sweetheart may fancy, indulge this Valentine’s Day in a gift that will keep on giving!

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 31 years she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to pouimette@turley.com with “Gardening Question” in the subject line.

at OSV, the seedlings grown within were always greener and sturdier than those I provided from

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USDA INSP. FRESH PORK RIBS COUNTRY STYLE..... \$2.22 lb	USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF SHOULDER ROAST or LONDON BROIL \$4.44 lb	Lenten Specials	
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SLICED IN OUR DELI TURKEY BREAST \$3.99 lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN BEEF OXTAILS \$9.99 lb		
USDA INSP. FROZEN CHICKEN FEET \$3.49 lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN GOAT MEAT \$6.99 lb		
USDA INSP. GROUND FRESH DAILY 80% LEAN GROUND BEEF 7-LB BAG \$3.66 lb			

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South Hadley girls basketball celebrates with their classmates after winning the Western Mass. Class B title.

Tigers take Class B title

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

By Gregory A. Scibelli gscibelli@turley.com

HOLYOKE – Last Saturday afternoon, South Hadley girls basketball went for a sectional title for the first time since the tournament formats change. The Tigers, perennial playoff contenders, defeated

Pittsfield 48-40 to take the Class B title at Holyoke Community College.

Scoring was sparse in the first half as defense was the name of the game.

Coach Paul Dubuc said South Hadley was going to stick to its regular game plan since it won the Tigers 15 games during the regular season and two playoff games.

It would work out as South Hadley closed a small gap and tied the score in the fourth quarter. Tied 34-34, the Tigers would eventually go ahead in the final few minutes, taking advantage of a few poor shots by Pittsfield as well as some key turnovers

that would lead to more points in transition for the Tigers.

South Hadley got 18 points from Drew Alley. Several of those points came in the final frame, in which South Hadley outscored Pittsfield 20-6. Cara Dean had 10 points, including a key transition basket that gave South Hadley the lead for the final time.

The Tigers would move into the state tournament and will be playing at home for the first three rounds of the tournament with the No. 3 seed. The Tigers' first opponent was scheduled to be Saint Bernard's on Thursday, Feb. 29.



Ava Asselin gets the free throw.



The Class B Western Mass. Champion South Hadley Tigers.



Kate Phillips shoots near the hoop.



Drew Alley gets the open layup.



Cara Dean passes away from the corner.

Granby beats Palmer for third time in WMass quarterfinals

By Tim Peterson Sports Correspondent

GRANBY—The Granby boys' basketball team won both regular season games against Palmer.

The third meeting of the 2023-24 campaign between the Bi-County West League rivals took place in the Western Mass. Class C. quarterfinals.

With the help of a 7-0 run late in the second quarter, the third-seeded Rams held a 20-14 halftime lead. The home team never trailed during the second half enroute to a 51-36 victory over the sixth-seeded Panthers at Sullivan Gymnasium on Presidents Day.

"It's never easy to beat a team three times in the same season, so this is a huge win for us," said Granby head coach Dylan Dubuc. "We prepared very well, and the players played with a lot of confidence in tonight's game."

Granby (15-5) kept their dreams of winning a sectional title alive with a



Turley photo by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

Colin Murdock dekes to his right.

Pioneers 2024 schedule released

LUDLOW – Earlier this week, the Western Mass. Pioneers have released their 2024 schedule. It includes potential participation in the U.S. Open Cup, which begins on March 19. The Pioneers have won an Open Cup match in the past. Later, the Pioneers have their "friendly" exhibition game scheduled for May 10. They will face 3rd Eye FC prior to the start of their USL-2 League schedule. Their opener for the regular season is against the Boston Bolts on the road May 14. Their home opener is scheduled for May 18 against Pathfinder FC of New York. The schedule continues through July 13 and includes a total of 14 games.

Sports

T-Birds suffer loss at Bridgeport

BRIDGEPORT, Conn. – The Springfield Thunderbirds (24-22-3-2) fell to the Bridgeport Islanders (16-28-6-1) on Sunday afternoon at Total Mortgage Arena by a final score of 5-3.

Things appeared to be starting well for the T-Birds on this day, as Sam Bitten cashed in for his first career AHL goal at the 8:19 mark of the first period when he arrived at the top of the crease and jammed a Drew Callin centering pass through Henrik Tikkanen's legs to make it 1-0 for the visitors.

Springfield increased the lead to 2-0 at 12:54 when Ryan Suzuki sent an alley-oop through the neutral zone that landed inside the Islander blue line. Jakub Vrana accelerated to beat the Bridgeport defender to the puck and then slid a backhand shot through Tikkanen to extend the lead on his ninth goal of the season.

55 seconds after the Vrana tally, though, the Islanders made their way to the scoresheet as

Tyce Thompson got a step behind the defense and lifted a perfect backhand shot over Colten Ellis to cut the lead to 2-1 heading into the first intermission.

The second period began uneventfully, but Suzuki changed matters when he powered down the right wing, protecting the puck before elevating a forehand chip shot over Tikkanen to make it a 3-1 game at 6:34 of the period.

Ellis remained busy but strong as the period entered its final three minutes en route to a career-high 49 saves. Unfortunately for the T-Birds, Bridgeport All-Star Ruslan Iskhakov snapped a goal drought dating back to Jan. 15 to singlehandedly pull the Isles even. First, the crafty centerman made his way to the edge of the crease near the right circle, beating Ellis on a second chance after the T-Bird goalie made a strong reactionary save on the first attempt. That tally cut the score to 3-2 at 17:08.

Not even two minutes later,

now with under a minute to go in the period, Iskhakov delivered the equalizer with a one-time rocket off a circle-to-circle pass from Matt Maggio, and Bridgeport headed into the dressing room with new life in the 3-3 game.

The Islanders were relentless in the final 20 minutes, managing 22 shots on the T-Birds net. Ellis and the Springfield defense held the fort as long as they could before a Sam Bolduc point wrister glanced off traffic and skipped past Ellis to give Bridgeport the lead for good at 11:34 of the third. Hudson Fasching rounded out the scoring with a power-play marker into an empty net in the closing seconds.

The T-Birds' busy stretch continues next Friday in Providence as they tangle with the Bruins at Amica Mutual Pavilion. Springfield returns home on Saturday when they host the Laval Rocket at 7:05 p.m. at the MassMutual Center.

Worcester wraps up road trip with loss to Florida

ESTERO, FL – The Worcester Railers HC (22-22-4-2, 50pts) lost to the Florida Everblades (27-15-7-2, 63pts) on Saturday night by the final score of 5-3 in front of a crowd of 7,650 at Hertz Arena. The Railers have wrapped up their six-game southern road trip and return to the DCU Center against the Trois-Rivieres Lions on Saturday, March 2nd at 7:05pm.

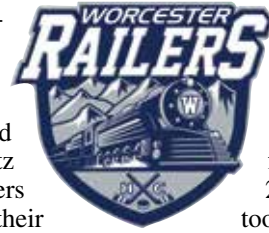
The Everblades opened the scoring with goals from Sean Josling (1-2-3) and Joe Pendenza (1-1-2) just 2:43 apart to grab a 2-0 lead. Worcester responded 27 seconds later as Jack Quinlivan (1-0-1) wrapped a backhand behind the net past Johnson to make it 2-1 going into the second. Worcester kept the pressure on the Everblades in the second as they added on two more from Zsombor Garat (1-1-2) and Andrei Bakanov (1-0-1) to take their first lead of the night going into the third at 3-2. Florida took the lead in the third thanks to goals from Will Reilly (1-0-1), Mark Senden (1-0-1) and an empty netter from Brett Davis (1-0-1) to take the game 5-3.

Florida controlled the pace of play across the first fourteen minutes in the first, culminating in the game's first goal. Sean Josling (14th) received a backdoor pass from Oliver Chau who received the puck from Pendenza below the goal line to bury it past Cole Ceci in net for Worcester to put the Everblades ahead 1-0. With Florida on the

power play 2:43 later in the period, Joe Pendenza turned on a one-timer and sent it past Ceci as Florida led 2-0 late in the period. Jack Quinlivan (4th) responded for Worcester just 27 seconds later. He took the puck off the stick of Zsombor Garat and wrapped it with his backhand inside the near post from beneath the net to get Worcester to within one heading into the second.

Worcester picked up the only goals in the second. Zsombor Garat (1st) hammered a heavy one-timer on the power-play from Trevor Cosgrove for his first professional North American goal. His marker tied the game at the 7:29 mark of the second. Later in the period with 4:51 left in the second, Andrei Bakanov (7th) ripped a wrister past the blocker of Cam Johnson following a perfect drop pass from Anthony Callin to give Worcester the 3-2 lead entering the third.

The Everblades would be the only team to score in the third period. First it was Will Reilly (6th) on a wrister from the point that beat Ceci blocker side to tie the game 3-3 just 7:49 into the frame. From there, Mark Senden (9th) found the puck barreling down the left wing and buried it through the legs of Ceci to make it 4-3 Florida. Brett Davis (3rd) sealed the deal for Florida with an empty netter with just 1:31 remaining in the game to give Florida the win and the final score of 5-3.



Registration now open for Quabbin Valley baseball

The Quabbin Valley Over-28 Baseball League is looking to infuse new talent into its league for the 2024 season.

Registration for the 2024 season is now open and any interested players can go to www.quabbinvalleybaseball.org to get registered, or to seek more information or make inquiries about the league. The league website will also be updated over the next month with information about the upcoming season.

There are many open roster spots available in the league for the 2024 season, which is tentatively scheduled to begin on

Sunday, April 21. The league plays most Sunday from late April through late August with playoffs following that. The league plays a 15-game schedule and typically fields six teams each year. Games are usually played at 10 a.m. with fields in Easthampton and South Hadley normally used.

The Quabbin Valley league is an all-abilities league and all are welcome to join. Eligibility is players who are age 28 and over. You must be 30 to be eligible to pitch in the league. Your age for eligibility is whatever age you will turn in 2024. The

league is also able to entertaining taking in an entire group as a team to add to the league. Please email the league board for to inquire about entering a team.

The league is currently in the process of preparing for the 2024 season and held a meeting on Feb. 18 to discussion plans for the upcoming season. The next meeting is scheduled for Sunday March 24 at 11:40 a.m. at the Hangar Pub & Grill in South Hadley. All are welcome to attend the meeting, ask questions and express interest in joining.

GRANBY from page 4

51-46 win at second-seeded Drury in the Western Mass. Class C semifinals, last Thursday night.

The trio of junior guard Gavier Fernandez Jr. (22 points), senior guard Colin Murdock (11 points), and junior forward Cody White (10 points) led the way offensively for the Rams against Drury.

The Rams, who captured the Western Mass. Division 3 title in 2005, were scheduled to face top-seeded Mahar regional in this year's Western Mass. Class C. championship game last Saturday. They'll also be competing in the Division 5 state tournament, which starts this week.

Fernandez Jr. (15 points) and Murdock (13 points), who are the Granby co-captains, combined to score 28 points in the Rams quarterfinal victory.

Murdock has been a member of the varsity basketball team for the past two years and he won his second postseason game.

"It just feels amazing to win a game in the Western Mass. tournament," said Murdock following the Palmer game. "We played two close games against Palmer during the regular season. It's hard to beat the same team three times in a season, but we did it."

The Rams defeated the Panthers by twelve points in the first



Riley Goodhind rears back for a long pass.

meeting of the regular season. They squeaked out a 60-56 victory in the second meeting.

White finished last Monday night's contest with eight points, while junior center Sawyer Clarke chipped in with seven points. Junior guard Cody Breault made a pair of 3-pointers resulting in his six points. His older brother, Nate, is the last Granby basketball player to score 1,000 career points.

The other senior listed on the Rams postseason roster is Ben Berger, who's a forward. He



Sawyer Clarke shoots a free throw.

made a free throw at the start of the second quarter, which was his only point of the game.

Despite the setback, the Panthers (10-9), who only won one game a year ago, will also be competing in the Division 5 state tournament.

"Anytime that your team has the opportunity to play in a post-season game, it's a very good thing," said first-year Palmer head coach Missy Rocker. "I hope we can build off this experience entering the state tourna-

ment."

Sophomore center Stephen Fredette paced the visiting team with 11 points. He scored nine of his points during the second half, which helped the Panthers stay within striking distance.

"I thought Stephen played a very good game tonight," Rocker said. "He's one of our sophomores."

Fredette scored a season-high 16 points in a 71-65 home loss to Belchertown on January 30.

Rounding out the Panthers scoring column in their quarterfinal loss were freshman guard Taydem Haley (7 points), sophomore guard Angel Torres (6 points), sophomore guard Dylan Doherty (6 points), sophomore forward Matt Santos (2 points), sophomore center Gavin Smola (2 points), and senior forward Shawn Troche (2 points). Palmer's other senior is Andrew Menard, who's a forward.

The two teams combined to score 13 points during the first eight minutes of the contest.

Doherty scored the game's first four points with a lay-up and two free throws.

Granby took a 7-4 lead with 1:50 left in the opening quarter following back-to-back lay-ups by Murdock, who scored ten points before halftime.

Fredette ended the Panthers dry spell offensively with an inside hoop thirty seconds later making the score 7-6.

There were several lead changes during the first five minutes of the second quarter.

With 2:40 remaining in the opening half, Murdock hit a one-handed runner in the lane. He then received a long downcourt pass from Fernandez before converting a wide open lay-up.

"Colin became our point guard two years ago," Dubuc said. "He hasn't missed a beat since and he's one of our leaders."

Breault closed out the first half by burying a 3-pointer from the left corner, which gave the home team a six point halftime lead.

The Panthers couldn't get any closer than four points in the second half.

"Once we fell behind at the end of the first half, we just could never retake the lead again," Rocker said. "We played well defensively, and we rebounded the ball well, but our shooting was a little bit off tonight."

With five minutes remaining in regulation, a Fredette inside hoop closed the gap to 36-32.

Fernandez was then fouled while making a baseline lay-up. He added the bonus free throw.

Clarke scored the next five points which pushed the Rams lead into double digits (44-34) for the first time, which sealed their quarterfinal victory.



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Events and announcements

The Big Broadcast returns for 19th Year

SOUTH HADLEY – If it's March, it must be time for The Big Broadcast, the popular annual event that, this year, will be held Saturday, March 9 in Chapin Auditorium on the campus of Mount Holyoke College. There will be two performances - at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

The Big Broadcast is a unique recreation of a 1940s-style radio show, complete with news, commercials, popular songs and a radio play in the detective serial style. Mount Holyoke has designated the yearly concert as a Signature Event.

Sponsors are Mount Holyoke College, 22News, Loomis Communities, NEPM, PRIME magazine, NEPM 88.5 and The Republican

22News meteorologist Brian Lapis returns to The Big Broadcast in his role as the show's emcee "Fred Kelley." Mark Gionfriddo, director of the Jazz Ensembles of MHC, is the show's creative director.

Gionfriddo noted that this year marks the 25th anniversary season of the jazz program at Mount Holyoke. The Big Broadcast is a production of the college's Big Band, Jazz Vocal and Chamber Jazz ensembles.

"There's really nothing else like it," Gionfriddo said, about The Big Broadcast. Part concert, part theater, the show is produced by students with Gionfriddo playing the role of "Matt Morgan," who conducts the fictional WJAZ Big Band and is Fred Kelley's musical sidekick.

This year's selections include "The American Patrol" from the Glenn Miller Orchestra; Rodgers & Hart's "This Can't Be Love"; "Romberg & Hammerstein's "Lover, Come Back to Me"; the iconic Gene Krupa drum feature "Sing Sing Sing;" and Cole Porter's "Don't Fence Me In" as popularized by Bing Crosby and the Andrews Sisters.

Tickets are available locally at the Odyssey Bookshop in South Hadley and online at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-big-broadcast-2024-2pm-show-tickets-800425964607>. More information is available on the Facebook page of the Jazz Ensembles of Mount Holyoke College and on their web page at www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/music/big-broadcast.

Mount Holyoke College Department of Film Media Theatre Presents: 'Marisol' by José Rivera

SOUTH HADLEY – The Mount Holyoke College Department of Film Media Theater invites you to experience the disintegration of urban society in America with José Rivera's Obie Award-winning dark fairytale, "Marisol."

In a dystopian world where apples are extinct and people turn into mounds of salt, the angels plot an epic battle to save the human race. Marisol, a Puerto Rican woman from the Bronx, embarks on a journey through the apocalypse to survive on her own, facing the possibility of her death amongst chaos and crisis.

The two-act play provides an atmosphere of human vulnerability that raises the existential questions of homelessness, ecological disaster, paranoia, mental illness, theology, sexuality and civil disorder.

Mount Holyoke's production is directed by Liz Almonte '24, featuring Set Design by Lee Heintzelman '24, Costume Design by Jensen Glick, and Lighting & Sound Design by Lara Dublin.

"Author Franny Choi says, 'By the time the apocalypse began, the world had already ended.. This play makes me envision tomorrow even when my eyes are clouded by fear. Fear and destruction seep into every crevice and corner of our lives. Hope is not a feeling, but a state of being that fuels revolution. Marisol forces us to embellish destruction with hope. To fuel our pain with as much hope as possible so as to relinquish it. What is pain without hope and vice versa?' How do we begin again if hope is lost?" - Director Liz Almonte '24

Performance Dates and Times:

- Thursday, March 7, 7:30 p.m.
- Friday, March 8, 7:30 p.m.
- Saturday, March 9, 7:30 p.m.
- Sunday, March 10, 2 p.m.

For more information or to reserve tickets, please visit <https://mhc.ludus.com/index.php> or contact our box office at MHCrookeTheatre@gmail.com

Tickets: \$10 general | \$8 students and senior citizens

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Public Notices

ADVERTISEMENT NOTICE INVITATION FOR BID For Leaping Well Nature Trail Parking & Pocket Park Improvements

The Town of South Hadley is seeking proposals from qualified vendors for **Leaping Well Nature Trail Parking & Pocket Park Improvements (IFB # C24-01)**.

Specifications may be obtained from: <https://www.southhadley.org/bids.aspx>

A pre-bid walkthrough is scheduled on **Tuesday March 12, 2024 beginning at 10:00AM** at the Leaping Well Nature Trail Parking Lot, 101 Mosier St. South Hadley, MA 01075. All interested parties shall meet in the semi-circular driveway west of Mosier Elementary School and east of Route 116/Newton St. Attendance is not mandatory.

All Bids shall be sealed and addressed to: Lisa Wong, Town Administrator and Chief Procurement Officer, 116 Main St. South Hadley, MA 01075. Sealed propos-

als will be received by the Planning & Conservation Department (Room U6) **until 1:00 PM on Wednesday, March 20, 2024.**

Each bid must be accompanied by a Bid Bond from a licensed surety company, or a Certified check, or a Treasurer's or Cashier's check in the amount of five (5%) percent of the base bid payable to the Town of South Hadley.

A payment bond in the amount of 50% of the Contract Price will be required of the Successful Bidder. The successful bidder will also be required to furnish workmen's compensation insurance and public liability insurance.

This contract will be awarded only to a responsive and responsible bidder whose bid meets all of the requirements in the specifications. The contract shall be awarded by the Chief Procurement Officer, which reserves the right to waive any informalities, to accept or reject, in part or in whole, any and all proposals or to take whatever

action may be deemed to be in the best interest of the Town of South Hadley. Bids will remain firm for sixty (60) days following the opening of proposals. 03/01/2024

Notice of Public Sale

Notice is hereby given that LocalStorage Granby will sell the contents of the storage units listed below at a

public auction to satisfy a lien placed on the contents (pursuant to the Massachusetts Lien Law, General Laws Part I, Administration of the Government, Title XV Regulation of Trade Chapter 105A, Self-Service Storage Facility. The sale will take place at the website <http://www.StorageTreasures.com>. The sale will be conducted on <http://www.StorageTreasures.com>, under the guidance of Christopher Rosa (AU005857) on behalf of the facility's management. Units will be available for viewing prior to the sale on <http://www.StorageTreasures.com>. All sales are final. Seller reserves the right to withdraw the property at any time before the sale or to refuse any bids. The property to be sold is described as general

household items unless otherwise noted. LocalStorage Granby, 138 W State St, Granby, MA 01033 will list storage units on the website <http://www.StorageTreasures.com> until sold or disposed of on March 21, 2024, 10:00AM. Unit:#037 Kathleen Batchelor,#057 Bethany Quinlan,#110 Kelly Waters 03/01, 03/08/2024

The Sentinel 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 \$225, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice 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.

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- 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 Mondays at noon, Fridays noon for Monday holidays.

visit www.publicnotices.turley.com

Playful Engineers makes learning fun

By Nick Boonstra
Staff Writer
nboonstra@turley.com

SOUTH HADLEY — Local kids spent the last day of February Vacation combining playing with learning at the Playful Engineers Traveling Makerspace event at the South Hadley Public Library on Friday, Feb. 23.

Despite the dreary weather outside, a bright atmosphere of fun, curiosity and creativity filled the Community Room at the library, as kids built contraptions comprised of dominos, rollers, miniature car tracks and a variety of other toys, all intuitively illustrating the concept of cause and effect.

Jay Mankita of Playful Engineers led the session, entitled “Chain Reactions and Creative Contraptions,” demonstrating a multi-step apparatus he built out of the same parts the kids had available to try to get a ping-pong ball to bounce into a plastic cup.

However, as he pointed out after his presentation, “The kids didn’t really need me to tell them what to do.”

Even before Mankita had fully shown how his mechanism worked, kids were already hard at work experimenting with their own designs for their multi-step machines.

Mankita emphasized to the kids present the importance of approaching any challenge or experience with an attitude of discovery, as opposed to seeing the world through the binary lens of success and failure. At one point, when his own contraption did not achieve the desired result, he took the opportunity to talk about “identifying the failure point” rather than beating oneself up.

Additionally, Mankita shared the perspective of starting a project with a goal in mind and working backwards from there. The example of falling dominos triggering other steps was also a tangible and helpful illustration of the general concept of cause and effect.

Mankita and Children’s Librarian



Waverley and Wyatt stand next to their work in progress during Playful Engineers at the library last Friday.



Kids work together on a domino-powered contraption during Playful Engineers at the library on Feb. 23.

Jenny Arch expressed their gratitude to the Massachusetts Cultural Council, the South Hadley Cultural Council and the Friends of the Library for providing funding for the program.

Playful Engineers is an organization that facilitates “play-based, socially driven learning environments for kids and families, in-person and online,” according to their website.

Additional information about the Amherst-based group, including a calendar of future events and a catalog of online workshops, can be found online at <https://www.playfulengineers.com>.

Information and upcoming event listings from the library can be found online at <https://www.shadleylib.org>.

Upcoming events for kids include “Dr. Rosie Helps the Animals!” at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, March 2, during which author Jennifer Welborn and illustrator Rozillia MH will be teaching kids real-life veterinarian skills that they can use on their own stuffed animals. Children are encouraged to bring a stuffed animal to the event.



Jay Mankita demonstrates his own cause-and-effect machine at the library last Friday.

Turley photos by Nick Boonstra



Mail-in Ballots for March 5 elections have been mailed

SOUTH HADLEY – Mail-in ballots for the March 5 elections have been mailed to those who requested them. If you selected “all elections” or March 5, 2024, on your vote-by-mail application, you will receive one Town Election ballot and one Presidential Primary ballot.

Please read the enclosed instructions carefully and sign where indicated before returning your ballots to the Town Clerk’s office.

Ballots must be returned by 8 p.m. on March 5. There are several ways to return

your ballots:

Mail it back postage-free

Use the Dropbox located behind the police station

Hand-deliver to the Town Clerk’s office during our office hours (Mon.-Thurs. 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Fridays 8:30 a.m. to Noon)

Voters still have time to apply for a mail-in ballot for the March 5 elections. The application deadline is 5 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 27. Learn how to apply here: <https://www.sec.state.ma.us/divi->

sions/elections/voting-information/vote-by-mail.htm.

You can track your ballot online: <https://www.sec.state.ma.us/WhereDoIVoteMA/TrackMyBallot>.

For more information on Elections in the Town of South Hadley, please visit <https://www.southhadley.org/620/Elections>.

Please contact the Town Clerk’s office with any questions at 413-538-5030, ext. 6183, or elections@southhadley.ma.gov.

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