

TOWN Reminder

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

Serving the town of South Hadley

www.townreminder.turley.com

Forum allows candidates to interact with public

By **Brendan Rooney**
Correspondent

SOUTH HADLEY — On Thursday, Mar. 19, the town hosted a ‘Know Your Town: Candidate’s Night’ which saw 12 of 16 candidates currently on this year’s ballot in attendance.

As close to 75 people gathered from inside the town’s library within the community room, where it was standing room only, and the clear consensus relayed to the Town Reminder among all in attendance was that the public is geared towards seeing a ‘point of change and direction’ coming to fruition with the election coming on Tuesday, Apr. 14.

All you need to know about Election Day

The major topic of focus on this year’s ballot is deciding the fate of multiple contested races, among the Selectboard and the Housing Authority Committees, along with a major Proposition 2 1/2 tax override vote on the ballot, which comes

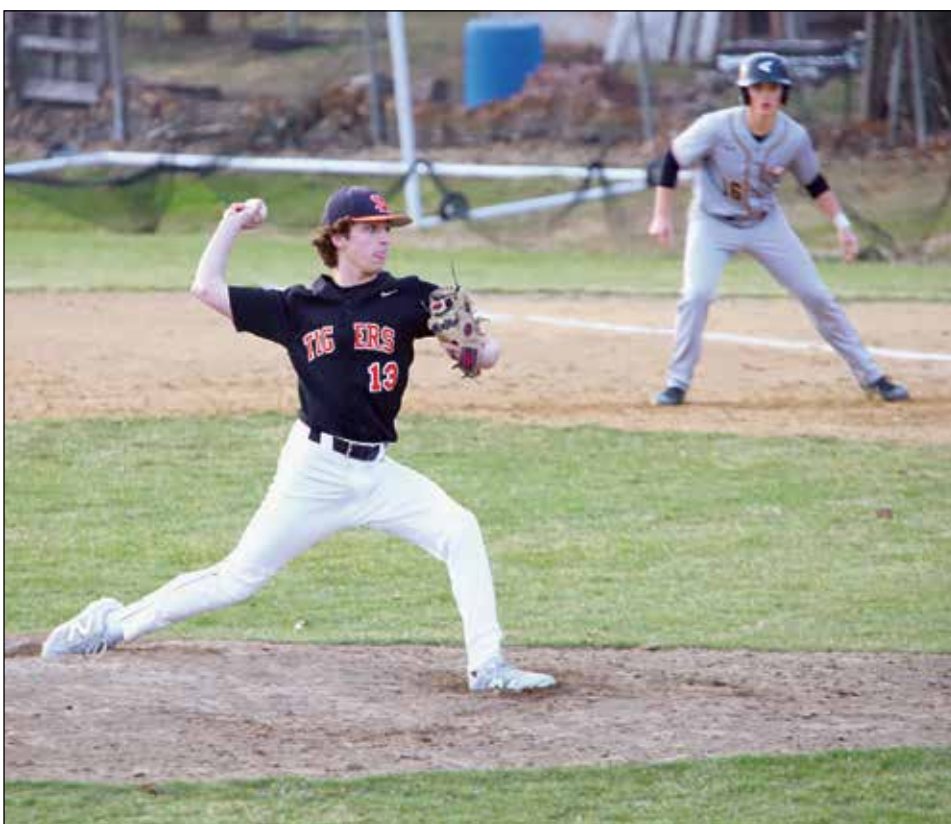


Turley Photos by Brendan Rooney

There was standing room only at the forum.

Please see **FORUM**, page 12

SPRING FEVER



Turley photo by Gregory A. Scibelli

South Hadley baseball got its season underway earlier this week. The Tigers had a really tough matchup at home on Monday, losing 1-0 to Mt. Everett. For more sports, see page 7.

Coffee, conversation, and community policing

By **Tina Lesniak**
Correspondent

SOUTH HADLEY - South Hadley Police Chief Jennifer Gundersen’s Community Conversations initiative reflects a simple but increasingly vital idea in modern policing: showing up. Through regularly scheduled Community Office Hours held in familiar, accessible locations across town, Gundersen has created an open, ongoing dialogue between residents and the police department, one grounded in visibility, trust, and shared responsibility.

The program began with a clear intention. “I wanted to

increase visibility and accessibility for the South Hadley Police Department and other town leadership,” Gundersen explained. “My goal was to create regular opportunities for community members to meet with me, share concerns and suggestions, and ensure those concerns are brought back to the department for consideration and action where appropriate.” Rather than expecting residents to navigate formal channels or attend town meetings, Gundersen brought the conversation directly to them.

That accessibility defines the program. Gundersen holds Community Office Hours two to three times each

month at locations woven into residents’ daily lives: the Council on Aging, the public library on Canal Street, Loomis Village, local grocery stores, housing authority properties, and even community events and food distribution sites. “The purpose is to make myself available to residents in familiar, convenient settings, particularly for those who may have difficulty accessing traditional channels,” she said. The approach lowers barriers and invites participation from a broader cross-section of the community.

The conversations them-

Please see **POLICE**, page 12

Granby School officials seek community input as budget uncertainty looms

By **Melina Bourdeau**
Correspondent

GRANBY — Granby school officials urged community engagement as leaders discussed school choice allocations, the Massachusetts School Building Authority statement of interest and budget scenarios that could force cuts if town funding or health-insurance chargebacks remain uncertain.

At the March 24 School Committee meeting, administrators authorized submission of the MSBA statement of interest to keep the district in line for future building funds, approved proposed school choice seats for 2026–27 and prepared to present multiple

FY27 budget scenarios at a public forum March 31 as officials warned that missing town-provided data, notably in-kind chargebacks and health insurance figures, could turn a modest proposed increase into a deficit requiring program reductions.

Officials emphasized the procedural importance of the MSBA filing and its limits.

“It’s important that we fill out this yearly (Statement of Interest),” Superintendent Mary Jane Rickson said, explaining the district must remain in the queue in case state funding becomes available.

“If we don’t put it in every year, if indeed the time comes for us to either do some sort

of project, whether it be accelerated project or a new building project, we have to start at the very bottom, and it could take five to seven years to get into the queue,” said Rickson.

The committee voted to add school choice seats for the 2026–27 school year after discussion about accommodating incoming students and avoiding a perception of exclusion. Chair Jennifer Bartosz pressed for flexibility, saying she would “hate to see a zero there” for seniors.

Finance officials urged outreach to the public ahead of the budget forum and cautioned that key town numbers still were not available. Di-

Please see **BUDGET**, page 2

Award winners named by St. Patrick’s Committee

HOLYOKE – The St. Patrick’s Committee of Holyoke is proud to announce the 2026 Parade Music and Float Award winners, recognizing the outstanding units that brought energy, creativity, and tradition to the 73rd Annual Holyoke St. Patrick’s Parade.

Each year, these awards celebrate the performers, designers, and community groups whose dedication and talent help make Holyoke’s parade one of the largest and most beloved St. Patrick’s Day celebrations in the country.

“From the incredible musical performances to the creativity and craftsmanship of this year’s floats, our participants once again made this parade truly special,” said Jim Wildman, Parade President. “We are grateful for the pride and passion each group brings to Holyoke.”

Please see **MORE PARADE PHOTOS**, page 12



Turley photos by Kara Walsh-Vey

South Hadley’s flag corps were among award winners at this year’s parade.

Planning Board holds listening session

By **Walter Hamilton**
Correspondent

SOUTH HADLEY—Boundaries that both protect and limit rights to raise farm animals, enjoy home horticulture, produce commercial crops, protect peaceful pastures and promote farming businesses have cast blurry lines across the mixed suburban and rural properties standing shoulder to shoulder here.

Advocates of those interests formed a line at the microphone and through online connections during a Planning Board listening session last week aimed at exploring and eventually drafting a revised set of bylaws and regulations to preserve the disparate rights and interests of all town citizens.

That is especially difficult when it comes to animals.

Planning staff and board members scheduled the session as a step toward deleting existing laws and creating new ones that conform with health protection, property rights and state prerogatives.

The proposed bylaws are defined in three separate categories: “Commercial agriculture (farming),” “Agricultural uses accessory (subordinate) to residential use” and a third, definitions for both.

The challenge is daunting, as evidenced by the speakers at the March 23 session at the town Senior Center.

In her introduction to the session, Planning Director Anne Capra summarized the purposes of the effort in a nine-point presentation.

The purposes included:

- conflicts between town bylaws and state-mandated exemptions for agricultural uses,
- conflicts between town use regulations and other sections of town bylaws,
- undefined terms and uses,
- contradictory rules of where agricultural uses are allowed or prohibited,
- conflicts with Board of Health regulations on keeping livestock and animals
- reconciling the town’s status as a “Right to Farm” community, and
- overly strict bylaws restricting sale of farm products in residential districts.

Capra first displayed the various zoning districts that define residential, agricultural, business, mixed, and industrial zones. She also pointed out development-protected areas.

She further noted that an Animal Keeping License must be obtained from the Board of Health. She pointed to the location of 35 such

licenses, mostly for keeping chickens. The licenses allow residents to keep chickens in the RA-1 and RA-2 residential zones.

A draft bylaw, Section 255-25, named “Agricultural Uses Accessory to Residential Use” would replace the current law in residential zones RA-1, RA-2, and RB. The proposed law allows one-story coops more than 10 feet from any property line, limited to one chicken for every 500 square feet of space, but no more than 12 chickens in those zones. It also allows greenhouses not connected to a business.

Horses and ponies would be allowed in the Accessory to Residential Use zone with limits according to parcel size.

In parcels less than five acres in RA-1 districts, the proposed law prohibits roosters, pigs, rabbits, livestock and pigeons. All such animals are allowed in parcels in Agricultural zones.

Another proposed new bylaw, titled “Commercial Agricultural Uses” defines allowed uses in those zones, and incorporates current rules for stables and riding academies.

Following the review of the proposed changes, the public was asked for com-

ments. Those comments revealed that under current town regulations an animal can at once be considered a beloved pet, annoying nuisance, health and safety threat and economic commodity.

Ashley Crowley, of 14 Hunter Terrace, said she keeps six chickens on less than a one-quarter acre parcel in the RA-2 area off Newton St. Under the proposed new bylaws, the chickens would not be allowed, while a horse would.

Chickens, she said “contribute to our garden, reduce food waste...a positive part of our daily lives. They are quiet, low maintenance and less disruptive than a typical dog.”

Ryan Olszewski, of 15 Berwyn St., in the RA-2 zone, said, “I don’t understand why my neighbor could keep a horse, but can’t keep a chicken.”

Crowley’s comments were later echoed by Steve Neveu, of 14 Priestly Farms Road, whose neighbors in the A1/Ag district there have supported his backyard flock of chickens and bring over their grandchildren to watch the chickens and ask questions.

Capra said the proposed restrictions on chickens in the RA-2 district were sought by the town health director related to odors, rodents and

their tendency “to get out.” The health director cited the greater risk posed by chickens in areas with smaller parcels, Capra said.

Jennifer McManus, of 225 Hadley St., said she keeps chickens on her property. Given that horses to some degree are allowed in her zone, RA-1, she asked why she would not be allowed to keep goats there.

“I could raise chickens and horses, but not goats. I could raise goats in the Agricultural zone, (a part of her property there) but I would need to have 5 acres or more or sell products worth more than \$1,000 per year,” (in a 2-acre space), she said, citing language in the proposed law.

Several speakers questioned the logic between prohibitions on chickens and the universal right to own dogs without any bylaw restric-

tions. Anthony Whitman, of 7 Misty Court, off River Lodge Road, said, in theory, “Dogs poop everywhere. Dogs are (can be) aggressive. But there’s no setback to where dogs can be. You can have an aggressive dog barking 2 feet from our property line.”

Robin Graves, of 64 Charon Terrace, off Morgan St., said, “You (must) have fencing for chickens (under the proposed law). Is that going to be required for anyone who has a dog?”

Marion Pascone, of 71 Hadley St., stated that zoning bylaws have a tendency to “create a world where no one complains about anything ... We have to create a new bylaw and new zoning laws, with a goal that nobody’s going to complain. We end up with an incredibly over-regulated town,” she said.

BUDGET from page 1

rector of Finance and Operations Todd Dorman outlined the budget’s fragility, saying the district has “a scenario where we are proposing a 2% increase” but warned that incomplete town data on in-kind expenses and health insurance could change that picture substantially.

“I had presented in December an original draft of our budget, which was just slightly over 2% increase over FY26 ... Without those two key pieces of information, we don’t have our full picture,” said Dorman.

Dorman said in-kind chargebacks last year totaled nearly \$3 million and health-insurance costs exceeded \$1.16 million, figures that will shape the FY27 outlook.

The administration moved the budget forum back one week to give the town time to provide missing data, with officials planning to present multiple scenarios, including worst-case cuts, to the public at the March 31 hearing.

The superintendent reported robust kindergarten interest, about 45 completed registrations so far, and ongoing efforts to contact census-listed families who have not yet enrolled. On the lunch program, Dorman said profitability dropped compared with the prior year because of enrollment declines and scheduling changes at the junior-senior high school.

The committee reviewed findings from an IMR (Interim Monitoring Report) review and outlined a corrective action plan for documentation and policy alignment. Rickson said the district avoided noncompliance findings but must improve written procedures and handbooks. She told the committee that many fixes will be implemented over the summer.

Bartosz said community voices will be important as the district balances maintaining services and preparing for potential funding shortfalls.

Rosen declares candidacy for Selectboard

My name is Rosemarie Rosen, called Ro, and I am running for Select Board in Granby. I would like to have people know that and consider voting for me on May 18.

I moved to Granby about three years ago from Albany, NY. My daughter has lived in

Northampton for fifteen years and I have visited many times. I wanted to be near her and I found this area beautiful and inviting.

I have over thirty years of government experience at both the state and local level. My specialties were in Finance and

Human Resources. I volunteer at the Granby library and last year was elected a Library Trustee. I really would like to do more.

It is clear that there have been difficulties in the past in Granby and with the significantly rising fixed costs and the

disappearing grants and Federal support, Granby, like towns all across the state and the country, faces difficult times ahead. I have met many Granby people who are gracious and very proud of their community. I want to bring my experience and expertise to help.

HootTheHandyman.com 413-636-9181
Hoot the Handyman
 Todd Huhtanen | Belchertown • MA
 Todd@HootTheHandyman.com




“Meticulous, Efficient & Reliable”

Interior and Exterior Maintenance and Repairs
 Rental Property Maintenance • Carpentry • Tiling
 Light Plumbing & Electrical • Computer Networks
 Smart Home Systems • Appliance Installations • Assembly
 Dryer Vents Cleaned/Installed • Screens Replaced
 Closet Systems • General Home Maintenance & Repairs
...AND MORE...

FULLY INSURED • HIC LICENSE #197767
 FREE Estimates by Phone / Email

Good Friday - April 3 at 4 p.m.
Easter Vigil - April 4 at 4 p.m.



St. Barnabas Anglican Church
 18 Park Street (on the Common) Belchertown
 Weekly Mass Saturdays 4 p.m.
 Rev. Thomas T. Stockton • Rt. Rev. Brian R. Marsh
 stbarnabasbelchertown.org
 ~ All Are Welcome ~

NOTICE

ERRORS: Each advertiser is requested to check their advertisement the first time it appears. This paper will not be responsible for more than one corrected insertion, nor will be liable for any error in an advertisement to a greater extent than the cost of the space occupied by the item in the advertisement.

Donovan's Irish Pub 80 Jarvis Ave., Holyoke
 413-543-0791
 donovanspub.com
 Sun. 12pm - 8pm; Mon.-Thurs. 11:30am-9:30pm; Fri. & Sat. 11:30am - 11pm

Saturday, April 4th The Healys	Saturday, April 11th Jack & His Guitar	Saturday, April 18th Dee Reilly
--	--	---

Property Maintenance & Improvements
 Excavation • Underground Utilities
 Water • Sewer • Septic • Drainage
 Grading • Paving • ADA Accessibility
 Lance Bristol • email: albristol381@aol.com
 Cell: (413) 519-0483 • Bus. (413) 532-3911

A.L. Bristol & Sons, Inc.
 Est. 1968 Licensed/Insured
 www.albristolandsons.com • South Hadley



All Saints Episcopal Church
Easter Service and Egg Hunt
 Beginning 9 a.m.
Easter Sunday, April 5th
 7 Woodbridge Street, South Hadley

LOWER PRICES TO BOOST YOUR BUDGET! **INFLATION** **PRICE BUSTERS** **PRICES IN RED ARE AT OR BELOW LAST YEAR'S PRICES!**

USDA INSP. BONELESS CENTER-CUT PORK LOIN CUT FREE \$2.09 lb	USDA INSP. FRESH BONE-IN BEEF RIBEYE FOR ROAST CUT FREE \$9.89 lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN SARA LEE CHOCOLATE CREAM PIE 19.6 OZ \$4.99 EA
USDA INSP. FRESH PORK HAM (LEG) \$1.89 ea	USDA INSP. FROZEN WHOLE TURKEY \$1.33 lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN KING FISH STEAKS W/ HEAD OR TAIL \$5.99 lb
USDA INSP. FROZEN PREMIUM CLEANED PORK CHITTERING 5 LB BAG..... \$8.99 lb	USDA INSP. FRESH AMERICAN LEG OF LAMB \$6.67 lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN CONCH MEAT CLEANED 5 LB BOX..... \$5.99 ea
USDA INSP. FROZEN HAM PORTIONS BUTT or SHANK..... \$1.09 lb	USDA INSP. CHICOPEE PROVISIONS BLUE SEAL KIELBASA FOR EASTER \$5.55 lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN SKINLESS SKINLESS HADDOCK FILLETS 2 LB BOX \$9.99 ea
USDA INSP. KAYEM BUDABALL WHOLE BONELESS PIT HAM \$3.69 lb	USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS HOLIDAY PORK ROAST STUFFED W/ HAM, CHEESE, PEPPERS, BACON, OLIVES \$4.49 lb	USDA INSP. IQF FROZEN COOKED SHRIMP 21/25 COUNT 2 LB BAG \$16.99 ea
USDA INSP. MCKENZIES 1/2 SPIRAL HAM W/GLAZE PAK..... \$1.39 lb		
USDA INSP. SKINLESS & SHANKLESS KAYEM OLD TIME WHOLE HAM HARDWOOD SMOKED \$1.99 lb		

Happy Easter

90 Meat Outlet 90 Avocado St. Springfield 413-737-1288 www.90meat.com

HOURS: Mon. - Wed. 8-4 Thurs. 8-6 • Fri. 8-6 • Sat. 8-3

SALE DATES: 4/1-4/7/26 BUY DIRECT FOR SAVINGS • SELECTION • SERVICE We reserve the right to limit quantities.

Mail-in ballots, absentee voting now available

Ballots for the Apr. 14 Town Election are in. In-person absentee voting is now available in the Town Clerk's office during regular office hours. The last day to vote in-person absentee is Monday, Apr. 13, at 12 noon. The Town Clerk's office

has started to mail out ballots. As applications come in, ballots will be mailed out to voters on a rolling basis.

There is still time to apply for a mail-in ballot. The deadline is 5 p.m. on Tuesday, Apr. 7. Apply online here: <https://www.sec.state.ma.us/>

[MailInRequestWeb/MailIn-Ballot.aspx](https://www.sec.state.ma.us/MailInRequestWeb/MailIn-Ballot.aspx)

Please direct any questions, comments, or concerns to the Town Clerk's office at 413-538-5030, ext. 6183 or elections@southhadley.ma.gov.

Information on When, Where, How to vote in South Hadley

SOUTH HADLEY – It's almost time to vote, but many may not know how to go about the process, where to go, or who to contact. Below is a guide from the Town Clerk on how to learn more about voting, and make sure you are registered to vote in time.

Registering to Vote in South Hadley

To vote in South Hadley, you must be registered at your address at least 10 days before the election or primary. You can register to vote as long as you meet the following criteria:

- A U.S. citizen
- A resident of Massachusetts
- 18 years or older
- Not currently incarcerated by reason of a felony conviction.

conviction.

How to register to vote:

• In person: In the Town Clerk's office during regular office hours

• Mail: Send registration to 116 Main St, South Hadley, MA 01075

• Online: Register online at <https://www.sec.state.ma.us/OVR/>

Voting Options in South Hadley

Voting options may vary by election. More information is available at www.southhadley.org/elections. Options for voting include:

- In-person on Election Day at South Hadley High School
- Vote by Mail* Absentee by mail/in-person*
- In-person early voting in the Town Clerk's office

**Applications are required for voting by mail. Apply for a mail-in ballot online at www.VoteinMA.com*

When to Vote in South Hadley - 2026 Election Dates

View sample ballots as they become available: <https://www.southhadley.org/1088/Sample-Ballot>

• Annual Town Election Tuesday, April 14, 2026

• Massachusetts State Primary Tuesday, September 1, 2026

State Election Questions? Contact the Town Clerk's Office Phone: 413-538-5030, ext.6183 Email: elections@southhadley.ma.gov www.southhadley.org/elections Tuesday, November 3, 2026

Student-led homework help

SOUTH HADLEY – There is free help available for all students in the South Hadley Public Schools. Run by students, Homework Hub is extra help being offered after school with all students welcome. It takes place in the

South Hadley Public Library in the Trustees Room. The helpers will be available Apr. 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30 and additional sessions may continue based on interest. Sessions are from 3:30 to 5 p.m. and help offered includes: Homework

help in all subjects, one-on-one tutoring, test and quiz preparation, clear explanations and step-by-step help. A small registration form is required and a QR code for that can be obtained by contacting shhomeworkhub@gmail.com.



Submitted photo

Retired environmental entrepreneur Bob Saul, left, HCC graduate Jamal Cumberbatch, right, and HCC Leadership Gift Officer John Sieracki, center, record a spot for the HCC radio station, WCCH 103.5 FM, promoting "Green Ventures: Lessons from Environmental Entrepreneurship," an April 23 event at HCC.

HCC to host 'Green Ventures' discussion and nature walk April 23

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Community College will host "Green Ventures: Lessons from Environmental Entrepreneurship," a free public lecture, discussion, and guided nature walk on Thursday, April 23.

The event, featuring retired environmental entrepreneur Bob Saul, of Amherst, and HCC graduate Jamal Cumberbatch, of Springfield, begins at 10 a.m. in the PeoplesBank Conference Room in HCC's Kittredge Center for Business and Workforce Development, 303 Homestead Ave.

HCC President George Timmons will introduce the speakers, followed by an interview led by Cumberbatch, highlighting Saul's journey as an environmental entrepreneur. The pair will examine four business ventures through the lenses of vision, funding, implementation, and long-term impact, concluding with an audience question and answer session.

The event will provide students and community members with insights into building successful environmental businesses in western Massachusetts, featuring case studies from Saul's career and practical advice for aspiring entrepreneurs in the sustainability sector.

Following the indoor program, at about 11:30 a.m., HCC Environmental Science Professor Heather Ruel will lead a nature hike along the forest trails behind the college, featuring tree identification and observations at a vernal pool.

Saul is a retired businessman and environmental entrepreneur with more than four decades of experience in sustainable business development in western Massachusetts and beyond. His professional ventures have included water re-allocation in the West, maple syrup production in Vermont, large scale forestry operations in Maine, New York, the Pa-

cific Northwest, and Central America, as well as his own private enterprises involving retail furniture, black walnut plantations, and table making.

Cumberbatch, a member of the HCC class of 2026, completed his studies at HCC in December, earning an associate degree in liberal arts.

An adult student and community organizer, Cumberbatch is development and engagement associate for the Holyoke-based Eagle Eye Institute, a nonprofit agency that organizes learn-about-forest programs for area youth.

Environmental nonprofits are invited to reserve free table space to promote their programs.

To reserve a table, or for more information about the event, please contact John Sieracki, HCC leadership gift officer, at jsieracki@hcc.edu or 413-552-2746. To register as an attendee, please visit: hcc.edu/green-ventures

Spring is Here!



- Tree Removal
- Structural Pruning
- Crane Service
- Storm Damage
- Stump Grinding
- Lot Clearing



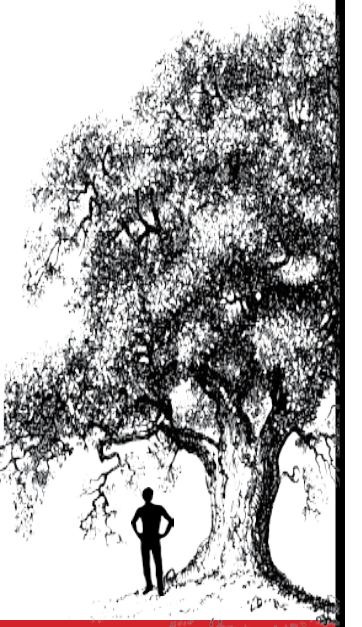
Give us a call today for your free estimate and tree evaluation by a ISA certified arborist

413-478-4212

dlandgtree.com

DL&G TREE

INSURED AND CERTIFIED



Opinion

SOCIAL SECURITY

Matters

By Russell Gloor

I'll be 70 on New Year's Day. When should I apply for Social Security?

Dear Rusty:

I was born on Jan. 1, 1958, so I believe Social Security considers me to be 70 as of December 2027. I'm planning on filing when I turn 70 to maximize the payment. I'm not sure if I should start in December, with the first payment in January 2028. Or should I start in January with the first payment in February 2028? I know I can start anytime, however I don't want to file before the maximum payment, even by one month.

Signed: Wanting Maximum Benefit

Dear Wanting:

You are correct that if your birth date is Jan. 1, 1958, you are entitled to your full age 70 benefit in December 2027. So, if you claim your SS benefit to start in December 2027 you will get your maximum benefit amount and you will receive that payment in January 2028 (on the second Wednesday). Basically, anyone born on the first of any month is considered to have been born in the previous month for SS benefit purposes.

You can apply for your benefits up to four months prior to your birthday month and SS usually suggests applying about three months in advance to give them time to process your application. When you complete the application, you will specify the month you wish your benefits to start, so applying early does not present a problem. You can either call SSA at 1-800-772-1213 to make an appointment

to apply over the phone or you can apply online at www.ssa.gov/apply.

The one thing you might want to do is put the following in the "Remarks" section of your application for SS benefits: "I do not wish to receive any retroactive Social Security benefits. I want my benefits to become effective with the first month of my age 70 eligibility (December 2027 because I was born on the first of January)."

Including that remark will ensure that your benefit will be the full maximum amount you are entitled to at 70 years of age, without any reduction. And I congratulate you on choosing a strategy which maximizes your monthly benefit and will likely provide you with the most in cumulative lifetime Social Security benefits.

The Association Mature Citizens Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. This article is intended for information purposes and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the Association Mature Citizens Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association. To submit a question, visit amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org. Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.

Pruning your hydrangeas

It was encouraging to see so many gardeners out in force this past weekend, regardless of the fact that it remained a little chilly.

I got outside too, mainly to clean up some leaves and debris from a bed near the front door. While I was there, I began pruning my pink flowered Hydrangea (*H. paniculata*), mainly by removing last year's blooms.

I often get questions about blue hydrangeas and how to prune and what to do to coax it into bloom. So, before you get the pruners out and have at it, read on.

Most established hydrangea bushes, the "Mophead" types (*Hydrangea macrophylla*) say those older than 15 years or so, flower on "old" wood, in other words, from buds made on the previous season's stems. That is why they are not pruned in the fall or in the spring for that matter, unless the stem is dead or partially dead.

An early autumn frost, a hard winter, or a late spring frost can kill buds or even entire stems. If the stem does not leaf out at all the further we get into spring, it is likely dead, and you should cut it down to the ground.

Usually the plant's roots are not harmed, and new growth will emerge from the base of the plant.

However, with these older cultivars, you will be left with just foliage in summer because the buds made the previous year will have been cut away. Sometimes a stem is only partially winter killed and it may leaf out midway

plexing. I've been to forums where everything from proper siting (morning sun, dappled shade) to fertilization is discussed (not too high in nitrogen, please).

One complaint was that our growing season is just borderline long enough for flowers to appear on new growth and reportedly some of these early repeat bloomers are being phased out because of it. If that's the case, I am sure they are breeding more dependable cultivars as we speak.

I had always wanted a hydrangea and finally bought one as a Mother's Day gift to self maybe four years ago. It is a newer generation and so far I have been very happy. It's filled out nicely and had well over two dozen flowers last year.

Hopefully the harsh winter will not effect my hopes for a repeat performance this summer. I wish you much success and many blooms on your hydrangeas!

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 34 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.



down the stem.

In that case, just prune away the portion that is dead and leave the rest. Don't worry that you may remove flower buds in the process; more occur further down the stem and will bloom if they too haven't been eliminated by Old Man Winter.

Perhaps you have one of the newer cultivars such as "Endless Summer," "Penny Mac," or others that bloom on new growth as well as old growth. In that case how much you cut away is not as critical. You should get flowers even if last season's stems are cut to the ground because soon enough new stems will produce new buds.

Sometimes people complain that they still don't get flowers and this is very per-

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Town Meeting member encourages 'No' vote on override

Dear Editor:

As everyone knows by now, there are two override questions on the ballot this year; one for a \$9M override and one for an \$11M override. At the very top of the Town's home page there is an override calculator which I would encourage every taxpayer to use so they understand the tax implications for both override scenarios. All you need to do is put in your address and assessed value of your property and the calculator will tell you the taxes you would be required to pay if either of these ballot questions are voted in. You might be shocked by what comes out of this calculator. For my property, I would be paying an extra \$2,361 for the \$9M proposal and \$2,887 for the \$11M override. As you well know, assessed values in this town are out of sight and still going up. Between 2025 and 2026, my as-

essed value has increased by \$34,000 which of course automatically increased my taxes for 2026 by \$460. In my opinion, these property taxes are outrageous. The next shoe to drop is paying for a new or renovated Mosier School. After that, they'll be looking to replace the Town Hall. It just never ends. I think the Town needs to do some serious "belt tightening" and live within its means. Closing the Gaylord Library and reducing staff is a good place to start. In summary, I am voting a resounding No on both override ballot questions. I am a 79-year-old senior on a fixed income as are approximately 27% of the people in this town. I would encourage all seniors and others to vote No on both of these ballot questions and let the chips fall where they may.

Michael J. Wozniak

Resident supports King for Select Board

Dear Editor,

I am writing to express my strong support for David King for South Hadley Selectboard. At a critical time when our community faces important decisions about growth, infrastructure, and fiscal responsibility, we need steady, thoughtful leadership—and Dave brings exactly that.

Dave is a retired businessman with experience successfully managing large multimillion dollar budgets. He has a deep commitment to South Hadley, having moved here 15 years ago with his wife Susan and two children. He is a Town Meeting Member, Chair of the Bylaw Review Committee, and volunteer for a variety of nonprofit and community organizations.

He listens carefully, values diverse perspectives, and approaches challenges with a level-headed, practical, solutions-oriented mindset. His business, community, and volun-

teer background equip him to make informed decisions that balance the needs of our town today with a clear vision for its future.

Dave King is a person of integrity, who understands that good governance starts with trust, a trait he will work hard to earn and maintain. Whether discussing town finances, public services, or community development, he prioritizes transparency and will always be accountable.

South Hadley deserves leaders who are not only capable, but genuinely invested in the well-being of the community. David King has shown that he is ready to serve with dedication and respect for all residents.

Please vote on April 14 for David King to serve on the South Hadley Selectboard.

Sincerely,
Ira Brezinsky

It's a Matter of Trust

Dear Editor:

As I listened to and participated in the debate among Town Meeting members concerning the proposed override, I had an epiphany: it's not just about numbers, but of sustaining the quality of life we've come to know in South Hadley. That's why I favor voting 'Yes' on both override measures.

We must trust our Town Meeting members, two-thirds of whom voted for the 5-year/\$11M option, more than all the other choices - including 'No' choice - combined. We must trust our Select Board, our Town Administrator, our Town employees, and all the countless volunteers who give freely of their time to make our little corner of the world a better place, regardless of the chaos gripping the nation. Most of all, we have to trust ourselves.

We need to give all these parts of our community the time, five years, and the wherewithal, \$11 million, to finish the work correctly and completely. We must avoid playing the game of "whose ox is being gored" by parsing where and what to cut, creating factions

and friction. Keep all services, including our Police Department, fully funded. Using the Override Tax Calculator, I was surprised to discover that the difference in cost to me between the two choices is negligible.

I've chosen to live in South Hadley, to buy a home, and to start a business. I am extremely grateful that my son Benjamin was able to enter first grade here under School of Choice when family circumstances compelled us to move temporarily to Holyoke. Cutting extracurricular programs and teaching positions is not an option: it will increase the net loss of pupils from our school system and accelerate what some have termed a "death spiral".

Hubert Humphrey once said: "The moral test of government is how it treats those who are in the dawn of life, the children; those who are in the twilight of life, the aged." Our youth and seniors deserve the best we can provide for them. Let's follow our best instincts and choose to Save South Hadley.

M.P. Chevette

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.

Turley Election Policy

This newspaper will print free self-submitted statements of candidacy only four weeks or more out from the election. All candidates running in both contested and uncontested races are asked to submit their statements to the editor to include only biographical and campaign platform details. Total word count for statements is limited to between 300-500 words maximum. Please include a photo. We will not publish any statements of candidacy inside the four weeks from election threshold. To publish any other campaign publicity during the race, please contact our advertising representatives. We also do not allow personal attacks against other candidates or political parties in statements of candidacy, nor do we publish for free any information about key endorsements or political fundraisers.

Letters to the editor of no more than 250 words from supporters endorsing specific candidates or discussing campaign issues are limited to three total per author during the election season. No election letters will appear in the final edition before the election. We reserve the right to edit all statements of candidacy and letters to the editor to meet our guidelines.

Granby Police Logs

Editor's Note: The Granby Police Department responded to 116 calls for the week March 20, through March 26. Those arrested are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law. The Granby Police Department provides all information.

Friday, March 20

10:52 a.m. – A resident reported that their detached garage is on fire. Granby Fire and Police responded. Mutual aid was called in from South Hadley Fire, Belchertown Fire, and Westover Fire. The fire was extinguished and there were no injuries.

Sunday, March 22

4:45 p.m. – A motorist reported a two-car accident on Amherst Street. There were no injuries.

Wednesday, March 25

9:24 p.m. – While on patrol, an officer observed a vehicle with a headlight not working. The vehicle was stopped and it was discovered that it had not been inspected since 2025. The operator was issued a civil citation for failure to inspect and a verbal warning for the defective headlight.

Thursday, March 26

2:54 p.m. – A caller reported that her storage unit was broken into six to seven years ago, and she finally came to empty out the unit. She discovered two safes in the unit that were not hers. Officers retrieved the safes and brought them to the station.

Hazardous waste collection set for May 9

SOUTH HADLEY – On Saturday, May 9 from 9 a.m. to 12 noon, South Hadley will hold its 2026 Household Hazardous Waste Day. To take part, call 413-538-5030 ext. 6500 to register and get details.

TOWN Reminder

TEAM

EDITORIAL

townreminder@turley.com



STAFF WRITER
Emily-Rose Pappas
epappas@turley.com



SPORTS EDITOR
Greg Scibelli
sports@turley.com

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.

SOCIAL MEDIA



@Town Reminder

WEB

www.townreminder.turley.com

PATRICK H. TURLEY
CEO

KEITH TURLEY
President

Turley
Publications, Inc.

www.turley.com

Turley Publications, Inc. cannot assume liability for the loss of photographs or other materials submitted for publication. Materials will not be returned except upon specific request when submitted.

Women needed for state commission

BOSTON – The Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women is currently seeking candidates for the Hampden County Commission on the Status of Women, one of 11 Regional Commissions across the Commonwealth that strives to represent women and girls in the areas of equality and opportunity.

The mission of the Hampden County Commission on the Status of Women (HCCSW) is to provide a permanent, influential voice for women and girls across the county that facilitates and fosters community and inclusiveness. The Commission stands for fundamental freedoms, basic human rights,

and the full enjoyment of life for all women and girls throughout their lives.

HCCSW represents all cities and towns in Hampden County which include Agawam, Blandford, Brimfield, Chester, Chicopee, East Longmeadow, Granville, Hampden, Holland, Holyoke, Longmeadow, Ludlow, Monson, Montgomery, Palmer, Russell, Southwick, Springfield, Tolland, Wales, West Springfield, Westfield, and Wilbraham.

To apply for the Hampden County Commission on the Status of Women and to submit a resume, please visit: <https://masscsww.org/about/regional-commissions/hampden-county/>

Mt. Holyoke presents final film series event

SOUTH HADLEY – The Mount Holyoke College Department of Film Media Theater ends the 2025-26 season with “POTUS, or Behind Every Great Dumbass are Seven Women Trying to Keep Him Alive” written by Selena Fillinger and directed by Natalie Werthamer '26.

When the President manages to blow up a PR disaster into a full-blown global crisis, seven brilliant, beleaguered women working in the White House must scramble to keep the free world from unraveling. From the Chief of Staff and Press Secretary to the First Lady, a journalist and a mistress, these women all risk life, liberty, and sanity to clean up the chaos caused by the man they serve.

This riotous farce is

a bawdy, irreverent ride through power, politics, and the often-invisible labor of women in high stakes roles. With sharp wit, outrages, and a cast of characters who are equal parts heroic and exhausting, it's a hilarious yet pointed look at what happens when nobody sane is allowed to yield.

This production is directed by Natalie Werthamer '26. Set Design by Amy Sue Hazel, Costume Design by Jensen Glick, Lighting and Sound Design by Sam Skyner.

Performance Dates and Times:

Thursday, Apr. 16, 7:30 p.m.
Friday, Apr. 17, 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, Apr. 18, 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, Apr. 19, 2:30 p.m.

HCC Culinary Arts program hosting April 15 open house, free tasting event

HOLYOKE — Holyoke Community College will host an open house and free community tasting event on Wednesday, April 15, from 4 to 6 p.m. at the HCC MGM Culinary Arts Institute, 164 Race St.

Visitors will be able to tour the state-of-the-art kitchens at the college's culinary arts facility, sample dishes prepared by culinary arts students and faculty, learn about the college's culinary arts certificate and associate degree programs, noncredit job training and personal enrichment classes, and play Food Bash Bingo for a chance to win prizes.

“This event highlights the work happening across all of our kitchens, giving the community a chance to experience the talent and training our students are developing here at HCC, while also showcasing other HCC programs and our community partners,” said HCC culinary arts instructor and facilities coordinator Alex Torres.

Visitors will have the



Submitted photo

A culinary arts student prepares a dish at the HCC MGM Culinary Arts Institute.

opportunity to talk to representatives from HCC programs including: Admissions, Marieb Adult Learner Success Center, HCC Foundation, Alumni Relations, Thrive Center and Food Pantry, El Centro, ALANA Men in Motion, and Jumpstart, as

well as personnel from area community groups, including Tech Foundry/Tech Hub, United Way, Alzheimer's Organization, and Holyoke Medical Center.

Staff from the HCC Admissions office will also be on hand to discuss enrollment

options, including MassEducate and MassReconnect, the state programs for free community college.

In 2021, HCC placed 50th among the Best Culinary Schools in America, a list that also includes such esteemed schools as the Culinary Institute of America. HCC's culinary program ranked third in New England after Johnson & Wales in Providence, R.I. and Southern Maine Community College in Portland. Best Choice Schools cited HCC for the quality of its one-year certificate and two-year associate of arts in science degree programs in culinary arts, as well as its 20,000 square-foot culinary arts facility, which opened in downtown Holyoke in 2018.

The HCC MGM Culinary Arts Institute is equipped with four modern kitchens, a bakery, hotel lab, and student-run dining room.

For more information about HCC's Culinary Arts program, please visit hcc.edu/culinary or send an email to CAI@hcc.edu.

Sensory Friendly Egg Hunt set for Apr. 4

HOLYOKE – Wistariahurst Museum is egg-static to bring back our Sensory-Friendly Egg Hunt for a third year! Designed for families with sensory sensitivities, this festive egg hunt focuses on gentle exploration and enjoyment so every bunny feels comfortable and welcome. This year's egg hunt will take place indoors throughout the halls of Wistariahurst. Weather permitting, outdoor games and activities will add some egg-straight fun to the event. Each child can gather eggs

and exchange them for prizes ranging from candy to fidget toys. Hop to it and register for one of the available time slots. Registration is available for free on Wistariahurst's Eventbrite page.

When interviewed at last year's egg hunt, Museum Director Megan Seiler noted “The city of Holyoke does an amazing job putting on a big egg hunt downtown, but not every kid thrives in that environment... So we wanted to be able to offer a more quiet, more calm space for kids who

might have sensory sensitivities.” Wistariahurst is egg-cited to bring this event back for after families in Holyoke and beyond enjoyed this event the past two years.

Families can sign up for timed entry to ensure smooth check-in between 2 and 4 p.m. on Saturday, Apr. 4. Families are welcome to enjoy the egg hunt any time during their timeslots, and each time slot will be limited to 10 families. If you are late for your time slot, don't worry. We still encourage all reg-

istrants to attend even if they are running late. Families are also welcome to explore the gardens and enjoy outdoor games, weather permitting, during the event.

Outside of this event, we have open hours on Mondays from 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. and Tuesdays from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m., and our gardens are open every day from dawn until dusk. We also host Sensory Friendly Sunday Funday events monthly. Hop to it and get your tickets for this year's Sensory Friendly Egg Hunt.

South Hadley Public Library

2 Canal Street, South Hadley • shadleylib.org • 413-538-5045

APRIL EVENTS

Step Into Spring with History, Community, and a Little Adventure! April is bringing a wonderful mix of history brought to life, meaningful conversations, hands-on learning, and even a bit of outdoor fun. Whether you're looking to step into the past, connect with your community, or try something new, there's something waiting for you at the South Hadley Public Library, 2 Canal Street, South Hadley, MA 01075. No Registration Necessary this month for programs.

Voices of the Revolution:

A Morning with Paul Revere and Mary Otis Warren Come to Life

Saturday, April 4 at 10 am in the Community Room

Celebrate the 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution by stepping into the spirit of 1776. Experience a dynamic living-history program featuring Mercy Otis Warren—the “muse of the revolution” and America's first female historian—and Paul Revere, the famed messenger who helped ignite a nation. Through first-person interpretation, award-winning educator Michele Gabrielson and historian Tom Dietzel bring these iconic figures to life, sharing the stories, struggles, and ideas that shaped independence. Join the conversation and celebrate 250 years of American history through the voices who helped make it happen.

Raising Awareness:

Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Relative

Wednesday, April 8 at 6 PM in the Community Room

Join us for an important lecture presented by the Institute of American Indian Studies addressing the national campaign surrounding Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Relatives (MMIWR). This program explores the disproportionately high rates of violence, disappearance, and murder affecting Indigenous women, families, and communities across North America. Learn how this movement advocates for justice, stronger protections, and improved investigations, while honoring victims and supporting families seeking answers.

Pokémon GO Walk (All Ages!)

Saturday, April 11 at 12 PM

Grab your phone and join fellow trainers for a fun and casual Pokémon GO walk! This all-ages program is perfect for players of any experience level. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Please register in the library lobby before the walk begins.

Dig In: The Basics of Vegetable Gardening

Wednesday, April 15 at 6 PM

Starting a vegetable garden doesn't have to be overwhelming. This beginner-friendly program will walk you through the fundamentals—how to choose the right crops, understand your growing space, and set yourself up for success. Presented by Cathy Neal, retired Agricultural Extension Specialist, this session offers practical tips and easy guidance to help you grow with confidence.

How to Become Involved in Politics with No Time or Money

Wednesday, April 22 at 6 PM

Want to make a difference but feel short on time or resources? Join local and state leaders as they share practical, realistic ways to get involved in civic life. Panelists include Town Registrar Sarah B. Gmeiner, representatives from the League of Women Voters, Senator Jake Oliveira, UMass Amherst Director of Public Policy Jane Fountain, and South Hadley Town Manager Lisa Wong. Note: This program is nonpartisan and focuses on civic participation, not party politics.

Art Works of Harriet Bowdoin with Robert Comeau

Wednesday, April 29 at 6 PM

Discover the life and work of Harriet Bowdoin, an artist born in South Hadley who later found success in New York City. Local historian Robert Comeau—former science teacher, researcher, and genealogy enthusiast—will explore her artistic contributions while sharing insights into local history and the broader cultural landscape of the time.

FUNDRAISER FOR

The Pan Mass Challenge Ride for Cancer Research

Why I Ride ~ No One Does it Alone

pmc.org/PK0164

CANDLE SAMPLE SALE ONE DAY ONLY

LARGE CANDLE (18 OZ)..... \$10.00

MEDIUM CANDLE (14.4 OZ) \$5.00

SMALL CANDLE (7.5 OZ) \$3.00

MINI DIFFUSER \$2.00

CAR AIR FRESHENER (3 PACK)..... \$2.00

ALL OTHER ITEMS AS MARKED

LOCATION: KLEIN IND.

317 MEADOW ST., CHICOPEE
LOADING DOCK #6

(next door to Callaway Golf Factory)

DATE: SATURDAY, APRIL 11, 2026

TIME: 9AM - 2PM

ALL SALES ARE FINAL - ALL SALES ARE CASH ONLY
WHILE SUPPLIES LAST

Libraries announce upcoming April programs

SOUTH HADLEY – The libraries in South Hadley announced their programs for the next month:

Adult Programs at SHPL Step into spring with history, community, and a little adventure at the South Hadley Public Library! Celebrate the 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution with Voices of the Revolution on Saturday, April 4 at 10:00, a dynamic living-history program featuring Paul Revere and Mercy Otis Warren brought to life. Learn about the national Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Relatives movement on Wednesday, April 8 at 6:00 in a powerful awareness lecture. Join our all-ages Pokémon GO Walk on Saturday, April 11 at 12:00; participants under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult.

Dig In! Intro to Vegetable Gardening Basics on Wednesday, April 15 at 6:00 with expert Cathy Neal. Discover simple ways to get involved in civic life with How To Become Involved in Politics with No Time or Money on Wednesday, April 22 at 6:00 with a panel of local and state leaders. Close out the month with a look at The Art and Life of South Hadley Native Harriet Bowdoin on Wednesday, April 29 at 6:00 with historian Robert Comeau.

Join our community of readers at an upcoming book discussion group. The Hello Sunshine Book Club meets on Wednesday, April 4 at 6:30 to talk about The Book Club for Troublesome Women by Marie Bostwick. The Between the Covers Romance Book Club meets on Tuesday, April 14 at 3:00 to discuss The Rosie Project by Graeme Simison. Haven't read these books? Pick up copies of upcoming discussion titles for both the library and senior center book clubs at the library.

Online Author Programs (click each program for more information)

• On a Mission: The History of US Women Astronauts with Smithsonian Curator Emerita Valerie Neal. A Library Speakers Consortium

and Smithsonian Institution Collaboration. Thursday, April 2 at 2:00.

• On Writing Action-Packed and Suspenseful Spycraft with Brad Taylor. Former Special Forces and New York Times Bestselling Author of the Pike Logan Series. Tuesday, April 14 at 7:00.

• Lush Lyricism and Intimate Confessions with Miranda Cowley Heller. New York Times Bestselling Author of The Paper Palace and Reese's Book Club Pick. Wednesday, April 22 at 2:00.

• On Writing Beloved Characters and Powerful Portrayals of Resilience in Virtual Conversation with Jason Reynolds. Award-Winning and New York Times Bestselling Author. Thursday, April 30 at 7:00.

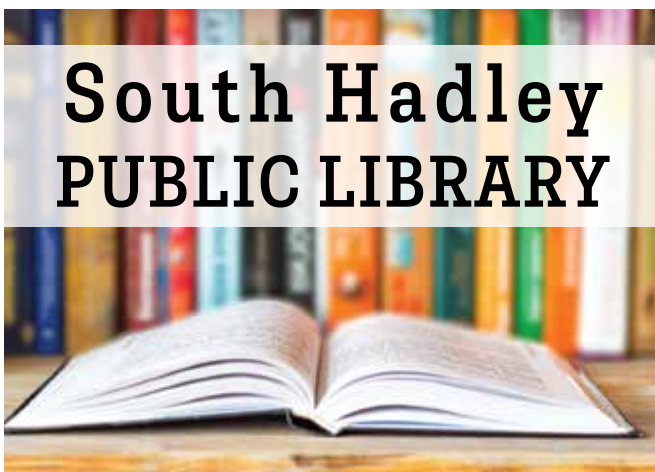
Children's Programs at SHPL

Check your icebox to see if your plums have been stolen - it's poetry month! From Shel Silverstein to Mary Oliver, our display will be bursting with books full of poems. We also have special events during April vacation week: Book Bingo on Tuesday, April 21 at 2:00, Henry the Juggler on Thursday, April 23 at 3:00, and Balloon Twisting Storytime on Friday, April 24 at 10:30.

We have a storytime every Saturday morning this month! Japanese storytime with Kanae (April 4), Science storytime with Mount Holyoke students (April 11), Cinderella storytime with Pioneer Valley Ballet (April 18), and Poetry storytime with children's librarian Jenny (April 25) - all at 10:30.

Babywearing expert Jenn Hydefrost is back on Friday, April 10 at 10:00 to answer all your babywearing questions! Bring your infants and toddlers and any carriers you have. Regular Baby Lapsit Storytime will be on Friday, April 3 and 17 this month.

All our usual events continue - Read to a Dog (Tuesday, April 7), Graphic Novel Book Club (Thursday, April 9), Pride Club (Tuesdays, April 14 and 28), Rhyme Time, Story Time, Lego &



Games - plus Kids' Beginner Spanish (Fridays, April 3 and 10), Homework Help (Thursdays at 3:30), and one last session of Chess Club (Wednesday, April 8).

Save the date! Saturday, May 9 will be our first annual Picture Book Fair, in conjunction with the Mass Kids Lit Fest!

Teen Programs at SHPL This month for Teens (ages 11 through 19) we have a lot of great offerings! YA Book Tasting happens on the first Monday of the month, April 6 from 3:30-5:00. This month's Crafternoon takes place Thursday, April 16 from 4:00-5:00 when we will be making Felt Flowers. Night Craft takes place on Tuesday, April 28 from 6:30-7:30 and attendees will be creating Salt Dough. None of these programs require signing up unless you would like an email reminder.

Our monthly gaming sessions will be happening on Tuesday, April 7 for Xbox X and Tuesday, April 14 for Switch. Open Gaming will take place Tuesday, April 21. All gaming sessions start at 3:30 and run until 5:00. No sign up is needed. Snacktime will be on Thursday, April 23 from 4:00 - 5:00. Please sign up so we can have enough supplies for all teen participants.

Our monthly Teen Takeaways are always popular and this month features Paper Flowers. Sign up once and get a new Teen Takeaway every month! We also have our latest Booktrovert pick: Shiver by Maggie Stiefvater. There are no in-person meet ups,

just enjoy the book on your own time. Copies are available in the Teen Room for check out.

There will also be Duck Tape Crafts on Wednesday, April 22 from 3:30 - 4:30. For any questions on teen programs, please email Bethany.

Gaylord Memorial Library Programs

Spice Club will be celebrating spring by sampling Your Backyard Rub from Southern New England Spice Co. Discuss your cooking and baking plans with other spice enthusiasts on Thursday, April 2 at 6:30.

We have two exciting craft programs for ages 10 and up. You can make a Simple Mechanism Puppet with Homeslice Puppetry on Thursday, April 9 at 5:00 (register here), and Learn to Fold Origami Flowers with Kooki Aryeetey on Thursday, April 16 at 4:00 (register here).

Celebrate National Library Week with us with a screening of The Librarians on Thursday, April 23 at 6:00. And our friends at the Williston Observatory are cele-

brating Massachusetts Space Week with an Observatory Open House on Thursday, April 23 from 8:00 to 10:00.

For kids, we have a weekly Story Time on Fridays at 10:30. Our special guest on Friday, April 3, will be Miss Mary from Berkshire Hills Music Academy to read braille books and sing. On Friday, April 17, we'll have students from the MESMS National Junior Honor Society to read and lead crafts.

We have LEGO and Drop-In Crafts alternating Thursdays from 3:00-6:00. We'll have Drop-in crafts April 2 & 30 and LEGO Club will meet April 9 & 23.

Families can also join us on Saturday, April 4 at 10:15 for an Easter Art Project, and Saturday, April 18 at 10:15 for Trains and Tracks.

Granby Free Public Library announces adult activities for April

Adult Book Group
Thursday, April 9th at 6:00pm

The book group will be discussing All the Little Bird Hearts by Viktoria Lloyd-Barlow. Grab a copy and join us! This group meets on the second Thursday of each month.

Urban Sketching Techniques
Saturday, April 11th at 11am

Join local artist Jaime Bohorquez, for a two-hour hands-on workshop on the principles and techniques of urban sketching. All skill levels are welcome. All materials provided. Sign-up is required.

Lakes and Rivers Talk: Using Barley Straw to Nip Harmful Cyanobacteria Blooms in the Bud!
A local pilot project
Thursday, April 23rd at 5:30pm

Cyanobacteria are normal, essential components of healthy ecosystems. But when they grow explosively, they can seriously disrupt ecosystems, often releasing potent toxins and causing major adverse health effects. HCBs are dramatically increasing globally and locally in the context of climate change and excess nutrients in both marine and freshwater bodies. Our local consortium is now in its fifth season of a project aimed at preventing these harmful blooms in selected Connecticut River watershed ponds using barley straw. Join Dr. Allison Ryan at the Granby Free Public Library to hear all about the project.

Tabletop Games Club
Saturday, April 25th from 10:30am to 1:30pm
The Granby Library Tabletop Games Club invites players of all ages 8 and up to gather and enjoy a vari-

ety of board, card, dice, tile, and other in-person tabletop games in a welcoming, social environment. This group typically meets on the third Saturday of each month.

Knitting Group
Every Wednesday afternoon at 2pm
Bring your latest project and join us for conversation, tips and tricks!
Friends of the Granby Library Meeting
Thursday, April 16th at 4:30pm

Love your Library? Show your love by joining the Friends of the Granby Library! Join us for meetings to see what's new.

Upcoming Events:
Friends of the Granby Library Annual Plant Sale - Saturday, May 9th from 9am to 1pm
Foraging Walk - Saturday, May 30th at 11am

Relay hosting concert fundraiser

BELCHERTOWN – Quaboag Valley Relay for Life will host a fundraiser for "Scare Cancer Away" on Saturday, Apr. 11 at 3 p.m. at the Belchertown Untied Church of Christ, 18 Park St. The featured perform-

er is Ray Guillemette, Jr. the 10-time international award-winning Elvis tribute artist.

The event I being held to help cancer patients, fund more research to help with the government cutbacks,

and to honor those we've lost too soon to cancer. Tickets are \$20 and are available at <https://buccsangels.ticketspice.com/rajs-of-elvis-relay-fundraiser>.

Refreshments will be available for purchase.

Easter is Sunday, April 5th Dickinson Farms & Greenhouse



• Pansies • Daffodils • Hyacinths • Hydrangeas
• Tulips • Easter Lilies • Asiatic Lilies

We are the Growers!
Get Your Plants From the Source -
With Over 70 Years of Growing Experience!
Largest Selection of
"Proven Winners" in the Area!

Annual & Vegetable Plants Arriving Soon!

OPENING:
March 27th 8am-5pm
Beginning May 1st
Open: Mon-Sat 8am-7pm,
Sun 8am-6pm

Rt. 202, 309 East State St., Granby

413-467-3794

~ Family Owned & Operated ~

Most Major
Credit Cards Accepted
Sorry No Checks
Gift Certificates Available

HADLEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS SCHOOL CHOICE OPENINGS 2026-2027

Hadley Public Schools grades PK-12 is now accepting School Choice Applications.

They can be found at www.hadleyschools.org.

The cut-off date for applications is April 15th.

Hadley Public Schools offers the following advantages:

HADLEY ELEMENTARY

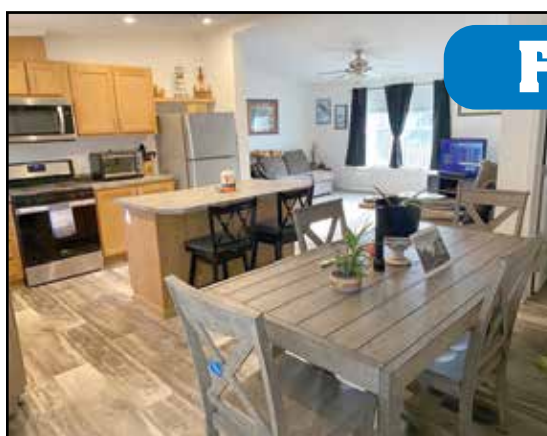
- Small Class Sizes
- Art, Band, Chorus
- Tech & Makerspace Lab
- World Language Lab
- 7:30am Homework support (free)
- Afterschool Clubs: Newspaper, Equestrian, Board Games
- Inclusive Special Ed Services
- New Playgrounds
- Project Lead the Way distinguished school

*Open spots in grades K-2.
Limited spots grades 3-5.
Grade 6 closed.

HOPKINS ACADEMY

- Small Class Sizes
- Advanced Course Offerings
- AP, PLTW, Early College
- Career Pathways in:
Business & Finance, Clean Energy, Manufacturing & Engineering, Information Sciences, Social Assistance & Health Care, Life Sciences
- Extracurricular Offerings: Athletics, Band, Chorus, Drama, Equestrian, Leadership
- Internships, Service Learning
- Travel Opportunities

Grades 7-12 open.



FIVE ISLANDS

Georgetown, Maine
2 Bedrooms, 2 Bathroom
Washer/Dryer, Fully Equipped
• Walk to Five Islands Wharf and Ledgewood Preserve Beach
• Close to Reid State Park

\$1200/week

207-607-9333



SOUTH HADLEY FIRE DISTRICT NO. 1 and SOUTH HADLEY FIRE DISTRICT NO. 2

ANNUAL ELECTIONS

153 Newton Street, Cafeteria One
South Hadley High School
South Hadley, MA
April 14, 2026, 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Absentee applications are available on the respective websites:
shdistrict1.org • shdistrict2.org

Sample Ballots will be posted as soon they are available.

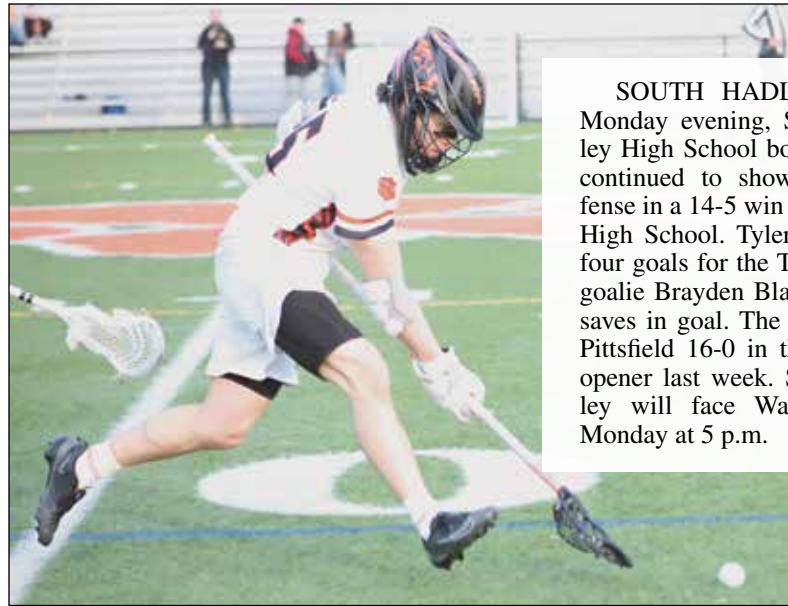
SPORTS

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

SEND US YOUR SPORTS SUBMISSIONS

www.sports.turley.com

Tigers move to 2-0



Jasiel Ramos picks up a loose ball.

SOUTH HADLEY – On Monday evening, South Hadley High School boys lacrosse continued to show good offense in a 14-5 win over Lenox High School. Tyler Quist had four goals for the Tigers while goalie Brayden Blais made 10 saves in goal. The Tigers beat Pittsfield 16-0 in their season opener last week. South Hadley will face Wahconah on Monday at 5 p.m.



Cooper Blais makes a play on defense.

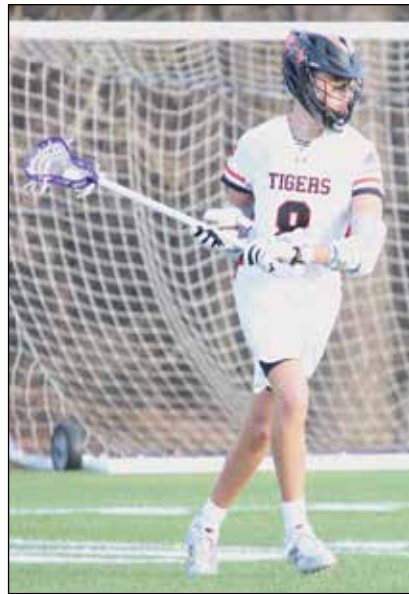


Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

Gavin Quist goes after a ground ball.



Colin Lamb and an opponent go for a loose ball.



Hunter Skibel winds up for a shot.



Mason Peters is covered closely as he heads for the goal.

Safety first: Extra bag coming to baseball

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

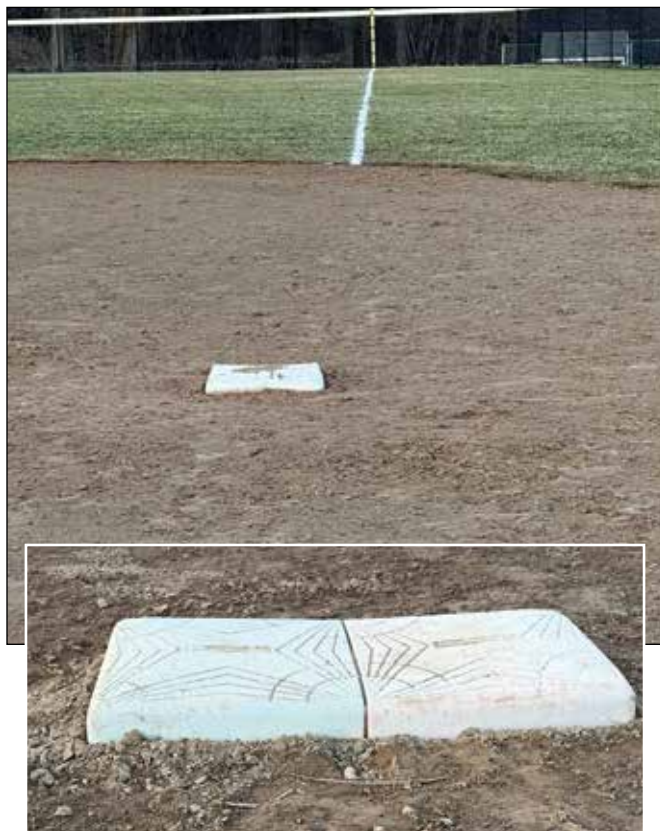
Over the past decade, safety has been a key theme for many of the rule changes that come through either the National Federation of High Schools, or the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association.

Rule changes have centered around taking care of athletes, limiting unsafe play, and especially anything that can result in concussions.

Years ago, softball implemented an orange bag, a safety bag, at first base. It's more commonly known as a double bag since there are literally two. The orange bag is directly to the right of first base and is mostly for the runner's use.

Any runner running out a ground ball in a way where they would run through first base, utilize the second bag, typically colored orange. The runner is required to step on the orange bag while the fielder can use the standard white bag. The purpose has been to avoid collisions between a hustling runner and the first baseman, who could get carried in a different direction by an errant through. The second bag puts a little space between the runner and the fielder.

After seeing success with safety in softball, the double bag is coming to high school baseball. The NFHS is making the base a requirement for high schools beginning in 2027. However, several



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

Softball has utilized the double first base bags for safety for many years. Now the double first base is coming to high school baseball fields.

high schools, including Agawam and South Hadley, have opted to install the double bags this season and implement the new rules to help high school students get used to playing with them before the rule is fully implemented.

Some schools will wait until next year depending on the time it takes to install another anchor for the double bag.

High school umpires are also being educated on the

new rules concerning using the double bag in a baseball game. Andy Rogers, who is the coordinator and assignor for high school games, said it has been a part of recent meetings with umpires to prepare for this year. There are nuances to the double bag rule that umpires will need to enforce.

Among them, while the standard practice is that run-

Please see **SAFETY**, page 8

Rams stage major comeback to beat Comp

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

GRANBY—The Granby Lady Rams faced a little bit of adversity at the start of their season opening softball game against Chicopee Comp.

The Lady Rams, who were trailing, 8-0, after the top of the first inning, clawed back for a 22-10 home victory in a Suburban East matchup, last Thursday afternoon. The first ever meeting between the varsity softball teams came to an end with one-out in the bottom of the sixth inning due to the 12-run mercy rule.

"The top of the first inning wasn't an ideal situation for us," said Granby head coach Mike Afflitto. "A lot of teams would be deflated after giving up eight runs, but we battled back with five runs in the bottom of the first, which was huge. We also had a couple big innings. It was an all-around team effort today."

It was the second time during the past three years that the Lady Rams had scored more than 20 runs in the season opener. They began the 2024 campaign with a 21-9 home win against Mahar Regional, which was Afflitto's first game as the Lady Rams varsity softball coach.

Granby, who had a 12-9 overall record last year, were previously members of the Suburban West League. They finished in second place in the league standings behind Springfield Central during the past two seasons.

"We're in a new league

this year, but one of our goals is to win the league title," Afflitto said. "There are a lot of very good teams in the Suburban East, so it won't be very easy to accomplish."

Longtime Comp head coach Kelly Walsh was very pleased with how her team performed offensively during the first inning.

"I was very happy with how well we began the game," Walsh said. "We only have a couple of returning starters and we had only practiced outside one time before playing today's game. We just need to keep improving in every game."

The Lady Colts lost their first eight games of the last season and wound up finishing with a 5-15 record.

In this year's opener, Comp sent 13 batters to the plate in the first inning.

After loading the bases, junior shortstop Alexis Wojcik hit a pop-up that dropped fair along the third base line which scored the game's first run. Then senior catcher Aleysha Ramos was hit by a pitch thrown by Granby junior righty Meredith Bartosz. It forced home another run.

Comp built a 4-0 lead following a two-run single into right field by sophomore third baseman Miley Santiago. The rally continued with an RBI single by senior first baseman Joaneliz Soto-Cintron, a two-run double by senior centerfielder Arianna Bird and an RBI single by junior second baseman Brielle Bennett, which capped off the eight run inning.

The trio of Ramos, Bird, and Bennett finished the game with two base hits apiece.

The Lady Rams, who held most of their preseason practices outside, answered right back in the bottom half of the first against junior righthander Ashley Warwick.

Bartosz, who was the starting goalie for the Lady Rams soccer team last fall, and freshman second baseman Kara White drew walks leading off the frame.

Their first run was scored following a single to center by senior second baseman Kaitlyn Curran.

Junior shortstop Ellie Szlosek knocked home two more runs with a triple to the gap in left center. Szlosek scored on a wild pitch that sailed to the backstop, which sliced Granby's deficit in half. Another run came home when junior leftfielder Sydney Chateauf hit a ground ball to the first baseman.

Comp used a little small ball to score another run in the second inning.

Ramos leadoff with a bunt hit and stole second base. She advanced to third on a wild pitch before scoring on a throwing error by the catcher.

Granby would then outscore Comp, 17-1, during the rest of the game.

After scoring a pair of runs in the bottom of the second, the Lady Rams tied the score at 9-9 with two outs in the third when freshman third baseman Kara White, who had two of her team's nine

Please see **RAMS**, page 8

T-Birds grab win over Lehigh Phantoms

ALLENTOWN, PA – The Springfield Thunderbirds (26-29-6-2) got big performances from their leadership group en route to a 5-3 win over the Lehigh Valley Phantoms (27-30-3-3) on Friday night in a pivotal Atlantic Division battle inside the PPL Center. With the win, the T-Birds jumped back into the sixth and final playoff position in the Atlantic Division with nine games remaining.

Veteran leaders helped set the early tone for Springfield as captain Chris Wagner dropped a pass inside the blue line to Dillon Dube, who wired a wristed past Aleksei Kolosov at 7:28 of the first to hand the T-Birds the 1-0 advantage.

Lehigh Valley got a response courtesy of one of their veteran leaders 4:17 later as Anthony Richard finished a backhand bid past

Vadim Zherenko off a set-up pass by pro debutant Cole Knuble to tie the score, 1-1.

Numerous scoring chances and one power play for each team also came up empty as Zherenko finished a busy first with nine saves, while Kolosov stopped the other 11 offerings that came into his crease.

The T-Birds' leadership group was not finished putting their stamp on the contest, as Dube created a turnover deep in the Lehigh Valley zone, nudging the puck into the slot for Wagner, who rifled a forehand through Kolosov at 7:09 of the second, extending the Springfield advantage to 2-1.

Zherenko barely had to lift a finger in the middle period as the T-Birds allowed a season-low two shots in the frame. However, the Phantoms' penalty kill, which

had been struggling mightily against the T-Birds, answered the bell with two man-down successes to keep their deficit at a single goal heading into the final period.

After failing to equalize on a power play to begin the third, the Phantoms eventually got the game squared up again at 6:32 when David Jiricek found Zayde Wisdom crashing the net to make it a 2-2 score.

Unruffled, the T-Birds then turned the game on its head with three goals in a 4:28 blitz, beginning with Alek Kaskimaki scooping up a rebound in the blue paint at 9:08 to restore the Springfield lead, 3-2. Wagner and Dube each picked up their third points of the night on the helpers.

Just 2:10 later, Marc-Andre Gaudet made an alert read up on the right-wing wall to

steal a puck off a Phantoms defender before setting up Juraj Pekarcik for an insurance making tally and a 4-2 lead. Pekarcik also drew a Springfield power play following a post-goal cross-check by Sawyer Boulton.

The T-Birds did not score on the ensuing power play, but it set the table for Hugh McGing to join the party at 13:36, firing a perfect shot into the top shelf from the left circle and giving Springfield the 5-2 advantage.

Oscar Eklind finally halted the T-Birds scoring run at 17:44, but it proved to be too little, too late for Lehigh Valley. Zherenko needed to make just 18 saves for his 14th win of the season, while Kolosov had 27 stops in the losing effort for the Phantoms.

Registration continues for new players in QVBL

SOUTH HADLEY – Registration for new players in the Quabbin Valley Baseball League, an over-28 recreational league, continues. The league is now headed for its open practices for new players and the new-player draft for players looking to join the league.

There will be open practices for all players but specifically targeted at new players scheduled for Mar. 29 and Apr. 4 at times and locations to be announced. The draft is currently scheduled to take place on Apr. 4 following that practice. Any players who sign up will be contacted directly for the time and location of the open practice.

For the 2026 season, the cost will be \$215 and will include a 16th game added to the regular season schedule.

During the 2025 season, the league experimented with playing on Mother's Day Saturday as well as a week-night game to allow players an opportunity to play under the lights. While the night games were very successful, the Mother's Day Saturday

games were rained out.

Those elements will return along with a 16th game with an opponent to be determine as the league's board explores possibilities for interleague matchups with another league in the region.

The season is currently slated to start on Sunday, April 19 and following the success of the six-team fall league last year, the league will also have a fall league in September and October this season.

The registration is live at www.quabbinvalleybaseball.org. Players must register and then pay the league dues via Venmo or contact the league leadership if an alternate form of payment is needed.

Aside from the weeknight and Mother's Day games, other games take place Sundays at 10 a.m. outside of Mother's Day, Memorial Day and July 4 weekends. Playoffs will be in August.

This is the 30th season for the league and league officials are looking to celebrate the anniversary with a couple of events.

Railers suffer loss to Wheeling

WHEELING, WV — The Worcester Railers HC (27-28-5-2, 61 pts) fell short to the Wheeling Nailers (41-16-3-3, 88 pts) in a narrow 2-1 loss on Saturday, March 28th at WesBanco Arena, in front of a crowd of 3,588. The Railers will wrap up their weekend road trip in Wheeling with a final match-up against the Nailers on Sunday, March 29th, with a 4:10 p.m. EDT puck drop.

Anthony Repaci (1-0-1) got things going for Worcester as he collected a chance bounce off a Nailers' skate at 7:16 in the first. Wheeling evened the score with a bar-down tally ten minutes later from Connor Lockhart (1-0-1)(1-1). A tip from Matty De St. Phalle (1-0-1) at 19:20 closed out scoring for the first period and put the Nailers ahead by one (2-1). There were no other goals scored for the remainder of the game

for a narrow 2-1 final.

Worcester got themselves on the board early in the first as Anthony Repaci (20th) lit the lamp unassisted at 7:16. Repaci maneuvered the puck out in front after a ricochet off the heel of a Nailers' skate kept the game alive in the zone. Connor Lockhart (20th) erased the one-goal lead ten minutes later with a bar-down shot sent sailing high over netminder Parker Gahagen. A shot from Brent Johnson was tipped along the way by Matty De St. Phalle (10th) at 19:20 and sent the puck wide of Gahagen to put the Nailers in the lead as the game transitioned into its second frame. Wheeling narrowly led in shots on goal with 14 to Worcester's 13. The sole penalty of the period was called on Wheeling's De St. Phalle for tripping at 12:55.

The middle frame was an action-packed affair of

shed gloves and flying fists. Tensions ran high between Max Dorrington and Matt Quercia, who kicked off the stream of penalties to follow. Dorrington and Quercia squared off at center ice and put on a show for the onlooking crowd. The pair skated to their respective penalty boxes for a five-minute stretch as play returned. Lincoln Hatten and Aidan Sutter eagerly kept things going and soon joined their teammates in the box for roughing 25 seconds later. Cole Donhauser and Brent Johnson would complete the trifecta for each side as well, with less than a minute gone from the clock. As the boxes emptied, Riley Piercey and Max Graham took their turn in the ring at 14:08, and much like Dorrington and Quercia, would remain there for the next five minutes. Gleb Veremyev capped off the second period rap sheet with a hold-

ing call at 18:36, which handed Wheeling their only power play opportunity of the evening. Shots in the period were 20-10 in favor of Worcester.

Veremyev's call from the close of the second carried over for 36 seconds into the third and gave the Nailers an extra man advantage in the final frame. Worcester put on another offensively-dominated performance with three consecutive power play chances that bracketed the split of the period. Neither side found the back of the net, which left the Railers down by one at the close as the Nailers clinched the first spot in the Kelly Cup Playoffs for the North Division. Worcester's shots on goal totaled 50 across the evening to Wheeling's 27. Worcester skated away clean with no penalties in the final frame, while Wheeling collected three.

RAMS from page 7

hits, delivered an RBI single into right field.

The Lady Rams scored seven runs in the bottom of the fourth with the help of a couple of errors and wild pitches. Junior catcher Jaidyn Roberge also provided a two-run triple to center and scored on a throwing error. The home team added five more runs in the fifth.

Holding a 21-10 advantage, Roberge drew a walk leading off the bottom of the sixth. She was replaced at

first base by courtesy runner Autumn Swistak, who's a junior. After moving to second on a ground out and to third on an error, the contest ended early when Swistak crossed the plate on a wild pitch.

Junior first baseman Kiki Gaj and Chateaufeuf also had two base hits for the home team.

Granby will be looking to sweep the season series when they visit Chicopee Comp on April 21.

SAFETY from page 7

ners running through first base such as in the situation of trying to beat out a ground ball will use the orange bag and fielders trying to record a force out will utilize will use the white bag, there are couple of exceptions.

One is the dropped third strike. If there is a dropped third strike and a catcher throwing on the outside of the baseline to first base, the first

baseman is allowed to utilize the orange bag to field the throw and record the out. The runner, in this situation, can use either base.

After a runner has run through first base, typically after beating out a ground ball, that runner must come back and touch the white bag. If the runner comes back and touches the orange bag, that runners is in play once they touch the orange bag and can be tagged out.

On situations like a clean

base hit, a batter/runner who heads for first and rounds the bag, will utilize the white bag. But a runner running out a ground ball who touches the white bag instead of the orange bag could be called out on appeal because it can be treated like missing a base.

While the normal white base is the border of fair territory, the orange bag is in foul territory. If a batted ball hits the orange bag, the ball will be called foul. A ball that hits the white bag or rolls over it

is still fair.

The second bag at first base is orange in most cases, but can be another color.

For 2026, players playing on fields that have the double first base bag will use them with the rules that come with them. Adult leagues in the region have pledged to observe the rules of the double bag if they play on fields that have them. Most adult leagues go by MLB rules, which do not require a double bag at first base.

Follow Turley Sports on Instagram

Turley Publications sports department has recently joined Instagram. You can find our account by searching "turleysports." We will regularly feature samples of photos that you will see in our publications on a weekly basis. Please follow and share with your friends and loved ones. We will be featuring photos from all 11 of our sports sections, but as always, you can see all the photos that appear by subscribing to your local paper or picking up a copy in your community.



THE ROADHOUSE CAFE

(413) 323-6175
178 Federal St.
Belchertown, MA

Swing on by The Roadhouse Cafe!

**Specials Are Served All Week
And Breakfast Is Served All Day!**

OPEN MONDAY-SUNDAY 7 AM TO 2 PM
Check our Facebook and Instagram pages for updates

HELP WANTED EXPERIENCED WRITERS & JOURNALISTS

- Produce news and/or feature stories of local interest for various towns and cities.
- Must be dependable, professional and able to meet strict deadlines.
- Salary based on a flat rate by story and photo.

Turley Publications, Inc.
www.turley.com

Send writing samples with resume to:
GREG SCIBELLI
24 Water Street
Palmer, MA 01069
or email directly to:
gscibelli@turley.com

SERVICE DIRECTORY

To advertise on this page call the Town Reminder at 283-8393

ELECTRICIAN

GAGNON ELECTRIC
All Types Of Electrical Work.
Fully Insured.
All Work Fully Guaranteed
Free Estimates. Lic. #14960A
533-8867

TREE SERVICES

LUCCHESI TREE SERVICE
AND LANDSCAPING
Lot Clearing, Retaining Walls,
Mowing, Pruning, Stump Grinding,
Irrigation. Insured
534-1002



SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESS

E	A	S	E		E	M	B	A	L	M									
A	P	P	R	E	C	I	A	T	I	O	N								
R	E	U	N	I	O	N		E	A	S	I	E	R						
	S	E	E	R	S				O	S	P	R	E	Y					
					E	P	I					A	G	E	E				
					E	D	D	A	S			S	O	D	A				
					M	C		E	G	O	S			T	S	H			
					M	I	A		E	D	P								
I	D	S			E	E	L	S		A	F								
M	A	C	S		S	E	R	A	L										
A	L	A	E						M	I	D								
M	E	L	L	O	W				T	I	A	R	A						
	A	D	A	G	I	O			N	I	A	G	A	R	A				
					R	E	S	T	A	T	E	M	E	N	T	S			
					E	P	O	C	H	S			D	A	S	H			

Classifieds

12 WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS | SERVING 50 LOCAL COMMUNITIES

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

COMMUNITY MARKETPLACE

Call us at 413.283.8393

FOR SALE

FIREWOOD

FIREWOOD
Fresh cut & split \$225.00
Seasoned cut & split \$325.00
All hardwood.
Tree length available
*Also have seasoned softwood for outdoor boilers (Cheap).
Quality & volumes **guaranteed!!**
New England Forest Products
(413)477-0083

MISCELLANEOUS

TROY-BILT 8-HORSE ROTOTILLER
Econo-horse. Very good condition. \$750.00. Call 617-306-3066.

WANTED

WANTED! CASH for:

- Machinist tools, power tools & Snap on.
- Electronics & Audio Equipment.
- Sports Cards.
- 70s/80s/90s Toys.
- Antiques & Collectibles.

Much, much more!
Call/Text Sam
413-531-5381

WANTED TO BUY

ALWAYS BUYING ALL ANTIQUES:

Musical instruments, guitars, horns, keyboards, vintage electronics, jewelry, coins, watches, military cameras, sports memorabilia, art, sterling signs, automotive, hunting, advertising, radios, ham radio equipment, audio equipment, toys, one item or entire estate.
Call Paul 413-206-8688

WANTED

ALL ANTIQUES AND OLD STUFF WANTED.

BUYING Bottles, Crocks, Jugs, Pottery, Costume Jewelry, Toys, Games, coins, sterling, Glassware, Silver-plated items, watches, Musical instruments, typewriters, sewing machines, tools, radios, clocks, lanterns, lamps, kitchenware, cookware, knives, military, automotive, fire department, masonic, license plates, beer cans, barware, books, oil cans, advertising tins, hunting, fishing, signs, and more.
Donald Roy (860) 874-8396

JUNK REMOVAL

ARA JUNK FURNITURE REMOVAL

Full house cleanouts, attics, basements, garages, pools, hot tubs, sheds, decks. Same day service. 8am-9pm. Credit cards accepted. Free estimates on phone.
Fully insured.
Call Pete 413-433-0356.

JUNK REMOVAL

A Call We Haul FAST REMOVAL
Junk, Appliance, Cleanouts.
We load it & take it.
413-531-1936
CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

Find archives of this local newspaper at
www.newspapers.turley.com

OPPORTUNITY

BUSINESS FOR SALE

BIOLINKS OF NEW ENGLAND
Grease trap pumping business. Ninety customers, two pump trucks.
Call Les 413-297-1513

SERVICES

A B Hauling and Removal Service

2***A & B HOUSEHOLD REMOVAL SERVICE*******
Cellars, attics, garages cleaned, yard debris. Barns & sheds demolished. Swimming pools removed. Cheaper than dumpster fees and we do all the work. Lowest rates. Fully insured. (413)283-6512, cell (413)222-8868.

DRYWALL, PAINTING AND CEILINGS, plaster repair. Drywall hanging. Taping & complete finishing. All ceiling textures. Fully insured. Jason at Great Walls. (413)563-0487

BOAT FOR SALE

17' STARCRAFT ALUMINUM BOAT. 1994 w/90HP 2-stroke Evinrude motor. Trailer w/spare tire, in great shape. \$4000. Verne, 413-539-8246.

SERVICES

ONE CALL DOES IT ALL HANDYMAN SERVICES.
No job too small. Call for all your household and property maintenance needs.
413-563-6993

ELECTRICIAN

LICENSED ELECTRICIAN
I offer good quality electrical work, no project too small. Service upgrades, pools, trustworthy, dependable & insured.
Master Elec. #20773A.
Text/call Luis 413-218-3301.

ZEN ELECTRIC COMPANY LLC
Fully licensed and insured; Master Electrician on staff. Call for all your electrical needs. No job too small. Senior citizen and Veteran Discount. A veteran owned company. MA License #8101A1.
Call John at (413)206-6509
Every customer gets a free gem stone.

SERVICES

HOME IMPROVEMENT

HANDYMAN SERVICES. 30 years experience, replacement windows, painting, patching, laminate flooring, carpet installation/repair, and storage solutions. Call/text 413-777-3376.

HOME IMPROVEMENTS. REMODELING Kitchens, baths. Ceramic tile, windows, painting, wallpapering, siding, decks. Insurance work. Fully insured. Free estimates. (413)246-2783 Ron.

CHAMELEON PAINTING & REMODELING
INTERIOR/EXTERIOR
Remodeling & Deck Specialists
Residential/Commercial
Fully Insured • Free Estimates
413-351-1147

LANDSCAPING

A+ ROZELL'S LANDSCAPING & BOBCAT SERVICE
Excavator Services
Overgrown property?
Extreme Brush Cutting!
Shrub, Stump, Tree Removal
Lawn/Arborvite Installed
Loam, Stone, Mulch, Sand
Storm Clean-up
Small Demolition/ Junk Removal
Insured
Josh Rozell 413-636-5957

****ALL SEASON**** Specializing in shrub trimming, pruning, design, deliveries, loader, backhoe, insured. Professional. Please call Bob (413)537-5789.

MATT GUERTIN LANDSCAPING
Landscape Design and Installation
Paver Patios, Walkways
For more services visit
mattguertinlandscaping.com
Call or text 413-266-9975
Insured - Commercial - Residential

MASONRY

STOP WET BASEMENTS

ABC MASONRY & BASEMENT WATERPROOFING
All brick, block, stone, concrete. Hatchway doors, basement windows, chimneys rebuilt & repaired, foundations repaired, basement waterproofing systems, sump pumps. BBB+ rating. Free estimates. Lic #14790. Call (413)569-1611, (413)374-5377

PLEASE RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER

SERVICES

PAINTING

PRO PAINTING
Low, low prices. All phases interior, exterior painting and wallpapering.
Also minor carpentry.
413-310-5099.

PLUMBING

GREG LAFONTAIN PLUMBING & HEATING Lic #19196 Repairs & Replacement of fixtures, water heater installations, steam/HW boiler replacement. Kitchen & Bath remodeling. 30 years experience. Fully insured. \$10 Gift Card With Work Performed. Call Greg (413)592-1505

RUBBISH REMOVAL

BOB ROBILLARD'S RUBBISH REMOVAL Attics, Cellars, Garages cleaned, Pools/Hot Tubs Removed. Family owned/operated since 1950 (413)537-5090

TREE WORK

AAA-TROM'S TREE SERVICE PROFESSIONAL SERVICE. Residential removal of trees, Free estimates. Fully insured W/Workman's Comp. Remove them before the wind takes them down. Cordwood, stump grinding. Call 413-283-6374.

AFFORDABLE STUMP GRINDING
Fast, dependable service. Free estimates. Fully insured. Call Joe Sablack 413-436-9821, Cell 413-537-7994

DL & G TREE SERVICE- Everything from tree pruning, tree removal, stump grinding, storm damage and brush chipping. Honest and Dependable. Fully insured. Now offering a Senior Citizen and Veteran discount. Call today for free estimate (413)478-4212

H & H TREE SERVICE
All phases of tree care.
Call Dave 413-668-6560 day/night.

STUMP GRINDING

DL & G STUMP GRINDING Grinding stumps of all sizes, insured & certified. Senior discounts. Call Dave 413-478-4212.

AFFORDABLE STUMP GRINDING
Fast, dependable service. Free estimates. Fully insured. Call Joe Sablack 413-436-9821, Cell 413-537-7994

HELP WANTED

The Town of North Brookfield is looking for a **part-time Program Assistant** for the Council on Aging. Please submit a resume with a letter of interest to the **Selectmen's Office, 215 Main St., North Brookfield, MA 01535**; or by email to **selectmen@northbrookfield.net**.

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT



ALL REAL ESTATE advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation, or discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or intention to make any such preference, limitation, or discrimination." We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.

LAND WANTED

Seeking 8-20 peaceful acres in Central MA for pet memorial sanctuary. Especially interested in lease-option, phased sale, or seller financing. Respectful, serious inquiry. Patrick | 508-735-3232 | **founder@rainbow-meadow.org**

FOR RENT



All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status (number of children and or pregnancy), national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, or any intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination.
This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertising in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development "HUD" toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

2026 TAX TIME

CHANTEL BLEAU ACCOUNTING SERVICES
For Full Accounting & Tax Service
Registered Tax Return Preparer
228 West St., Ware, MA 01082
413-967-8364
Call For An Appointment
The IRS does not endorse any particular individual tax return preparer. For more information on tax preparers go to irs.gov.

Personal & Small Business Federal & All States

FAST TAX USA TAX PREPARATION SERVICE
413-348-2279

IRS Certified Tax Preparers
Independently owned and operated. Over 25 years experience.
1622 B North Main Street, Palmer, MA 01069
www.FastTax-MA.com
Free E-File & Direct Deposit

Call Your Local Turley Publications Sales Representative For Information And Rates On Advertising Your Tax Service Here
CALL 413-283-8393 TO PLACE YOUR AD TODAY!

FILL OUT AND MAIL THIS MONEY MAKER

MAIL TO: Classifieds, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069
or call: 413-283-8393

DEADLINES: FRIDAY AT NOON

CATEGORY:			
1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20
21	Base Price \$26.50	22	Base Price \$27.00
23	Base Price \$27.50	24	Base Price \$28.00
25	Base Price \$28.50	26	Base Price \$29.00
27	Base Price \$29.50	28	Base Price \$30.00
29	Base Price \$30.50	30	Base Price \$31.00
31	Base Price \$31.50	32	Base Price \$32.00
33	Base Price \$32.50	34	Base Price \$33.00
35	Base Price \$33.50	36	Base Price \$34.00
37	Base Price \$34.50	38	Base Price \$35.00
39	Base Price \$35.50	40	Base Price \$36.00

Quabbin Village Hills
Circulation: 50,500

Hilltowns
Circulation: 9,800

Suburban Residential
Circulation: 59,000

All Three ZONES for \$26.00 for 20 words plus 50¢ for each additional word.

Name: _____ Phone: _____
Address: _____
Town: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Number of Weeks: _____ X per week rate = \$ _____
Credit Card: MasterCard VISA Discover Cash Check# _____
Card #: _____ Exp. Date _____ CVV _____
Amount of charge: _____ Date: _____

GREAT VALUE!
ALL 3 ZONES NOW FOR THE PRICE OF ONE!
Make checks payable to Turley Publications

OUR CLASSIFIEDS REACH 50 COMMUNITIES EVERY WEEK!

HCC to host ASL pickleball tournament Sat., April 4

HOLYOKE — Holyoke Community College will host its second annual American Sign Language pickleball tournament on Saturday, April 4.

Sponsored by the HCC Deaf Studies Department, the tournament will run from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on the pickleball courts inside the Bartley Center for Athletics and Recreation.

This fun and friendly tournament is free for participants and geared for players of any skill level. Spectators are welcome. Paddles and balls will be supplied for players who need them.

The tournament begins at 9 a.m. with introductions and instructions in pickleball rules and strategy given in American Sign Language. Pickleball practice will start at 9:30 a.m. with the tournament running from 10 to 11:30 a.m., followed by an awards

presentation and social time.

HCC ASL instructors Minh Vo and Mick Posner, who teach in the HCC Deaf Studies Department, will lead the pickleball instruction.

“The tournament is open to HCC as well as members of the local deaf community regardless of their pickleball skills and knowledge of ASL,” said Claire Sanders, chair of the Deaf Studies Department.

After practice time, players will be randomly assigned doubles partners, and the tournament will proceed using a round robin format.

Certificates will be awarded to the top five players.

To register, go to: hcc.edu/asl-pickleball

For more information, please contact HCC Professor Claire Sanders, chair of the Deaf Studies Department at csanders@hcc.edu.



A look at last year's tournament

Submitted photo

Legal Notices

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING Removal of Public Shade Trees Town of South Hadley

Pursuant to MGL Ch 87 §3 & 4 a public hearing will be held on **TUESDAY APRIL 7, 2026 at 4:00pm at the DPW Office: 10 Industrial Drive** to consider the removal of the following public trees:

- 23 Waite Ave (1): 17" DBH Katalpa; upheaving road/side-walk
- 32 Woodbridge St (1): 23" DBH Maple; dead/dying
- 61 Silver St (1): 17" DBH Spruce; dead/dying
- 100 Moiser St, MES Middle School (2): 17" DBH; dead/dying
- 20 Carriage Ln (1): 22" DBH Cherry; decay & road construction
- 21 Carriage Ln (1): 14" DBH Crabapple; road construction
- 22 Carriage Ln (2): 17" & 32" DBH Cherry; decay & road construction
- 23 Carriage Ln (2): 11" DBH Crabapple, 16" DBH Cherry; decay & road construction
- 24 Carriage Ln (1): 23" DBH Cherry; decay & road construction
- 28 Carriage Ln (2): 22" + 26" DBH Cherry; decay & road construction
- 16 Berwyn St (1): 28" DBH Norway Maple; dead/dying

The tree(s) identified above have been posted for public inspection. Any objections to their removal must be submitted in writing to the Town Tree Wardens, prior to or during the hearing. The mailing address for the Town Tree Wardens is Department of Public Works, Town of South Hadley, 10 Industrial Drive, South Hadley MA 01075: Phone: 413-538-5033. Email: treewarden@southhadley.ma.gov 03/27, 04/03/2026

TOWN OF SOUTH HADLEY PLANNING BOARD NOTICE OF HYBRID PUBLIC HEARING Proposed Amendments to the Zoning Bylaw

Regarding Signs

The South Hadley Planning Board will hold a hybrid public hearing on **Monday, April 13, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.** to discuss proposing articles to Town Meeting for the purpose of amending the Zoning Bylaw to repeal and replace §255-85 (Signs); amend § 255-10 (Terms Defined) to re-define sign and insert new definitions related to types of signs and regulation of signs; amend § 255-22 (Home Occupations) to delete/replace §255-22E(4); amend § 255-34 (Professional Business Uses) to delete/replace 255-34F(1); and amend §255-39 (Bed-and-breakfast Facilities) to delete/replace §255-39A(2)(c). The purpose of these amendments is to assure the sign bylaw is content neutral in its regulation and thereby does not regulate speech and infringe upon First Amendment rights as guaranteed under the U.S. Constitution and clarified by the U.S. Supreme Court, Reed v. Town of Gilbert (2015), and seeks to consolidate references to signs throughout the existing bylaw into one chapter §255-85 (Signs).

The public hearing will be held through hybrid format with in-person attendance to be located in the multipurpose room of the South Hadley Senior Center, 45 Dayton Street South Hadley MA 01075. Virtual attendance will be hosted through the log-in information below:

URL to join: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84958880246?pwd=cRjhIPw17b9a09gxdcf6KaUzEcvDT.1>

Or join by phone: +1 (646) 558 8656 **Webinar ID:** 849 5888 0246 **Passcode:** 432903

The current drafts of the proposed bylaws and any accompanying documentation can be found here: <https://www.southhadley.org/1318/Proposed-Draft-Bylaws>. Alternatively, hard copies of the documents can be viewed at the Planning & Conservation Department Office (Room U6) in Town Hall. Any person interested in, or wishing to be heard, should appear/join the hearing at the time and in the

manner designated.

Brad Hutchison, Clerk
South Hadley Planning Board
03/27, 04/03/2026

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION - HIGHWAY DIVISION NOTICE OF A DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING Project Description: South Hadley Main Street Reconstruction Project File No. 608785

A Design Public Hearing will be held to present the design for the proposed project in South Hadley, MA.

WHERE: South Hadley Public Library, Community Room
2 Canal Street
South Hadley, MA 01075

WHEN: Thursday, April 23, 2026 at 6:00 PM

PURPOSE: The purpose of this hearing is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed project. All views and comments submitted in response to the hearing will be reviewed and considered to the maximum extent possible.

PROPOSAL: The proposed project consists of milling, resurfacing, full depth reconstruction, and pavement widening on Main Street in South Hadley from the Chicopee City Line to Canal Street. The work includes signal upgrades, the new and reconstructed sidewalks, pedestrian curb ramps, pavement markings, and signage. Bicycle accommodations consisting of 5' bicycle lanes from Canal Street to Carew Street and a shared use path from Carew Street to the Chicopee City Line has been provided in accordance with applicable design guides. The total length of the roadway project is approximately 3,800 feet and is currently programmed for \$10.7 Million.

A secure right-of-way is necessary for this project. Acquisitions in fee and permanent or temporary easements may be required. The Town of South

Hadley is responsible for acquiring all needed rights in private or public lands. MassDOT's policy concerning land acquisitions will be presented in the hearing.

Project inquiries, written statements and other exhibits regarding the proposed undertaking may be submitted to Carrie E. Lavallee, P.E., Chief Engineer, via e-mail to MassDOTProjectManagement@dot.state.ma.us or via US Mail to Suite 7550, 10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116, Attention: Project Management, Project File No. 608785. Statements and exhibits intended for inclusion in the public hearing transcript must be emailed or postmarked no later than ten (10) business days (14 calendar days) after the hearing is held.

This hearing is accessible to people with disabilities. MassDOT provides reasonable accommodations and/or language assistance free of charge upon request (e.g. interpreters in American Sign Language and languages other than English, live captioning, videos, assistive listening devices and alternate material formats), as available. For accommodation or language assistance, please contact MassDOT's Chief Diversity and Civil Rights Officer by phone (857-368-8580), TTD/TTY at (857) 266-0603, fax (857) 368-0602 or by email (MassDOT.CivilRights@dot.state.ma.us). Requests should be made as soon as possible and prior to the hearing, and for more difficult to arrange services including sign-language, CART or language translation or interpretation, requests should be made at least ten business days

before the hearing.

In case of inclement weather, a cancellation announcement will be posted on the internet at <https://www.mass.gov/orgs/highway-division/events>.

JONATHAN GULLIVER
HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATOR
CARRIE E. LAVALLEE, P.E.
CHIEF ENGINEER
03/27, 04/03/2026

TOWN OF SOUTH HADLEY PLANNING BOARD NOTICE OF HYBRID PUBLIC HEARING South Hadley Electric Light Department (SHELD) New Administrative Offices

The Planning Board will hold a hybrid public hearing on **April 13, 2026 at 6:30 pm**, to consider applications for Site Plan Review and Stormwater Management filed by South Hadley Electric Department (SHELD) c/o Sean Fitzgerald, 85 Main St, South Hadley MA, 01075; for development of a 35,949 square-foot office, warehouse, and garage facility with an additional 13,813 square-feet of covered and uncovered storage located 65 Old Lyman Road, Map 14 Parcel 67. Associated site improvements include garage space, driveways, parking lots, stormwater infrastructure, utilities, landscaping and other amenities. This application is being filed pursuant to South Hadley Zoning Bylaw Chapter 255 Article XII (Site Plan Review); 255-37 (Business C District Development Methods); 255-75 (Signs), Chapter 200 (Stormwater Management); and the Zoning Use and Dimensional Regulation Schedules.

The public hearing will be held through hybrid format with in-person attendance to be located in the multipurpose room of the South Hadley Senior Center, 45 Dayton Street South Hadley MA 01075. Virtual attendance will be hosted through the log-in information below:

URL to join: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84958880246?pwd=cRjhIPw17b9a09gxdcf6KaUzEcvDT.1>

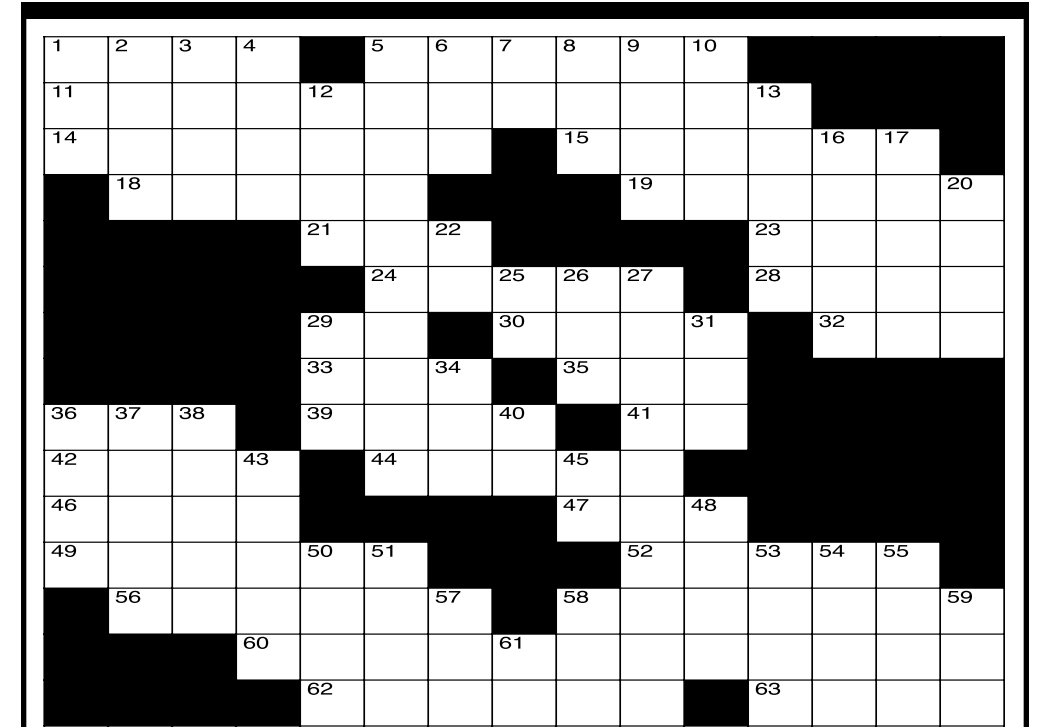
Or join by phone: +1 (646) 558 8656 **Webinar ID:** 849 5888 0246 **Passcode:** 432903

The subject property is approximately 9.38 acres and located within the Business C zoning district. The location is west of Old Lyman Road and east of the existing Big Y located on Willimansett Street. The subject property's owner is currently identified as Big Y Food, Inc; 2145 Roosevelt Ave, Springfield MA, 01104.

The application is on file in the Planning & Conservation Department Office (Room U6) in Town Hall and is posted at www.southhadley.org on the Planning Department page under 'Permit Applications'- 'Site Plan Review' under section 'Old Lyman Road (65) and Willimansett Street - SHELD Admin Building' or can be viewed at: <https://www.southhadley.org/1179/Site-Plan-Review>. Any person interested in, or wishing to be heard, should appear/join the hearing at the time and in the manner designated.

Brad Hutchison, Clerk
South Hadley Planning Board
03/27, 04/03/2026

Please see **NOTICES**, page 11



- | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|------------------------------------|---|
| CLUES ACROSS | 35. Electronic data processing | CLUES DOWN | 29. Woman (French) |
| 1. Absence of difficulty | 36. Drivers' licenses and passports are two | 1. Body part | 31. Sunscreen rating |
| 5. Preserve a dead body | 39. Snake-like fishes | 2. Mimics | 34. Brew |
| 11. Gratitude | 41. Air Force | 3. Expel or eject (variant sp.) | 36. Leader |
| 14. The act of coming together again | 42. Popular personal computers | 4. Sea eagle | 37. Indigo bush genus |
| 15. More cushy | 44. Stages in ecological succession | 5. Taxonomic category | 38. Burn with a hot liquid |
| 18. Visionaries | 46. Wings | 6. Chinese languages | 40. Junior's father |
| 19. Large fish-eating bird | 47. In the center | 7. Mr. T's "A-Team" character | 43. Mackerel genus |
| 21. Indicates near | 49. Pleasantly smooth | 8. Consumed | 45. Morning |
| 23. Former CIA and CIA critic | 52. Jeweled headress | 9. Chinese dynasty | 48. Straight line from side to side (abbr.) |
| 24. Icelandic poems | 56. In slow tempo | 10. NFL legend Randy | 50. Type of molding |
| 28. Pop | 58. ___ Falls | 12. Ireland | 51. Small, thin or twisted bunch |
| 29. Hammer is one | 60. Reiterations | 13. Palm trees with creeping roots | 53. Worn by exposure to the weather |
| 30. Selfs | 62. Eras | 16. Fungal disease | 54. Mars crater |
| 32. Thyroid-stimulating hormone | 63. Hyphen | 17. Tall, slender-leaved plants | 55. Humanities |
| 33. Nowhere to be found | | 20. Affirmative! (slang) | 57. Relating to the ears |
| | | 22. It says who you are | 58. "To the ___ degree" |
| | | 25. Atlantic coast state | 59. Residue when something is burned |
| | | 26. Grow older | 61. It cools a home |
| | | 27. Associations | |

Turley Publications is looking for an outgoing, energetic person interested in selling advertising for our community newspapers plus more! The right candidate will assume an established territory with a portfolio of customers.

LET'S WORK TOGETHER

You must be a self-starter with excellent communication and organizational skills. Basic computer skills are required. Previous print sales experience is preferred but we will train the right candidate.

Join Our Team!
FAMILY OWNED & OPERATED

Turley Publications
Send resume & cover letter to:
Jamie Joslyn
24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069
Email: jamie@turley.com

NOW HIRING: Advertising Representative

Offering a competitive commission structure, 401k, and health plan.

Legal Notices

Sale Of Motor Vehicles Under G.I. C.255 Sec. 39A

Notice is hereby given by Hampshire Towing, 650 New Ludlow Rd., South Hadley, MA 01075, pursuant to the provisions of G.L. C. 255, Section 39A, that a **SEALED BID** auction **OPEN TO LICENSED DEALERS ONLY** with bids due **Monday, April 13, 2026 at 9 a.m.** Vehicles can be viewed **BY APPOINTMENT ONLY** by calling 413-534-5373.

2003 GMC Sonoma
VIN: 1GTD19X038265389
Gerardo Rodriguez
212 Pearl St., Apt. 1L
Springfield, MA 01105

2008 Chevrolet HHR
VIN: 3GNDA23DX85605017
Magda Miranda
1466 Dwight St.
Holyoke, MA 01040

2007 Toyota Avalon
VIN: 4T1BK36B37U208059
Inayea Concepcion
131 Carver St., Apt. 2
Springfield, MA 01108

2019 Nissan Sentra
VIN: 3N1AB7AP4KY363349
Eileen Castle
PO Box 498
Haydenville, MA 01039

2019 Znen ZN50Q
VIN: L5YTCKPV1K1115956
Owner Unknown

2017 Kia Sorento
VIN: 5XYPGDA57HG280159
Larry Ramirez Ferrer
179 Saint James Ave.
Springfield, MA 01109

2016 Dodge Dart
VIN: 1C3CDFFA2GD822214
Community Transportation Services Inc
288 Verge St.
Springfield, MA 01129

2011 Hyundai SONATA
VIN: 5NPEB4AC6BH017391
David Pabon
513 1/2 Armory St.
Springfield, MA 01104

2008 Volkswagen GLI
VIN: 3VWBJ71K68M033363
National Title Exchange Llc
501 N. Sanders St., Ste. 204
Helena MT 59601

2012 Kia Optima
VIN: 5XXGM4A7XCG074583
Daniel Rodriguez
254 Union St., Apt. 1B
Springfield, MA 01105

2016 Toyota Camry
VIN: 4T4BF1FK3GR523247
Alexander Wirtes
422 Church St. #2
N. Adams, MA 01247

2008 Hyundai SONATA
VIN: 5NPEU46FX8H365412
Sarah McNamee
10 Laurel Dr.
Ware, MA 01082

2014 Nissan Sentra
VIN: 3N1AB7AP9EL632446

Virginia Frasson
67 Shattuck St.
Springfield, MA 01109

2006 Mercury Milan
VIN: 3MEFM07186R648321
Heriberto Ortiz Santos
59 Clyde St.
Springfield, MA 01107

2025 Jiajue JJ200T
LLPTGLHE8S1940003
Owner Unknown

2007 Toyota Camry
VIN: 4T1BE46K57U645770
Diana Perez Laguerre
215 E. Dwight St., Apt. 301
Holyoke, MA 01040

2010 Nissan Sentra
VIN: 3N1AB6AP6AL673458
Jayson Perryman
127 Mill Ln.
Amherst, MA 01002

2001 Volkswagen Cabrio
VIN: 3VWDC21V61M808606
Erryn Kimberley
225 White St.
Springfield, MA 01108

2011 Hyundai SONATA
VIN: 5NPEC4AB2BH300892
Yediel Morales Tirado
529 S. Summer St., Apt 3L
Holyoke, MA 01040

2005 Ford F-250 Super Duty
VIN: 1FTNF21565EC55689
Christopher Michael Sandaca Krieger
177 Foster St., 2nd Fl
Meriden, CT 06451

2006 Nissan Murano
VIN: JN8AZ08W56W521521
Corey Taylor
182 Chapman S
Greenfield, MA 01301

2012 Mercedes-Benz C-Class
VIN: WDDGF8BB1CR208520
Tyler Fernandez
54 Bridge St., Apt. D68
S. Hadley MA 01075

2006 Mitsubishi Galant
VIN: 4A3AB76S06E054441
Jan Bochenko
591 High St.
Holyoke, MA 01040

2017 Toyota Corolla
VIN: 2T1BURHE0HC835731
Damaris Del Carmen Arocho
9917 Hidden River Dr., Apt. 111
Orlando, FL 32829

2012 Nissan Rogue
VIN: JN8AS5MV9CW396095
Wendy Ruiz
50 E. Juniper St., Apt. 410
Hazleton, PA 18201

2012 Ford Fusion
VIN: 3FAHP0HA1CR345608
Adianez Saez
18 Castle St.
Springfield, MA 01118

2002 Volvo S60
VIN: YV1RH58DX22198513
Breanna Brown
397 Oakland St., Apt. 2
Springfield, MA 01108

2009 Honda Odyssey
VIN: 5FNRL38609B029523
Nicole Bouley

53 Orlando St.
Feeding Hills, MA 01030

2008 Mazda Mazda6
VIN: 1YVHP80C185M42642
Axel Alvarado
17 Cambridge St., Fl 2
Springfield, MA 01109

2003 Honda Accord
VIN: 1HGCM56613A127804
Eliana Ward
653 Amherst Rd., Unit 3106
Sunderland, MA 01375

2007 Acura MDX
VIN: 2HNYD28297H523820
Kwamesha Kyles
76 Demond Ave. # House
Springfield, MA 01107

2017 Ford Focus
VIN: 1FADP3K20HL271816
Anthony Rosario
50 Pioneer Way
Springfield MA 01119

2012 Kia Sorento
VIN: 5XYKWDA2XCG274982
Deidre Gaj
175 Kendall St.
Granby, MA 01033

2009 Honda Fit
VIN: JHMGE88269C005119
Rachel Pelkey
26 High St.
Haydenville, MA 01039

2021 Big Tex Trailer
VIN: 16V3F3328M6002824
Jessica Gwozdz
58 Holbrook St.
N. Adams, MA 01247

1999 Mercury Sable
VIN: 1MEFM53S3XG654676
Denis Veazie
3 Myrtle St.
Adams, MA 01220

2014 Subaru Forester
VIN: JF2SJAHC1EH557102
Crystal Fulbright
256 State St., Apt. D
Northampton, MA 01060

2019 Ford Explorer
VIN: 1FMSK8DH8KGB52130
Catherine Lenora Heuer &
Kendall Rollines
111 W. Water St.
Slippery Rock, PA 16057

1998 Honda CR-V
VIN: JHLRD1866WC067884
Susan Quinby
27 West St.
Westborough, MA 01581

2013 Chevrolet Impala
VIN: 2G1WC5E33D1142878
Luis Burgos
28 Brooks St.
Springfield MA 01109

2007 Nissan Versa
VIN: 3N1BC13E07L350323
Fahd Khazraj
24 Maple St., Apt. 24
S. Hadley, MA 01075

2000 Mercedes-Benz S-Class
VIN: WDBNG75J3YA116213
United Galaxy Inc.
700 Rte. 46 West
Little Falls, NJ 07424

2000 Jeep Grand Cherokee
VIN: 1J4GW48S7YC142294
Reagin Macronald
30 Park St., Apt. 3
Adams, MA 01220

2009 Saturn Outlook
VIN: 5GZER13D29J112949
Joseph Stanley
11 Fairlawn St.
South Hadley, MA 01075

1996 Ford Explorer
VIN: 1FMDU35P3TUC95049
Andrew Woods
86 Lois St.

Springfield, MA 01108

2013 BMW X3
VIN: 5UXWX9C59D0A18666
Naga Bhadra Sriharsha Sharma Sivadevuni
135 Birnie Ave.
W. Springfield, MA 01089

2010 BMW X5
VIN: 5UXFF0C58ALT85290
Chanel Reedus
6212 Africa Rd.
Galena, OH 43021

2012 BMW X5
VIN: 5UXZV4C56CL747384
Ahmet Ademi
799 Silver St.
Agawam, MA 01001

2009 Ford Focus
VIN: 1FAHP35N69W211708
Jessenia Roman
108 Commonwealth Ave.,
2nd Fl
Springfield, MA 01108

1999 Toyota Tacoma
VIN: 4TANL42NXXZ497542
Aileen Dear
PO Box 56
Southampton, MA 01073

1998 Skamper 170X
VIN: 1SK11D175L17X4690
Marcie Whitman
9 Marcel St.
South Hadley, MA 01075

2008 Honda Civic
VIN: 2HGFA16898H500113
Elizabeth Mason
25 Sherwin St.
Ware, MA 01082

2012 Mazda Mazda5
VIN: JM1CW2BL9C0121869
Savannah Richardson
286 Houghton St.
North Adams, MA 01247

2004 Mitsubishi Galant
VIN: 4A3AB36F34E122093
Molly Lyttle
140 Russell Rd.
Westfield, MA 01085

2009 Suzuki SX4 Crossover
VIN: JS2YB413596203673
Nenushka Colon
104 Hilton St.
Chicopee, MA 01020

2002 Chevrolet TrailBlazer
VIN: 1GNDT13S322250990
Louis Lake
2443 Roosevelt Ave.
Springfield MA 01104

2002 Dodge Durango
VIN: 1B4HS48N32F203224
Cassandra Losaw
153 Beaver St., Apt. 1R
N. Adams MA 01247

2007 Chrysler Town & Country
VIN: 2A4GP54L27R160354
Robert Blackj
281 Chauncey Walker Lot 520K
Belchertown, MA 01007

2006 Ford Taurus
VIN: 1FAHP35U86A117053
Jason Girard
12 North Rd.
Clifton, ME 04428

2008 Hyundai SONATA
VIN: 5NPET46C38H322474
Savanah Ortiz
257 Essex St., Apt. 8
Holyoke, MA 01040

2011 Nissan Maxima
VIN: 1N4AA5AP8BC843347
Marisabelle Hernandez
119 Fiberloid St.
Indian Orchard, MA 01151

2009 Nissan Altima
VIN: 1N4AL24E39C113147
Jonas Aristil
18 Sumner Ave., Apt. 2L

Springfield, MA 01108

2019 Jeep Cherokee
VIN: 1C4PJMDX9KD135211
Kira Tillman
12 Grover St.
Holyoke, MA 01040

2000 Honda Civic
VIN: 2HGJE6573YH532959
Natasia Baer
30 Saint Jerome Ave., Apt. 1R
Holyoke, MA 01040

2006 Chevrolet Equinox
VIN: 2CNDL73F766111237
Daniel Moffat
214 Pine St.
Holyoke, MA 01040

1996 Ford E-350
VIN: 1FTJE34H1THA92460
Dominique Colbert
61 Judson St., Apt. 2
Fall River, MA 02721

2006 Honda Civic2HG
VIN: FA16866H528173
Michael Antony Sanabria
40 Norwich St., Apt. 3
Hartford, CT 06106

2014 Subaru Legacy
VIN: 4S3BMCH66E3018547
Brian Goss
48 Elm St.
Northampton, MA 01060

2006 Acura TL
VIN: 19UUA66226A021110
Zander Arroyo
40 Cass St., Apt. 102
Springfield, MA .01104

2014 Honda Civic
VIN: 2HGFB2F5XE5H504854
Fathallah Elfahli
158 Bay Village Dr.
Rochester, NY 14609

2008 Nissan Altima
VIN: 1N4AL21E48C258605
Gary Curtis
57 Colony Rd., Apt. 2B
W. Springfield, MA 01089

2012 GMC Terrain
VIN: 2GKFLREK0C6153400
Malcolm Brace
51 Reed St.
Springfield, MA 01109

2016 Hyundai SONATA
VIN: 5NPE34AF3GH379967
Dana Baker
6 Stanley St.
Easthampton, MA 01027

2004 Honda Civic
VIN: 2HGES15114H523179
Alexander Depaz
3 Elm Ln.
Whitinsville, MA 01588

2006 Honda Odyssey
VIN: 5FNRL38686B116128
Hector Perez Soto
9 Nelson Ave., Apt. 3
Springfield, MA 01109

2008 Honda Accord
VIN: 1HGCS12748A023523
Sheaquan Jacobs
40 Moulton St.
Springfield, MA 01118

2010 Infiniti G37
VIN: JN1CV6FE3AM350529
Erica Denise Bivens

3224 Sequoia Ave.
Baltimore, MD 21215

2009 Infiniti G37 Sedan
VIN: JNKCV61FX9M363642
Frankie Harr
457 W. Plum St.
Tipp City, OH 45371

2004 Infiniti FX35
VIN: JNRAS08W54X224093
Lumenie Paul
319 Billy Mitchell Ln.
Dover, DE 19901

2006 Honda Accord
VIN: 1HGCM55476A051476
Robert Morris
2 Scenic Cr.
Croton on Hudson, NY 10520

2010 Ford Focus
VIN: 1FAHP3FN0AW198926
Sharmila Pai
30 Aris Way
Milford, MA 01757

2009 Honda Odyssey
VIN: 5FNRL38729B009816
G Sanchezalcantardnv
24 Thoma Pl.
Roosevelt, NY 11575

2007 Infiniti G35
VIN: JNKBV61FX7M801312
Robert Saltus
1142 State St.
Springfield, MA 01109

2012 Mazda Mazda3
VIN: JM1BL1V89C1589195
Jessica Rosa
117 Conz St., Apt. 301
Northampton, MA 01060

2016 Infiniti Q50
VIN: JN1CV7AR4GM250271
Jose Sanchez
270 E. Main St., Apt. 2L
Chicopee, MA 01020

2008 Volkswagen GTI
VIN: WVWHV71K48W173994
Lounis Peter
1800 Massachusetts Ave., Apt 1
Cambridge, MA 02140

2009 Volkswagen Jetta
VIN: 3VWJZ71K59M095035
Christopher Hayes
40 Folsom St.
N. Adams, MA 01247

2015 Infiniti Q40
VIN: JN1CV6ARXFM651431
Robert Victor Myers
2401 Christiana MDWS
Bear, DE 19701

2003 Subaru Legacy
VIN: 4S3BH635737309312
Shelby Davis Lane
294 US Route 5
Brattleboro, VT 05301

2001 Chevrolet Silverado
2500HD
VIN: 1GCHK29U11E242654
Matthew Boudreau
31 Burt St.
Adams, MA 01220

1995 Toyota Camry
VIN: 4T1SK12E9SU638675
Angela Rivera
121 N. Main St., Apt. K8
Belchertown, MA 01007
03/27, 04/03, 04/10/2026

Support Your Local Newspaper

Wednesday Night 6:30pm Bar Bingo
Friday Night starts at 7:30 pm Trivia Night \$5 per person
7 Days A Week Queen of Hearts Raffle \$1 per ticket - unlimited tickets Drawing Wednesdays at 5 pm
AMERICAN LEGION POST 325 22 Sycamore Street, Holyoke, MA
Find us on Facebook Paper City Post 325

SOUTH HADLEY 2026
Spring!
YARD WASTE CURBSIDE COLLECTION
APRIL 20TH - MAY 1ST
Paper Bags or Open Top Containers Only;
MUST BE CURBSIDE BY 7 A.M. ON YOUR COLLECTION DAY.
Each Route Will Have One Collection.
Brush Must Be Tied In Bundles (No Metal) of Not More Than Four (4') Foot Lengths.
LEAVES, GRASS AND BRUSH ONLY.
NO PLASTIC BAGS
Please keep yard waste barrels separate and apart from trash barrels
Questions? Please contact The DPW at 538-5030 ext. 6500
www.southhadleyma.gov

SOUTH HADLEY & GRANBY HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION DAY
Saturday, May 9, 2026 ~ 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.
LOCATION: South Hadley Department of Public Works 10 Industrial Drive
PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED
Pre-registration begins April 1, 2026
Call the office at 538-5030 ext. 6500 or email kquesnel@southhadleyma.gov

WHAT TO BRING
Any substance labeled:
Caustic, Toxic, Corrosive, Flammable, Warning, Danger, Caution

FROM YOUR YARD	FROM YOUR GARAGE
Pesticides	Engine Degreaser
Insect Sprays	Gas Treatments
Fungicides	Gasoline
Flea Powder	Kerosene
Herbicides	Solvents
Root Killers	Brake Fluid
Rodent Killers	
Muriatic Acid	
No-Pest Strips	
Pool Chemicals	
Lighter Fluid	

WHAT NOT TO BRING
Fluorescent Bulbs, Engine Oil, Radiator Fluid, Latex Paint, empty containers from hazardous products, asbestos, gas cylinders, radioactive material, explosives (including ammunition & fireworks)

Award winners named by St. Patrick's Committee

MORE PARADE PHOTOS from page 1



Turley photos by Kara Walsh-Vey

South Hadley's float received third prize in the Patriotic Theme.



Holyoke Caledonian Band took home an award.

POLICE from page 1

selves often center on everyday quality-of-life concerns. "Common concerns include traffic-related issues such as speeding, parking, and aggressive driving," Gundersen noted. She also hears frequently about "neighborhood disputes and interpersonal conflicts." In those cases, her role extends beyond enforcement. "I try to offer guidance on de-escalation and, when appropriate, suggest outside resources for more complex matters," she said, emphasizing a problem-solving approach rather than a purely punitive one.

Listening closely to residents has given Gundersen insight into the town she serves. "I've learned that South Hadley has a strong sense of community pride, with many families having deep, multi-generational roots," she said. At the same time, she has noticed a shift in how neighbors interact. "Some residents feel less comfortable addressing concerns directly with their neighbors than in the past," she observed, citing examples like reporting a speeding teenager rather than speaking with the family directly. For Gundersen, this represents both a challenge and an opportunity: "Rebuilding that neighbor-to-neighbor communication is an important opportunity for strengthening our community."

While the initiative hasn't dramatically changed how officers engage with the public, it has improved what happens behind the scenes. "We are better at receiving, sharing, and acting on community-based information," Gundersen said. "It has strengthened internal

accountability here at South Hadley Police."

If anything has stood out, it is the steady level of engagement. "There have not been any major surprises, but the consistency of engagement and willingness of residents to share their perspectives has been encouraging," she said. That consistency suggests a community eager to be heard and reassured that their input matters.

Looking ahead, Gundersen hopes the initiative will continue to deepen mutual understanding. "I hope these conversations continue to strengthen communication between the police department and the community, reinforcing that we are here to serve," she said. But she also underscores that public safety is not solely the responsibility of law enforcement. "When residents bring concerns forward, I often ask what they see as a solution. Their perspective is critical in helping us address issues effectively and collaboratively."

Flexibility remains a key part of the program's future. In addition to scheduled office hours, Gundersen is willing to meet residents where and when issues arise, even hosting informal evening street meetings in response to specific neighborhood concerns. The message is consistent: communication should be ongoing, accessible, and shared.

Through Community Conversations, Gundersen has built more than a program. She has created a space where listening leads to action, and where public safety becomes a collective effort rooted in trust.

FORUM from page 1

in two forms: either a \$9M or \$11M option with either choice appearing on the ballot with each question being presented to the voter to read as: "Shall the Town of South Hadley be allowed to assess an additional \$_____ in real estate and personal property taxes for the purposes of operating the Municipal Government and Public Schools for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026?"

The proposed override comes from a possible solution drafted by the town's Budget Task Force, a committee created to study the town's financial challenges to alleviate the \$3.5 million fiscal cliff set to take hold in FY27, which has weighed on the minds of all, however it was revealed during the seminar that if the override did pass, a sense of financial relief would then be felt, but a 50% property tax increase on all residents would then take shape, dividing many in the room.

The final item that voters will see listed on the ballot is a non-binding question to see if the town will support the construction of a \$36.5 million South Hadley Electric Lighting Department facility. However, it should be noted that the project has already advanced through the approval process, and the town holds hope that the project will be completed in 2027. As of this moment, the Municipal Light Board has submitted its notice of intent to the Conservation Commission, and SHELDD looks to appear before the Planning Board at some time during this month, which is yet to be further discussed.

Selectboard

One of the highly contested races this year is the reveal that four candidates are vying for two seats on the Selectboard. The candidates consist of incumbent Nicole Casolari, who hopes to secure another term, while newcomers Kevin Hennessey, David King,

and Priscilla Marion look to join the board. This comes as Selectboard member Andrea Miles revealed she isn't seeking reelection after serving on the board for 9 years.

Housing Authority

The other contested race on the ballot is for the role of Housing Authority, as Incumbent John Duda looks to take on challenger Richard Matteson in that race. The remaining races on the ballot are unopposed, including the School Committee, Free Public Library Trustees, Board of Health, Municipal Light Board, Board of Assessors, and the Planning Board.

School Committee

Tracie Kennedy hopes to return to the School Committee after filling Dan Vieau's vacated seat since September 2025. Meanwhile, newcomer Nicholas Prentiss also submitted papers for the School Committee, with two seats available for two candidates.

Free Public Library Trustee

For the Free Public Library Trustee positions, there are three three-year seats available. Currently listed on the ballot for those roles are Susan Crowther, David Morrell, and Gillian Woldorf. In addition, David Solender-Clark is running for the one-year trustee position.

Other Positions

John Hine is running unopposed as an incumbent with the Municipal Light Board, and Kevin Taugher is running unopposed as an incumbent with the Board of Assessors.

There are also several vacant spots on the ballot, such as the Planning Board Chair Karen Walsh Pio and Board of Health Chair Diane Supczak-Mulvaney, who are running for reelection for their respective boards, but both boards have an additional upcoming vacancy with no residents listed on the ballot.

Override or No Override

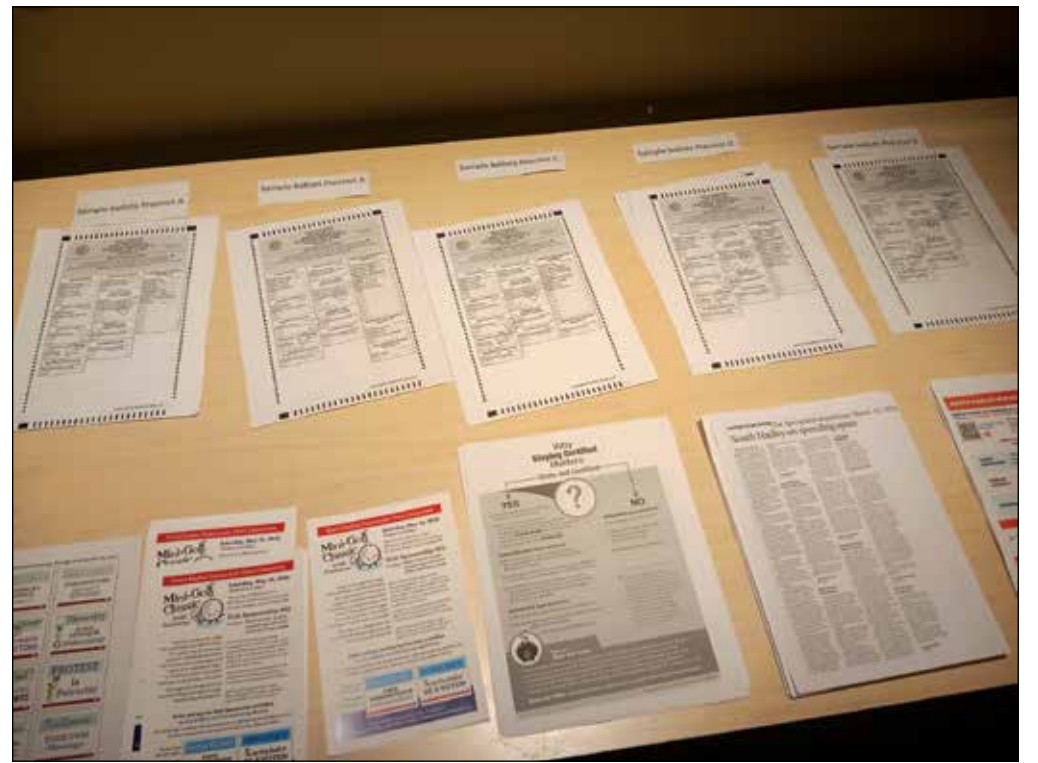
After each candidate delivered their opening statements, the public took to the

mic and sought input on a variety of questions, with the first being whether any of the Selectboard candidates were in favor or not of the override. First to respond was Casolari, who confirmed she is in favor of the override, telling the room, "I am for an override, and with everything we have been presented at this point, it is saying we need those levels of funding to keep our schools, library, and services at least where they are right now," she told the crowd. "I also want to emphasize the importance of being responsible with that money, and acting in the mindset that we don't have any extra money, because we don't."

Marion shared that she's not in favor of the override due to her stance that she feels that South Hadley needs to start "demonstrating stability and fiscal responsibility, before asking the town to go to the residents and ask them to accept a significant and longtime financial burden," she admitted, while noting it would be a "detriment to personal and household budgets that could have longtime effects. She then added, "With that said, I feel the town acts on some of the recommendations brought forth by the budget task force, then we can show the community that there is tangible progress being made, which will help develop trust, to approve an override, if another one is asked down the line."

King then revealed he's in favor of the override, and floated the possibilities of what would happen if the town doesn't utilize this option. He then noted that he wishes that a smaller \$6M override would be justifiable, compared to the present choices, before pivoting to note that he shares concern for the future of the school system. Hennessey, who shared that he wasn't in favor of the override, shared a point of caution.

"We're a town in trouble, and we need to realize that,



Turley Photos by Brendan Rooney

Ballots are ready for residents and were available for people to look at.

and we need to fix it. We have to address these issues; we need to reach out to our legislators, look for earmarks, anything we can do, and I'm not totally against an override, but it has to be reasonable," he said.

Services at Stake

Responding to the concern of students leaving the district due to the lack of budgetary support, Kennedy then pivoted to the confirmation that Superintendent, Jennifer Voyik, provided the School Committee with an official report crafted from her findings, yielded from this past year, that disclosed that an audit needs to take place in the SPED program, due to the overarching concern from parents "feeling the program isn't up to par". Kennedy then shifted focus to the current budget, which, to many, has been an "uphill battle" as the district is currently being set up to be more than \$1 million below the level of service, requiring severe cuts to balance finances, something that

she referred to as "slim pickings". She then continued her thoughts by expressing how severe the problem truly is.

"There is absolutely nowhere in this budget to cut unless we look at cutting student-facing positions," Kennedy said. It was noted that the additional cuts proposed would result in the school department eliminating a teacher in each grade at the elementary level, the district's middle and high school music teacher, as well as one high school teacher in each of the core subjects, along with the removal of AP (Advanced Placement) classes, as well. Kennedy noted that the entire athletic program across the district would be on the chopping block as well, due to the insufficient funds not present to support the additional \$400k-450k price tag in the budget. In addition, changes would also be felt at the administration level as well, with the district having to cut at least five positions — the athletic director, an as-

sistant principal, the assistant director of student services, an assistant superintendent, and the mental health coordinator. She then added that all extracurricular activities and after-school programs would also be eliminated, along with class sizes being increased, as a possible remedy to the overarching issue.

In terms of cuts felt at the town level, the town needs to cut at least \$1 million, which the current proposal consists of a reduction of hours to 10 library employees and the loss of two staff members each at the police department, Town Hall, the Senior Center, and the Department of Public Works. In addition, management staff would then be reorganized to compensate for the loss of personnel. Additionally, the Gaylord Memorial Library would also be forced to close; the South Hadley Public Library would then lose accreditation, and the spray parks would no longer run.