

# TOWN Reminder

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## Chambers unite for fundraiser



Scott Brady and Jameson Glanville enjoying the beautiful weather.

Turley photos by Emily-Rose Pappas

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

SOUTH HADLEY – For the past several years, the South Hadley and Granby Chamber of Commerce and the Amherst Area Chamber of Commerce have hosted a joint gathering to partner together in order to support a nonprofit organization a part of the chambers.

“This River Cruise is a perfect example of how we can combine resources and energy to create memorable events for our members. In the year ahead, we’re excited to explore more joint networking and impact-based initiatives, such as an upcoming multi-Chamber event in November hosted at Mount Holyoke College to support our local food banks in the area,” said Amherst Director

Jacob Robinson. “Every year, we enjoy a partnership with the Amherst Area Chamber of Commerce! A multi-chamber event is like combining the best parts of several communities into one event. It gives our members the chance to meet new businesses, expand their reach, and build partnerships across town lines. It also creates something bigger,” said Steve Laplante, the

President of the South Hadley and Granby Chamber of Commerce.

The event was a part of the Business After 5 series of events, where the Chambers get together to host a nonprofit organization and provide additional ways to market and work with others.

The nonprofit featured at

Please see **FUNDRAISER**, page 10

## Cruise Nights at Buttery Brook Park

By Emily-Rose Pappas  
Staff Writer  
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SOUTH HADLEY – Car shows are here, and even though the season is reaching its end, the Buttery Brook Park Cruise Nights are still here.

The Cruise Nights were first begun by Linda Young and her husband, Doug, as well as Joe Scott in 2004, originally happening on a Wednesday night in August, and moved to Fridays after a weather incident.

“It was a hit right from the start. We had Celebrity Chefs from various town organizations cooking and serving up the food, and beverages were sold at another part of Pavilion 1,” said Linda Young. “It brought in a lot of people just to see them cooking up a storm. I think the fact that we also gave out trophies each

night brought in the antique cars and motorcycles. Joe and his extended family were also car enthusiasts so that helped as well.”

There was Ray’s Coloring Corner, which was started for Joe’s cousin, Ray Faganski, who passed away early and was also a huge car enthusiast.

“Those were the early days of Cruise Nights, and it has been going on now for over 21 years, thanks to all of our sponsors and volunteers. Larry Dubois and his family of wife Doris, sons Mike and Rob, have been invaluable for so many years handling all of the electronics, set up, take downs, picture taking any and anything else you can think of,” said Young.

Steven Lachowetz, the current chairman of the Cruise Night planning group

Please see **CRUISE NIGHT**, page 9



Dan Pelligrini and his 1967 Chevy Camaro.

## Library of ‘Things’ debuts at Granby Library

By Emily-Rose Pappas  
Staff Writer  
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GRANBY – The library is full of things to take home to enjoy, and the library has recently added a new addition to their items to take home, and that is the newly established Library of Things.

“The Library of Things consists of many useful and fun items, such as Wi-Fi hotspots, a telescope, corn-hole toss, sandcastle making set, jigsaw puzzles, board games, card games, outdoor sport sets, a magic set, and an epic circuit set. We will have a stuffed frog dissection kit soon, as well, which I think is the coolest,” said library director Jenn Crosby.

The Library of Things is filled with brand-new items purchased with funds from a grant from the Massachusetts Office of Travel and Tourism.

“Once we see how well the items are received and which are the most popular, we will make a game plan for possibly purchasing more or making a wish list at that time,” said Crosby.

Whatever you want to try out, from new activities that could create new hobbies, to useful and practical items to help your devices work anywhere, the Library of Things has arrived, and will add more to your visit to the library.

“We are most excited to see our community get excited. The Library is about



Submitted photo

Check out the Library of Things the next time you stop by the library.

so much more than books, and we are grateful to be able to offer other items that families might find useful or just plain fun, and give them more reasons to come and visit their local Library,” said Crosby.

The library is looking forward to hearing from the community about the new Library of Things, and you can provide feedback about the collection and provide some requests for possible

future additions to the Library of Things.

“I hope that people will make the Library of Things a regular part of their library usage and maybe even start some new family game night traditions at home or in the library,” said Crosby. “It is another way to bring our community together and help families save on resources while we are at it.”

Please see **LIBRARY**, page 5

## Selectboard hears grim health insurance update

By Emily-Rose Pappas  
Staff Writer  
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SOUTH HADLEY – The Hampshire County Group Insurance Trust voted 73-1 to approve a 20% increase to insurance premiums, which will be effective Oct. 1.

This cost of health insurance has risen exponentially, with medical claims, totaling \$73,793,869, and a sharp spike in medical claims between April and June of this year, shooting up to \$8.5 million. For pharmaceutical claims, the same spike is viewed beginning in March, and rising to \$3 million, and

cash reserves have plummeted from \$20 million in July of 2024 to a little less than \$5 million in June, 2025.

The Selectboard held a joint meeting with District 1 Prudential and District 2 Water Committees on August 12, where Executive Director Joe Shea came to provide some insight on the decision, as well as to share how this has, and will, greatly impact the town moving forward.

“The only way to satisfy those claims were to use the cash reserves. After the May and June rises, the cash coming in would not cover the rest of the year, so we had two choices: to increase the rates,

or close the Trust,” said Shea.

With \$600,000 per month spent on weight loss drugs alone, the Trust is hoping that this 20% increase will help get through the rest of the insurance year, although the costs to the towns within Hampshire County will be monumental.

Most GLPIs are injections and need to be kept cold, making them more expensive to purchase, keep, and ship out to buyers.

There has been over \$9 million in claims in May alone, and the amount of

Please see **SELECTBOARD**, page 2

## Error in pickleball court grading raises ire of residents

By Emily-Rose Pappas  
Staff Writer

SOUTH HADLEY – The process of designing and creating a pickleball court is meant to be done following specific guidelines and precision measurements.

But after the courts were built, several members of the pickleball community came to the Selectboard to share their dismay at finding the grading of the court was constructed incorrectly.

Because the courts need this work done, without it done, the possibility of injuries, and therefore a liability on the town, is much higher.



**HAD WE KNOWN THEY WANTED A DIFFERENT GRADE, WE WOULD HAVE DESIGNED DIFFERENTLY,”**

LISA WONG  
TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

The American Sports Builders Association, which is endorsed by USA Pickleball, the governing body of pickleball, states that a new pickleball court surface should slope between 0.83% and 1%. However, the current court’s slope is 2.3%.

“The people in this room have spent countless hours and time raising thousands for these courts, and in saying all this, I hope you look at the community aspect of this... including the health and safety,” said avid pickleball player Jeromie Whalen. “I think there

Please see **PICKLEBALL**, page 2

# South Hadley Gives Out 400 Fans to Help Folks Manage the Heat

The South Hadley Planning and Conservation Department distributed 400 20" box fans to residents of South Hadley through a Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness 2.0 Grant from the State. Fans were distributed at the Senior Center, Neighbors Helping Neighbors Food Pantry, and the South Hadley Public Library to households most at risk to the dangers of extreme heat caused by climate change. To learn more about the impacts of climate change and ways we are working to make our environment, infrastructure and human experience more resilient to these impacts, visit: Climate Change Resiliency & Preparedness | South Hadley, MA - Official Website

A big thank you to Rocky's Ace Hardware for their support of this project!



Turley photo by Emily-Rose Pappas  
**Director of Planning, Anne Capra, handing out free fans at the South Hadley Public Library.**

## PICKLEBALL from page 1

is a way we can come together as a community and also see how the Friends of Buttery Brook and the town can come together and see this as a problem."

The project for Buttery Brook Park to install the pickleball courts began several years ago, and the town had agreed to match the PARC grant. Town Meeting passed additional funds, and the Pickleball Committee worked on a design with Berkshire Design. However, a month ago, the Friends group came forward with the issue with the courts, well after the courts had become complete.

"Had we known they wanted a different grade, we would have designed differently," said Town Administrator Lisa Wong. "We're now looking at a project that is different from what was designed and different than what has been built."

What many gathered expressed to be frustrating was that \$25,000 was already spent on the design and planning of the project, and the issue was not caught by any party in the initial planning phase.

Wong also admitted they had spent the money on the original design with the expectation they would receive the money back. But after this unexpected turn of events, they have found this to be "not good practice."

"However, community members have petitioned to

withhold \$91,000 in privately-raised money towards expenses already incurred, and only use those funds for the rebuild to bring the courts to a slope of 1% maximum, an issue that was not raised at the time of design nor required for recreational use," said Wong in her August 4 Weekly Wrap Up, which was sent out on Aug. 8.

During the previous Capital Planning Committee meeting, it was recommended to take a portion of, or all of, the \$98,000 grant money awarded for stage, and move it to fixing the courts, but Wong expressed her disapproval of the idea, sharing she "doesn't recommend using the performing arts money for pickleball or anything else."

Capital Planning also spoke of potentially using only \$24,000 of the \$98,000 grant for the stage, but Wong argued that using grant money written out for a specific purpose would be wrong.

They also ruled that this case of the courts is not an emergency situation, and cannot have emergency funds come from the town.

"The problem... is that we are forgetting we just built a beautiful park the public is enjoying for under budget," said Wong. "Had we known the court should have been or wanted to be built under 1% grade, we would have added that into the design, so there's nothing nefarious there."

Recently, the Buttery

Brook Park Pickleball group received one of only two grants awarded by USA Pickleball for \$50,000, which can be used towards the necessary fixes.

Charles Miles came forward during public comment to share his position in the pickleball court discussion, sharing he watched Capital Planning meeting, as well as his concerns of how it will affect the budget.

"We're at a point where we've got the money that we got... and I'm concerned if the town decides to put this money into the pickleball courts and see a police officer or teacher get laid off, and I do not believe that to be an appropriate use of the funds."

Kim Prough, President of the Friends of Buttery Brook Park, and a member of the Pickleball Courts Advisory group, came forward to share plans to use the \$6,000 the group had raised independently for a shade structure, as well as the \$50,000 USA Pickleball grant to make the fixes.

After some deliberation on behalf of the Selectboard and weighing the options carefully, as well as looking at the dire situation the town is in with an increasing deficit to the millions, they made the choice to authorize up to \$175,000 for the courts, subject to them receiving \$91,000 and the \$50,000 of raised and grant funds. The vote was 3-1 in favor.

# Kitchen crew creating smiles at South Hadley Council on Aging

By Tina Lesniak  
 Correspondent

SOUTH HADLEY – At the South Hadley Council-on-Aging, mealtimes are more than a chance to eat—it's a daily tradition that blends nourishment, connection, and community spirit. Chef Dakota Lyman, the Center's Food Service Coordinator, leads the dedicated kitchen crew in preparing fresh, comforting meals for local seniors every weekday.

"Each day, I create a specials menu for the café, which usually includes homemade soups and desserts to complement our regular menu," Lyman said. "Based on the daily and specialty menu, food production starts very early in the kitchen. We serve the congregate lunch from Delaney's Market each weekday at 11:30 a.m. After lunch, we spend time ensuring that the kitchen is kept sparkling clean and ready for the next workday."

Council on Aging Director Julie Pearce explained that the daily congregate meal is part of a broader nutrition program. "Our daily congregate meal is provided through the nutrition

program at Access Care Partners and catered by Delaney's Market. The meals are designed to meet state dietary requirements," Pearce said. "Patrons give feedback at every meal with questions, concerns, and suggestions, which are relayed to the program. In addition to the congregate meal, our kitchen creates meals to be served at the Woodlawn Café. The Café provides nutritious items for purchase at a reasonable price to help reduce food insecurity amongst the older population. We seek input from patrons regarding their desired food options, which is combined with Chef Dakota's incredible ability to create tasty meals."

The kitchen runs smoothly thanks to "amazing volunteers" and Food Service Assistant Brooke Danko. "All of us work as a team to ensure that we meet the needs of our members every weekday," Lyman said.

For Lyman, the role goes beyond cooking—it's about fostering relationships. "We have patrons who attend lunch every single day. I can see the benefit it provides for both their nutritional needs as well as so-

cialization," the chef said. "On a daily basis, I get to connect with members and not only learn their food preferences but also learn about their lives and what is important to them. We like to create a nurturing environment where members feel welcome and supported."

Among the many popular recipes, one holds a special place. "I love to make the Hungarian Mushroom Soup, which is a Council on Aging favorite for both staff and patrons," Lyman shared.

From specialty dinners for veterans, older adults, and LGBTQ+ members to balancing café service with the daily congregate lunch, the work is constant—but Lyman says the stories, wisdom, and camaraderie make it worthwhile.

"We are always on the lookout for great volunteers to help serve in the dining room, at the café and help out in the kitchen," Lyman said. "I love hearing the stories of the members and getting to know them. I am very hands-on and enjoy working with this population as they are very willing to share their opinions and wisdom about the food and life in general."

## SELECTBOARD from page 1

claims and expenses that have come through just between May and July, 2025, is monumental.

South Hadley had a \$1 million deficit in health insurance already, which was voted on at the May Town Meeting, but the town is now looking at another \$1.2 million deficit on top of it as a result of this increase within such a short amount of time. The town's cash reserves only have around \$5 million left after the COVID-19 pandemic, and will not be able to do much to help.

"Given the amount of advocacy I've seen, I feel like this isn't sustaining more permanent change," said Town Administrator Lisa Wong. "I feel like there are choices that need to be made."

"We've come to the point where something's gotta give, and it's giving," said Shea.

"To reach \$9 million was shocking."

Shea went on to explain that although the cost of health insurance has been steadily increasing, with increases of 6%, 8%, 18% this past June, and 20% now, effective in October.

Because the Trust has never had claims come in over even \$8 million, the nearly \$10 million increase across three months alone is a very concerning thought, and Shea shared that this kind of rise was completely unprecedented and not counted on happening.

"The concern has been raised to the state, and they're aware of our situation and we did request financial help, but we have no idea if that is coming," said Shea.

In a letter to the state delegation, Wong wrote, "Right now, Health Insurance represents about 8% of our total operating budget, and with

the proposed increase, it will increase to more than 12% of that total. These increases are straining our capacity to pay for essential services, and is jeopardizing our ability to meet even baseline needs."

Because cheaper plans don't usually mean better coverage, these costs will greatly impact the Districts, schools, SHELD, and the rest of the town that rely on this insurance.

"I can't imagine these things happening without layoffs," said Wong. "There's a lot of different variables, and this is one of the most important conversations we can have, and its certainly all-hands-on-deck. There's all these things that are rapidly changing at a pace we did not anticipate."

You can find more information on the town website, as well as recording of the meetings for the Trust, selectboard, and the Capital Planning committee.

Read the Town Reminder online at  
[www.townreminder.turley.com](http://www.townreminder.turley.com)



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# Krawczynski brothers receive The Larry and Lenore Closson Family Award

WILBRAHAM/HOLYOKE - Paul J Krawczynski of Wilbraham and his brother Richard M Krawczynski of Holyoke received The Larry and Lenore Closson Family Award for their extended participation in US Coast Guard Auxiliary Programs at the recent US Coast Guard Auxiliary District Training Conference on April 26.

Recently, Division 9 gathered to celebrate Richard Krawczynski's 55 years of active service to the US Coast Guard Auxiliary. For the Krawczynski family, that's just the tip of the iceberg. Richard became a member along with his brother-in-law, A. Paul Dexdrader on December 8, 1969. Slightly less than two years later, they were joined by Richard's brother, Paul

Krawczynski (September 2, 1971). Following in family tradition, the three were joined by Richard's son, Anthony, in 1996, who served for 10 years.

The brothers and brother-in-law, all AUXOP Members, served as Flotilla and Division elected officers and held staff appointments over their entire careers, while simultaneously mentoring and supporting those who followed them.

Mr. Dexdrader crossed the bar in 2004 with 34.4 years of service. A proud WWII veteran, he was designated as a Master Instructor, Vessel Examiner, Program Visitor and Cox'n. He served as FSO and SO-PV, FSO and SO-PE, FSO-AN and FSO-HR. Auxdata shows 20 Member Offices. He received

numerous awards including the Auxiliary Achievement Medal, an Auxiliary Commendation Medal and two Sustained Auxiliary Service Awards.

Richard Krawczynski has 55.3 years of active participation in Auxiliary activities. He has served in boat crew, Program Visitation, Vessel Examination, and as an instructor. His 27 Member Offices include service as ADSO-VE, FSO and SO-VE, FSO and SO-OP, FSO and SO-PV and FSO-HR. Richard's awards include 11 Membership Service Awards, 3 CG Meritorious Team Commendations, 2 Sustained Auxiliary Service Awards and an Auxiliary Operations Service Ribbon.

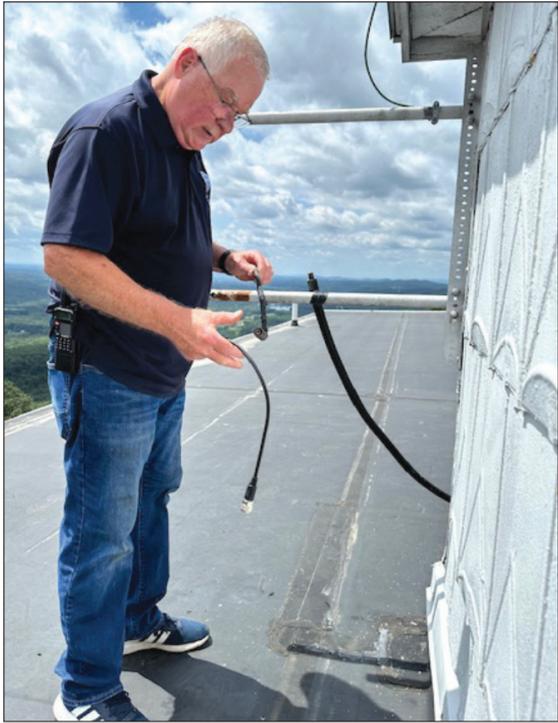
Paul Krawczynski has 53.5 years as an active member.

Paul is active in telecommunications, boat crew and as an instructor. The 29 Member Offices in his record include Flotilla and Division appointments in CM, FN, MT, OP and HR. Paul's many Awards include 10 Membership Service Awards, 3 CG Meritorious Team Commendations and 5 Sustained Auxiliary Service Awards.

Auxdata shows just over 153 years of service for the Krawczynski clan, so far. From the records, which are understandably incomplete, one can see unusual levels of exemplary effort, sustained over lifetimes. What records do not show is their value as leaders, mentors and workers. The Krawczynski's lead by example, always present, reliable and ready to share their talents and lend a hand.



Richard Krawczynski receiving his 55 year award plaque last January at The Hunters Room at The Munich House in Chicopee (Rich is on the left).



Paul Krawczynski working on the installation of new repeater antennae on top of Skinner House on Skinner Mountain.



Richard Krawczynski working recently installing a new repeater antennae up at Skinner Mountain in South Hadley/Hadley, MA.

## Operation Backpack seeking donations

SOUTH HADLEY/ GRANBY – Operation Backpack, which has been providing backpacks full of school supplies from grades Pre-K to 12 is in need of donations of school supplies and backpacks to beat previous year's numbers to reach over 220 backpacks.

The program needs backpacks for grades Pre-K to 12 for boys and girls. Supplies needed include rulers, colored pencils, crayons, yellow highlighters, scissors, pencil sharpeners, colored markers, subject dividers, 1" ring binders, lined wide-ruled filler paper, calculators, zippered pen and pencil holders, USB zip drives, black composition books, 1, 2, and 3 subject notebooks, and colored portfolio folders with pockets.

You can find drop-off boxes at several locations around South Hadley.

Drop-off boxes can be found at Berkshire Bank at 74 Lamb Street, St. Patrick's Church at 30 Main Street, and Neighbors Helping Neighbors at 30 Carew Street. More include Newton Street Dental at 488 Newton Street, Westfield Bank at 32 Willimansett Street, or Adams' house a 36 Chestnut Hill Road, and please call her ahead of time or for pick-up at 413-536-5316.

"Remember, investing in our students now will lead to a better future for all of us. Let this be my 12th year of doing this, the greatest year ever," said Adams.

You can contact Sheila Adams via her email, [shoperationbackpack@yahoo.com](mailto:shoperationbackpack@yahoo.com), or by calling her at 413-536-5316.



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# Opinion

## SOCIAL SECURITY

### Matters

By Russell Gloor

# Can my wife get her full spousal benefit at 62 or must she wait?

Dear Rusty:

I'm 64 and my wife is 62. If my wife starts her own benefit now, she will get about \$700 on her own at 62. I will retire next year and claim Social Security when I am 65. SSA says my wife can draw \$1,100 under spousal benefits, so if she claims now will they give her spousal benefits of \$1,100 or does she need to wait until I claim at age 65 to get the \$1,100?

Signed:

Trying to Understand

Dear Trying:

If your wife is now 62, then her Full Retirement Age for Social Security purposes is age 67 and if she claims any SS benefit before reaching her FRA, the amount will be reduced for early claiming. If your wife were to claim now (before you), she would get only her own SS retirement amount (the \$700 amount), and that would be a reduction of about 30% from what she would get if she waited until her FRA to claim.

Your wife cannot get a "spousal boost" (an additional amount as your spouse) until you claim your SS retirement benefit (at age 65?). And her benefit as your spouse at that time will also be reduced because she will not have yet reached her FRA. If your wife is already collecting her own SS retirement benefit when you later claim, she will be given her "spousal boost" to make her benefit equal what she is entitled to as your spouse. But her total monthly benefit as your spouse will also be reduced because it will be awarded before her FRA. The only way your wife can get her full spousal benefit from you is to wait until she is 67 to claim Social Security. If she claims any earlier, her monthly amount will be permanently reduced.

FYI, if you plan to claim at age 65, you should also be aware that your full retirement age (FRA) is also age 67 and claiming at age 65 will mean that you will get about 87% of the amount you would get if you waited until age 67 to

claim. Again, these reductions are permanent, except for normal Cost of Living Adjustments awarded annually thereafter.

Having said all of that, deciding when each of you should claim your Social Security benefit is a matter of financial need, while also considering your life expectancy. If your life expectancy is short and/or you need the money, then claiming early is likely the right decision. But if your life expectancy is longer and you don't urgently need the money, then you might both consider waiting longer to claim a higher monthly amount and get more in cumulative lifetime benefits.

Finally, please remember that whenever SS is claimed before full retirement age, Social Security has an annual earnings test which limits how much can be earned by working while collecting early SS benefits. The earnings limit for 2025 is \$23,400 and, if that is exceeded, SS will take back \$1 in benefits for every \$2 over the limit (they take back by withholding future SS payments). FYI, the earnings limit for those who claim SS early changes (increases a bit) yearly and goes away entirely once full retirement age is reached. So, if either or both of you are working, you should evaluate whether claiming your Social Security benefit early (before your respective FRA) is a prudent choice.

*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](http://amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at [ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org](mailto:ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org). Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.*

# This summer try freezing the harvest

Freezing fruits and vegetables is an easy way to preserve the harvest. More nutrients are retained by this method of food preservation than any other, and the color, flavor and texture are as close to fresh as you can get.

Freezing works by curbing the growth of organisms that cause food to spoil. The key to longevity is to use packaging that will keep out air and moisture. Thick plastic freezer bags, tight-fitting plastic containers (square make better use of freezer space than round), or boilable bags that are made for vacuum sealers are all great options for that purpose.

Fresh berries are easily frozen whole. I've been doing my share of that lately. Any blackberries we don't eat get popped on an aluminum pie tin to freeze, once frozen they are moved into freezer containers where I can easily take out just what I need.

Many people also freeze tomatoes whole, figuring that it's too hot to make sauce now, but it won't be in a couple of months. Thawing frozen whole tomatoes makes for easy skin removal.

Vegetables such as peas, yellow and green beans, broccoli and more are all easily frozen once you know the method.

Here is how you do it: Grab a pot from your cupboard to blanch your produce - this part of the process will help to retain the desirable characteristics that I mentioned above. You can blanch by steaming or boiling. Reportedly, steaming is



by Roberta McQuaid

bags rather than exact dinner-sized portions: Line a cookie sheet with freezer or waxed paper. Arrange your dry produce in a single layer and pre-freeze for an hour or two, then fill your bag.

This way you will be able to grab exactly what you need when making a meal - pieces won't be frozen together in a big block.

Vacuum packers are great for freezing dinner-sized portions. Simply pack the bags with your blanched, air-dried veggies and seal. Without one you can do a good job of removing air from your freezer bags by simply squeezing out as you can manually then inserting a straw into an unsealed corner and inhaling to draw out what remains.

The kids will find this part of the preservation process to be a lot of fun! Be sure to label the contents with the date - most produce will keep for at least a year at zero degrees.

For a more detailed look at freezing and other types of food preservation consult these great books by Storey Publishing: "The Beginner's Guide to Preserving Food at Home" by Janet Chadwick and "The Big Book of Preserving the Harvest" by Carol W. Costenbader.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 32 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](mailto:pouimette@turley.com) with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.

## 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.

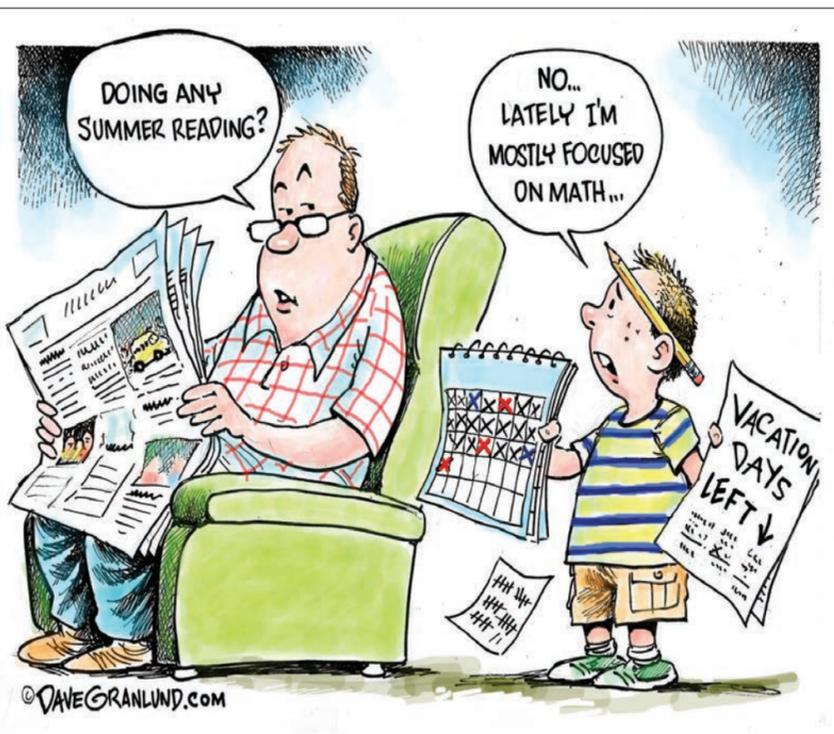
We reserve the right to edit or withhold any submissions. Libelous, unsubstantiated allegations, personal attacks or defamation of character are not allowed. Deadline for submissions is Wednesday at noon.

Please email (preferred) letters to [townreminder@turley.com](mailto: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.



Cedar waxwing



By Ellenor Downer

do a great job of controlling the mosquitoes population. The cedar waxwing is one of the few North American birds that specialize in eating fruit.

It can survive on fruit alone for several months. It is a silky smooth songbird with a black mask, tan head and breast, yellow belly and grayish brown under parts. The tail has a yellow band at the tip and some wing feathers have waxy red tips, hence the name waxwing.

Adults perch on high, exposed perches where they are easily seen and heard. They also have a promi-

nent crest. During courtship males and females pass a small fruit or other item back and forth. The cedar waxwing is medium sized and sleek. Their crest often lies flat and droops over the back of the head. Waxwings are social birds and often seen in flocks year round. They sit in fruiting trees swallowing berries whole or pluck them I mid-air with a brief fluttering hover. They also course over water for insects, "flying like slightly, clumsy swallows."

It takes the female about five to six days to build a nest. They occasionally take

nesting materials from other birds nests.

### Helping birds

A reader from South Hadley suggested I include a section about ways to help birds. She even provided several tips for future columns. In hot weather and during dry periods, it is important for birds to have a clean, cool source of water. Even something as simple as putting out a bird bath and water dishes and keeping the water clean and cool during the summer heat will help birds.

Many people don't realize that birds get dehydrated and the bird baths help them keep cool but equally important, maintain the health of their feathers. A bird bath doesn't have to be fancy, even an old ceramic serving dish would work as long as the water isn't too deep. One reader, who sends emails quite frequently has a more elaborate system with a dripping water.

South Hadley birds  
A South Hadley resident

emailed she hears an owl in her neighborhood, but has never seen it. She reported seeing red tailed hawks and turkey vultures. When she sees road kill, she moves it to a safe spot away from traffic so that vultures don't get hit by cars.

### Great blue heron at McDonald's

Saturday night my daughter, Paula, took the girls to the McDonald's in Ware just as it was getting dark. A great blue heron flew into the parking lot from the river across the street and tried to unsuccessfully land on top of a lamp post. When it couldn't, it flew just a few feet over their heads into the swamp in the back of the parking lot.

People may report a bird sighting or bird related experience by calling me at 413-967-3505, leaving a message at extension 100, emailing [mybackyard88@aol.com](mailto:mybackyard88@aol.com) or [edowner@turley.com](mailto:edowner@turley.com) or mailing to Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005.

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

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# South Hadley Overdose Awareness Memorial on August 26th at Beachgrounds Park

SOUTH HADLEY— On August 26th South Hadley's Public Health Department and community partners will hold a memorial in recognition of International Overdose Awareness Day (August 31). The first International Overdose Awareness Day event was held as a small community event in Melbourne, Australia in 2001 to remember friends who died from an overdose. It has since evolved into a global day of remembrance and action focused on offering support to grieving friends, families, and neighbors and inviting community members to learn about overdose prevention. This year, South Hadley joins municipalities throughout Hampshire County and across the state and country to honor the lives of individuals who have died from an overdose. All are welcome to attend the memorial event on Tuesday, August 26 from 5:30 to 7 p.m. at Beachgrounds Park, 137 Main Street, South Hadley.

The memorial will be centered around the dedication of a new memorial tree. The tree has been generously donated and planted by volunteer members of the South

Hadley Tree Committee. Supplies will be provided for attendees to create memorial stones in honor of those who have passed. Representatives from Hampshire HOPE, Northampton's Division of Health and Human Services Drug Addiction Recovery Team, and Tapestry Health will be present with information about resources for those who have lost someone to an overdose, want to help prevent future overdoses, or are seeking support services for themselves or someone in their life.

Nationally, 80,391 Americans died from a substance-related overdose in 2024. Massachusetts communities also experience significant impact from substance-related fatalities. 3,692 Bay State residents died from a substance-related overdose from July 2023 to June 2024. Eight of these overdose deaths occurred in South Hadley.

All community members are invited to gather in Beachgrounds Park on August 26 to honor the family, friends, and neighbors who have passed, find support among community, and learn how to help prevent future overdose deaths.

# Redevelopment Authority Donates New Bench to Fred M. Smith Park

SOUTH HADLEY – The South Hadley Redevelopment Authority donated a new 5' long bench to the Fred M. Smith Park, located next door to the Old Firehouse Museum at the corner of Main and North Main Streets.

A big thank you to Redevelopment Authority mem-

ber David Isakson for assembling the bench and the South Hadley Department of Public Works for installing it. The bench is located in front of the memorial garden and plaque honoring Frank DeToma, a founding member of the Redevelopment Authority and much loved longtime resident of the community.



Submitted photo

The bench fits in perfectly with its beautiful surroundings.

# Fall Book Sale coming to Granby Library

Find new-to-you books, magazines, and more

GRANBY – Book lovers! Bargain Hunters! The Friends of the Granby Free Public Library will host their annual Month-Long Fall Book Sale during September in the Community Room of the Library. You will be able to choose from a large assortment of used and like-new hardcover, softcover, paperback books, teen books and children's books, along with a selection of CDs, DVDs, video games and audiobooks. The sale will run during regular library hours from September 2 through 30.

The Library is now

accepting donations of hardcover and paperback books, DVDs, music CDs, playable video games, and audiobooks in good condition acceptable for resale. The Library does not accept donations of: Textbooks, encyclopedias, Reader's Digest books, or books with smoke, mold, mildew, or water damage. Donations are accepted at the Library during open hours. Please do not leave donated books outside the library or in our book return. Donations accepted until August 28. Thank you for your support!

The Granby Free Public Library is located at 297 E State St, Granby, MA 01033. Visit granbylibrary.org for hours and more information.

# Gaylord Memorial Library to host annual Wine Down

SOUTH HADLEY – Join the Friends of the Gaylord Memorial library in celebrating the opening of Wine Down Season on Friday September 12, 2025 from 5:30 to 7 p.m. We are celebrating back to school with a special guest, Sheila Adams, from Operation Backpack. The library is a door off spot for needed school items including: Zip

drives, binders (1, 1.5 or 3 inch) 1 subject notebooks, glue sticks, post it notes, yellow highlighters, calculators, and backpacks...Sheila says if you can't got shopping consider donating cash/check. Come meet Sheila Friday September 12. There is a \$10 entry fee for this event. We are at 47 College Street, join us for food, libations, and friendship.

## LIBRARY from page 1

Many libraries across the region have Libraries of Things, including South Hadley, and each one is as unique and different as the library they come from. Massachusetts residents can get a library card in order

to check out these amazing items for you to go on a "library road trip" to neighboring towns to see what they have to share.

"Our community is very lucky to have such wonderful libraries surrounding us that have great resources to offer. Get out there and visit them," said Crosby.

# South Hadley Council on Aging announces events

## Summer Breakfast

Friday, August 15, 8:30 a.m.

The Gentleman's Breakfast is on summer break, but breakfast is still served! Join us for a delicious \$3 meal - open to everyone. Bring a friend!

## Lunch & Movie: Pirates of the Caribbean

Wednesday, August 20, 11:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Enjoy a Caribbean-inspired lunch by Chef Dakota followed by a screening of Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl. Join Captain Jack Sparrow for action, laughs and pirate mischief in this fun food-and-film event! Tickets are \$8 at the Welcome Desk.

## Navajo Code Talkers Presentation

Thursday, August 21, 1:30 p.m.

In 1946, a Japanese newspaper stated: "If the Japanese Imperial Intelligence Team could have decoded the Navajo messages...the history of the Pacific War might have

turned out completely different." What made the Code of the Navajo so unbreakable? The incredible story of the Navajo Code Talkers presented by Dr. Ed Maxwell, linguist and student of the Navajo language.

## Ice Cream Truck Birthday Party

Friday, August 22, 1:30 p.m.

We're celebrating August birthdays and anniversaries with free ice cream from the Batch Ice Cream truck and open mic entertainment! Everyone is welcome, whether you're celebrating or not. August Birthday or anniversary? Enter our drawing! Join us on the patio for the fun, sponsored by the Friends of the South Hadley Seniors. Open to all ages. Don't miss it!

## Sounds, Sights & Stories of Hawaii with Aloha Spirit

Tuesday, August 26, 3 p.m.

Join us on a virtual voyage to the Hawaiian Islands and enjoy sounds, sights and stories of the Island' continu-

ing volcanic creation, its peoples, their history, and culture. Learn about the unique origin and sweet melodies of ki'hoalu - slack key - guitar music played with Aloha, born on the cattle ranches of the Big Island, Island-born Ash Hartwell, accompanied by Rob Lak, will play in ki'hoalu style, including a song composed by the law Hawaiian Monarch, Queen Liliuokalani.

## Summer Concert Series: Polka Party with Eddie Forman Orchestra

Wednesday, August 27, 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Join the South Hadley Travel Club for a lively musical journey to Poland! Enjoy a delicious Polish lunch and dance to the sounds of the Eddie Forman Orchestra. Tickets are \$8 per person and include lunch, live music, and fun surprises. Get your tickets at the Welcome Desk. Don't miss this festive event!

## Medicare Supplement Plans or Medicare

## Advantage Plans? Which Coverage is Best for Me?

Thursday, August 28, 1:30 p.m.

Whether you're enrolling for the first time or reviewing your current plan, it's important to understand your options. This session will cover Original Medicare, Medicare Supplement vs. Advantage plans, prescription coverage, and provide real-life examples to help you choose the plan that best fits your needs. No specific plan details - just clear, helpful guidance.

## Board & brush: Make and Take Workshop

Friday, August 29, 1 p.m.

Join us for a summer-inspired crafting workshop! Select one of four pedestal or tray designs, customize it with your choice of stain, and use a stencil to paint your masterpiece - with hands-on guidance from the creative team at Board & Brush. All supplies included.



Submitted photo

More items to choose from at the back of the room near the magazines.

# Buttery Brook Park lists cruise night, music and more

SOUTH HADLEY – Buttery Brook Park has plenty going on still, so make sure to have your lawn chair for

Cruise Night, your paddle for pickleball, your bathing suit for the spray park, and your

reusable bag for the farmer's market ready.

Friday, August 15 - Cruise Night and Live Music, featuring BluGroove, from 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. on the front pavilion.

Wednesday, August 20 -

Farmer's Market, from 2 to 6 p.m.

Friday, August 22 - Cruise Night and Live Music featuring Acousticca, from 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in the front pavilion.

Pickleball Courts – Dai-

ly Open Play on Monday to Sunday, from 8:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. / Weeknight Open Play on Monday to Friday, from 4:30 to 10 p.m.

Spray Park - Open Daily, from 10:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

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# SPORTS

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## Hayden team falls in quarterfinals



Milah Perez heads into the paint for a layup attempt.



Ava Cruz shoots on the run.



Reese Sherman looks for a lane to drive to the hoop.



Scarlet Aviaciono gets the shot off.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com  
Kiera Pecia shoots from the free throw line.

WILBRAHAM – Last Tuesday evening, a South Hadley 7-8 girls basketball team, sponsored by Hayden Corporation, was defeated by Belchertown in the Spec Pond Summer Basketball League playoffs. Hayden lost a narrow matchup 24-23 to the Belchertown Orioles. Hayden went 6-4 in the regular season before the playoff loss.

## VolleyHall hosts Grass Open

HOLYOKE – Holyoke, aka Volleyball City, is the birthplace of volleyball and home to the International Volleyball Hall of Fame. Last weekend, the hall celebrated the heritage with a fun filled event for players of all ages and skill levels competing for bragging rights and amazing prizes. The IVHF Volleyball City hosted the Grass Open last weekend Aug. 9 and 10, at the scenic Wyckoff Country Club in Holyoke, Massachusetts. Different divisions each day – Whether it was a seasoned competitor or new to the game, there was a division for you, from elite Open-level competition to fun recreational play. Junior players were also encouraged

to participate, and teams can include both youth and adults. Spectators were welcomed to attend for free and enjoy the full tournament atmosphere, including Center Court matches with music. On Saturday, August 9, the event featured men's and women's triples in Open (cash prize), BB, and Legends divisions. Sunday, August 10, highlighted juniors (16U and 18U) and reverse co-ed doubles for both Open (cash prize) and BB players. All participants received free parking and passes to visit the International Volleyball Hall of Fame Museum. Adding to the fun, was live music both days presented by Wyckoff Country Club. Food, drinks, and prizes will round out this festive weekend.

## HCC releases schedules for men's, women's soccer

HOLYOKE – The Holyoke Community College Cougars will have men's and women's soccer teams once again this fall. The Cougars men's soccer team is scheduled to get their season kicked off on Saturday, Sept. 6 against Hudson Valley Community College at home.

On Saturday, the Cougars will face off with the Fashion Institute of Technology on Saturday, Aug. 30 and then face Central Maine Community College on Sunday, Aug. 31 at 1:30 p.m.

Their first road game is on Thursday, Sept. 11 against STCC. Their schedule includes matchups with New Hampshire Tech, Bristol, Northern Essex, Mass Bay, Community College of Rhode Island, Bunker Hill, Massasoit, Roxbury, and Quinsigamond.

From there, the regular season opener will take place against Hudson Valley ahead of the men's game. The women will start the day at 1:30 p.m.

HCC's first matchup with STCC will be a non-region, but a second matchup in October will count.

HCC's road schedule starts on Wednesday, Sept. 10 at Bristol Community College. The women's scheduled features several opponents that HCC will meet twice, including Quinsigamond, Bunker Hill, Roxbury, and Massasoit.

The Women's Soccer team will hold the Cougar Classic, hosting a few teams at HCC.

The regional playoffs begin around Oct. 30. For more information, go to www.hcccougars.com

## West Side Sports Shop wins Women's PVSSL Championship

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW—Back in the middle of July, Olivia Crespo and her New England Mutiny teammates lost in the United Women's Soccer League finals for the second year in a row.

On Friday, Aug. 2, Crespo guided the third-seeded Westside Sport Shop to a 5-0 shut-out victory over top-seeded Here for Beer in the women's finals of the Pioneer Valley Summer Soccer League at Lusitano Stadium in Ludlow.

"It was a little bit frustrating coming up a little bit short in the National Finals once again this year," said Crespo, who graduated from Ludlow High School. "I had a lot of confidence coming into tonight's championship match and I knew that we would be able to do it."

Crespo, who scored four goals and had an assist against Here for Beer, was selected as the M.V.P. following the match.

"My teammates deserve a lot of credit," Crespo said. "They helped set up my goals. I wouldn't have been able to do it without them."

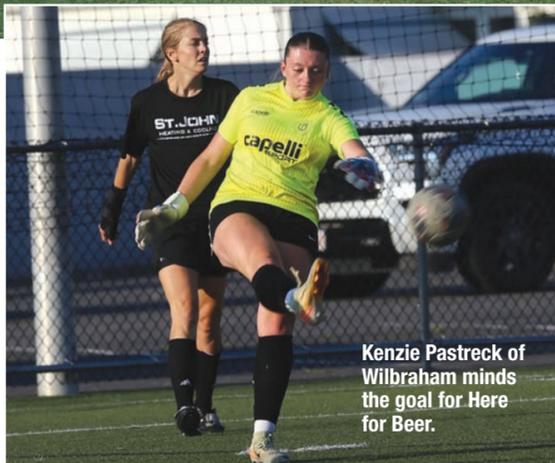
Last fall, Crespo was a member of the women's soccer team at Franklin Pierce University, which captured



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com  
West Side Sports Shop won the Women's Title this year in the Pioneer Valley Summer Soccer League.

the NE 10 conference championship title. Her college soccer team played in the NCAA Division 2 Final Four. "It was a really special season," she said. "We're looking forward to having another successful season this fall."

Westside Sport Shop (9-2-1) won the championship title



Kenzie Pastreck of Wilbraham minds the goal for Here for Beer.

for the third time since Crespo has been a member of the team. They beat sixth-seeded Heat, 2-1 in overtime in the quarterfinals before squeaking out a 3-2 win over the second seeded Monson Mustangs in the semifinals.

Here For Beer, who defeated Westside Sport Shop in last year's finals, won the regular season match-up between the two squads. They entered the 2025 playoffs with an 11-1-0 record and earned a quarterfinal bye. They advanced into the finals after defeating the fourth-seeded Lusitano

Women, 2-1, in the semifinals. "Westside is a very good team this year," said Here for Beer player/coach Cassie Ashwell "If we were going to lose to anyone, I'm okay losing to them."

Longtime Minnechaug Regional girls' varsity soccer coach Nundi Goncalves attended the championship match. Several of his former players were playing on both sides.

The former Lady Falcons players wearing Westside uniforms were Emily Howard, Rhiann Ryan, Claire Poindexter, Gaby Williams, Lylah Jeannotte, and Chapin Jeannotte.

The Jeannotte sisters weren't teammates when they were in high school.

"We missed playing on the same soccer team at Minnechaug by only one year, but we've been playing together on this team for the past couple of years, which has been a lot of fun," said Lylah Jeannotte, who was a starting defender. "It feels awesome winning a championship together."

Here For Beer goalie Kenzie Pastreck also played soccer at Minnechaug Regional.

The other players listed

Please see CHAMPIONSHIP, page 7

**CHAMPIONSHIP**  
from page 6

on the Westside roster from the Turley Publications coverage area are Reese Carey (South Hadley), Gabriella Fiahlo, Sydney Mercier (South Hadley), and Maya Tellier (Belchertown).

Here For Beer also had several players from the Turley Publications coverage area. They are Macie Bolton (Belchertown), Taryn Cariveau (Chicopee), Katie Gilhooly (Chicopee), Gwen Duggan (Palmer), and Lauren Marjanski (South Hadley), who didn't play in the finals.

Westside Sport Shop scored a pair of goals during the first ten minutes of the match.

Crespo, who's entering her senior season at Franklin Pierce, gave her team a 1-0 lead in the fourth minute after firing a low shot into the back of the net.

A couple of minutes later, Crespo delivered a crossing pass from the right side of the box to Natalie Matz, who poked a shot into the net past Pastreck.

Westside had several shots on goal during the final 30 minutes of the first half, but the score was still 2-0 at the break.

Crespo scored three more goals during the second half.

Crespo's first goal after halftime was unassisted, while Matz and Julianna Beaulieu were given the assists on her final two goals.

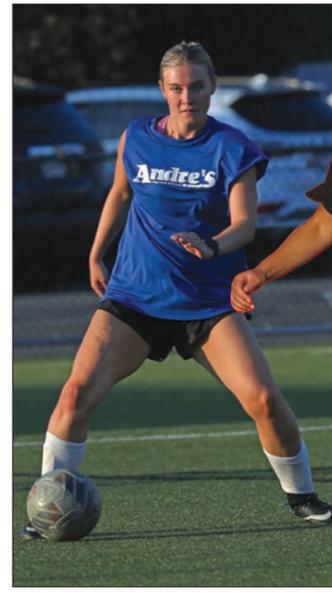
Sara Avery, who was Westside's starting goalie, and Chloe Laizer, who also played for the Mutiny, combined to post the shutout.



Makenzie Shean, a recent Agawam graduate, winds up for a shot.



Rachel McKenna of Granby heads up the field.



Sara Avery, of South Hadley, corrals the ball.



Gwen Duggan, of Palmer, looks to pass.



West Side's Emily Howard, of Wilbraham, navigates through traffic.



Cassie Ashwell, of Agawam, looks to clear the ball.



Lylah Jeannotte, of Wilbraham gets a quick touch on the ball.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

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## The benefits of local newspapers

**L**ocal newspapers play vital roles in communities across the globe. The Information Age has changed the way many people get their news, but local newspapers continue to serve as valuable resources for readers interested in learning more about and becoming more involved in their communities.

While local publishers continue to adapt to the changes brought about by technology, the following are a handful of benefits unique to local newspapers.

- **Local newspapers keep readers up-to-date on their own communities.** Globalization may be here to stay, but that does not mean local communities are no longer home to newsworthy events. National and international newspapers and 24-hour cable news channels can keep men and women up-to-date on national and world news, but in many instances, local newspapers are the only means people have to learn about what's going on in their own communities. Local politics impact residents' lives every day, and local newspapers cover local politics extensively.

- **Local newspapers benefit nearby businesses.** Small business owners often connect with community members via local newspapers. A strong, locally based small business community can improve economies in myriad ways, creating jobs in the community and contributing tax dollars that can be used to strengthen local schools and infrastructure. And local newspapers do their part by providing affordable and effective advertising space to local business owners looking to connect with their communities.

- **Local newspapers can strengthen communities.** Local newspapers are great resources for residents who want to become more active in their communities and learn more about community events. Local newspapers often showcase community events like carnivals, local theater productions and projects like park cleanups. These are great ways for readers to become more active in their communities and build stronger communities as a result.

- **Local newspapers can benefit children.** National newspapers may have



little age-appropriate content to offer young children, but local newspapers tend to include more soft news items than national periodicals, and such stories typically are appropriate for young readers. According to Newspapers in Education, students who participated in an NIE group in Florida performed significantly better in spelling and vocabulary

than nonreaders. Additional studies have indicated that students who use newspapers in the classroom perform better on standardized reading tests than those who do not use newspapers in class.

Many local newspapers have played vital roles in their communities for decades, providing a go-to resource for local readers and business owners.

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Town of Blandford is hiring a **PART-TIME ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT**

to the Assessors. Duties include administrative support for daily operations of the Assessors' office. Pay: \$18-\$20/hr, based on experience. Communication, customer service, organizational, and tech skills required. Send cover letter and resume to: [dhopson@townofblandford.com](mailto:dhopson@townofblandford.com).

**HELP WANTED**

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, WILBRAHAM HOUSING AUTHORITY**

The Wilbraham Housing Authority seeks highly qualified applicants for the position of Executive Director. Responsibilities include the administration of 69 Chapter 667 Elderly housing units and 9 Chapter 705 Family housing units. The Executive Director reports to a five-member Board of Commissioners. Work schedule shall be a minimum of 22 hours per week during normal business hours, flexible as needed. The estimated salary range \$46,177.00 To \$54,326.00 is based on the Executive Office of Housing & Livable Communities' Executive Director Salary Schedule. The ideal candidate must have two years' experience in a housing, community development, public administration or a closely related field. Knowledge of the principles and practices of housing management, finances and maintenance systems in public or private housing. Excellent written and verbal communication skills required. Willingness to work with people of various socio-economic backgrounds. Must be bondable. Certification as a Public Housing Manager from an approved organization desired, and may be substituted as a property manager or similar classification by a nationally recognized housing or real estate organization such as an EOHLC-approved Massachusetts Public Housing Administrator Certification Program or HUD. Two-year full time post-secondary education in a related field may substitute for up to one year of experience. Applications will be accepted until 12pm, August 29, 2025. Please submit cover letter, resume and contact information for 3 references to: **Mr. Peter Manoliakis, Chairman Executive Director Search Committee, Wilbraham Housing Authority, 88 Stony Hill Road, Wilbraham, MA 01095. Contact: Peter Manoliakis (413) 519-8195**  
Wilbraham Housing Authority is an Equal Opportunity Employer

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**CRUISE NIGHT** from page 1

and Treasurer of the Friends of Buttery Brook Park, has been the chair since 2012, orchestrating and planning out the car shows with a dedicated group of volunteers.

"I'm a car guy, and I love the cars, and this year, we've done something different in that we're also doing live entertainment during the Cruise Nights, so its really a summer concert series and Cruise Night," said Lachowetz.

Last year, the Cruise Nights featured live entertainment for a couple of nights, and they were great hits, bringing in many people to the show, and to sit and enjoy the music.

"They were so successful that we went further, but with the park renovation, we ran into some difficulties, and next year, we will schedule every Friday night, and we are planning on expanding the schedule by maybe two or three weeks," said Lachowetz.

Through the generous donations from the community every week in the donation bucket, the 50/50 raffle, and the food sales, the Friends have been able to keep up this tradition and host more live music this year, every Friday.

"It's really great, because the Friends of Buttery Brook Park is a 501c3, and our focus is to make the park better, and hosting fundraisers to add in things like the Cruise Nights, Disc Golf Course, and Pickleball Courts, and I really enjoy seeing people enjoy the park. It's a real hidden gem in



Submitted photos

**Dan Cohara with his luxury 1956 Ford Continental Mark II.**

town," said Lachowetz.

At every Cruise Night, they give away four awards, pick the top four cars that week and take a picture, and post them on Facebook to celebrate the winners for the week.

"It's more of a meet-and-greet, and we tell the judges to just go out there and look for cars that the owners have, in many cases, poured their heart and souls into. On any particular night, we can have cars from the 1930s to the newer stuff," said Lachowetz.

The kids always love the Cruise Nights, and are able to match up their little Matchbox toy cars with the big, real ones on the field.

"We tell people to come and share their car, and that if they love their car, others will, too," said Lachowetz. "These people who love their cars love to talk about them, and there's a history and a story with all of them."

The Friends host all sorts of events other than the

Cruise Nights, including Santa's Land, which has been going on for more than 40 years, people coming with their grandchildren, remembering their time here as a child.

"That's the thing with all of our events- we go out there and we have fun, and we raise money for charities, and in this case the park, and its all run by volunteers, about 10 to 11 on a rotating basis, and we couldn't make it happen without them. We raise this money to go right back into the park," said Lachowetz.

While the Cruise Nights are running to the end of the season, there are about four nights left, and the Committee is looking to start in May next season for the daylight hours, and run till the Friday after Labor Day to have more time, and more Friday night Cruise Nights.

This Friday, catch the Blue Grooves, then Acoustica, Moose and the High Tops, and lastly, Ray Guillemette's King Country show.



**The Madd Eatz food truck came last week with some tasty food to enjoy at the show.**



**Friends talking about their favorite cars of the night**



Submitted photos

**Deb and Dave Tellier with their beautiful red 1961Thunderbird.**



**Albert and Tracy Dubuque with the turquoise 1958 Chevy Corvette.**

**Opinion**

**TOWN OF SOUTH HADLEY PLANNING BOARD NOTICE OF HYBRID PUBLIC HEARING**

The Planning Board will hold a hybrid public hearing on **Monday, August 25, 2025 at 6:30 p.m.** to consider an application for Site Plan Review filed by Melanie Lorenz; 478 Amherst Road, South Hadley MA; for a mobile food establishment with associated site improvements at 0 Amherst Road, Map 58 Parcel 132, pursuant to the Zoning Bylaw Article XII (Site Plan Review); 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/86486728408?pwd=LdpmURzP8mu11FYVAItBwrkVwjqoo.1> Or join by phone: +1 309 205 3325 **Webinar ID:** 864 8672 8408 **Passcode:** 795018

The subject project is located within the Agricultural and Business B zoning districts with development proposed in the Business B portion of the site. The subject property is currently undeveloped and in common ownership with the abutting property at 478 Amherst Road. The majority of the 6.87 acre property located in South Hadley with road frontage in the Town of Granby.

The application is on file in the Planning & Conservation Department Office (Room U6) in Town Hall and is posted at [www.southhadley.org](http://www.southhadley.org) on the Planning

Department page under 'Permit Applications'- 'Site Plan Review' under section '**Amherst Road (Map 58, Parcel 132) - Mobile Food Establishment**' or can be viewed at: <https://www.southhadley.org/1179/Site-Plan-Review> 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  
08081, 08/15/2025

**TOWN OF SOUTH HADLEY PLANNING BOARD NOTICE OF HYBRID PUBLIC HEARING**

The Planning Board will hold a hybrid public hearing on **Monday, August 25, 2025 at 6:30 p.m.** to consider an application for Special Permit filed by Barstow's Longview Farm, Inc; 14 Barstow Lane Hadley MA, 01035; to convert a dimensionally nonconforming single-family dwelling to a two-family dwelling at 73 Alvord Street, Map 42 Parcel 10, pursuant to the Zoning Bylaw Article IX (Special Permits); 255-7 (Existing uses, buildings and structures; nonconforming uses); 255-27 (Conversion of single-family dwelling to two-family dwelling); 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:

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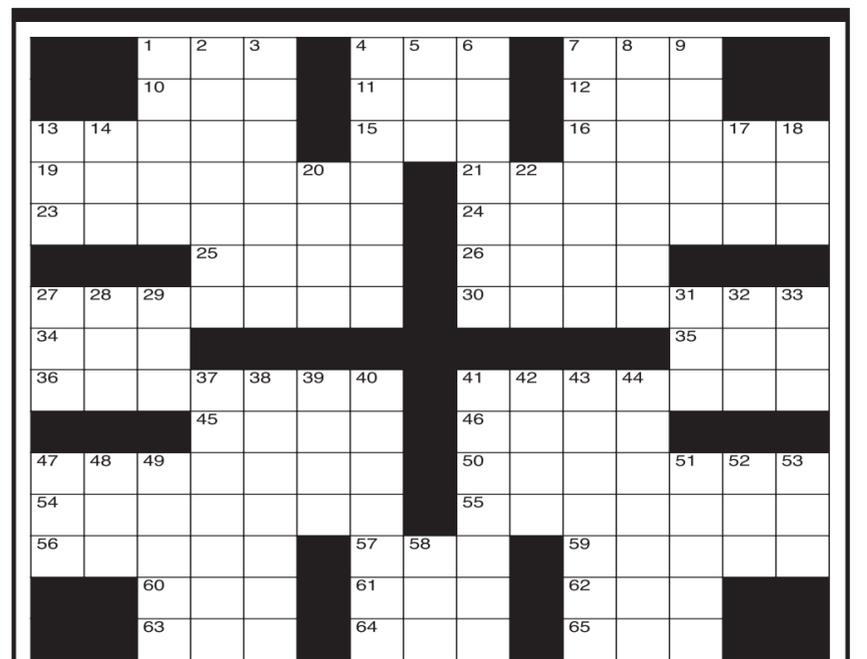
The subject project is located within the Agricultural zoning district and includes an existing single-family home and agricultural outbuildings.

The application is on file in the Planning & Conservation Department Office (Room U6) in Town Hall and is posted at [www.southhadley.org](http://www.southhadley.org) on the Planning Department page under 'Permit Applications'- 'Special Permit' under section '**Alvord Street (73) - 2 Family Conversion and Alteration of Nonconforming Structure**' or can be viewed at: <https://www.southhadley.org/1181/Special-Permits> 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  
08/08, 08/15/2025

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**FUNDRAISER** from page 1

the event was the Collaborative for Educational Services, which provides paid internships for high school students where they can work alongside science professors in real labs, all while getting paid.

"This program has been so meaningful for me because it's helped me get more into the bioengineering field," said Helen Tejirian, one of the students in the program.

The program runs through the summer, their Steamwork Paid Internship Program allows for the students to not only get some real-world experience in the fields they want to study, but be paid along the way to achieving their life goals and dreams.

The program has awarded over 40,000 hours of internship time, and paid more than \$600,000 since its beginning in 2018. The program works with high schools and regional schools around the region, including the public high schools in Belchertown, Granby, and South Hadley, as well as many more.

"I love seeing the connections that happen when someone meets a new client, finds a collaborator, or simply feels more rooted in the community because of an event we hosted. Those moments are what make our work worthwhile," said Robinson.

"There's a remarkable spirit of collaboration here. People are passionate about supporting local businesses, investing in their neighbors,

and finding creative solutions that make our region stronger and more vibrant."

"What I love most about our community is the way we truly care for one another. You see it in the way people shop locally to support their neighbors, in the volunteers who give their time without hesitation, and in the way we celebrate each other's successes like they're our own," said Laplante. "There's a genuine kindness that makes you feel like you're part of something bigger. It's not just where we work, it's where we live."

The guests packed the section of the first floor of the Boathouse, and people milled about enjoying appetizers and good conversation while groups took turns on the boat, the Lady Bea.

The focus on the Collaborative for Educational Services, CES, allowed for many to learn more about this resource to the community, and how people can utilize it, especially those at risk. The program has helped benefit hundreds of students since it began seven years ago, and as a nonprofit, it relies on the community and grants to continue its work.

The Amherst Area Chamber is looking forward to hosting their own fall After 5 events, as well as their Internship Fair at UMass Amherst, the A+ Awards, and community events like their Holiday Gift Card Match programs and Lighting of the Merry Maple.

"It's an honor to represent

such a diverse and engaged membership. My role is about being a connector, linking businesses to opportunities, to each other, and to the community at large, while advocating for the conditions they need to thrive," said Robinson.

The South Hadley and Granby Chamber is also looking forward to their future events, including their Annual Trunk-or-Treat, Oktoberfest Themed Business After 5 at the Yard Tavern, their Annual Celebrity Bartender Event at Sok's Bar and Grill for Neighbors Helping Neighbors, and their Annual Holiday Stroll and lighting the Christmas Tree on the common. They will also be co-hosting a multi-chamber event at Summit View in Holyoke.

"The South Hadley Granby Chamber's goals are all about growth, connection, and impact. We want to expand networking opportunities for our members, strengthen partnerships with local organizations, and advocate for policies that help businesses thrive. Everything we do comes back to supporting our business community and making our region a place where businesses and people want to be," said Laplante.

You can find both Chambers on Facebook, and learn more about what they do for their communities, and the small businesses and nonprofit organizations that truly are the heartbeat of these communities.



Turley photos by Emily-Rose Pappas

From left to right: Fungai Tchiwangana, Ben Palkowski, Polina Potochevska, Brandi Parker, Alex Laguerra Sierra, Jacob Robinson, Katarzyna Bernash from Amherst.



The beautiful Lady Bea herself.



Eating good food and spending some time with friends.



Sponsors BankESB members Amy Fyden, George Michelakis, and Alex Holbrook.



Melissa Whitelock, Regina Zebrowski, Polina Potochevska, and Cody Goncalves, enjoying some time together.



Students a part of the CES Program, Helen Tejirian, Yatharth Rajkumar, Desmond Schein, and Kai Imperial-Jewett.



Joni Fleming and Cody Goncalves with the beautiful scenery.



Live music and covers of classic songs given by talented musician Bily Moon.



Event coordinators and directors, Steven Laplante, Cody Goncalves, Polina Potochevska, and Jacob Robinson.