

TOWN Reminder

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Founding director looks to serve a little differently

By Emily-Rose Pappas
Staff Writer
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GRANBY – Finding something that truly fulfills you is a rewarding experience, and for Donna Denette, it was to create a non-profit school for children that prioritized them and their family first, and that is Children First.

“The history is that I was helping a for-profit childcare center, and when it went under, it left a lot of families stranded, so I helped to create the non-profit,” said Denette.

Denette founded Children First with some other members in 1991, and became the executive director in 2001, where it opened its doors to families with the goal of being a non-profit to

“One of my goals in creating Children First was creating that safety net so that not only the kids are prioritized, but the adults feel supported,” said Denette. “I wanted it to be safe and welcoming and for the kids to feel like they were going to ‘autnie’s house’.”

In 1999, the building was not owned, but was rented, and only about 1,000 square feet in total. They rented cafeteria space at the West Street School, and were licensed for only 20 preschoolers and 26 school-aged children.

Please see **DIRECTOR**, page 10



Donna Denette with one of the little ones who graduated from Children First. Submitted photo

Library offers teens a place to learn, create, and belong

By Tina Lesniak
Correspondent

SOUTH HADLEY – The South Hadley Public Library has become more than a place to check out books—it has grown into a hub where local teens can gather, create, and feel at home. Thanks to a dedicated teen room and a variety of engaging programs, the library is reaching an age group that can sometimes struggle to find welcoming spaces in the community.

“The idea behind having a dedicated teen space is to allow the teens to have

a space where they can be themselves but to give them a space where they know they are welcome and wanted,” said Bethany Roberts, the library’s teen program coordinator. “It also gives them a safe space to hang out outside of school.”

That vision has translated into a lively schedule of events designed specifically for teens. Among the most popular are Snackternoon, Teen Takeaway and Night Craft.

Snackternoon, held on Please see **LIBRARY**, page 5



The books are ready to come home with you. Submitted photos

Senior Center hosts open house

By Emily-Rose Pappas
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SOUTH HADLEY – September is National Senior Center Appreciation Month, and it’s a time when the Councils on Aging open

their doors to show the community what they offer and how they offer support for the community’s older adult population.

The Senior Center hosted a special Open House last week, and was filled with fun with music from the South

Hadley Community Band, and a spaghetti dinner made by Chef Dakota.

The Open House featured stations run by their volunteers and activity leaders to

Please see **OPEN HOUSE**, page 5



Balloons and tables set up to learn more about the programs and more. Submitted photo

Welcoming in the new year with a new superintendent

By Emily-Rose Pappas
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SOUTH HADLEY – Despite the uncertainty around the budget season, the South Hadley Public School District is looking forward to a year of fun and a new Superintendent. Jennifer Voyik served as Assistant Superintendent for a few years before she graciously accepted the role as Superintendent for the school district, and below is an interview with her, where she discusses her love and appreciation for her town, the school, the faculty, and the students.

1) What are you most looking forward to for the new year? About being the new Superintendent?

“I am most looking forward to the opportunity to see the district through fresh eyes in this new role. While I

have been part of South Hadley Public Schools since 2019 in other leadership roles, becoming the Superintendent allows me to listen, learn, and guide from a new perspective. I am looking forward to building deeper relationships with our students, staff, caregivers, and the community. My focus is on ensuring that every child is seen, heard, and supported every day.”

2) What do you love most about the South Hadley school district?

“What I love most about South Hadley is the sense of community. Our schools are the heart of this town, and you can see the pride in students, families, and staff when we gather for concerts, plays, athletic events, and school celebrations.”

3) How do the kids inspire you? How do the teachers and staff inspire you?

“The students inspire me with their curiosity, their creativity, and the way they interact with one another and their teachers in the classroom. Some of my favorite moments are when I drop into a classroom and simply observe students engaging, sharing ideas, and supporting one another.”

“The teachers and staff inspire me with their dedication and compassion. They are constantly adapting, innovating, and showing up for students in ways that extend far beyond academics. Their commitment motivates me to work just as hard to advocate for the resources and support they need.”

4) Despite recent changes and changes with the budget, what are you looking forward to with hope for

Please see **SUPT.**, page 10

Zoning proposal draws strong public reaction

By Emily-Rose Pappas
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SOUTH HADLEY – The Senior Center was packed with members of the community Monday night to listen to the proposal from the Planning Board for the Route 202/33 Corridor Rezoning, bringing their thoughts, questions, and concerns for what this will mean for their properties and the future.

The proposal was to update the current “...zoning bylaw relative to properties

“People love the Open Space, and they don’t want to lose it... so we need to look at how appropriately we can use it. We need to streamline our zoning.”

– Anne Capra

in proximity to Route 202 (Granby Road) and Route 33 (Memorial Drive/Williamett Street) to change the existing zoning to one of two new zoning districts identified as Residential Core and Residential Mixed Use,” as stated in the notice for the

meeting. The corridor planned to be rezoned includes the roads and parcels from Williamett Street going into Chicopee, to Granby Road going into Granby, and it drew a crowd of worried citizens worried these changes

would cause the town to lose some of its charm.

The planning process for the rezoning initiatives has been underway since 2020, where the members of the Route 202/33 Zoning Committee have been working together to assess the corridor and look at what needs the most focus and work.

“South Hadley was a farming community... and has really evolved,” said Anne Capra, director of Conservation and Planning.

Please see **ZONING**, page 2

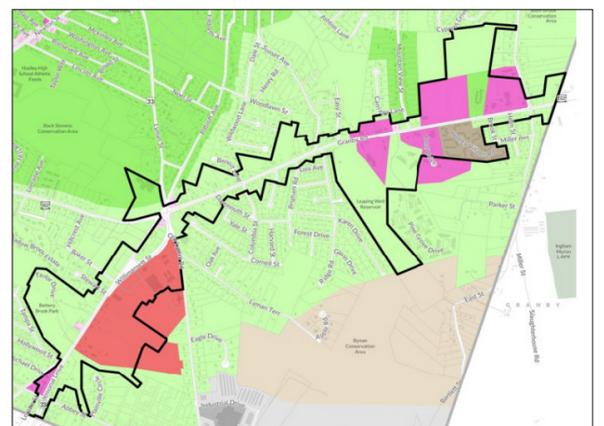


Photo from Town of South Hadley Website

A photo depicting the layout for the rezoning, from Williamett Street to Granby Road.

National Voter Registration Day is scheduled for Tuesday, Sept. 16

SOUTH HADLEY - In honor of National Voter Registration Day, the South Hadley Town Clerk's office, in collaboration with the South Hadley Public Library, is holding an event for South Hadley voters to stop by and check their registration status and/or ask any questions related to the election process.

The Town Clerk's office will be at the South Hadley

Public Library (2 Canal St) on Tuesday, September 16, 2025, from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM.

Although the Town of South Hadley does not currently have any elections scheduled for the remainder of 2025, this is a great opportunity for voters to check their registration status prior to 2026.

Up-to-date election information will be posted to

www.southhadleyma.gov/ elections.

Voters may also stop by the Town Clerk's office in person or contact the office by phone at 413-538-5030, ext. 6183, or by email at elections@southhadleyma.gov. Many resources are available online through the Secretary of the Commonwealth's website at www.VoteINMA.com.



Photo from Town of South Hadley Website

An example of what a Cottage Cluster would look like for the proposed zoning.

ZONING from page 1

The proposal looks to create two new zoning districts, a Residential Mixed Use district, and a Residential Core district, which will allow for new zoning districts and a new regulations schedule.

This proposal for rezoning includes single-family homes, retirement communities, condominiums, businesses, and more within its plans, all working to the single goal of finding a way to help South Hadley grow, without taking anything away from its charm or original aspects.

The purpose of this new zoning proposal is "... to preserve and prioritize the existing residential identity of the neighborhood while introducing a wider variety of housing options," said Capra.

Because of the recent budget crisis and rising costs with health insurance and more, the town is needing to grow in order to support the neighborhoods and businesses that are here already, and

by adjusting the zoning, can help welcome in new families to town, and also help encourage current families to stay in town.

"People love the Open Space, and they don't want to lose it... so we need to look at how appropriately we can use it," said Capra. "We need to streamline our zoning."

For the two new zoning districts, both RMU and RC, there is a proposed new type of development called Cottage Clusters, where homes will circle around areas of open space, allowing for more room for housing and room for nature.

Capra discussed the dimensional standards for parcels in new zoning districts, as well as the new dimensional regulations scheduled to go with them, which will bring about these new zoning guidelines.

For Residential Mixed Use only, there will be additions made to encourage settlement for artistic and creative production, breweries, co-working space for the community, artisan spaces

and studios, and more, all encouraging new businesses and small businesses to come into the town and flourish.

The main idea of this new proposed zoning, in the end, works to "offer development potential more compactly," Capra explained.

The Public Comment period lasted nearly three hours as dozens of community members came to the stand to share and express their thoughts, feelings, and questions about these proposed changes to the town.

"People have repeated over and over again that they don't want 202 and 33 to look like Route 33 in Chichester," said Martha Terry, a member of the Route 202/33 Corridor Rezoning Committee.

The Rezoning Committee and Planning Board have hosted several listening sessions, and all materials from these sessions, as well as information regarding them, can be found on the town website. The voting for this proposed rezoning will take place at the November Town Meeting.

Police department warns against making false calls

SOUTH HADLEY - Since the start of 2025, the South Hadley Police Department has responded to 338 false alarms, each one diverting officers from real emergencies. We are asking for your cooperation to help reduce this number and keep our community safe.

The Town has had a False Alarm Bylaw since 2017, Town Bylaw Chapter 105. We would like to remind residents and businesses of this as part of our continued effort to reduce unnecessary emergency responses and better allocate our public safety resources. False alarms divert law enforcement resources from crimes in progress, other emergencies, and time spent patrolling assigned areas. Every alarm is treated as a potential emergency because it could be. Our job is to show up, investigate, and ensure everyone's safety, no matter the cause.

The main cause of false alarms is user error. This includes entering the wrong passcode, improperly arming or disarming of the system, or failing to inform guests or employees about how the system works. Other common causes include environmental triggers, like pets or loose objects, and technical issues such as faulty sensors or low batteries. Sometimes even the weather can be a factor.

Businesses:

A) Make sure your employees know how to arm, disarm, and operate the system correctly.

B) Ensure your alarm systems are properly maintained and serviced.

C) Update your keyholder/contact information with the Police Department to avoid delays during emergencies.

D) Educate your staff about preventing false activations.

Residential Alarms:

A) Reset Your System: When your alarm goes off, enter your security code into the alarm control panel to disarm the system and stop the alarm as quickly as possible.

B) Communicate with Your Security Provider: Make sure you are prepared to talk with a representative from your alarm company. Give your password or ID number. Do not leave home until you have spoken with them.

C) Do NOT call 911 about a false alarm, call our business line 538-8231 and press 0. If you have a false alarm, you should contact the security system provider first.

D) Set Up Phone Notifications: When you set up notifications with your service provider, have them call two phones before alerting

authorities. This way, you are more likely to speak with them before they unnecessarily contact the police, an ambulance, or the fire department.

E) Review Your System: Accidents happen, but take measures to prevent the same mistake from happening twice. Make the necessary changes to ensure whatever triggered your false alarm the first time won't happen a second time.

False Alarm Fee Schedule

After the South Hadley Police Department has recorded three separate false alarms, be they audible or otherwise, within a calendar year, the alarm user shall be assessed the following fees:

For the fourth false alarm within that calendar year: \$25.

For the fifth and subsequent false alarm(s) within that calendar year: \$50.

Weather-related false Alarms are taken into account and will not be counted.

Our goal is to have fewer alarm calls, and not to have to issue fines.

We appreciate your attention and cooperation in this matter. Let's work together to reduce false alarms and keep our community safer for everyone.

East Meadow School to host free drama for substance use awareness

GRANBY - August 31 was National Overdose Awareness Day, and attention to the struggles and sad reality of drug addiction and abuse is sadly overlooked.

Join the Town of Granby at East Meadow School on Friday, September 19, at 6 p.m., for a performance by 2nd Act, "I'll Never Do That." The

event is free to the community.

"I'll Never Do That" is an intimate story of one family's struggles happening behind closed doors. As one of the parents descends deeper into addiction, the rest of the family struggles to cope. This story sheds light on family dynamics, the harrowing path to recovery, and the overwhelming

truth that addiction is a "family disease."

2nd Act is a collective of artists in recovery that uses theater, film, and drama therapy to address the impact of substance use. Together, we empower diverse and inclusive communities to promote understanding in the face of stigma.

Fall tag sale returning to Center Church Sept. 6

SOUTH HADLEY - It is the time of year that Center Church, UCC, 1 Church St, South Hadley, will be holding the Fall Tag Sale on September 6, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and September 7, from noon to 5 p.m. Our huge sale has been occurring for years. The selection of merchandise includes housewares, jewelry, toys,

books, linens, lamps, baskets, small electronics, handbags, puzzles, decor items, glassware, vases, craft supplies, fabric, office/stationery supplies, candles, outdoor items, sporting goods, frames, candles, canvas/shopping bags, and the list continues. We have a Treasures Room for vintage and unique items, as

well as small furniture pieces. New this year are clothing, hats, and accessories. Always a favorite is purchasing a delicious homemade baked good treat. We are amazed by all the wonderful donations. Come and find out what we're talking about. We can guarantee you will find an item you just cannot resist.



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Sept. 19 & 20

8am-3pm



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Mount Holyoke College worker strike reaches compromise

SOUTH HADLEY – After a powerful strike backed by hundreds of students and faculty, Mount Holyoke dining and facilities workers reached a tentative agreement on groundbreaking new contract. Two days after returning to work following a 24-hour strike, workers represented by 32BJ SEIU celebrate tentative agreement that includes significant annual wage increases, access to no-cost legal services, and significant improvements for lowest paid workers.

At 2p.m. last week, contract negotiations for 170 facilities workers and dining staff who are members of the Local 32BJ of the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) ended in victory for workers with a tentative agreement for a new three-year union contract that meets all of the union’s demands.

The tentative agreement includes:

- Annual raises that total nearly 11% over the life of the contract for all members, with the lowest paid seeing total wage increases between 13.5% and 20% over the life of the contract
- Access to the 32BJ Legal Fund, which provides members no-cost legal services for most civil matters, including immigration
- Improved pay for jury duty
- Longevity incentives for facilities members
- Policy improvements for discipline, sick leave, parental leave, and holidays
- Stress mats to improve safety of members working in dining services
- Up to nine months of protected leave to resolve immigration issues
- Protection of all existing benefits

The contract settlement comes just days after workers walked off the job on Tuesday in a 24-hour strike for alleged unfair labor practices committed at the negotiation table. Workers picketed at five entrances to the college plus the main gate beginning as early as 5:00AM on Tuesday, with demonstrations lasting until sundown. Mount Holyoke College faculty, local unions, and hundreds of students joined the picket lines throughout the day on Tuesday and echoed the union’s calls to pay workers a living wage and cease alleged unfair labor practices.

“I am so proud of the way my colleagues in dining services have stuck together since April, but especially this last week,” said Rich Sugrue, a cook of 9 years at Mount Holyoke College and 32BJ member on the bargaining committee. “This deal is a testament to the collective power of our union and what we can achieve when we stick together. We were able to secure strong annual raises for our members and make significant strides in our benefits. My coworkers and I are ready to get back to serving the Mount Holyoke students and community at their home away from home.”

“No one wants to go on strike, all we ever wanted was a contract that would adequately support us so we can continue serving the campus community that we love,” said Monique Nelson, custodian of 30 years at Mount Holyoke College and 32BJ member on the bargaining committee. “The support we received from the students, faculty, local elected officials, and other area unions was humbling and I am deeply grateful. With this week’s strike and strong tentative agreement,

we proved that when workers come together, we can achieve anything, even in the toughest situation.”

“I want to congratulate the workers at Mount Holyoke College on this incredible victory,” said Kevin Brown, Executive Vice President of 32BJ SEIU who leads the New England 615 District in Massachusetts and Rhode Island. “32BJ proudly represents thousands of workers at Massachusetts’ esteemed higher education institutions, and we know these colleges couldn’t run without the hard working members who keep campuses clean, fed, safe, and functional. With their strike this week, the members at Mount Holyoke just gave a master class in demonstrating worker power on campus. This victory would not have been possible without the unwavering unity amongst the 170 32BJ members at Mount Holyoke College, as well as the solidarity from students, faculty, local elected officials, and community allies.”

State Senator Adam Gomez, State Representative Homar Gomez, Springfield City Councilor Victor Davila, and President of UFCW Local 1459 Jeff Jones were among the public officials who spoke out in support of the striking workers on Tuesday.

Workers with the UAW Local 2322 also alleged unfair labor practices on the part of the college, which led to their joint participation in the strike. UAW members return to the bargaining table this afternoon.

Facilities and dining workers represented by 32BJ will meet this month to cast their ratification votes. If ratification is successful and the contract is approved, the contract will be effective retroactively to July 1, 2025.

Stormy Saturday



Submitted photo

Saturday’s storm blew through town with thunderstorm and tornado warnings and created havoc, including downed trees, and many residents were left without power for hours. This tree fell across Pittroff Avenue on the corner of Woodlawn Street.

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, or by calling her at 413-536-5316.

Read the Town Reminder online at www.townreminder.turley.com



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Opinion

SOCIAL SECURITY

Matters

By Russell Gloor

Can I claim my own SS benefit now and get half of my husband's benefit later?

Dear Rusty:

I would like to get an answer concerning taking my Social Security benefit soon and switching to my spouse's benefit when he begins to take his.

I am 64 years, 9 months old and my husband is 65 years, 7 months. My benefit is low due to the fact that I did not work for about 25 years while raising our children. My benefit would be \$573 at age 65. My husband's benefit at age 67 will be \$3,326. My first question is: can I receive half of my husband's benefit once he begins drawing his? Secondly, if I draw my benefit now will that reduce the amount I can draw from his benefit later?

Signed: Uncertain Spouse

Dear Uncertain:

As you may know, the Full Retirement Age for both you and your husband is 67. If either of you claim before your FRA your monthly SS retirement amount will be permanently reduced and, if you are currently working, you will be subject to Social Security's Annual Earnings Test, which limits how much you can earn while collecting early benefits. The earnings limit for early filers is \$23,400 for 2025 (changes yearly and, if that is exceeded, SS will take away some of your benefits (\$1 for every \$2 over the limit). They "take away" by withholding future payments until the penalty is satisfied.

That said, if you claim your personal SS "soon" (e.g., at age 65), you will get about 87% of the amount you would get by waiting until your FRA to claim. You would, indeed, get a "spousal boost" when your husband claims, but you would not get 50% of his age 67 amount. That's because of the way spouse benefits are calculated. When your husband claims, you will get a "spousal boost" added to your early benefit amount

(\$573?). The amount of that spousal boost will be computed as 1/2 of your husband's FRA amount (e.g., \$1663), minus your FRA entitlement (likely about \$661) for a spousal boost of about \$1002. But since you won't have yet reached your FRA when your husband claims, the amount of the spousal boost will also be reduced (to about \$926), which will be added to your age 65 amount of \$573 for a total monthly spousal benefit of about \$1499.

So, the answers to your two questions are:

Because you claimed your Social Security retirement benefit early and won't yet be your Full Retirement Age when your husband claims, you will not get half of your husband's benefit when he claims. You would likely get about 45% of his benefit.

If you take your own SS retirement benefit now, you will get a higher benefit when your husband claims, but the amount you get will be less than half of his FRA entitlement.

The only way you can get the full 50% of your husband's FRA benefit entitlement is to wait until your own full retirement age to claim Social Security.

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.

Peach pits and preservation

My first experience with growing peaches was back at my parents' house when a peach pit sprouted in their compost pile.

The resulting tree was moved to a spot in the yard and within a few years, my parents became peach preservers. It was fun for them to "work on" the peaches together, and what I mean by this is blanching, peeling and quartering them, then putting the pieces in a container in syrup and freezing them.

Sure, it was a sticky mess of a time but worth it all to have this bounty in the dead of winter.

Fast forward 30 years to the present day and my mini orchard, deemed "the tiny place" when my kids were little. There I have three peach trees, all started from pits. Two trees were from my friend Eva and one I started on my own.

I planted the pits in my garden in the fall maybe 5 years ago. They went through the stratification process over the winter which helped to break dormancy. Gradually they would germinate over the spring and summer months.

Sometimes they need two winters to complete the process and still not all will germinate, I think the last time I had four or five out of a dozen pits pop up. One tree to keep and others to share!

This year's was the best peach harvest I've ever had on these trees. It was probably the combination of the last couple of wet summers encouraging new growth on the tree and then mild weather this spring during bloom time.

It is always so disappointing to have the tree so beautifully in flower and then a couple nights of very cold weather come through to kill them all. I still didn't have what I would call

years out of them. Trees usually top off at around ten feet tall and wide.

There are such a thing as super dwarf trees, grown as specimens in the shrub border or a kitchen garden, but from what I hear, fruit quality isn't the best. I'll stick to the regular size trees, thank you!

And planning ahead with replacement trees means sowing some pits in the garden this fall.

Even my mom has sown some around the foundation of her house, just as an experiment. I love that she is still experimenting. I would imagine the memories of "working on" the peaches with my dad hold a special place in her heart.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 33 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.



a bumper harvest for three trees, but we had enough to can 17 quarts (thanks for the canning lesson, dear friend!) and also eat plenty of the fruit fresh off the tree.

Here are a few fun facts about our favorite fuzzy fruit.

Peach trees prefer soil that is near neutral to alkaline. I never think of liming under the trees, but maybe that would be a good idea.

Flower buds are borne only on shoots that grew the previous year. So it is important to prune your trees to encourage new growth.

Peach trees should be pruned to an open center, so that the sun can ripen the fruit. In our part of the country, prune when the tree is blossom or right after it is done flowering. At that point in the growing season you can also see and remove winter damaged branches and stems more easily but be careful not to knock off developing fruit by accident.

I read that spreading compost under the tree right after it has been harvested will start the tree out on the right foot. I am going to get to that later this week.

Peach trees are not very long lived. You may get 10-20



A Brimfield resident has a wildlife camera in his yard. In a recent email he said, "Surprisingly an adult male Eastern Towhee was seen on the wildlife cam, images quite often even though I don't see him often in the yard. I haven't seen a female or juveniles this summer."

The male Eastern towhee has a black body, rufous sides, white belly and long tail with white spots. The female has a brown body. Juveniles are brown with heavy streaking.

They like dense brush, forest edges and overgrown areas; hence, why it is not always seen. This large sparrow, 7 to 8 inches long, forages on the ground, scratching through leaf litter for seeds and insects. In my first sighting of a towhee, the scratching sound alerted me to the its presence.

The towhee is a ground nesting bird that can be at-



By Ellenor Downer

tracted to gardens with untamed vegetation. They build an open cup nest hidden under a shrub or in dense vegetation. Its song is a "drink your tea" and a sharp "che-wink" call. They are short distance migrant, wintering in the southeastern United States, but some may linger in northern areas.

Other Brimfield birds

The Brimfield resident and his wife saw a Northern flicker probing around plants in their flower bed. Coming to his birdbath are gray catbirds, adults and at least one juvenile, as well as blue jays, who come for a drink. Since he stopped feeding peanuts due to black bears, he has not seen

tufted titmice, red-bellied woodpeckers, Northern cardinals or as many blue jays. Other birds that show up at the bath include chipping sparrow, female or immature; scarlet tanager, female or immature; common yellowthroat warbler; male American goldfinch; American robin and mourning dove.

Common nighthawks

The Brimfield resident said, "I sat out front for three nights recently looking for migrating common nighthawks, but was skunked, didn't see any. However two members of the Allen Bird Club reported large flights last week and this weekend. Both live west of the Connecticut River.

Helping birds

A previous column mentioned the poisoning of birds of prey when they eat rodents that ingested anti-coagulant rodenticide bait. Birds can get stuck on glue traps when used outdoors to kill rodents. The birds die or end up hor-



Male Eastern towhee

other things. Maybe that will entice them. Though I do have tons of pokeberry on the perimeters of my yard."

Eagles, ravens and more My daughter, Paula, saw a bald eagle circling the Ware River by the Church Street rail trail. It was flying very low so either it was landing or just took off. She also heard a raven calling by the covered bridge and then saw it in a tree. She and her daughters saw an osprey while driving over a bridge in Rhode Island. She also had a Carolina wren on her back deck recently.

Canada geese

Two of my grandchildren and I saw a huge flock of Canada geese in a field in North Brookfield last Friday. I stopped to look at them and my granddaughter, Lizzie, took a photo of the geese.

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 or edowner@turley.com or mailing to Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005.

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.

TOWN Reminder

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OPEN HOUSE from page 1

learn more about the many different programs, services, and activities that are offered by the Center.

“Serving as the Director of the South Hadley Council on Aging has been very rewarding as it allows me to support and advocate for older adults on a macro level, promoting broader change that enhances quality of life,” said Director Julie Pearce. “I truly enjoy being part of the

South Hadley community and interacting with so many incredible people on a daily basis.”

The South Hadley COA hosts and features many different events, as well as weekly classes for art and fitness, games, daily lunches, and special events to enjoy daily, weekly, and monthly.

Stop by the Senior Center and see what they have to offer.

South Hadley Chorale to begin rehearsals

SOUTH HADLEY – The South Hadley Chorale will begin rehearsals for its 41th season on Wednesday, October 8, 2025. The program will feature Antonio Vivaldi’s Gloria plus other works. Rehearsals will be held on Wednesday evenings from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at All Saints’ Episcopal Church,

7 Woodbridge Street, South Hadley. They will continue through November 19 and will resume in January 2026 until the concert on March 15, 2026.

The Chorale is pleased to welcome back Anita Anderson Cooper for her second year as conductor and music director. Ms. Anderson Cooper

is a member of the faculty of the Paul Baird Middle School in Ludlow and directs the Smith College Handbell Choir. She is also a composer and a frequent soloist and guest conductor both locally and throughout the East Coast.

The South Hadley Chorale is made up of approximately

60 singers from 17 communities. All interested singers are invited to join. There are no auditions.

Most singers, however, have had some choral experience.

For more information, please visit www.southhadleychorale.org or call 413-533-3833.

LIBRARY from page 1

the fourth Thursday of each month, combines fun with life skills. Teens learn to prepare a snack while also picking up essential kitchen knowledge—such as knife safety and toaster oven use.

“Sign up is needed so I can make sure to have enough supplies for all participants,” Roberts explained.

Teen Takeaways operate more like a subscription box service. Teens sign up once and receive a package each month that includes a craft, a snack, a themed book list, and teen-friendly recipes. “There is always a craft that the library provides all supplies for, so there is no barrier to access,” said Roberts, noting that accommodations are made for any food allergies.

Night Craft, meanwhile, invites teens to let loose creatively on the last Tuesday of every month. “It is usually a messy craft,” Roberts said with a laugh. “For August, we made Fire Tile Art, and in September, we will be Sponge Painting. It is always a lot of fun.”

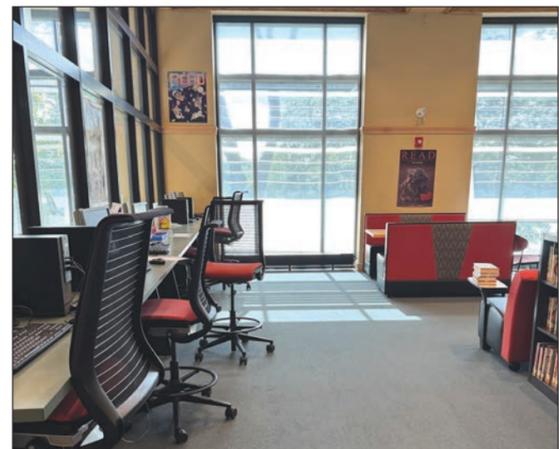
Beyond programs, the teen room itself has become a cornerstone of the library. Stocked with popular young adult novels, manga, graphic novels, and non-fiction titles, the collection has something for every interest. The space also offers computers, coloring pages, playing cards, and plenty of room for group study or casual hangouts.

“The teen room is a great spot for teens to work on homework together. You can often see groups working together after school,” Roberts said. “I believe that those using the space are respectful of each other.”

For Roberts, the teen room is more than just a library service—it’s a vital part of the community. “I believe that it is important for a library to have a dedicated teen space as they are an age group that is often not welcome in many places to just be themselves,” she said. “It’s a space that doesn’t cost teens or families anything to use. It provides materials to browse, teen-specific programs, computers to use, and a cooling shelter in the summer.”

Looking ahead, Roberts is excited to try new collaborations. In October, the library will partner with Food Explorers to lead a Snack-ternoon session. She also plans to continue growing the young adult collection to keep it fresh and appealing.

“There are always programs happening for teens at the library,” Roberts added. “Everyone should check out all the library has to offer.”



Submitted photos

Grab a seat at the computers, or study with friends at the booth.



The teens got to make some tie-dyed tiles last week.



Submitted photos

Friends Secretary Kathy Gallivan (left) and Vice President Janet Stawasz (right) with the Friends of the South Hadley Seniors.



Friends are enjoying a fun game together.



The South Hadley Community Band came to perform for the special evening.

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Field hockey program makes comeback

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

SOUTH HADLEY—The South Hadley varsity field hockey team only won one game during the 2022 regular season. Following that season, South Hadley athletic director Eric Castonguay decided to have the team compete at the junior varsity level.

After spending the past two seasons playing other j.v. teams in the area, the Lady Tigers made the move back up to the varsity level this year.

“This was part of our plan,” Castonguay said. “We had a lot of younger players playing for the varsity field hockey team a couple of years ago. At that time, I made the



Nora Vaughn goes after the loose ball.



Ella Haber clashes with an opponent.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

Please see **HOCKEY**, page 7

Granby bested by Monson

GRANBY – After opening up the season with a tie against Southwick, Granby High School boys soccer was shut out on the road at Monson High School. Daniel Santiago made four saves be-

fore leaving the game with an injury. Gage Carter took over and made 18 saves for the Rams. Granby is now 0-1-1.

Please see **MORE GRANBY PHOTOS**, page 7



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

Daniel Brown tries to keep the ball away from an oncoming opponent.



Gabriel Helbok intercepts the ball.



Anthony Santiago takes the goal kick.

Tough start to season for boys soccer

SOUTH HADLEY – The South Hadley High School boys soccer team has been incredibly competitive in its

first three games this season. Unfortunately, the Tigers don't have a win to show for it after three games. On

Tuesday night, the Tigers were defeated on the road at Westfield at Bullens Field 1-0. Their other loss was a

3-2 defeat by Amherst. The Tigers did score a 1-1 draw with Central last Friday and are 0-2-1 to start the year.



Matt Gillis is pressured near the opposing goal.



Ryan Trudel shuffles as he prepares to defend the area near the sideline.



Hunter Keller fights to keep the ball



Kaysen Gauthier attempts to cut the ball off.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli



Ben Gillis heads up the middle of the field.



Nolan Masse collides with an opponent for the 50/50 ball.

Thunderbirds support charity ride

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Thunderbirds announced today their continued support of the annual Ride to Remember, contributing a donation of \$2,500, hundreds of team hats for participants, and a specially designed custom Thunderbirds jersey honoring Aaron Pelletier, Connecticut State Police Trooper First Class, whose memory will be honored at this year's event.

The Ride to Remember took place on Sept. 6, bringing together riders from

across the region to honor and remember fallen police officers and firefighters.

"The Thunderbirds are truly honored to once again join together in support of Springfield's Ride to Remember in 2025," said Springfield Thunderbirds President Nathan Costa. "This event speaks to the values that mean so much to us as an organization – honoring service, remembering sacrifice, and standing with our Western Mass community. It's a privilege to stand

alongside the families, participants, and first responders who give this tradition its heart and meaning."

Now in its 14th year, the Ride to Remember unites hundreds of cyclists as they ride from Springfield to Hartford.

Proceeds from the event support the families of fallen officers and firefighters and ensure their legacy is carried forward.

The Thunderbirds' contribution is part of the team's longstanding com-

mitment to community impact. Alongside their donation and custom jersey, the Thunderbirds will continue to engage in initiatives that support local organizations and causes that strengthen Western Massachusetts.

Community members are encouraged to come out tomorrow to cheer on the riders and learn more about the Ride to Remember here, and to follow the Thunderbirds' community initiatives at www.SpringfieldThunderbirds.com.

Community Disc Share: Sharing the game, growing the community

SOUTH HADLEY – Are you interested in trying out the sport of disc golf at the new Buttery Brook Disc Golf Course? Are you wondering what type of discs should be used to play the sport? If so, the new Community Disc Share program is a great place to start. Both the South Had-

ley Public Library and the Senior Center each have two sets of discs available to be checked out. Stop in at the front desk at either building to check out a set. This free program is sponsored by Buttery Brook Disc Golf, the South Hadley Public Library, and the Council on Aging.

HOCKEY from page 6

decision to only play at the j.v. level, which allowed the players to mature and learn how to play the sport. I'm looking forward to watching this year's team compete at the varsity level."

The Lady Tigers, who has a co-op with the Pioneer Valley Chinese Immersion Charter School, began the 2025 regular season with a hard-fought 2-1 home loss against Valley League foe Smith Academy, last Wednesday afternoon.

"It's very exciting to be playing at the varsity level again," said South Hadley field hockey head coach Nicole Casolari. "The players and their parents deserve a lot of credit for weathering the storm during the past couple of years. Our future does look very bright."

Casolari, who graduated from South Hadley, didn't play field hockey in high school. She was a member of the Lady Tigers soccer team. She began her coaching career at South Hadley as the j.v. field hockey coach in 2018. She replaced Tara Cole as the varsity coach in 2022. Their only win that season came at home against Mahar Regional by the score of 3-1.

"I never played field hockey growing up, but I always enjoyed watching field hockey when I was younger," Casolari said. "I learned a lot about the sport from Tara. I asked her a lot of questions, and she was very helpful."

South Hadley had a very successful season during Cole's final season as the varsity field hockey coach. The Lady Tigers, who had a large senior class in 2021, qualified for Division 4 state tournament. After celebrating a 2-1 victory at Tyngsborough in the round of 32, they lost at Monomoy, 4-1, in the round of 16. They finished the season with a 12-4-4 overall record.

There are a total of 33 players playing for the South Hadley j.v. and varsity field hockey teams this fall.

This year's senior day celebration probably won't take very long, as Elise Gingras is the only senior listed on the Lady Tigers varsity roster.

Gingras was a freshman member of the 2022 varsity squad.

"We've made a lot of improvements during the past couple of years," Gingras said. "I'm very grateful to be playing at the varsity level again. We're a very close team this year. Field hockey has always been my favorite sport."

Twelve of the Lady Tigers varsity players are either sophomores or juniors.

The players from the Pioneer Valley Chinese Immersion Charter School listed on the South Hadley varsity field hockey roster are sophomore Lily Harrington, sophomore Quinn Carlson, sophomore Sofia Cestero, and junior Logan Muskus.

"The players from the Pioneer Valley Chinese Immersion Charter School have really helped us a lot," Casolari said. "They have a true passion for the sport. Everyone gets along with each other very well."

Cestero was the starting goalie in the season opener. She made three saves during the opening half before being replaced by sophomore Dee Harper at the start of the second half.

"I wanted to give both our goalies some playing time," Casolari said. "Both of them played very well in today's game."

The score was tied 1-1 at halftime.

After the Lady Falcons took a 1-0 lead with 2:46 left in the second period, sophomore Sam Harrison scored the game tying goal with one second left on the scoreboard clock.

With 26 seconds remaining in regulation, Smith Academy retook the lead following a penalty corner goal on a tip-in from seventh grader Ashlyn Moyinhan. Sophomore Bella Gavron was credited with the assist.

"It would've been great if we could've won the game," Casolari said. "I'm still very proud of my players."

South Hadley closed out the first week of the regular season by celebrating a 4-0 win against Mohawk in another home game.

Harrison scored two more goals against Mohawk. The other two Lady Tigers goals were scored by junior Amanda Stevenson and Harrington.



Teagan Cavanaugh makes a stop on the ball.



Quinn Carlson tries to steal the ball.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli



Logan Muskus blocks an advancing opponent.



Sam Harrison focuses as he sends a pass inside.

MORE GRANBY PHOTOS from page 6



Ralph El Aouji is pressured by the Monson defense.



Max Kennedy gets a header in the middle of the field.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

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AUTO

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HELP WANTED

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20 to 25 hours per week.
Experience required in all aspects of property maintenance and repair. Work includes, but is not limited to: snow removal, electrical, plumbing, painting, carpentry, and grounds keeping. Must be available every other week for on call emergency maintenance requests. Valid driver's license and clean driving record. Professional references required. Criminal background check required. Insurance and full state benefits package available.
Please submit resume to:
Wilbraham Housing Authority
88 Stony Hill Rd.,
Wilbraham, MA 01095
Deadline for resumes 12 PM, September 19, 2025. Equal Opportunity Employer

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Inquire at **Girly's Grill**,
1315 Park St., Palmer, MA 01069
or call 413-284-0005.

SQUIER & CO. is looking to hire an oil truck driver \$35-\$40/hr. full time or part-time. Squier will provide help with endorsements and CDL training for the right candidate! Email: squieroil@verizon.net. Call 413-267-3184 or visit us at 5 Squier Ave., Monson, MA. Monday-Friday.

TOWN OF WARE EQUIPMENT OPERATOR/ TRUCK DRIVER

Duties include but not limited to: Operating various types of motorized vehicles, snow and ice removal equipment and other misc. equipment. Participate in snowplowing, road sanding, snow and ice removal, hazardous materials mitigation, and natural disasters. Assisting with preparation of trucks and other equipment for different seasonal jobs including repairing and maintaining sanders and snowplows; repairing roadways, sidewalks, and other surface areas and drainage structures.
Qualifications: A high school graduate or equivalent, experience in the operation of construction equipment, road maintenance, drainage installation, and operation of power equipment and snow plowing, Class B CDL License with Air Brake endorsement required. All applicants must pass a criminal background/CORI check and a pre-employment physical including drug testing. Hourly rate range: \$23.32-\$25.26.
Submit resume to:
Town of Ware
ATTN: Human Resources
126 Main Street
Ware, MA 01082

REAL ESTATE

COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE

SHOP, WAREHOUSE, GARAGE, light industrial, yard space, contractor space/yard for rent. 2k to 4k sq. ft. indoor space available. Large yard/outdoor parking available. Location: **1317 Federal St., Belchertown, MA.** Contact Ben 413-372-2216.

FOR RENT

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.

Application for grants from SHCC available

SOUTH HADLEY — The South Hadley Cultural Council is pleased to invite grant applications from local artists and organizations planning community-oriented arts, humanities, and science programs in 2026.

The application will be available online beginning September 1, 2025, at <https://masscultural-council.org/localcouncil/South-Hadley/>. Applications are submitted through the Mass Cultural Council grants management system according to the instructions found at this link.

All applications must be submitted by midnight on Thursday, October 16, 2025. Late applications cannot be considered. The South Hadley Cultural Council welcomes applications from individuals and groups that promote the arts, humanities, and sciences through programs that entertain and inspire the citizens of South Hadley.

The Council may approve grants for a broad range of projects and programs, such as operating support, ticket subsidies, field trips, artist residencies, public art, fellowships, community events/projects, site-specific projects, and other activities.

The South Hadley Cultural Council especially

welcomes applications for:

- Programs and organizations by and for BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) communities
- Programs and organizations that make arts and culture more accessible to more South Hadley residents, including individuals with disabilities, low-income communities, seniors, and individual artists
- Programs and organizations that bring art and culture to students in South Hadley Public Schools and to South Hadley youth

Student programs/projects will be considered based on relevance and benefit to South Hadley residents and students.

This year, the South Hadley Cultural Council has been awarded and will distribute about \$18,000 in grants. Applications for projects or operating support should be convincing about the way the program benefits the citizens of South Hadley. Applicants must reside or be located in Massachusetts.

For local guidelines and more information, visit the South Hadley Cultural Council's website: <https://www.southhadley.org/385/Cultural-Council>

Obituary

Mary Babski, 91

Holyoke - Mary Babski, 91, passed away peacefully on September 3, 2025 at Mary's Meadow of Providence Place.

Mary was born on September 16, 1933 to Wacław and Aniela (Szelapin) Stankiewicz in a small rural village in Poland. After surviving forced labor and other atrocities during World War II, she immigrated to the United States in 1951 at the age of eighteen with her parents and siblings. Mary found work at factories such as the Lyman Curtain Company and Winfield Hat Shop. She earned her United States citizenship in 1960 and later graduated from Brom's Beauty Academy. Mary's career as a hairdresser started at Gino's Beauty Salon and continued when she established the House of Glamour in Holyoke, which she owned and operated during the 1960s and 1970s. She specialized in the hairstyles and updos of the time and had a loyal following of weekly clients.

Mary was a gifted cook, an amazing gardener, and was admired for her resourcefulness and creativity. She appreciated the wonders of nature and was an enthusiastic forager, especially for wild mushrooms. She loved her family above all else and was much loved in return.

Mary is predeceased by her husband of sixty-three years, Edmund Babski, as well as her parents, brothers Victor Stankiewicz and Casimir Stankiewicz, sister, Alice Jessup, and brothers-in-law Albert Duczynski, Zygmunt Babski, and Ivan Retynsky. She will be deeply missed by her devoted children, Donna Scanlon (Edward) of East Longmeadow, Alice Shevlin (Robert) of Chatham, and Edmund Babski (Justine) of Holyoke. She leaves six treasured grandchildren; Neil



Scanlon (Elizabeth) of Longmeadow, Kathleen Scanlon (Sam) of Philadelphia, Craig Shevlin (Pamela) of Nashua, NH, Thomas Shevlin (Erica) of Carlisle, Eric Babski of Westfield, and Sarah Szymanski (Nate) of East Windsor, and eleven great grandchildren, Conner, Hayden, Colin, Grace, Sadie, Kinsley, Natalie, Eloise, Marlie, Joseph, and Teddy. She will also be sadly missed by her sisters, Regina Duczynski, Janina Chung, Sophie Smolinski (Stanley) and sisters-in-law, Regina Retynsky, Laurel Stankiewicz, and Susan Babski. Mary will also be missed by many nieces, nephews, and extended family and friends.

The family extends their heartfelt gratitude to the staff at Mary's Meadow for the compassionate care Mary received during her two-year residency.

Calling hours took place on Thursday, September 11, from 9 to 10:30 a.m. at Beers & Story Funeral Home in South Hadley, followed by a Liturgy of Christian Burial at 11 a.m. at St. Patrick's Church in South Hadley. Burial followed at Mater Dolorosa Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to a charitable organization of one's choice or the Ronald McDonald House of Springfield, a home away from home for families with children undergoing essential and specialized medical treatment, 34 Chapin Terrace, Springfield, MA 01107.

Death Notice

Mary Babski
Died September 3, 2025
South Hadley Beers and Story Funeral Home

TOWN REMINDER OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries. One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place. The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$275, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.

Legal Notices

LEGAL NOTICE Chuck It Self Storage Self Storage Facility Public Auction

On **Saturday, September 27, 2025 at 11:00 A.M.**, at the premises of Chuck It Self Storage, 346 East St., South Hadley, MA 01075, the contents of the following units, consisting of personal property, will be sold at Public Auction to satisfy the lien of the storage operator. This sale is held pursuant to and under the authority of Chap. 105A, Sec. 4 of the M.G.L. Sales to be PAID IN CASH ONLY at the time of the sale. Contents to be removed off the premises within 48 hours.
Paul Dalton B-36
09/12, 09/19/2025

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampshire Probate and Family Court
15 Atwood Drive
Northampton, MA 01060
(413)58F-8500
Docket No.
HS25P0554EA
Estate of:
Carolyn Joyce Dupuis
Also known as:
Carolyn J. Dupuis**

Date of Death: 07/06/2025 CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

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

The Petitioner requests that: **Douglas Smith of Granby, MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 10/08/2025. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thir-

ty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. **Diana S. Velez Harris**, First Justice of this Court.

Date: September 02, 2025
Mark S Ames,
Register of Probate
09/12/2025

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, September 22, 2025 at 6:30 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)(e). 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).

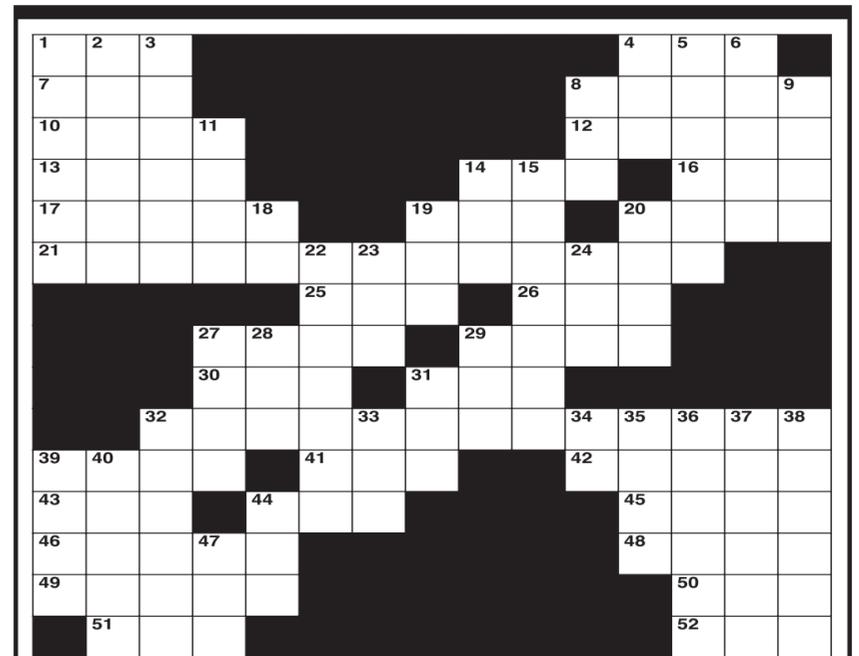
The public hearing will be held through hybrid format with in-person attendance to be located in the multipurpose room of the South Hadley Senior Center, 45 Dayton Street South Hadley MA 01075. Virtual attendance will be hosted through the log-in information below:

URL to join: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84821303808?pwd=zKztuHp6E5wMSwxka5QeddDKdoIbmZ.1>

Or join by phone: 1 (301) 715 8592 **Webinar ID:** 848 2130 **Passcode:** 882147

The current drafts of the proposed bylaws and any accompanying documentation can be found here: <https://www.southhadley.org/1318/Proposed-Draft-Bylaws>. Alternatively, hardcopies 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
09/05, 09/12/2025



CLUES ACROSS

- Utilitarian fashion accessory
- Engine additive
- Macaws
- Listens to
- Self-righteously moralistic person
- Made of wood
- Chinese lute
- Beginning military rank
- Indicates near
- Ties the score
- Chum
- Long ago
- Localities
- Midway between northeast and east
- Make fun of
- Tennis great Arthur
- Construction location
- Cow's noise
- Blue
- One of the Fab Four
- Formula 1 team
- Dash
- Lifting device
- Basics
- Keyboard key
- Old Irish alphabet
- Shaking of the Earth's surface
- Covered stadium
- Sword handles
- Longing or yearning
- Creators' social network
- Boxing's GOAT

CLUES DOWN

- Occur
- Show up
- Capital of Taiwan
- Ocean
- Givers and ___
- Gets ready
- Ad ___
- Fit of irritation
- Criminal organization
- Exclamation that denotes disgust
- American state
- Sensor hub
- Before
- The boundary of a surface
- Witnesses
- Singular
- Type of meal
- Music awards show
- Former French coin of low value
- A bag-like structure in an animal
- Schenectady County Airport
- Calm down
- Partner to cheese
- Cola brand
- Stepped on
- Japanese city
- Type of coating
- A citizen of Yemen
- Popular breakfast item corned beef ___
- On a line at right angles to a ship's length
- First responders
- Short-term memory

Meet Lindsey

Your New Advertising Representative



My name is Lindsey Lukas, and I'm excited to be the new advertising representative for Belchertown, Granby, Amherst, Hadley, and South Hadley. I'm passionate about our community and the people in it.

I grew up in Gilbertville, MA and always wanted to stay close to home and my roots. Over the years I've been fortunate to be involved in coaching youth recreational sports in neighboring towns.

Outside of my professional life, I enjoy the outdoors as much as possible and spending time with my family and children, which keeps me grounded and inspired. I am grateful for the opportunity to grow, contribute and connect with the community. I will be out and about to introduce myself over the next few months. Please don't hesitate to reach out with any advertising needs, even if it's to say hello!

LLukas@turley.com • 283-8393

DIRECTOR from page 1

Now, Children First's building is owned and sits on 4 1/2 acres. The 12,000 square foot building is licensed for nine toddlers, 60 preschoolers, and 52 school-aged students. They also have a private, nature-focused kindergarten curriculum.

"It's really important to me that CF is for the community," said Denette on the maintained 501 (c) (3) non-profit.

The building has been able to, through the support of the community, go through two different builds in 2010 and 2017, where they were able to add on an east and west wing to the original, little 1,000 square foot school building.

Denette has been a life-long Granby resident, and loves the work she does, and is a part of a family of educators, married to educators, coaches, and youth leaders, working with the community and children in some way.

Denette works hard and is a strong believer in advocacy, speaking on forums for education, and supporting the #413 movement, making sure the "important people" look at Western Massachusetts and those with the 413 area code.

"I don't think I would have the pride or passion for advocacy without having something I built from the ground up," said Denette. "These are critical years, and it's really important we focus on those first five years."

Denette, while she retired from CF, did not retire from working for kids and their families. She started an Inaugural Fellowship with Fellowship for Impact, or FFI, from the Rennie Center in order to work in advocacy for Early Childhood Education across the state.

"I think the pride is in watching the success of children who come through our doors, and then seeing



The dedicated Children First staff at their big holiday staff party at the Boathouse.

Submitted photos

children who attended CF, come on to work and teach in schools," said Denette. "I'm proud of all the families I've helped along the way. These

families trusted me and shared their challenges, and I would say that was the most powerful thing for me. I love the kids, but helping the fam-

ilies in our community was wonderful."

Denette is looking forward to the coming years and what more she can accom-

plish as she looks to reach out and share her story, love, and commitment to children and their families. "I still have a lot to give," said Denette.



Looking over the plans for the 2010 expansion.



Donna Denette with the kids on a nature trail walk talking about the milkweed.



Members of the Admin Team wearing matching jackets together.

SUPT. from page 1

the school year to provide some encouragement?

"Even in the midst of challenges, I am hopeful about the strength of our collective focus. I am encouraged by the transparency we've built around our budget process and by the conversations we're having to ensure that every decision puts students first. Most of all, I am inspired by how our staff shows up every single day ready to put students first and ensure they have the best possible learning experience."

5) Are there new teachers or staff members? What are you thankful for about the new staff?

"Yes, we do have new teachers and staff that have been welcomed to South Hadley this year! I'm thankful for the energy, enthusiasm, and fresh perspectives that new staff bring into our schools."

6) What is your message to the school community as classes begin?

"I think my message has been a simple one: Every child, every day matters. I am committed to ensure that every student is seen, heard, and supported. This year's district-wide theme reflects the belief that student success is rooted in meaningful relationships between students and staff, families and schools, and across the community. Our strength will come from collaboration, inclusion, and a shared purpose. I shared with the community that I'm committed to open communication, building trust, and working in partnership with families to help every student thrive."

7) Is there anything else you'd like to add?

"I would just like to add how grateful I am to begin this journey as Superintendent of South Hadley Public Schools. This is a community I am proud to serve, and I look forward to listening, learning, and working collaboratively with everyone. We will have challenges that we will face, but we are stronger together and will work towards ensuring success for every student, every day. During the September 18th School Committee meeting I will be discussing a Superintendent's Entry Plan and outlining what that work will look like throughout this school year."



Mosier Elementary School's Staff for a bright year.

Submitted photos



Henry J. Skala School's staff is ready to take on the 2025 to the 2026 school year.



Michael E. Smith Middle School's group of dedicated teachers.



South Hadley High School's staff is ready for a successful school year.

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