

TOWN Reminder

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Towns stand in remembrance of those lost

By Emily-Rose Pappas
Staff Writer
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GRANBY/SOUTH HADLEY – The Fire and Police Departments in Granby and South Hadley hosted special ceremonies last Thursday to mark the anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks. The events drew members of the community and town government came to honor those

lost as the sun rose and set. “It’s truly a privilege to stand here today with so many dedicated members of the community,” said Granby’s Town Administrator, Tammy Martin. “This day reminds us of community and supporting one another during hard times.” South Hadley’s ceremony was hosted at Fire District 1

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Turley photos by Emily-Rose Pappas
Members of the Granby American Legion, Steve Weatherbee, Rob Chauvin, Commander Dave Cote, and Jeff Roule with the memorial.



The flag still stands strong.

Human Rights Commission works to build awareness, connections

By Tina Lesniak
Correspondent

SOUTH HADLEY – The South Hadley Human Rights Commission, though one of the town’s newer committees, is quickly becoming an important voice for community awareness, equity, and inclusion. At its core, the commission is working to ensure that all residents feel welcome and supported in South Hadley. “The South Hadley Human Rights Commission aims to develop community awareness and education of human rights and promote understanding of the diverse cultures within our town and surroundings,” said Renee

Sweeney, chair of the commission. “Our monthly meetings aim to bring awareness to needs or barriers in our community that might prevent a resident from enjoying life in South Hadley, and highlight initiatives and resources that ease those needs and barriers and improve life for our residents.” The commission’s monthly meetings often feature guest speakers who provide insight into pressing issues facing the community. In June, members heard from Mary Lou Guamera, executive director of the Neighbors Helping Neighbors food pantry, who described the growing demand for services and the many ways the pan-

try works to meet that need. In July, Sharon Hart, South Hadley’s director of public health, discussed accessibility improvements in schools and municipal buildings, from stair chairs to defibrillator machines and Narcan availability. “Those are just two examples,” Sweeney noted, “and there are many more to come.” Beyond hosting conversations, the commission has also taken public stances in support of initiatives that align with its mission. “Earlier this year, the commission drafted and approved statements of support for

Please see **RIGHTS**, page 9

DinoFest comes back for another successful year

By Emily-Rose Pappas
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GRANBY – For the past 11 years, the town has come together to celebrate the annual DinoFest put on by the Granby United Church of Christ. DinoFest’s history begins as it was originally called the Dinosaur Arts, Crafts, and Music Festival, and was later taken over by Dennis Doucette, the Chair/Organizer and “Grand Poobah,” who has truly fallen in love with DinoFest and the “hugs and smiles” found throughout the one-day festival. The Grand Poobah Dennis Doucette was joined by Marketing Wizard Tasondra Jardine, who helped with publicity, took photos, and more, and Brian Pike, the Land Baron, who set up the layout for DinoFest. The tight-knit families that call Granby home are what make Dino Fest so special, with crafters and vendors returning year after year for a one-of-a-kind celebration of a very unique community. “We did it this year on a smaller scale to focus on Crafters’ needs and Com-



Submitted photo
Zippy the Dino dancing with a little friend to the music as kids dance in their dinosaur costumes.

munity engagement,” said Tasondra Jardine, the Marketing Wizard. “We had local musician Marvin Jackson perform, as well as Soular Eclipse, which was provided by a grant from the Granby Cultural Council. We had two teen title holders from the Mrs. America and a few new surprises.” The DinoDash, an annual

Please see **DINOFEST**, page 6

Artists come together to share their work with the community at Council on Aging

By Emily-Rose Pappas
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SOUTH HADLEY – The Quabbin Art Association began in Belchertown 10 years ago, and has functioned as a place for artists of all skill levels to come together, and make, show, and sell their art works. The Association spans across 19 different towns and cities across the Pioneer Valley and around Belchertown, and they host several art showings, classes, and more for people to take part in. “We are not a hurried group,” said President Rick Guimond. “We welcome everyone, and we’re happy to welcome everyone that loves to make art.”

The Association hosts many special events, including Art-On-the-Common at the Belchertown Farmers Market, and a special event with the Clapp Memorial Library called Art-Meets-Poetry, where artists submit their work, and members of the public can write a poem inspired by the art piece. The artist chooses the winner of the poetry contest, and they get to take home the piece of art. The Association hosts art receptions and shows all over the area, and last week hosted a reception at the South Hadley Council on Aging, where artists displayed their paintings and brought some other pieces of their art to sell at a table, but all art is for sale. The Association was



Turley photo by Emily-Rose Pappas
Eleanor Small with her art pieces, “Nauset Beach Camps” (top) and “Leaping Well House” (bottom), depicting well-known and beautiful sceneries.

founded by Belchertown members Denise Fontaine-Pincine and Jennifer Turner. This fall, the Association is celebrating its 10th Anniversary, and functions as a non-profit. “The Association has two goals,” said Guimond. “To support artists throughout the Pioneer Valley, and to promote the arts in the Valley. We work hard to keep our membership fees low. We want our artists to get a chance to show and sell their work.” The Association hosts many artists who specialize in a variety of different styles, disciplines, and mediums, including paint, collage, sculpture, photography, pen and ink, ceramics, jewelry-making, and more. All art is welcome.

“We are giving artists an opportunity to make and show their work, and for the community to see their work,” said Guimond. “We will not hang in an exhibit unless artists are allowed to sell their work. We want to prioritize and help the artists.” The Art Reception at the South Hadley Council on Aging was a great success, bringing in crowds to view the art, and to purchase some for their homes or as gifts, a perfect and unique addition to any home. “The biggest thing that made me stay with the Association was the people who welcomed me,” said Rosemary Chaban, the Treasurer of the Association. “We have

Please see **ARTISTS**, page 5

Planning Board creates new zoning bylaws for Rt. 202/33 corridor

By **Walter Hamilton**
Correspondent

SOUTH HADLEY - The Planning Board, Monday, unanimously recommended new zoning bylaws for the Route 202-33 corridor, sending the long-debated measure forward for final review and possible enactment by Town Meeting in November.

The proposed bylaws, if enacted, would establish two new zones as the town's sixth "Overlay District" - a Residential Core (RC) zone that permits residential uses under a variety of conditions and two Residential Mixed Use (RMU) zones that would allow mixed commercial and residential uses, also with a variety of conditions.

The board's decision to approve the proposed bylaw followed almost five years of committee meetings, public forums, and findings by grant-financed consultants that led to the publication of the 110-page Routes 202/33 Corridor Plan in early 2022. That plan itself was built upon conditions identified in the town's 2020 Master Plan update.

The proposed zones are designed "to enhance the Route 202/33 corridor by promoting a walkable, pedestrian-and bicycle-friendly, mixed-use, and residential environment with diverse housing options," according to an advisory committee report.

The proposed districts span the corridors of Route 202 from the Granby line to its intersection with Route 33, and then to the Chicopee line. A Residential Core zone would separate the two Residential Mixed-Use zones from the area of Easy Street on 202, nearly to the 202-33 intersection. Almost all properties within district boundaries were those with direct frontage on the state highways.

Construction of two- and three-family dwellings would be allowed by right in both districts. Conversion of single-family to two-family dwellings would be allowed by right in both zones.

Conversion of a single-family dwelling to a three-family home would be allowed, by site plan review in RC, and by right in RMU, and is defined as "a build-

ing that is divided into three dwelling units. Each unit has an independent entrance, either directly from outside the building or through a common vestibule. Each must share a common wall or common floor/ceiling with at least one other unit."

A new provision would acknowledge the state-mandated construction of accessory dwelling units in single-family areas. They are banned in the mixed-use areas.

The residential zone bans all businesses, except for professional businesses and farm product sales, defined elsewhere in zoning bylaws, following a site plan review.

In the mixed-use area, some businesses, such as offices, professional, artistic, maker/artisan space-studio co-working spaces, and brewery, winery, distillery endeavors, would be allowed from a menu of by-right, special permit, and site plan review.

Restaurants and retail sales would be allowed in the mixed-use zone with restrictions based on their size. Accessory outdoor retail displays would require a special permit.

Banned new businesses include drive-in services, gas stations, auto repair, open-air parking and garages, automotive dealers, marinas, warehouses, wholesale sales, telephone exchanges, amusement parks, bowling alleys, roller rinks, open-air theaters, and adult entertainment.

New dimensional regulations for both RC and RMU have been proposed. A new category called Cottage Cluster Development for both zones has also been proposed.

A Sept. 8 hearing on the proposed zoning bylaws drew a large crowd that filled the all-purpose room of the Senior Center and lasted over three hours. Monday's hearing extension lasted two hours and drew more comments and questions.

Those who spoke at the hearings speculated that new development under the zoning plan would worsen ongoing traffic issues. Some doubted the goals of an enjoyable walkable and bicycle-friendly district would be possible, given the existing heavy, fast-moving traffic there.

Others assailed the specifier of high-rise buildings that

would overshadow existing one- and two-story buildings. Also, developers would buy property along the corridor, demolish existing businesses, and build large multi-story homes or businesses in their place.

Many said they loved their neighborhoods as they are, particularly in the so-called collegiate district in reference to streets named after Ivy League colleges. Homes in that area are mostly built on lots with 75-foot frontage, and because of that, are considered non-conforming to current zoning rules, which require owners to seek special permits for any improvements or additions. The proposed residential zoning changes would have eliminated that burden, but the neighborhood was ultimately removed from inclusion in the new RC district.

Board Chair Diane Mulvaney, at the Sept. 8 hearing session, agreed with residents and other board members that heavy traffic on the corridor she called a "cut through" was an indisputable problem. Much of the traffic consists of commuters from Granby and Belchertown heading to I-91 and I-90 and commercial districts in Chicopee, board members agreed.

But she pushed back against the threat of the proposed bylaws as detrimental to the corridor, but, instead, a protection for the district as it now exists.

"Without standards in place, we'll have problems. It will look like (Route) 33," she said. "But if we can start thinking about how we can protect that area with zoning bylaws, along with the design standards, and we are listening."

"If we think about this carefully and cautiously and we put safeguards in place, maybe we will get that revenue stream," the town is seeking.

"The town needs at least 10 of those revenue streams. I'm not saying they'll cover it with this (zoning), but with nine other different items that will bring \$1 million to the budget. We need to do something."

Mulvaney's comment followed another by member Robert Sklarz, who noted, "that as a building profession-

al (Colonial Carpentry) with over 40 years of experience, I can tell you that nobody is coming onto your street with 75 feet of frontage, tearing down a house and building a three-family. It's not cost-effective."

He added that all state laws now allow all homeowners in residential zones to build accessory dwellings on their property "so that (multi-family conversion) can already happen."

At Monday's hearing, board members approved some changes to definitions, dimensional regulations, design guidelines, and cottage cluster development.

A definition added on Monday included:

Story: "That portion of a building that includes the space between the surface of any floor and the surface of the next floor above it, or, if no floor exists above it, the space between such floor and the ceiling next above it. Any portion of a story exceeding fourteen (14) feet in height shall be considered as an additional story for each fourteen (14) feet or fraction thereof. One-half (1/2) story means any story or space situated wholly or partly in the roof, so designed, arranged, or built to be used for storage or habitation.

Also, a modification: Height: "The vertical distance between the highest point of the roof of a building and the average finished grade of land on which the building is located. Shall be measured as the vertical distance from the average finished grade of the structure to the highest point of the roof for flat roofs, to the deck line for roofs, and to the average height (midpoint) between the highest eaves and the ridge of the main body of the roof for gable, hip, shed, saltbox, and gambrel roofs, or combinations thereof.

For purposes of this bylaw, the term "height" shall not apply to chimneys, steeples, flag or radiopoles, antennas, aerators, required bulkheads, elevator penthouses, or other equipment appurtenances necessitated by the permitted use to which a building is put. In addition, the term "height" shall not apply to solar energy collectors and equipment used for the mounting or operation of such collectors;

provided, however, that such collectors or equipment shall not impair solar access of other buildings or other solar installations.

Added to the Dimensional regulations schedule:

In the RMU zone, the maximum height of a 3-story multifamily residential building was reduced from 45 to 40 feet. Four stories and 50 feet high are allowed for buildings with more than 50 percent deed-restricted affordable housing units.

Also in the RMU zone, the maximum height of principal and accessory uses for mixed-use buildings and accessory uses was reduced from three stories and 55 feet to 40 feet, with modifications allowed by Special Permit. Four stories and 50 feet in height are allowed for buildings with more than 50 percent deed-restricted affordable housing units.

Also, the flexible devel-

opment bylaw (Ch. 255-31) was modified by adding the sentence:

"Three family dwellings and Cottage Cluster Developments in the RC and RMU Districts shall not be subject to the requirements within this § 255-31.

Multifamily and multiple dwellings (Ch. 255-47) was modified by adding the sentence: "Three-family dwellings and Cottage Cluster Development within the Residential Core and the Residential Mixed Use District shall not be subject to the density or open space restrictions within this § 255-47."

Professional business uses (Ch. 255-34) was modified by adding the sentence:

"Within the Residential Mixed Use District, site plan review rather than a special permit shall be required for applicants wishing to operate a qualifying professional business."

New England ghosts will haunt Granby

GRANBY - Learn About Local Paranormal History on Thursday, October 30th with Storyteller Jonah Knight

The Granby Free Public Library is excited to announce the upcoming New England Ghosts presentation, scheduled for October 30th at 5:30pm. This PG-13 event for adults explores true historical ghost stories from across New England and features magical effects to build atmosphere and enhance the stories.

Award-winning storyteller Jonah Knight designed this show to highlight the fun and mystery around local paranormal legends. Attendees will hear stories and learn how to visit locations discussed in the show, within an atmosphere that mixes spooky moments with some laughs.

Event details

- What: A one-hour program featuring local stories of ghost sightings and interactions (with a little magic).

- When: Thursday, October 30th at 5:30pm

- Where: Granby Free Public Library, 297 E State Street, Granby, MA 01033

- Who should attend: Adults interested in ghost stories and regional history.

- Content: While neither graphic nor a horror presentation, New England Ghosts does talk about the circumstances around certain deaths and hauntings.

- How much does it cost: Free to the public.

- Sign-up is required as space is limited. Contact the Library during open hours to secure your seats.

For more event information, visit www.granbylibrary.org or call 413-467-3320. The Granby Free Public Library is located at 297 E State St, Granby, MA 01033

More information about presenter Jonah Knight: www.jonahknight.com



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Holyoke Community College announces Summer 2025 Dean's List

HOLYOKE - Holyoke Community College is proud to recognize the students who earned Dean's List honors for Summer 2025. Each term, HCC recognizes superior scholarship through the Dean's List. A student is placed on the Dean's List if their G.P.A. is 3.2 or higher. The students listed below have earned Dean's List honors for the Summer 2025 term.

- Agawam:**
Cassandra Lynn Blanchard, Aidan Henry Cavanaugh, Andrea Graziano, Cha Lor.
- Amherst:**
Alvaro Betancourt, Joshua David Bishop, Yinglin Chen, Timothy Joseph Guisti, Raymond George Hamel, Brian Lee, Taysha Pabon-Sostre, Gabriel Sarfo.
- Belchertown:**
Sophia Elizabeth Grazioso, Laura Janette Hastings, Claire Nan, Emily Darya O'Donnell, Jennifer Shaink.
- Brimfield:**
Christine M. Casey.
- Brookfield:**
Rebecca L. Quevillon
- Chicopee:**
Amwag Al Jebur, Chance Daniel Almonte, Jada Marie Andino, Zachary Ryan Barabani, Yesenia Cancel, Amanda Lynn Carlson, Vincenzo Victor Dandridge Jr., Najah Dejesus, Alex Del Valle, Joanna Fernandez, Elizabeth Anne Gueriot, Megan Harrington, Elizabeth Kincaid, Yolanda Maldonado Delgado, Jalen Malloy, Jessica Diane Marshall, Martha C. Ortiz, Samantha Mary Reid-Haney, Katie Schreiber, Rose Evelyn Tack, John H. Tobin.
- Granby:**
Olivia Lauren Hinkley, Samantha Panarese.



Holyoke Community College's students shine.

- Hadley:**
Jessica Lynn Campbell, Meichal Chapin.
- Holland:**
John Paul Nash.
- Holyoke:**
Raulisha Agramonte, Fatima Bergman, Pearl Abigail Burns, Yarilis Beatriz Conde Estremera, Jordan Gagner, Adaryn Livingstion Hagar, Karen Diane Howery, Wesley Kulig Jr., Cadence Lelani Mason, Dominick Josiah Mastromonaco, Rose Adrienne Michaud, Misteny Montano, Kearney Grace O'Malley, Yamaya Perez, Anna Claire Puttick, Nicole Rivera I, Junna Sreileak San, Jayla Santiago, Enid Magaly Soto, Daniel William Sullivan, Gabriella Asselin Vermes.
- Indian Orchard:**
Mariam Bintou Diaby, Douglas Moore Jr.
- Ludlow:**
Rachel Evangeline Bourcier, Jonathon Lee Cruz, Nelson Pereira Dacosta, Sara Alves Killeen, Jazmin Shai-bet Velazquez, Agnieszka Zerdecka.
- Monson:**
Nicholas James Aliengena, Sarah Brittany Boisvert, Kaitlyn Vedovelli.
- Oakham:**
Morgen Alan Swallow.
- Palmer:**
Kayla Rose Andre, Hannah Lis, Emily Toney, Marlene Marcia Williams, Makala Susan Yarkin.
- South Hadley:**
Zoey Alise Campbell, Newton Hall, Jonathan Jimenez, Sarah Nicholson, Eric M. Rogers.
- Springfield:**
Melissa Ann Austin, Nicolette Tamra Barnett, Iliana Marie Caban, Yasmari Cardenales, Deborah Eliana Cheeseboro, Akayla-Rain Mary Cobb, Jahmara Rae Coleman, Natasha Dyer, Michael R. Everett, Carmen M. Fidalgo, Tiffany Gibbs, Alexia May Henley-Bisson, Deizha Hernandez, Zephaniah Hatano Langley, Joslyn Martinez, Anecia S. Matos, Amanda Janay Montes, Juliana Mora, Nashaly Crystal Moya, Kayla Nguyen, Briana Marie Ocasio, Jenny M.

- Perkins, Aiquacha Powell, Dianara Marie Reyes, Eric Manuel Reyes Soto, Tatiana Rivera, Eliezer Rivera, Tahlee Danae Rodriguez, Krystal Lee Soto, Ninoshka Marie Tirado Davila, Jonte Toro, Yamery Vasquez, Ca-reen Gloria Walker.
- Three Rivers:**
Sara Kate Bracey.
- Wales:**
Samuel John Champigny.
- Westfield:**
Bryan Clark, Jocelyn L. Correia, Rebekah Cyr, Isek Flaherty, Poonam Gurung, Melissa Johnson, Rachel Anna Miller, Gabriella Marie Rivera, Aamylic Marie Roman, David Tomas Santiago, Ashley Jean Savaria, Kristene A. Sporbert, Katelynn Sullivan, Mercedes Ann Trombley, Lauren Mackenzie Yates.
- Wilbraham:**
Jean Boutin, Robert Edmund Dooley, Miranda Lee Krauza.

Celebrity bartending event set for Sept. 24

HOLYOKE -- September 16, 2025 - Holyoke Rotary Club invites the community to its celebrity bartending fundraiser on Wednesday, September 24 from 5:30 pm - 8:30 pm at the WineHaus & Vineyard at Jameson Farm, 16 East St., Granby, Mass. All celebrity bartender tips and raffle proceeds from the evening will benefit the Holyoke Rotary Club.

"This is our second annual celebrity bartending event. We hope the community will join us for a great evening of fine wine, beer, food, friendship, and fun," said event organizer and Holyoke Rotary Club board member Barbara Baran. The event will include wine, beer and nonalcoholic beverages, raffles and local food trucks. Celebrity bartenders will include:

- Holyoke Mayor Josh Garcia
- Joseph McGiveren - retired probation officer, long-time member of the Holyoke City Council, acting as City Council President and President of the Holyoke Merry-Go-Round.
- Annie Cote - Active town member of Granby, past

soccer & T-Ball coach, CCD teacher, past-President of the Booster Club, member of the Granby Legion Auxiliary and #1 Patriots Fan!

- Lisa Wong - South Hadley Town Administrator and former town administrator of Winchester and former mayor of Fitchburg.

"The Holyoke Rotary Club includes Holyoke, South Hadley, and Granby, Mass. The funds raised at the celebrity bartending event will allow the Club to continue philanthropic work throughout our community and around the world," said Baran "Admission to the event is free, with encouragement to please tip your celebrity bartenders generously."

Since 2008 the Holyoke Rotary Club has raised over \$150,000 to fund various projects, including the Miracle League of Western Massachusetts Inclusive Playground at Kennedy Field, the media room at the Holyoke Library, K-9 vests for the Holyoke Police Department, and literacy projects with Kelly School and Holyoke Boys' and Girls' Club, among others.

KYT to host special program

SOUTH HADLEY – On Thursday, September 25, 2025 at 6 p.m., in the the Community Room at the South Hadley Public Library, Know Your Town will sponsor a program on "All Roads Lead Local - South Hadley in a Changing Landscape".

The Town Administrator, Lisa Wong, will lead a robust

discussion about the importance and impact of town government on its residents and businesses.

This is the first Know Your Town sponsored event of the 2025-2026 KYT year. Please make every effort to attend. Bring a relative or friend, or two! The program is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served.

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Opinion

SOCIAL SECURITY Matters
By Russell Gloor

I'd like to retire early, but don't want my Social Security reduced

Dear Rusty:

I will be 65 this year and my husband is 72 (he retired in 2019 at age 66).

I would like to retire and enjoy some time with him before he gets too much older. I do not want to have my benefits cut by retiring earlier, but I don't see a way to be able to do that. My benefit will be \$1,343 on my Full Retirement Age.

If I took half his retirement when he retired, it would be less than mine. If I take early retirement and he passes away before me, would I get his full benefit as his survivor or will it be cut? We are trying to figure it out. His current benefit (before Medicare Part B) is \$2,978. It's very confusing.

Signed: Confused and Wondering

Dear Confused:

Whenever any Social Security benefit is claimed earlier than Full Retirement Age, the monthly amount is permanently reduced. If you were to retire at age 65, your Social Security benefit would be reduced by about 13% - in other words, if your FRA (age 67) amount is \$1,343, at 65 you would get about \$1,164. And at age 66 you would get about \$1,253 per month.

Whether you would be entitled to a "spousal boost" from your husband depends on how your FRA amount compares to 50% of his FRA entitlement. If your FRA amount is less than 50% of his FRA amount, then you would get a "spousal boost," but the amount of that boost would also be reduced if you claim before your FRA. Note: from the numbers you provided, you may be entitled to a spousal boost and, if so, it would be applied by Social Security when you claim.

Also, FYI, if you take SS before your FRA and are still working, Social Security has an annual

earnings test which limits how much you can earn while collecting early benefits. If you earn more than \$23,400 in 2025, you will likely not get all of your monthly SS payments (SS will take away some monthly benefits if you exceed the earnings limit). Of course, if you retire from working, this will not be a problem, because earnings before you claim SS won't count toward the limit.

When you claim your SS retirement benefit now will not affect your survivor benefit from your husband later. If your husband passes first, your benefit as a surviving spouse would be based on the amount your husband was receiving at his death. But if you were to claim your widow's benefit prior to your FRA, your survivor benefit would also be reduced (the amount of reduction depends on how much before your FRA you claim your survivor benefit). If you claim your widow's benefit at or after you FRA, you will get 100% of the amount your husband was receiving at his death instead of your own smaller amount. It will only be reduced if you claim before your full retirement age.

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.

Plant exodus, coming soon

Just this past week I put a call in to the herb gardeners at Old Sturbridge Village where I work part time.

I asked them to let me know they'd like me to deliver the pots and soil for the annual "exodus." We will be moving the tender perennials from their summer residence in the herb garden to my domain, the maintenance department's greenhouse.

There are some wonderful and very familiar plants in our living collection: rosemary, bay, lemon verbena and scented geraniums are some of my personal favorites.

Before the interpreters dig up the plants, I always ask that they give them a bath to cut down on the number of insects that will be brought into the greenhouse. For the home gardener this is equally important.

I say "bath" because my pesticide of choice is a natural and fairly benign one- made of potassium salts of fatty acids (soap) that weaken the insect's outer shell and cause dehydration. It is sprayed on leaves and stems until they are soaked, and can be reapplied every seven-10 days as needed.

This product is especially effective on insects that make their home on herbs and houseplants: whitefly, aphids and mealy bugs.

Once the insects have been eradicated, it is time to get out the shovel and get to work digging up and repotting the plants. You will be amazed at how large some of them can become after only a few months in the ground.

It is important to salvage as much of the root ball as possible to minimize the shock of being potted up. To do this, position your shovel along the "drip line" of the

plant and dig straight down, completely around its circumference. After you've made your way around, get your shovel underneath and lift.

Have a pot ready - one that is an inch or two bigger than the root ball is

the waxy-looking scale insect; one giveaway is leaves covered in a sticky, shiny sap called honey dew.

Try to "Q-tip" individual insects with rubbing alcohol or use insecticidal soap or horticultural oil to smother larger infestations. If the bugs have been active for awhile, sooty mold may have formed.

This thick, black coating will likely need to be scrubbed off leaf by leaf to allow the plant to photosynthesize properly.

To have success overwintering scented geraniums (*Pelargonium* spp.) indoors, situate them in bright light where daytime temperatures are 65-70 degrees, and night temps are in the 50s. Fertilize every other month during the fall and winter.

Smaller leaved varieties will be easier to manage; large leaved cultivars will get top-heavy quickly- take terminal or "tip" cuttings of these instead.

Lemon Verbena (*Aloysia triphylla*) may start out looking great, but a month or so into indoor culture will likely begin to lose its leaves. Fear not, leaf drop is completely normal and to be expected! You may be tempted to throw it out; instead, position in a sunny spot, water as needed and await new growth in the spring.

Enjoy your favorite tender herbs over the winter and again come springtime and summer when they return to the garden.

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.

My old house affords me many such microclimates. If you aren't as lucky, try for a sunny window away from dry heat, in other words far from heat vents, the wood stove etc.

Bay tree (*Laurus nobilis*) is another favorite and can be grown right through the winter with little or no coddling provided it is given medium to bright light and consistent watering. Do be on guard for



sufficient, and will allow for minimal winter growth. My container of choice is always plastic, but glazed pottery is fine too. I steer clear of clay; it dries out too quickly.

I usually put a couple of inches of moist potting soil into the container, set the plant and then fill in with more as needed before watering well. Oftentimes I leave the plants outside until a frost threatens, then I bring them in and back out until the weather turns decidedly cold.

Home gardeners often ask how to overwinter their favorite herbs without a greenhouse.

Perhaps the most cherished of all tender herbs is Rosemary (*Rosemarinus officinalis*), the herb of remembrance. The key to growing it successfully indoors is "cool but sunny."

My old house affords me many such microclimates. If you aren't as lucky, try for a sunny window away from dry heat, in other words far from heat vents, the wood stove etc.

My old house affords me many such microclimates. If you aren't as lucky, try for a sunny window away from dry heat, in other words far from heat vents, the wood stove etc.



Online application for 2026 grants from South Hadley Cultural Council available September 1 - October 16, 2025

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://massculturalcouncil.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/programs, 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>

NEWS & FEATURES

As a paper of record, we attempt to cover all general news, personality profiles, and community features that we know about. This includes all selectmen and school committee meetings as well as spot planning board, board of health, finance, and other town meetings determined by the issue's relevance to our readers. There are the annual major community event features that we should always cover, but we are more than open to suggestions of other features to celebrate the fabric of our communities and their many interesting occupants. Our loyal advertisers provide funding for this paid staff coverage.

For more information on news or community features for the Town Reminder, please email townreminder@turley.com.

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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.

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ARTISTS from page 1

experienced artists, and some who are newbies, but all are welcome. There is no judgment.”

“We want people to come and be a part of our community,” said Guimond.

The Association is completely volunteer-run, and whether you prefer photography or watercolors, you’re welcome to join them and this wonderful community of artists.

The Association meets on the third Thursday from September to May at 6:30 p.m. at the St. Francis Center at 10 Park Street in Belchertown, where they feature an artist, and the meetings are all open to the public.



Turley photos by Emily-Rose Pappas
A stunning beach house by Eleanor Small.



Chris White and her piece, “Cape Cod Twins” that look good enough to eat!



Rosemary Chaban and her piece, “Enchanted Leaves,” the perfect capture of fall.



Beautiful depictions of nature from artists Katherine Wyland, Dennis Burke, and Chuck Myers.



A fantastic painting of a chicken, and a handmade wooden frame made by artist Chang Yu.

SHELD hosts public hearing to discuss plans for new building

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

SOUTH HADLEY – The South Hadley Electric Light Department, SHELD, has been working on getting a new building for the past decade as the company has grown with the addition of Fiberspring, and its existing buildings are falling apart and a hazard to remain in.

Fiberspring and SHELD buildings are too small for what they need now, and the existing parking lot and the equipment are not adequate. The parking lot needs to be repaved, and the roof needs to be redone. The building itself is also not ADA-compliant.

“SHELD is also currently located in a 100-year flood zone. SHELD cannot be out of operation for any part of the time,” said Chair John Hine at the public hearing last week.

The area last flooded in 1936, almost 90 years ago, and considering climate change and increasing severity of weather, Hine explained, “it’s just a matter of time” before something could happen to an already-unstable building in need of repair.

So far for the project, SHELD has updated their original needs assessment in order to include the changed conditions and telecommunications requirements. SHELD also located an area in business-zoned land across from Big Y and signed a Purchase and Sale Agreement.

SHELD has also hired an Owner’s Project Manager, Tom Doolittle Skanska, and the Phase I Environmental Site Assessment has been completed and confirmed with the

Conservation Commission.

“We’ve looked for a long time for land, and it’s tough to find five to six acres of land in this town, in an area that is acceptable,” said Hine.

Originally, SHELD had looked at purchasing land and building there, but the community voted against it 10 years ago when the new building was first brought to the town.

Overall, the cost of the new building, which is based on their preliminary design, is approximately \$25 million for construction, and \$12 million in soft costs, the site preparation and furnishings, totalling approximately \$37 million.

The impact on the rate payers is an increase of about 2.3 cents per kilowatt hour, or an average of \$16.27 per month for the average 700 kilowatt hours an average South Hadley resident uses.

However, these costs will decrease after the first 10 years to 1.8 cents per kilowatt hour, or decrease to \$13.14 per month. It will decline again after the second 10 years to 1.42 cents per kilowatt hour, or an average of \$9.92 per month.

“The continued success of our Fiberspring business holds the potential to lessen the impact on rate payers as costs are allocated between the electric and telecommunications lines of businesses,” said Hine, reading the presentation slides.

There are costs associated with staying in the current buildings, just as there are costs to moving into and building a new one. Renovations, safety, and space are necessities, and it will cost a total of \$6.5 to \$8.5 million on one building in order to put it up to code, and make necessary re-

pairs and renovations. SHELD is also spending \$725,000 a year to lease the building that Fiberspring is in.

“We’re going to run out of room, and we’ll have to find somewhere eventually,” said Hine.

Many members of the community came forward during open comment to share concerns about spending this amount on a new building, and the added concern about the rising costs and stresses because of the health insurance costs will make it difficult.

“The town is facing a lot of challenges, there’s no question about that,” said Hine. “There’s been no growth, and no residential growth. Proposals have come to Town Meeting, and they’ve been shot down. But people need to understand the impact, and the impact is that those who are here have to shoulder that cost.”

Manager Sean Fitzgerald addressed a concern about the amount of space required, and how much space each of the departments will take up, and if there was a way to reduce the sizing. He shared that the added space to the original plan is not over 15 to 20% of the building, and doesn’t make a large difference in price.

“The board has to make a decision to approve the site assessment and the building program, so if that is approved, and financing is approved in the next year, you could be ready to construct at the end of 2026, early 2027,” said Fitzgerald. “That is our target, but the board has to direct it and approve it.”

SHELD is looking forward to the future, and what it will need to move the process forward after Town Meeting.

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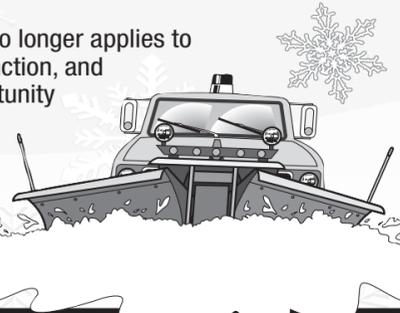
SNOWPLOW CONTRACTORS WANTED:

The Town of South Hadley, through its Department of Public Works and Chief Procurement officer (CPO), is seeking applications from plowing and heavy equipment contractors for plowing snow, snow removal, and/or sanding/salting/de-icing for the Department of Public Works for this coming winter. An application form and a copy of the “Snow Plowing Contractual Agreement” for the 2025-2026 winter season may be picked up at the department of Public Works office at 10 Industrial Drive, South Hadley, MA between the hours of 8:00 AM and 4:00 PM, Monday through Thursday.

Submissions will be received at the Department of Public Works up to the **deadline on Friday, October 10, 2025 at 11:00 AM**, when they will then be publicly opened and read at that place and time.

Note the requirement for payment of prevailing wage rates no longer applies to snow and ice removal operations, as it is considered a safety function, and is therefore exempt. The Town of South Hadley is an equal opportunity employer. Minority business enterprises that are certified and qualified are encouraged to submit applications.

The Town reserves the right to accept or reject any and all proposals, as in the Town’s judgement, the best interest of the Town of South Hadley would be served by so doing, all in accordance with the applicable General Laws.



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DINOFEST from page 1

tradition now, had its third year of fun in order to raise money for local food pantries, including Granby to Go.

“We had some fantastic entrants; so much so, the crowd couldn’t decide a people’s choice recipient, and all were awarded a trophy,” said Jardine.

The Down Syndrome Resource Group of Western Massachusetts was there, and the Mulder family ran a booth with A Moment of Magic Foundation.

“The Mulder’s son won DinoDash last year. They wanted to give others the chance to have awesome dinosaur costumes as well. It was a way for them to give

back to a community that supports them,” said Jardine. “This is the playgroup that Center Church in South Hadley hosts on the third Saturday of every month for people of all ages with Down syndrome.”

“As always, we couldn’t do any of it without our church family of volunteers and the community partners. Our sponsors and the people who attend year after year spreading the Word,” said Jardine.

Dino Fest has been, and will continue to be, one of the community’s favorite events of the year, bringing in people of all ages to enjoy a dinosaur-themed day of fun.



The DinoDash start line filled with eager participants dressed up and ready for fun.

Submitted photos



Time for the pie-eating contest! Don't use your hands!



Nash Fernandez and Smokey Bear making their rounds at the vendor booths.



Dennis Doucette, Isaac Simpson, and Zippy the Dino enjoying their day.



Tasondra Jardine and Gabe Pula, the winners of the 50/50 raffle. He's been coming since his kids were in a car seat and stroller.



Jenni Oyola and Richard Rodriguez on the grill.



Soular Eclipse performing some well-loved songs for those in attendance.



Dennis with Brie of Brie's Ballons having a fantastic time-hugs and smiles!

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Tigers grab big first win

EASTHAMPTON – On the road, the South Hadley High School boys soccer offense finally turned in a big performance as the Tigers defeated the host Eagles 7-1 Tuesday afternoon.

Nolan Masse and Hunter Keller had two goals each and Noah Carillon had seven saves while allowing one goal for the victory.

While South Hadley has not allowed any large goal totals to start the year, scoring had been a struggle in the first four games of the season.

The offensive surge against

the Eagles improved South Hadley to 1-3-1 on the season. South Hadley will face Chicopee High on Sept. 19 at 3:30 p.m.

They host Frontier Regional on Tuesday, Sept. 23 at 4 p.m.



Ryan Trudel runs down the ball.



Noah Carillon runs up and clears the loose ball away.



Kaysen Gauthier socks a centering pass toward the goal.



Gavin Losty looks to pass to an open teammate.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli



The boys start their race.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

Granby cross country in action

GRANBY – Last Wednesday afternoon at Dufresne Park, Granby High School cross country hosted Palmer.

Both the boys and girls teams took part in races, though the final scores of the meet were not reported as of

press time.

Colby Carleton of Granby was the top finisher in the meet.



Grace Coohely was Granby's top female finisher.



Addison Hill finishes for the Rams.



Colby Carleton was the top male finisher in the meet.

Stafford Speedway hosts first responder race

STAFFORD SPRINGS, CT – Stafford Speedway hosted USNE First Responder Friday on Sept. 12 with the TC 13 Shootout joining Stafford's five weekly divisions in feature action. The SK Modified® division ran their regularly scheduled 40-lap feature as well as the 3rd Annual TC 13 Shootout, a 13 lap race contested between the top-13 finishers from the 40-lap feature. Michael Christopher, Jr. was the big winner of the night taking home the TC 13 Shootout trophy and the \$1,313 to win TC 13 Shootout. Also as part of the TC 13 Shootout festivities, the Ted Christopher Safety

Initiative, orchestrated by Quinn Christopher, donated a Bell helmet with the winner determined by the winner of the TC 13 Shootout drawing from a list of the five drivers who finished in 13th place in their respective feature events. Christopher drew the Street Stock division which made Bill Cote the winner of the Bell helmet for his 13th place finish in the Street Stock feature.

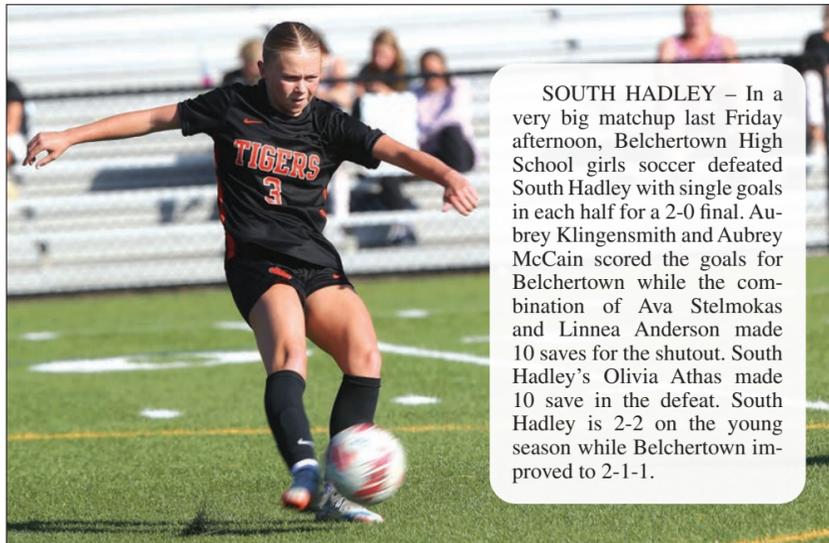
In the 40-lap SK Modified® feature event, Michael Gervais, Jr. took the early lead with Anthony Flannery and Todd Owen going wheel to wheel for second. Owen took second on lap-2 with An-

drew Molleur going around Flannery to move into third on lap-3. Flannery was able to get back in line in fourth, just in front of Cory DiMatteo and Alexander Pearl, who were side by side fighting for fifth place.

Molleur made a move to the inside of Owen on lap-6 to take second with Michael Christopher, Jr. getting around Pearl for sixth. Molleur took the lead from Gervais on lap-8 with DiMatteo moving into third on lap-9. With 10 laps complete the order was now Molleur, Gervais, DiMatteo, Owen, and Christopher, Flannery

Please see RACE, page 8

Tigers fall at home to B-Town



Hannah Haesaert side kicks a pass.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

SOUTH HADLEY – In a very big matchup last Friday afternoon, Belchertown High School girls soccer defeated South Hadley with single goals in each half for a 2-0 final. Aubrey Klingensmith and Aubrey McCain scored the goals for Belchertown while the combination of Ava Stelmokas and Linnea Anderson made 10 saves for the shutout. South Hadley's Olivia Athas made 10 save in the defeat. South Hadley is 2-2 on the young season while Belchertown improved to 2-1-1.



Goalie Olivia Athas picks up a save.



Simone Quinn plays the ball off his knee.



Cara Dean emerges with the ball and heads up the field.



Allison Fleury fights for possession.



Lea Agudelo tries to clear the ball ahead of pressure.

Westfield State football falls to Bridgewater

WESTFIELD – Eric Lovell's 80-yard interception return for a touchdown highlighted Westfield State's efforts as the Owls dropped a hard-fought 29-16 decision to Bridgewater State University in the Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference football opener for both teams.

Westfield is now 0-2 overall and 0-1 in the MAS-CAC, while Bridgewater is 1-1 and 1-0 in the league.

The Owls fell behind 9-0 at the half.

Lovell picked off a pass on the right side of the field and outprinted everyone to the endzone midway through the third quarter, and Dino Stellato converted the extra point for the Owls to trim the Bears' lead to 9-7.

Bridgewater answered with a 29-yard field goal from Joey Naso, and then capitalized on an Owls turnover, as Lucas Lambert returned an interception 23 yards to the Owls 21, and a penalty on the tackle set

the Bears up 1st and 10 at the Westfield 11. Bridgewater QB Shamus Whiting found Jack McCarthy for an 11-yard TD pass on the next play to extend the lead to 19-7.

Westfield got two points back on a safety, after a 52-yard Brian Carlin punt pinned the Bears back on their own one-yard line, and Justyn Gardener sacked Whiting in the end zone to cut the lead to 19-9 with 1:26 left in the third quarter.

On the ensuing drive, Westfield marched 75 yards on eight plays, capped by an 18-yard scoring strike from Westfield QB Miles Foerster to Will Brewster that trimmed the lead to 19-16 after the extra point with 12:57 left in the game.

Bridgewater responded with a sharp 6-play, 60-yard drive of their own, with Whiting connecting with Josh Registre for 34-yard TD to boost the lead to 26-16. The Owls answered by driving the ball to the Bears

7-yard line, but a bad snap and hold foiled a field goal attempt.

A late 42-yard field goal from Naso late in the fourth quarter capped the scoring and effectively ended the Owls comeback chances.

Foerster finished 10-26 passing for 94 yards, a TD and an interception, and ran for 57 more yards. Manny Mengata led the Owls with 63 yards on 22 carries. Brewster caught five passes for 56 yards.

For Bridgewater, Whiting finished 8-19 for 158 yards with two 2tds and 2 int's, and Joseph-Dube Garrett threw a TD pass as well. Isaiah Wright carried 20 times for 74 yards, and Registre caught three balls for 75 yards and a TD. Bridgewater held a 327-263 margin in total offense, and led 19-18 in first downs. Westfield held a slight 30:58 to 29:02 edge in time of possession.

Budder Ferreira led westfield with eight tackles, Lovell added seven.

Kessy re-signs with Thunderbirds

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Thunderbirds announced today they have re-signed forward Kale Kessy to a one-year AHL contract extension.

Kessy, 32, is entering his 13th professional season and has logged 359 regular season games of AHL ex-

perience, posting 43 points (21g, 22a) and 961 penalty minutes. He has additionally skated in 13 Calder Cup playoff contests, including all three games of the Thunderbirds' postseason series against the Providence Bruins last April.

Originally a fourth-round

pick by the Phoenix Coyotes in the 2011 NHL Draft, Kessy has also dressed in the AHL for the Oklahoma City Barons, Bakersfield Condors, Manitoba Moose, Cleveland Monsters, Colorado Eagles, Hershey Bears, Iowa Wild, and Syracuse Crunch.

RACE from page 7

nery was sixth followed by Pearl, Marcello Rufrano, Tyler Chapman, and Jon Puleo.

DiMatteo streaked by Molleur to take over the lead on lap-13. Gervais was third behind DiMatteo and Molleur with Christopher fourth and Owen fifth. Christopher took third from Gervais on lap-16 and then took second from Molleur on lap-17. Wesley Prucker spun on the backstretch to bring the caution flag out with 18 laps complete.

Molleur spun from third place on the restart to bring the caution flag right back out. The next restart saw Gervais shoot out of line going down the backstretch and into turn 3 and his car came back up on the track and collected several cars including

Curt Brainard, David Arute, Timmy Solomito, and Wade Gagner to bring the caution right back out again before a lap could be completed. Christopher was sent to the rear of the field for making contact with Gervais.

The third lap-19 restart saw DiMatteo take the lead with Flannery in second. Puleo and Owen were wheel to wheel for third with Mikey Flynn and Tyler Chapman wheel to wheel for fifth. Flynn and Chapman touched going into turn 3 with Chapman spinning into the wall to bring the caution flag back out with 20 laps complete.

DiMatteo took the lead on the restart with Puleo moving into second. Flynn took third after a side by side lap with Flannery with Rufrano in

fifth behind Flynn and Flannery. Rufrano got around Flannery to take fourth place on lap-23 and then took third from Flynn on lap-24. Puleo was looking high and low for a way around DiMatteo but DiMatteo was able to maintain the lead.

With 5 laps to go it was still DiMatteo and Puleo fighting for the win with Rufrano and Flynn fighting for third and Flannery and Keith Rocco fighting for fifth. Rocco took fifth from Flannery on lap-37 while Flynn made a move to get back by Rufrano for third on lap-39. Puleo couldn't get close enough to DiMatteo as DiMatteo took down his second win of the 2025 season. Flynn finished third with Rocco and Rufrano rounding out the top-5.

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East Meadow to host free drama for substance use awareness

GRANBY – August 31 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.

South Hadley student named Athlete of the Year



Submitted photo

Delaney Ochs at the Bay State Games.

SOUTH HADLEY -- Delaney Ochs of South Hadley, MA is the Bay State Games Athlete of the Year in the Youth Ages 18 7 under age division. This is a huge honor being selected out of over 36 sports and thousands of athletes. Delaney is a member of the Belchertown Twirlers and is the Feature Twirler with the South Hadley High School Marching Band.

RIGHTS from page 1

plans and legislation that other bodies have developed and advocated for," Sweeney explained. Among them were statements backing South Hadley's Housing Production Plan, the Welcoming Community article brought to town meeting, and the Trails for All initiative at the state level.

Community engagement is a central priority for the commission. Its nine members are drawn from across

town boards and committees, including the school committee, council on aging, board of health, and cultural council, ensuring diverse perspectives. "Tapping bodies that serve different segments of South Hadley helps us collect more perspectives," Sweeney said. "Also, our meetings are open to the public, the fourth Wednesday of every month at 5 p.m. on Zoom and in the public library, and we welcome visitors."

Like any young committee, the Human Rights Com-

mission has faced challenges, from turnover to refining its format. Still, Sweeney sees growth and momentum. "Overall, I think we're finding our groove and starting to generate interest for membership organically—meaning that residents join us apart from their belonging to another committee," Sweeney said.

Looking ahead, the group hopes to expand its visibility. "I think we'd like to create an easy way to connect our community needs to our commu-

nity resources, perhaps via a booklet or website," Sweeney said. "I think we'd also like to host an event for the public, or at least find ways to be more present and visible at other existing community events."

The commission even has a new tool to spread its message: a public service announcement produced with SHCTV15, now available online.

For Sweeney, the work is about listening, connecting, and building a stronger South Hadley.



Trustees Room

Gena Lomelin

Turley photo by Tina Lesniak

The Human Rights Commission is hard at work ensuring South Hadley is a welcoming and accessible community.



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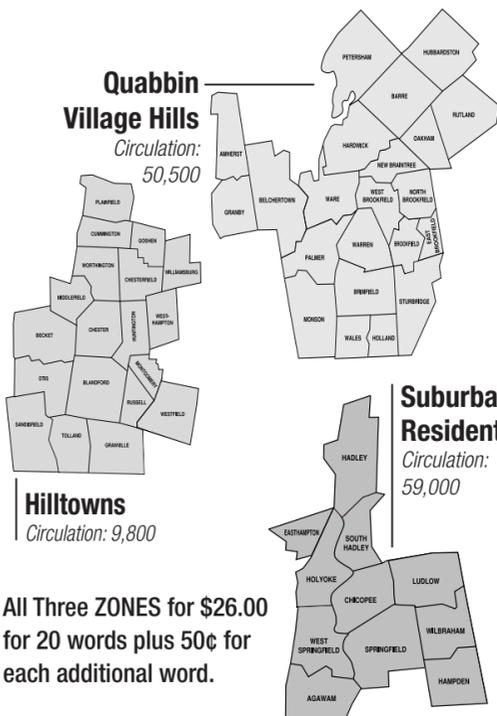
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LOST from page 1

and 2, spending time to commemorate and hold space for the remembrance of those 3,000 lives lost after the terrorist attack.

"I was honored to be included in the South Hadley 9/11 ceremonies organized by our first responders," said Town Administrator Lisa Wong. "These remembrances are a time to strengthen our community and a time to reflect on a historic tragedy with collective grief. 9/11 prompted me to enter public service as a career and is a reminder that creating peace and civility, whether on a local or global level, is a constant challenge we all need to rise to."

Members, both current and former, of the South Hadley Fire Districts, the water department, and the police department gathered with the community to ring the bell and say some words in remembrance.

"Every year, members of the South Hadley Police honor the memory of those lost on 9/11 at a ceremony organized by the South Hadley Fire Districts," said Police Chief Jennifer Gundersen. "It's important to show support for those

victims and their families, for their sacrifice, and honor their memory."

"It is important for me that we commemorate the events of September 11th, acknowledging them as a day of profound sorrow for our nation; we must perpetually honor the memory of those who perished in the tragic terrorist attacks, as well as those who selflessly risked their lives to save others," said State Representative Homar Gomez.

Granby's ceremony held in the evening at the Public Safety Complex. Visitors gathered around the 9/11 monument. The monument, erected last year outside the station, is composed of a piece of a fire truck that came to the scene in New York, attached to a beam.

The memorial serves as a living testimony for all who see its scratches, dents, and warped metal of what happened that day and what was sacrificed.

New Fire Chief Evan Briant read the Firefighter's Prayer, Police Chief Kevin O'Grady read the Police Officer's Prayer, and EMT Micheline Turgeon read the EMS Prayer.

"When the Twin Towers collapsed, 340 firefighters passed away," said George Randall. "72 police officers also lost their lives."

The ceremony included a speech from Town Administrator Tammy Martin, and members of the Granby American Legion performed a flag ceremony, lowering the flag on its pole to half-mast. Retired firefighter Stephen Leocopoluous rang the bell on the old fire truck, Granby's first fire truck, called "The '38" for the year it was built.

"For me and a lot of people, this makes me reflect on where I was that day," said State Representative Mindy Domb. "It makes me remember, especially now during a time of high polarization, when we all came together as one community. It's also a reminder to remember and thank first responders, because they go into the danger, and do all the time."

"I feel honored, because when you memorialize someone who deserves it, it's an honor. Sacrifice and service is important, and it should, and deserves to be honored," said Selectboard Chair Mark Bail.



Standing at attention for the flag.



The American Legion saluting the flag.



Members of the public gathered for the ceremony.

Turley photos by Emily-Rose Pappas



Members of the Granby Legion, Rob Chauvin, Commander Dave Cote, and Jef Roule.



Town Administrator Lisa Wong, Police Chief Jennifer Gundersen, and State Representative Homar Gomez.



Bowing heads for a moment of silence together for those lost.



State Representative Mindy Domb, Town Administrator Tammy Martin, and Selectboard Chair Mark Bail.



Todd Carpenter playing music on the bagpipes.



Members of the police station standing at attention.



Members of the fire department at the 9/11 ceremony.



New Fire Chief Evan Briant reading out the Firefighter's Prayer.



George Randall sharing a few words.



Micheline Turgeon reciting the EMS Prayer.



Police Chief Kevin O'Grady sharing the Police Officer's Prayer.



Members of the Fire Department getting ready to say a few words and a prayer.