

TOWN Reminder

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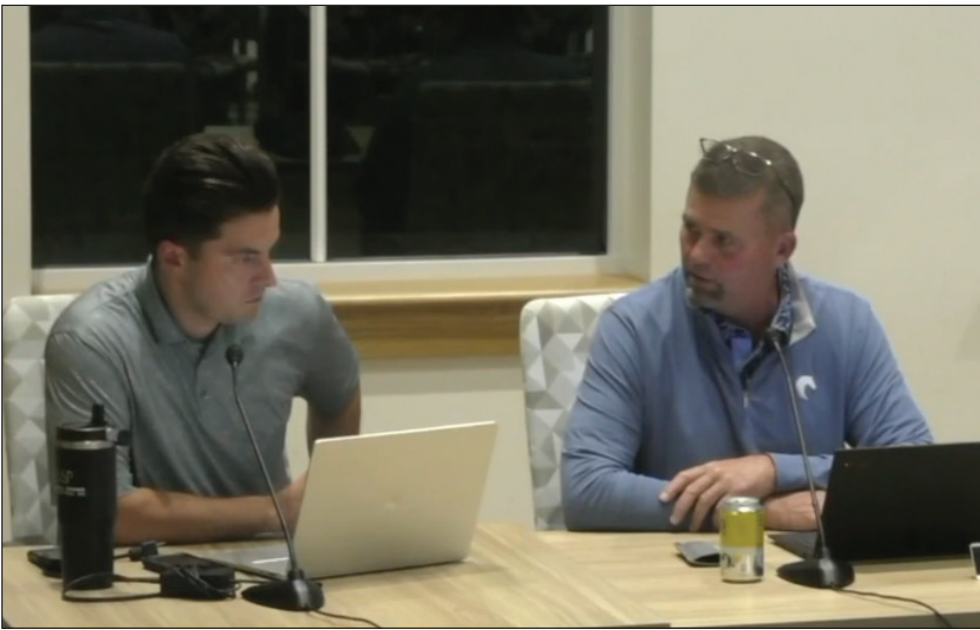
Assistant Administrator opens vacancy in town government

By Ben Hernandez
Staff Writer

SOUTH HADLEY – Long time Assistant Town Administrator and Human Resources Director Chuck Romboletti has stepped down from his positions. The former director’s departure was made public during the South Hadley Select Board meeting on Sept. 22, which was marked with heartfelt words by Romboletti himself.

“Thank you,” Romboletti said to his former colleagues. “It’s been an awesome three years here. Thank you to the Board. Thank you to Lisa. Thank you to the coworkers.”

Please see **VACANCY**, page 2



Select Board Chair Jeff Cyr and Assistant Town Administrator and Human Resources director Chuck Romboletti.

Annual Rotary Celebrity Bartending Night creates community buzz

By Ben Hernandez
Staff Writer

GRANBY – The Granby Wine Haus and Vineyard at Jameson Farm served as venue for the annual Granby Rotary Celebrity Bartending Night. Organized by the Holyoke Rotary Club, the event united Granby, South Hadley and Holyoke charters for an evening of networking, wine tasting and community spirit.

“I thought getting celebrity bartenders and trying to get someone from each of the towns would help foster growth in our club throughout the three communities,” said Rotarian Barbara Barron. “We wanted something that was going to raise some money but also raise awareness for our club, as well as just have us meet new people and have fun.”

Sept. 30 marked the third year for the event, which attracted business professionals and prominent figures within the three towns. Noteworthy attendees included State Representative Pat Duffy and Rotary Club District Governor Christine Burns.

“We’re always trying to expand into the other communities and get more people from South Hadley and Granby into our club,” Barron said. “Our motto is service above self and so we’re always trying to find people who love to give back to their community and spread good-

will and friendship.”

The venue offered a wide assortment of different wines on tap and a raffle to supplement the spirited conversations, which spilled from the cozy indoor venue to a spacious outdoor area behind the building. A Thai food truck was also present, which could be enjoyed on provided outdoor seating.



New Rotarian Rosanna Lopez strikes a pose in the rear outdoor venue.

School bus stop sign camera system to be implemented



The South Hadley Select Board weighed in on potential new traffic monitoring technology.

By Ben Hernandez
Staff Writer

SOUTH HADLEY – In last month’s Select Board discussion, Police Lieutenant Mark Baran introduced a proposed partnership with technology company Bus Patrol to install on-board cameras on school bus stop signs. The measure is part of a town initiative to lower traffic violations and provide the police department a way to check traffic violations during school bus drop-offs.



South Hadley Police Lieutenant Mark Baran explains the new technology.

“We’ve been doing a lot of work to research this new law that’s available for municipalities to adopt,” Assistant Town Administrator Chuck Romboletti said.

The new law in question is Massachusetts General

Law Chapter 40, Section 71, which allows the town to install school bus violation detection monitoring systems to help enforce traffic laws. Baran reported the police department was already in talks with possible vendors to im-

plement the system and described how it would work.

“The camera would activate when the stop sign comes out, starts blinking and then would hope to catch any violators,” Romboletti said. “Hopefully there are none, but it would catch violators.”

Romboletti explained the technology would alert the police department of potential violators and would also provide a “automatic mechanism” to send a citation to the perpetrator. He applauded Lieutenant Baran’s efforts in getting this measure

Please see **CAMERA**, page 7

Rita Patruno celebrates 100th birthday



Rita Patruno of South Hadley celebrated her 100th birthday on Oct. 7.

SOUTH HADLEY – Rita Patruno celebrated her 100th birthday this week.

Born on Oct. 7, 1926, she is the proud mother of four children, grandmother of six, and great-grandmother of 10.

Throughout her life, she has always been a caregiver, giving so much of herself to her family and helping raise generations of children and grandchildren.

She is deeply loved and truly the matriarch of the family. Her strength, kindness, love, and devotion have shaped all of her family members, and they feel incredibly blessed to celebrate this amazing milestone with her.

The family wishes a happy 100th birthday to the person they describe as the “heart of the family.”



100-year-old Rita Patruno is shown with one of her great-grandchildren.



Massachusetts State Representative Patricia Duffy poured wine for the attendees.



Rotarian Barbara Baron poses with her fellow attendees.

Election letters must be received by Oct. 21

The Town Reminder welcomes readers to participate in this year's state election by writing letters to the editor for publication.

Letters of up to 250 words from local residents endorsing candidates on the ballot or discussing campaign issues should be sent to Town Reminder, care of Turley Publications, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069, faxed to 413-289-1977 or emailed to townreminder@turley.com by noon on Wednesday, Oct. 21 to be published in the Friday, Oct. 23 edition. No endorsement letters will be printed in the last edition before the election.

Letter writers need to provide their name and the town they reside in.

Please include a daytime telephone number (for verification purposes only) when submitting your letter. Your phone number will not be printed.

QR code SURVEY

2026 Community Needs Assessment survey

SOUTH HADLEY—The Town of South Hadley is conducting a Community Needs Assessment to identify key needs among residents.

This anonymous, 15-minute survey will help us better understand experiences, strengths, and challenges related to health and well-being and how to make improvements for everyone in the South Hadley community.

If you have any questions, please contact mfulton-black@bmestrategies.com and kjacobs@bmestrategies.com.

Take the survey by Friday, Oct. 9, use your phone to scan the QR code or complete the survey online at: bit.ly/SH_CNA

Paper copies also available at the South Hadley Council on Aging, Town Clerk's Office, and Library South Hadley residents, they want to hear from you

Fall fun with the bike/walk committee

SOUTH HADLEY—The bike/walk committee is having a Lithia Springs Vernal Pool Trek on Oct. 24 at 10 a.m. meet at the hikers lot next door to 502 Amherst Rd. in South Hadley. Join them for an Autumn trek to the Vernal pools.

There will be a Halloween Bike ride on Oct. 31 at 1 p.m. to McCray's Farm for a spooky Halloween treat. Meet at the South Hadley Center Pavilion across the street from The Village Commons. Costumes must be safe to ride in and helmets must be worn.

On Nov. 14 at 10 a.m. join



The Next Generation of Jazz benefit concert Nov. 1

Proceeds to support South Hadley Music Parents Association and Center Church outreach team

SOUTH HADLEY—Music at the Center and JAZZ Productions present a community and benefit concert event on Sunday, Nov. 1 at 3 p.m. at Center Church ~ 1 Church Street, South Hadley.

This piano & voice concert will present 5 of the bright, young, rising stars of this music to support the South Hadley Music Parents Association (SHMPA) and the next generation of performing arts students here in South Hadley.

The performance will feature award-winning artists Caelan Cardello on piano, and vocalists Julia Danielle, Kate Kortum, June Cavlan, and Joie Bianco.

The concert will also include performances by the vocal jazz trio The Sunhouse

Singers (Kortum, Cavlan, and Bianco) and the South Hadley High School Jazz Band.

Advance ticket sales (\$30 adults / \$15 students) and VIP packages (\$100 for 2) for this performance are available on Eventbrite (<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-next-generation-of-jazz-tickets-1998429584684>) through October 30th. If not sold out in advance of the show, admission will also be available at the doors the night of the event for \$40. Net proceeds from the performance will be donated to "SHMPA" (South Hadley Music Parents Association) and the Center Church outreach team.

Generous early sponsorship and critical in-kind support has been provided by Veryl's Automotive Services, PeoplesBank, PIP Marketing, Signs & Print New England, and The Town of South Hadley.

VACANCY from page 1

The departure is the result of a recent accepted position at Holyoke Community College, a new role Romboletti reported as a "good professional fit" for himself and his family. He called the leaving of his post "bittersweet" and the result of a hard personal decision.

"It's hard to leave," Romboletti said. "It's been 16 years in local government. It's been a privilege to serve communities."

The former assistant town administrator stated South Hadley held a "special place in his heart" and described the town as a "great community." During his speech, Romboletti encouraged his colleagues to keep serving the town to the best of their ability.

"I know there are challenging times ahead, but I think we have a great team here," Romboletti said. "We have great people involved and we'll get through things with people engaged here."

However, the departure comes with additional concerns for the town. As he is the only person who is serving as both assistant town administrator and human resources director, it would create a vacuum within town administration. However, though he acknowledged existing challenges, he concluded it was possible to ensure continuity with minimal disruptions, should they handle the transition carefully.

"It's a lean HR department as it is," Romboletti said. "Right now, it's myself who's full-time with the ATA / HR role. We have a contracted benefits administrator who's in-office once a week and available throughout the week remotely, but we're able to keep up with a number of HR things."

Providing an information packet describing his former role and a newly updated description for the human services director position, Romboletti began Select Board

Auditor's bureau identifies \$10.6M in public benefit fraud

BOSTON – State Auditor Diana DiZoglio released a Bureau of Special Investigations report examining the periods of Jan. 1, 2026 to March 31, 2026 and April 1, 2026 to June 30, 2026.

The report summarizes BSI's work and initiatives to help make government work better by investigating fraud, abuse, and illegal acts involving public assistance benefits throughout the Commonwealth.

During these periods, BSI investigated a total of 2,223 cases and there were overpayment calculations in 402 cases with identified fraud. Further details regarding these 402 cases may be found below.

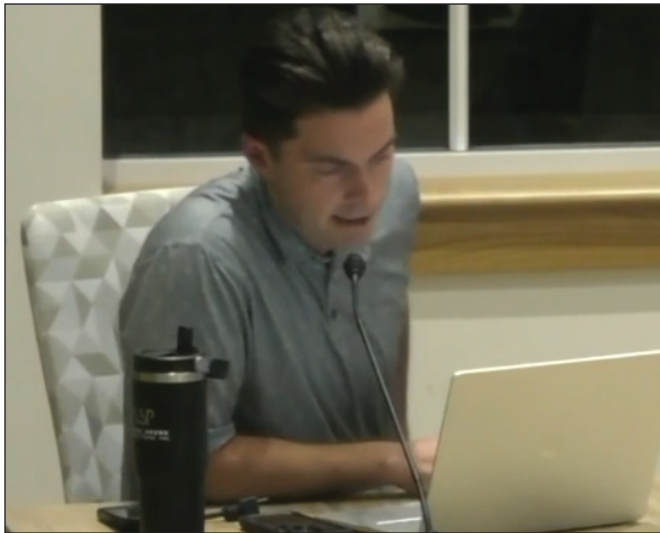
Investigations with fraud identified: MassHealth/Medicaid, \$6,051,185; Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, \$3,854,119; Personal Care Attendant, \$538,332; Transitional Aid to Families with Dependent

Children, \$130,483; and Emergency Aid to the Elderly, Disabled, and Children, \$38,463.

The total amount of fraud identified totaled \$10,612,582

"These important programs are meant for the people who need them - not for those looking to game the system," said DiZoglio. "When someone commits fraud, they're taking resources away from the people these programs were created to serve. Our office will continue to work with our partners to identify fraud because taxpayers deserve to have their hard-earned money protected."

The public can report potential fraud to BSI by dialing the hotline at 617-727-6771 or by visiting the website at <https://www.mass.gov/how-to/report-public-benefit-fraud-to-the-office-of-the-state-auditor>.



Submitted photo

Assistant Town Administrator and Human Resources Director Chuck Romboletti encourages former colleagues as he reflects on his time in office.

discussions to replace him. The proposed changes he presented would strip assistant town administrator duties and repackaged them into a dedicated HR role.

"All you can really think of in terms of HR, from hiring to training and development to employee relations issues... things like that. Pretty lean, but we're efficient," Romboletti said as he presented his suggestions. "This keeps a focus on HR, but obviously

loses the ATA aspect of it."

"In some ways, this is the purview of the town administrator to make these decisions," Town Administrator Lisa Wong said as she reflected on his suggestions. "Certainly, we have the budget for the ATA/HR position. But thinking into the future, we are looking at ways to consolidate and create some savings. I just don't think anybody can replace what Chuck has done."

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Saturday, Oct. 10th, 10am-2pm
250 State Street, Granby
Rain or Shine

Info: fundraising@granbypreservationsociety.org

Food pantry wish list

SOUTH HADLEY— Neighbors Helping Neighbors food pantry wish list for food donations. As the weather turns a bit cooler the food pantry is looking for some basic staples. Any amount of donations would be greatly appreciated. The food pantry is located at 30 Carew St., in South Hadley, Mass.

Items on the wish list include soups, tomato prod-

ucts, canned meats, chilis & stews, condiments, cold cereal, oatmeal, pasta (any kind), personal hygiene items (bar soap, toothpaste, shampoo) and pet food.

The pantry provides nutritious food to those in need while building strong relationships with local neighbors. With your help, they can create a better future for everyone.

HCC annual ‘Trunk or Treat’ set for Friday, Oct. 23

HOLYOKE - Visitors to Holyoke Community College on Friday, Oct. 23, can expect to see witches, ghouls, ghosts and an assortment of characters from popular children’s movies, games, books, and TV shows as the college celebrates Halloween with its ninth annual Trunk or Treat event.

Every year, the event draws thousands of children and their parents to the HCC campus for a fun, safe, and early Halloween celebration as dozens of HCC departments, programs, and student clubs, as well as community groups and area businesses, decorate their cars and trucks with a wide assortment of themes.

Trunk or Treat runs from 5 to 7 p.m. in Parking Lot M by the Bartley Center for Athletics and Recreation on the main HCC campus, 303 Homestead Ave.

Last year’s trunk themes included Disney’s Cars, the Wizard of Oz, Minions, Dr. Seuss, pirates, a haunted vet clinic, aliens, Jurassic Park, Shrek, the Adams Family, witches, The Nightmare Before Christmas, cartoons, pumpkins and ghosts, Harry

Potter, Scooby Doo, Bob’s Burgers, fun at the farm, Irish dancing fairies, haunted house, brains, aliens, and Bluey, among others

Prizes are awarded to vehicle sponsors in various categories including best executed theme, scariest trunk, best costumes, and most original.

Each vehicle will be handing out free Halloween treats and have non-food items for children with dietary restrictions.

Trunk or Treat at HCC started in 2017 as a safe, fun, and early alternative to traditional trick-or-treating on Halloween night. Rather than going door to door seeking Halloween treats, children go “trunk to trunk” to collect their candy, visiting cars decorated with seasonal themes and familiar stories and characters.

The event is free and open to the public and will be held outdoors, rain or shine. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

To sponsor a vehicle, please contact Student Engagement at studentengagement@hcc.edu. The deadline is Monday, Oct. 19.

Healey declares Oct. 4-10 Fire Prevention Week

STOW – Governor Maureen Healey has declared Oct. 4-10 as Fire Prevention Week in Massachusetts, joining communities across the country in recognizing the nation’s longest-running public health and safety observance and encouraging residents to take simple steps to prevent fires and keep their families safe.

This year’s Fire Prevention Week theme, “Charge Into Fire Safety: Safe Charging Is a Superpower,” focuses on the safe use and charging of lithium-ion batteries, which power many of the devices people use every day and have contributed to a growing number of fires in Massachusetts and across the country. The National Fire Prevention Association coordinates Fire Prevention Week each year and selected this year’s theme.

“Fire Prevention Week is an important opportunity to remind people across Massachusetts about the simple steps we can all take to keep our families and communities safe,” Healey stated in a press release. “We’re grateful to firefighters and fire safety professionals across the state for the work they do every day to protect people and prevent tragedies.”

“Fire safety starts with awareness and preparation,” said Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll. “This week is about making sure people have the information they need to stay safe at home and in their communities, and recognizing the firefighters and public safety professionals who help keep Massachusetts safe every day.”

Lithium-ion batteries are found in phones, laptops, e-bikes, scooters, power tools, and most other rechargeable devices. They



Submitted Photo

Improper charging and other forms of damage or abuse can cause lithium-ion batteries to ignite, causing a fire. This battery, identical to the ones used in many consumer devices, exploded under controlled conditions during a 2023 research event held by the Department of Fire Services, New Bedford Fire Department, and other partners.

store a significant amount of energy in a small space, and damaged batteries or improper charging can lead to fires or explosions.

“Massachusetts fire departments reported 22 battery fires last month, the highest number since we started tracking the data and double the number reported a year ago,” said State Fire Marshal Jon M. Davine. “Rechargeable batteries are in countless devices that we use every day, and using them safely means making smart choices every time you plug in.”

Davine offered the following battery safety tips:

Select devices that are listed by a nationally recognized testing laboratory. Look for the mark or a lab such as UL or Intertek/ETL to be sure they meet safety requirements.

Use the cord and charger that came with your device or one approved by the manufacturer. Using the wrong charger can damage the battery and increase the risk of fire.

Charge devices on a table, desk, or other hard, flat surface. Do not charge them on beds, couches, or under pillows.

Devices and chargers produce heat during normal charging. Soft surfaces can trap heat and block airflow, which can cause the battery to overheat.

Stop using your device if it feels very hot, starts to swell, is smoking, or has a strange smell. These are warning signs that the battery may be damaged or failing.

Unplug your device when it is fully charged. Do not leave it plugged in longer than needed.

Leaving a device plugged in too long can increase heat and stress on the battery.

Charge larger items like e-bikes, scooters and power tools outside if possible and always keep them away from windows, doors, and stairways. A fire blocking your escape route could leave you trapped and make it harder for firefighters to reach you.

When on a plane, keep your device where you can see it while charging. Do not charge devices in overhead compartments. Do not charge e-cigarettes or vapes on a plane.

If a battery overheats or fails, it is important for the flight crew to respond quickly.

When disposing of used batteries, don’t throw them in the trash or household recycling. Bring them to your community’s household hazardous waste collection event or find a battery recycling location and batterynetwork.org.

Visit the Department of Fire Services’ website, www.mass.gov/info-details/lithium-ion-battery-safety, for more lithium-ion battery safety materials.



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SOCIAL SECURITY

Matters

By Russell Gloor

When Will Congress Repay Social Security Money Taken Years Ago?

Dear Rusty:
I seem to remember that Congress borrowed a total of 4 trillion dollars from SS back in the 1980s and 1990s. When will this be repaid with interest?

Signed: Concerned Senior

Dear Concerned Senior:
I'm afraid your recollection is not correct – no politicians (Congress or Presidents) have ever taken money from the Social Security Trust Funds – not in the 1980s, nor 1990s, not ever.

Congress and Presidents are prevented by law from using Social Security money for any purpose other than paying SS benefits to beneficiaries and for paying the operating costs of administering the program.

Some significant changes to the Social Security program were, indeed, made in the years you mention, but those changes essentially saved Social Security from defaulting on monthly SS payment obligations.

In 1983, Congress and President Reagan enacted some income tax on received SS benefits for those with higher incomes and which added to Social Security's revenue, thus avoiding a benefit cut.

Then in 1993, Congress and President Clinton expanded that legislation to increase the taxation of received Social Security benefits to provide additional SS revenue.

What you may be remembering is the political rhetoric from those days, which opined that Congress had stolen, squandered or borrowed (and should repay) Social Security money used for other purposes.

And that rhetoric originated because of the way received SS revenue from payroll FICA tax is invested.

Social Security revenue, when received, is immediately invested in special-issue government bonds, which pay interest (just like normal government "T-bills").

The difference is that these SS bonds are redeemable, with interest, upon demand and as needed by SSA to pay monthly benefits. This means that SS gets additional interest income from these investments accounting for about \$69 billion in extra SS income in 2025.

Some folks, however, feel that because the U.S. Treasury gets the actual cash received for those SS investments, that the money is used by the Treasury for other purposes. Which is, of course, true – just as the government uses all income received from all revenue sources to pay for government programs.

So, rather than viewing those SS bonds as investments, some view them as "money borrowed" and sometimes call the bonds "worthless IOUs." This, of course, is not at all the case, because every dollar invested in those special issue government bonds has been (and still is) used only for valid Social Security purposes and results in extra SS revenue from interest.

Nevertheless, those accusations were prevalent in the 1980s and 1990s when the changes to tax SS benefits were enacted. Indeed, we still regularly hear and refute similar rhetoric these days in our capacity as Social Security Advisors.

We've written many articles on this topic, all of which are available at the AMAC Foundation's two main websites at www.amacfoundation.org, and www.SocialSecurityReport.org.

To answer your specific question "when will this (money) be repaid with interest?" The answer is - there is nothing to repay. All monies ever received for Social Security purposes have been invested in special interest-bearing government bonds, which are redeemed (with interest paid) weekly as needed to pay Social Security benefits to those who have earned and are entitled to them.

These bonds are secured by the "full faith and credit of the U.S. government," a financial designation which is globally considered to be "exceptionally low risk."

FYI, the SS Trust Fund reserves held about \$2.5 trillion in investments as of the end of 2025, down from about \$2.9 trillion in 2020. The Trust Fund total is now being regularly depleted because incoming SS revenue has not been sufficient to pay 100% of SS benefit obligations since

Please see **SECURITY**, page 5

Friends with more questions

The threat of night time temperatures in the 30s sure have us gardeners on the move.

I had a few questions from friends this week that pertained to the change in seasons. Read on; maybe you can relate!

One of my friends asked if she should harvest all of her unripe peppers, and if they would continue to ripen indoors.

Peppers will only continue to fully ripen (i.e. change from green to their ripe color) if they are showing a hint of their ripe color. They definitely won't be as sweet as if they ripened on the vine, and they will lose a little of their mass as they sit, but they would still be a great addition to a stir fry or sauce.

I generally harvest all of my unripe peppers and keep them one layer deep in my cool mudroom, using or discarding as I go.

Another question came in about the use of Neem as an insecticide. My friend put her houseplants outdoors for the summer months and is concerned about bringing hitch-hikers inside where plants will be in close quarters.

We always spray tender plants such as Rosemary or Bay with Safer's Soap or a Sun oil before returning them to the greenhouse for the winter.

Neem works a bit differently but like the others is also a less toxic approach. Neem oil comes from the Neem tree (*Azadirachta indica*), which grows naturally in India and Southeast Asia.

It is an effective pesticide, miticide and fungicide with me that a plant that she was gifted would never, ever bloom. Well, I kept watch over the neighbor's, checking in on its progress.

About two weeks ago I informed her that flowers were on the way. She finally sent me a picture of her plant and it was following suit.

First buds and then flowers! Yay!

The plant in question is The Nippon Daisy, better known as the Montauk Daisy (*Nipponanthemum nipponicum*). When most flowers are calling it quits, this late season perennial is just getting started.

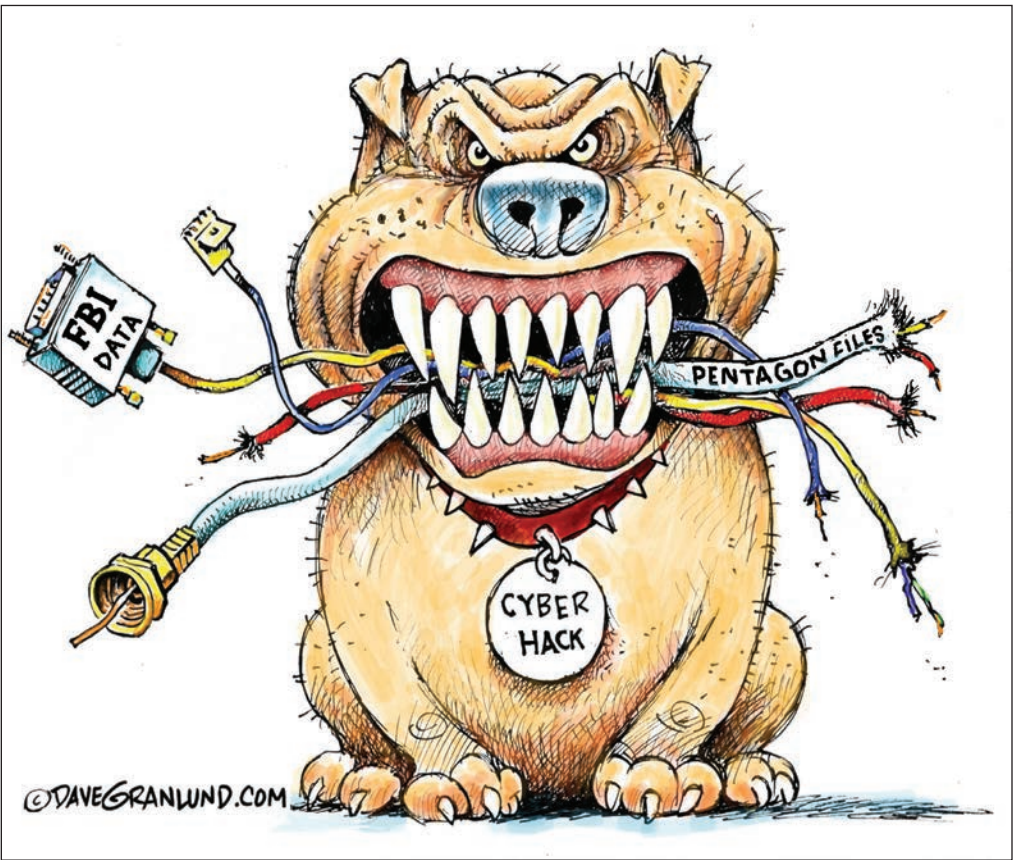
The plant is shrub-like, so it blends in well in the landscape with bushes or other specimen perennials, growing 1.5-3 feet tall and 3-5 feet wide. It looks like a regular white daisy, only more robust.

Enjoy them now through the first heavy frost. Plant in full sun; cut back a bit in the spring to keep them growing upright. It is both deer and rabbit resistant.

I hope that you enjoy these timely, friendly questions.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 34 years she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to pouimette@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.

My coworker kept joking



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

A mailer on my refrigerator door states it is time for a new generation of leadership for Central and Western Mass.

It is a reminder of the promise generated by Jeromie Whalen's congressional campaign; I listen to the current congressional candidates and watch their campaign appearances.

They haven't built a community movement that shares the energy, knowledge, skills, and caring for each other. Their campaigns lack the community foundation evident in Jeromie Whalen's team. This is what made him strong, he knows and understands and can tell you the issues in communities across Congressional District 1.

He has been there, visited, listened and continues to return and check on people, if you share my belief that now if the time for a new generation leadership, if you voted for Jeromie Whalen in the primary.

On November 3 write his name in for our congressional representative.

Marie Rohan
South Hadley

eBird reported recent sightings of common night-hawks at the Rutland Prison Camps in Rutland and in Worcester.

The common nighthawk is a medium sized (8.7 to 9.8 inches long) nocturnal bird of the nightjar family found in both the Americas. It is typically dark colored: gray, black or brown with intricate patterns providing camouflage and making them difficult to spot during daytime.

They are mostly observed in flight. The slender body, long wings (wing span 20 to 24 inches) and white wing patches on the wings make them easy to identify.

Although they have a small beak, their mouth is large. They have

noticeable barring on their sides and abdomen and short legs.

Its life span is about four to five years. The males of



this species may roost together, but the bird is primarily solitary.

The common nighthawk is the only nighthawk occurring over the majority of northern North America. During migration common nighthawks may travel 1,600 to 4,200 miles, one of North America's longer migrations.

They migrate by day or night in loose flocks, frequently numbering in the thousands. An aerial insectivore, the migrants will feed en route and congregate in marshes, rivers and lake-shores.

The best time to see them during migration is in late afternoon into the evening.

During flight, their vocalization is a nasal "peent" or "beernt." Peak vocalizations



Common Nighthawk

are reported 30 to 45 minutes after sunset. The male makes a croaking "auk auk auk" in the presence of a female during courtship.

Night time feeding is rare. The most common insects in their diets are butterflies and moths. They actively avoid eating flies.

Artificial light sources such as parking lots attracts them in an effort to forage for insects enticed by the light. They even fly extremely low over the surface of water to drink.

Nighthawks preferred breeding and nesting habitat is forested regions with rocky

Please see **BACK YARD**, page 5

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

We Want to Hear From You

EDITOR
townreminder@turley.com

ADVERTISING SALES
Paige Lawor
PLawor@turley.com

SPORTS EDITOR
Greg Scibelli
sports@turley.com

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WEB
townreminder.turley.com

PHONE
(413) 283-8393

ADDRESS
24 Water Street
Palmer, MA 01069

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www.turley.com

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

South Hadley Council on Aging

October Happenings
Savvy Caregiver® Wednesday, Oct. 14 through Nov. 18 1 to 3 p.m. Savvy Caregiver® is a class for family and friends caring for someone living with memory loss or Alzheimer's. Taught by Monica Crespo, BS, BA, Caregiver Specialist with Access Care Partners and Carol Constant, BA, CDP. Savvy Caregiver® helps caregivers better understand the changes their loved ones are experiencing, and how to best provide individualized care for them throughout the progression of Alzheimer's disease or dementia. The six-week class is free, but registration is required, please visit accesscarepartners.org/workshops or call 413-538-9020 x 403 to register.

Senior Planet
Tuesday, Oct. 6, 10 a.m.
Explore Senior Planet: In this session, we'll introduce the benefits of our Senior Planet partnership, preview the classes starting this fall, and show you how to use Senior Planet's free tech support help-line, online classes, and their social network for older adults. You'll also have a chance to shape the future schedule and tell us what you'd like to learn. Registration required.

Intro to Smartphone Photography
Friday, Oct. 30, 9:30 a.m.
Interested in learning more about you smartphone camera? In this lecture, we'll discuss common camera icons on Android and iPhone devices, simple editing tools, managing and sharing your photos, and editing date and location

details on your phone. Registration required.

Van Trip to Skinner Mountain and Barstow's Dairy Store and Bakery
Wednesday, Oct. 21, 10 to 11:30 a.m.
Join us on a fall trip to the Skinner Mountain State Park and the Mt. Holyoke Summit House for some breathtaking fall scenery overlooking the CT River Valley. We will stop at Barstow's Dairy Store and Bakery on the way back. Cost of the trip is \$3.00 with purchases at Barstow's being on you! Registration Required. Please prepay.

Book Reading with Author Laura Bellusci
Friday, Oct. 23, 12:30 p.m.
Join Laura Bellusci for a reading of her novel, The Eternal Pine. A historical novel told within the framework of a fairy tale, the tale encompasses orphans, church rule, and a villainous king in 18th century Naples, Italy. Laura lives in Northampton, Mass. and teaches Italian in the community. For a reader's guide to The Eternal Pine, see laurabellusconi.com Registration is required. Light refreshment will be provided.

HEALTH & WELLNESS
Foot Nurse: Sharon Beau-lieu, RN
Tuesday, Oct. 6, 9 to 11 a.m.
The fee for services at the COA is \$45, payable by cash or check directly to the provider. For house calls, which cost \$80.00, please call 413-552-9533. Schedule appointments at the Welcome Desk.

Hampshire Hearing & Speech Services

Tuesday, Oct. 13, 8:20 to 11a.m.
Screenings and hearing aid cleanings. Schedule appointments at the Welcome Desk.

Low Vision Support Group
Tuesday, Oct. 13, 10 a.m.
Any senior who has received a medical diagnosis of legal blindness, visual impairment, or low vision can join.

Chair Massage with Barbara Burgos
Monday, Oct. 5, 9 to 11 a.m.
Barbara is a Licensed Massage Therapist who offers mini massages with 10-minutes for \$15 and 20-minutes for \$25 payable by cash or check directly to the provider. Schedule appointments at the Welcome Desk.

Better Breathers Club
Wednesday, Oct. 7, 3 p.m.
If you, or someone you know, is living with a chronic lung disease like COPD, asthma, pulmonary fibrosis, or lung cancer, consider joining us for this welcoming support group. Led by an American Lung Association trained facilitator, learn better ways to cope with your diagnosis and live life to the fullest. Please register at the Welcome Desk.

South Hadley COA Walking Club
Mon, Wed Fri, 9 to 10 a.m.
Join your friends for some exercise while enjoying a self-guided walk around Woodlawn Park.

Visit with Public Health Nurse
Thursday, Oct.1 & 15 - 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Note time change. Stop by for a blood pressure check, discuss a concern, or ask a question.

Meditation w/Lewis & Richard
Instructors: Lewis and Richard; Thursdays, 2:15 p.m.
FREE Class includes different meditation techniques. Not affiliated with any religious or spiritual tradition.

Dancing with Parkinson's
Thursday, Oct. 1, 8, 15, & 22, 2:30 to 3:30 p.m.
This 7-week session designed for people living with Parkinson's Disease or have limited mobility, and their care partners to experience the joy of moving to music. The research-backed class provides physical and emotional benefits for those who participate. Movements are adapted for seated movers. Participants are encouraged to attend all 7 classes. This program is FREE of charge for participants. Please register at the Welcome Desk.

Support for Dementia Caregivers
Thursday, Oct.15, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Are you a caregiver for a person with dementia? UMass Amherst Nurses are offering monthly information and support sessions for caregivers.

This is a great chance to connect with other caregivers! Each month, we'll provide one-on-one support (available after meetings or by appointment). Sessions are led by Heidi Zahra, RN, MSN, and Sheila Pennell, PhD, RN, faculty at the Elaine Marieb College of Nursing at UMass Amherst. Please register at the Welcome Desk.

October happenings at the Granby Free Public Library

The Trial of Lizzie Borden
Thursday, Oct. 15 at 5:30 p.m.
Join Honorable Dennis J. Curran, Justice, Massachusetts Superior Court (Ret.) to discuss the famous case of Lizzie Borden! Space is limited – Sign-up!

Knitting Group
Every Wednesday afternoon at 2 p.m.
Bring your latest project and join us for conversation, tips and tricks.

Halloween Family Book Bingo
Thursday, Oct. 22 at 6 p.m.

All ages are welcome! Come play bingo to win free books and enjoy some spooky treats.

Sourdough Starter Workshop with Sourdough Brandon
Thursday, Oct. 29 at 6 p.m.
Space is limited – Sign-Up!

Friends of the Granby Library Meeting
Thursday, Oct. 22 at 4:30 p.m.
Visit our website for more information and to sign up for our programs! www.granbylibrary.org

Mary Lou Guarnera's retirement

SOUTH HADLEY—After fifteen years of dedicated service, NHN wishes to announce that our beloved Mary Lou will be retiring from her formal duties at Neighbors Helping Neighbors Inc. food pantry.

Mary Lou has been instrumental in keeping the pantry operational since its inception. She has helped secure funds, train volunteers, coordinated food procurement with The Food Bank of Western Massachusetts, helped thousands of customers, and been a general beacon of hope to all who cross her path. Mary Lou stated "These have been the best years of my life. I love all the volunteers and the customers that I have met over the years. It has been my passion that no person be hungry in our local communities."

will miss her daily presence but wish her a happy and relaxing retirement as she moves onto the next chapter in her journey.

"Mary Lou is one of the most genuine people I've ever met. She wears her heart on her sleeve and provides nourishment for the body and soul simultaneously." Tasondra Jardine

If you'd like to help continue NHN's mission and honor Mary Lou with a small gift, we encourage you to donate here: <https://givebutter.com/make-a-change-gasdxl>

If you'd like to include a message of love or well wishes for Mary Lou, we will see she receives them and appreciate your continued support.

Contact Info: Tasondra Jardine & Karen Motyka Co-Presidents of Neighbors Helping Neighbors Board of Directors.

When time allows, Mary Lou will continue in a role as a Community Ambassador for the pantry. She is a shining example of what a little love and kindness can do when you back it up with action and partnership.

"It's been my privilege to work with Mary Lou through the years. She is a role model of compassion and makes every client feel so welcome. We all know that visiting a food pantry can be very humbling. Mary Lou treats everyone with respect and dignity." Stated Karen Motyka. We

Helping Neighbors Inc. located at 30 Carew St. South Hadley, MA 01075

Please contact us at 413-437-7593 or email: info@nhnfoodpantry.org

Neighbors Helping Neighbors, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) whose mission is to end food insecurity in South Hadley and Granby, MA through food pantry, mobiles, and partnerships with the public-school systems, veterans group, hospice and Council on Aging.

SECURITY from page 4

2021, so Trust Fund reserves are now being used to pay full benefits.

And therein lies the crux of the Social Security solvency issue, which is why the program so urgently needs Congressional reform before the SS reserves in the Trust Funds run dry in 2032, after which everyone would see a

cut in their monthly SS benefits. Congress must enact SS reform now.

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.

BACK YARD from page 4

outcrops, clearings, burned areas or spots with small patches of sand gravel.

The female lays six to seven eggs on a bare rock, gravel or even in lichens. Both male and female feed the young are by regurgitation usually before sunrise and after sunset. The male also feeds the female during nesting.

Sandhill crane
After writing about sand-

hill cranes, in the most recent bird column, I saw a sandhill crane in a field in Hardwick near the New Braintree line by the Ware River.

On my return, I saw a crane in a different location of the same field. I was not sure it was the same one or a different one.

Flocking Canada geese
In my travels, I saw several flocks of Canada geese. There was a small flock in New Braintree and a larger flock in a harvested corn field

in Spencer. The large flock were migrating south for the winter. I'm not sure if the smaller group summered here or not.

Wild turkeys
Wild turkeys are a familiar sight. This week I saw a hen turkey with her slightly smaller poults on a lawn in Barre. Last week I saw a small flock of Tom turkeys.

People may report a bird sighting by emailing edowner@turley.com or calling or texting 774-262-5882.

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Any 8" Grinder with French Fries & a Can of Soda	\$11.99
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Any Pita Pocket with French Fries & a Can of Soda	\$11.99
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Any 16" Grinder with French Fries & a Can of Soda	\$15.50
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#5 8" Grinder or Pita Pocket with Fries & FREE Can of Soda \$14.25+Tax	#6 One Large 2 Topping Pizza & FREE 2 Liter Soda \$23.99 +Tax	#16 Large 1 Topping Pizza, Small Cheese Calzone, 2 Liter Soda & 10 Wings \$43.50 +Tax
#10 One Large 1 Topping Pizza, 20 Wings & FREE 2 Liter Soda \$40.99 +Tax	#14 One Medium 1 Topping Pizza, 10 Wings & FREE 2 Liter Soda \$30.99 +Tax	

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Tigers earn draw with Ludlow



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli
Hannah Haeseart is pressured near the corner.



Kelcey Zraunig takes a pass and moves up the field.



Violet Carillon turns and keeps play moving up the field.



Goalie Olivia Athas looks to clear the ball away.



Lea Agudelo traps the ball.

LUDLOW – Last Monday evening, South Hadley High School girls soccer picked up a draw last Monday evening, ending a 2-2 tie with host Ludlow High School. South Hadley would rebound to beat Agawam later in the week 5-0. The Tigers are 4-1-4 on the regular season and look for a couple more wins to qualify for the state tournament in the next few weeks.

Rams fall at home to Orioles

GRANBY – Last Thursday afternoon, Yohan Yoon, Christian Fraga, and Jake DeMento had two goals each to lead Belchertown to an 8-0 win over Granby. Andrew

Labmert had two saves to get the shutout for Belchertown, which improved to 2-7-1 on the season. Granby fell to 3-4 on the year.



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli
Brandon Carillon pops the ball up.

Granby girls battle to draw with South Hadley

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

GRANBY—It's not often that relatives get the opportunity to coach against each other at the varsity level.

Stephen and Bob Weaver found themselves in that unique situation last Saturday morning. Stephen Weaver is just beginning his varsity coaching journey as a first-year assistant coach for the South Hadley girls' soccer team. His uncle, Bob, has been a fixture on the sidelines as Granby High School's longtime girls' soccer coach.

Both programs are accustomed to competing at a high level, so it was fitting that their first meeting since 2020 ended in a 1-1 draw on the grass soccer field at Granby High School.

"Soccer has been a big part of my family for many years starting with my grandfather (George)," said Stephen Weaver following the non-league match. "This was the first time that I coached against my uncle at any level, so it was very special day for us. I knew going in that it was going to be a hard fought battle."

The Weaver's normally talk about the other Western Mass. high school soccer teams, but never about their own teams.

"We always talk about

the other soccer teams," Bob Weaver said. "I really enjoyed coaching against Stephen for the first time in today's game. He's an outstanding coach and he knows the game very well. It would've been nice if my father was still alive to watch the game because he loved the sport of soccer."

George Weaver, who passed away in 2016, was a founding member of Aldenville Junior Athletic Club. He coached AJAC soccer teams for many years.

Last Saturday's match was added to the schedule late in the summer.

"One of our non-league opponents decided to back out at the last minute," Bob Weaver said. "South Hadley was also looking for an opponent and they called us. I'm very glad that it was played here because soccer is a little bit different game on a turf field. This was a very challenging game for us."

Both of Stephen Weaver's daughters are members of the Lady Tigers varsity soccer team. Mikayla Weaver is a senior tri-captain, but she didn't play against Granby because of a minor injury.

Adalyn Weaver is one of the four freshmen listed on the varsity roster.

"Before I applied for this coaching position, the first thing that I did was make sure it was okay with my daughter," said Stephen Weaver.

ters," said Stephen Weaver, who previously coached soccer at the youth level. "I didn't want to have a negative experience on their high school careers."

The Lady Tigers first-year varsity coach is Molly Foley, who also coached soccer at Chicopee Comp and Holyoke High School.

"We played against Molly's team's when she was coaching at both Comp and Holyoke," Bob Weaver said. "I've known her for a very long time and she's also a very good soccer coach."

It was the Lady Tigers fourth tie of the regular season.

"We really needed to win today's game, but I'm proud of the way my players battled back late in the game," Foley said. "We now have as many ties as we do wins."

South Hadley (4-1-4), who are the defending Western Mass. Class B champions, also tied Northampton (0-0), West Springfield (1-1), and Ludlow (2-2). They also suffered a 2-0 home loss to Ludlow in the season opener.

The Lady Tigers were ranked 12th in the MIAA Division 4 power rankings, which was released on October 2. They had won five of the previous six meetings against Granby.

Both teams were members of the Central Division in 2019 and the second meet-

ing of that season ended in a 2-2 tie.

The last time that the Lady Rams (5-0-3) celebrated a victory over the Lady Tigers was ten years ago. The final score of that match was 2-1.

The Lady Rams entered this week's action as the top ranked team in the Division 5 power rankings.

"The players never really talk about the power rankings," Bob Weaver said. "Being number one at this point of the season doesn't mean very much."

During last Saturday's match, the Lady Tigers had a total of eight corner kicks with six of them coming before halftime.

"They're a very dangerous team on corner kicks," Bob Weaver said. "They attack the ball very well and we didn't want to give them that many corner kicks. We were lucky they didn't score any goals."

On several of South Hadley's corner kicks in the first half, senior Cara Dean had good scoring chances, but the ball didn't go into the net past Granby senior goalie Meredith Bartosz (11 saves).

The Lady Tigers' other shots on goal during the opening half were by junior

Please see **GRANBY**, page 7



Gabriel Helbok tries to settle the ball.



Gaje Carter gets ready to make a quick pass.



Andrew Grabber looks to clear the ball on defense.



Christopher Gregorio starts a run up the field.

T-Birds jump out to quick 2-0 start

PROVIDENCE, R.I. - The Springfield Thunderbirds (2-0-0-0) rode yet another terrific goaltending performance to a 2-0 blanking of the Providence Bruins (0-2-0-0) on Sunday inside Amica Mutual Pavilion.

Neither team could generate much of anything at the offensive end of the rink in the opening 20 minutes, as the two clubs combined for just eight attempts on net, making life easy for Providence goalie Simon Zajicek and Springfield goalie Will Cranley.

Power plays continued to be a struggle for both clubs as well, with four combined efforts thwarted in the opening period. The T-Birds finally got their first taste of man-advantage success at 17:59 of the second when T.J. Tynan dropped a pass to Alek Kaskimaki in the right circle. Zajicek made the stop, but kicked the rebound right onto the waiting stick of Justin Carbonneau, and the 19-year-old fired home his second goal of the weekend to make it 1-0.

That would prove to be all the cushion that Cranley would need in his first start of the season. Providence had

thrown just 12 shots on net in the first two periods, but added a dozen more in the third period, with Cranley coming up with answers to each, including a calm glove save on a dangerous rush chance from Dans Locmelis.

Zajicek kept things close himself, as he made the best save of the day to stonewall Dylan Peterson early in the third from point-blank range.

In the end, though, Springfield’s suffocating penalty kill and steady hand in net proved too much for the Bruins to overcome, with Otto Stenberg adding an empty-netter for good measure at 18:33 of the third to round out the scoring. Cranley’s masterful night finished with 24 saves, earning the second-year netminder his first career AHL shutout.

Now 2-0 to start a season for the first time since 2021, the T-Birds ride that momentum back to Springfield to open their home slate on Saturday, Oct. 10 against the Laval Rocket for a 6:05 p.m. puck drop on MGM Springfield Opening Night, featuring the Community Bank Pregame Block Party from 3 to 5 p.m. at The Landing.

Railers begin training camp

WORCESTER – The first week of Worcester Railers Training Camp at the DCU Center is closed to the public. The first week of practice culminates in two preseason games, including one at the Fidelity Bank Worcester Ice Center on Saturday, Oct. 10 7:05 p.m. Fans can secure their \$5 tickets for the event here.

For the full schedule, check below:

- Thursday 10/8 – 11:40 a.m. – Fidelity Bank Worcester Ice Center
- Friday 10/9 (PRESEASON GAME) – 7 p.m. @

Harold Alfond Forum (Biddford, ME)

- Saturday 10/10 (PRESEASON GAME) – 7 p.m. @ Fidelity Bank Worcester Ice Center (Lamacchia Realty Rink, Worcester, MA)

The Worcester Railers HC 2026-27 Opening Weekend at the DCU Center is Saturday, Oct. 17 and Sunday, Oct. 18 vs. the Maine Mariners and Trois-Rivières Lions. Get access to games this season, exclusive events and additional benefits by calling the Railers front office at 774-436-6904 or by visiting RailersHC.com.

GRANBY from page 6

Grace Sherman, junior Hannah Haessert, junior Kelcey Zraunig, and sophomore Violet Carillon.

The momentum switched sides late in the first half.

South Hadley junior keeper Olivia Athas (6 saves) made saves on shot attempts by junior McKenna Cudworth, senior McKenna Zumbruski, freshman Margo Healy, and sophomore Marcela Tapia.

The match was still scoreless nine minutes into the second half.

That’s when Granby senior Kalli White scored a breakaway goal, which was

assisted by Healy, giving the home team a 1-0 advantage.

South Hadley managed to score the tying goal in the 73rd minute when freshman Jenna Sabourin, who’s a starting defender, put a low shot into the back of the net, which was assisted by junior Quinn Simone.

It was Sabourin’s second goal in a span of three days. She scored her first varsity goal in a 5-0 home win against Agawam.

“Jenna is able to play several different positions,” Foley said. “It was her second goal of the week.”

Granby couldn’t retake the lead and the contest ended in a tie.

Follow Turley Sports on Instagram

Turley Publications sports department has recently joined Instagram. You can find our account by searching “turleysports.” We will regularly feature samples of photos that you will see in our publications on a weekly basis. Please follow and

share with your friends and loved ones. We will be featuring photos from all 11 of our sports sections, but as always, you can see all the photos that appear by subscribing to your local paper or picking up a copy in your community.

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Forum addresses state election ballot questions

SOUTH HADLEY – Know Your Town of South Hadley will sponsor a forum on the nine questions that will be on the Nov. 3 state election ballot.

The forum will be held at 6 p.m. in the Senior Center Community Room on Thursday, Oct. 15. Know Your Town member Ira Brezinsky will moderate the program.

There will be a speaker

for almost all the Vote Yes on and Vote No on sides of each ballot question. Some speakers will attend in person, others will attend virtually.

Light refreshments will be served at the end of the program.

The event is free and open to the public. Please attend to learn about the

ballot questions on which you will be voting on Nov. 3.

Vision screening to begin Oct. 26

GRANBY—The Granby Lions Club will be performing vision screenings at various Granby and South Hadley pre-schools.

This is our 3rd year with this program, the screening is scheduled for Oct. 26 through Oct. 29.

This free program is sponsored by the Granby Lions Club. The motto of the Lions Clubs is: “We Serve”.

St. Nicholas Craft Fair to take place Nov. 14

LUDLOW—Christ the King Rosary Sodality’s St. Nicholas Craft Fair will be held Saturday, Nov. 14 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Christ the King Parish Center located at 41 Warsaw Avenue in Ludlow.

They will be hosting talented vendors along with a 50-50 Raffle and various gift raffles.

A light luncheon, drinks and desserts available for sale. All are welcome to join the festivities.

2026 Fall Yard Waste Curbside Collection

SOUTH HADLEY—The 2026 Fall Yard Waste Curbside Collection begins Monday, Nov. 2 and will run through Saturday, Nov. 28.

Place paper bags or open top containers curbside by 7 a.m. on

your trash collection day.

Each Route will have two collections.

Brush must be tied in bundles (no metal) of not more than four-foot lengths. No plastic bags.

Granby Free Public Library’s new afternoon book club

GRANBY—Join us for a friendly, relaxed, afternoon book club at the Granby Free Public Library. The group will meet monthly, every third Tuesday of the month at 2 p.m. to discuss various genres of fiction.

Group members will vote on titles they would like to read in advance.

Upcoming books are made available at the library in multiple formats - regular print, large print and audiobook. For the Oct. 20 meet-

ing, the book choice is “The Briar Club” by Kate Quinn, stop by the library for a copy.

Afternoon book groups combine the joy of reading with the benefits of conversation, community, and personal enrichment, making them a rewarding way to spend time and connect with others.

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

Knights sponsor benefit dinner to support

Community Survival Center on Oct. 17

WILBRAHAM—The Wilbraham Knights of Columbus Council 10195 will sponsor a major fundraising benefit dinner to support the Community Survival Center in Indian Orchard.

The Survival Center helps feed and clothe over 400 individuals each month in Wilbraham, Hampden, Ludlow, Indian Orchard and 16 Acres.

According to Executive Director, Cristal Turcotte, this year is particularly impacted by continued high inflation and cuts in SNAP benefits. “Our shelves are very bare” according to Turcotte,

“and with the holidays fast approaching we are asking for assistance to please help us support those in need.”

The benefit dinner will be held Saturday, Oct. 17 at 5 p.m. at Saint Cecilia Parish Center, 42 Main Street, Wilbraham and will feature a delicious homemade chicken parm and pasta Italian dinner complete with salad, bread, coffee and cannoli.

The event will include numerous raffles and musical entertainment with sing-alongs and strolling violinist. Tickets are limited and cost \$20. They may be purchased by contacting George Reich at ticketskoc10195@gmail.com or may be picked up at after Mass in the St. Cecilia rotunda starting on Sept. 26.



Submitted photo

The Select Board field questions to Baran about the implementation.

CAMERA from page 1

implemented and stated he’d done “a tremendous amount of work” to research and determine the logistics of the potential technology.

“So about four or five months ago, we started looking into this project,” Baran said. “This is a really new law in Massachusetts that allows for the enforcement of this.”

Baran stated the police chief called the potential technology a “force multiplier” and would serve as their “eyes and ears” when a patrol officer wasn’t present to witness a violation. Baran explained the technology would go live the moment the stop sign extended and the red

lights were activated, which would prompt the video system to go live.

“If any car passes after that, a photograph of that vehicle’s license plate would be taken,” Baran said. “That would go to whichever vendor. We’ve been in discussion with one vendor, who is kind of working with some other municipalities.”

Baran mentioned Holyoke was already looking into the program, with Chicopee already having the system live and running for “about a year.” The town, according to the police lieutenant, served as a “pilot program” and acknowledged though there were “some bumps in the road,” the implementation worked out in the long run.

“If we were to enact that,

we’d be able to begin enforcing it,” Baran said.

Recommending a “one-month warning period,” the potential vendor advised the police department not to administer any tickets during the first month while the technology was being implemented. Baran explained the vendor would serve as a stopgap, with the video information taken being received by the vendor. From there, the vendor would relay the information to the police department for review.

“The citation is \$250,” Baran said. “It’s the same as if we did it today as patrol officers out there working on the road. So, the fine isn’t any different.”

Baran informed the Select Board the citation would be

treated much like a “parking ticket,” which would not require any court action. The town would be tasked with the handling of violations, a unique case created by the bylaw. The camera system come with a monthly free, which each system costing \$250 per bus, with eight buses flagged for implementation. Select Board member Renee Sweeney questioned what would happen should the town not catch enough violators to compensate for the monthly cost.

“They do a lot of research,” Baran said. “They look at a community, the traffic volume in that community. They’re confident that there will be violations and I’m confident there will be as well.”

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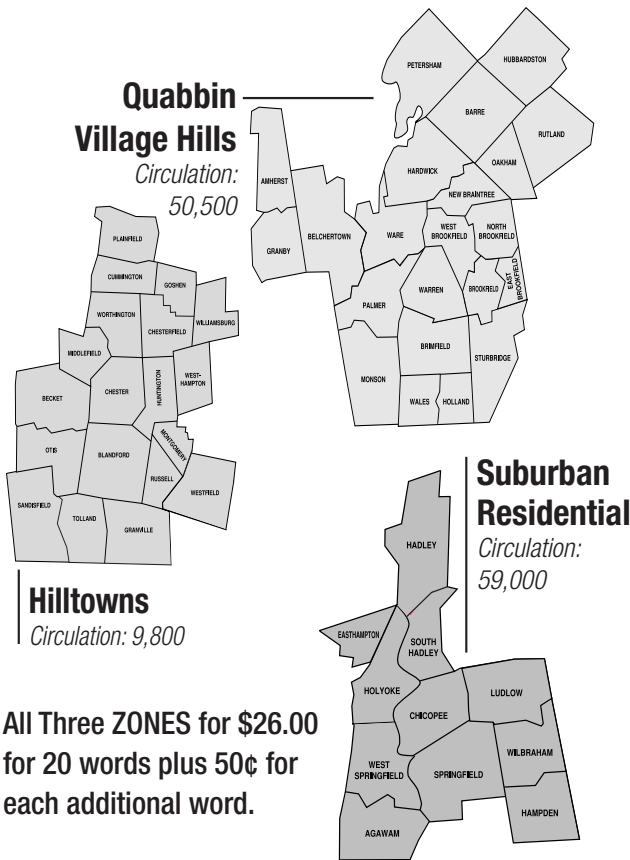
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ROTARY from page 1

vibes to the community.”

Duffy described the club as a “bunch of people interested in other people” eager to provide positive impact to the region. A longtime supporter of the Rotary, Duffy stated the club was a great way to remain engaged and to maintain a service-minded outlook.

“I’ve been their luncheon speaker in the past,” Duffy said. “Yeah, just a good group of people. The summer concert series is awesome.”

District Governor Christine Burns offered organizational perspective and recalled the Rotary’s 125 year history. An international philanthropic

organization, Burns described the club’s roots as the result of a lonely lawyer seeking friendship and opportunities for community service.

“Paul Harris is long gone,” Christine Burns said as she illustrated the Rotary Club’s origins. “He started a Rotary in 1915 and he started it specifically because he was new to Chicago.”

She stated the club began with Harris inviting a few people to his office for lunch, where they discussed how to use their wealth to help the city. The members called their organization the Rotary as a result of how they rotated their meetings between their respective offices. Burns stat-



Turley photos by Ben Hernandez

The Wine Haus and Vineyard at Jameson Farm served as venue for the night's networking event.

ed the secular organization focuses on charitable causes both local and global, including a worldwide organizational effort to eliminate polio.

“There are clubs all over the world,” Burns said. “One Rotarian in the Philippines said ‘we could eradicate polio from the Philippines.’ He went to Rotary International and said ‘this is what our district wants to do’ and Rotary International said ‘you know what? We could do that on the planet Earth. We can work towards that and we can involve all our Rotarians around the globe.’ So, it became a worldwide project.”

Rotarian Rosanna Lopez stated she joined the organi-

zation due to her drive to give back to the community. A new member, Lopez has only been a member for six months but mentioned the club has already been a positive influence on her life. Certified as a notary, Lopez is an entrepreneur who helps immigrants file paperwork, fill out their taxes and secure housing. She mentioned Bartending Night was a great way to find new business associates to add to her “Rolodex” of contacts.

“I just would like to know and network with as many people as I can,” Lopez said. “They may not be able to service me but I could be able to connect them to somebody else.”



Busy ticket sellers take a moment to smile for the camera.



The populated event featured a night of networking, wine and community building.



The night included a raffle with various contributed prizes.



The Thai Place food truck sold meals to hungry participants.



The venue’s outdoor area.



A smile from Rotary Club District Governor Christine Burns.



A Rotary Club poster showcasing upcoming events and promoting a call to service.



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