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Budget Task Force tackles structural deficit head-on

By Tina Lesniak
Correspondent

SOUTH HADLEY - In response to growing financial pressures and a looming structural deficit, the South Hadley Budget Task Force is taking a proactive approach to stabilizing the town's fiscal future. Formed in 2025 as part of the FY26 budget development process, the group is working to identify sustainable solutions that balance essential services with residents' financial realities.

The task force is made up of a mix of municipal representatives and community volunteers. Each of the major town boards—school committee, selectboard, appropriations committee, and capital planning committee—was



Members of the Budget Task Force meet every other week to discuss the significant financial issues facing South Hadley.

Photo by Tina Lesniak

Please see **BUDGET**, page 9

Fall-ing in love with South Hadley



A beautiful lake with the setting sun. See more photos on page 10.

SHHS Band hosts multi-fundraising opportunity

By Christina Gioscia
Correspondent

SOUTH HADLEY - On Sunday, Oct. 5, the South Hadley High School held a can and coin drive alongside a craft fair to raise funds for their music program.

Event coordinator Lisa Beauchemin talked about her role and how the event came together.

"I am the president of the South Hadley Music Parents Association," she said. "The vendor fees are the fundraiser and then the raffle and the donation of cans and coins are a fundraiser. So, we don't make anything off of what they sell. We are always looking to raise funds because the music programs are chronically underfunded. So, this particular fundraiser, there are few different pieces to that. The coin drive, historically in town, there has been a penny drive where the students would go out and collect coins from houses. That sort of stopped with COVID and we don't have enough kids to send them out all over town, so we thought we'd have folks come to us. And at the same time collect the cans which turned out to be great. The craft fair was something that some families



Holly Francis with "Paper Pie" at the Craft Fair in support of the South Hadley Music Program.

Turley Photos by Christina Gioscia

felt would be successful for us. So, we decided we'd give it a try. We had tried it years ago and just sort of adjusted and advertised it a little bit more heavily and we got almost 40 vendors here today. Our bylaws have us supporting just the high school music programs, although we do advocacy for music in town in general. So, our funds sup-

port the high school, but our advocacy work supports the town. It's nice to give back and support the kids. I hope that people see that we're willing to put in the work to support these valuable programs for the community and for our students, because it's more than just making music and providing something in the community. It's

really enriching our students. We've had a number of fundraisers and big asks recently and given the funding in the town that we're looking at, we probably will have additional big asks coming down the road but thank you everyone for showing up. Thank you for supporting us, that's

Please see **BAND**, page 9

The SHPD has resources to help

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

SOUTH HADLEY - October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month, and the South Hadley Police Department has many resources and programs available to offer help to those who need it when they respond to the calls, and after.

"Domestic violence impacts thousands of families in our state and across the nation. We must continue to raise awareness to prevent these kinds of acts from occurring and support those who need help. Domestic violence is a pattern of behaviors used by one partner to maintain power and control over another partner in an intimate relationship. That includes behaviors that physically harm, intimidate, manipulate, or control a partner or otherwise force them to behave in ways they don't want to. This can happen

through physical violence, threats, emotional abuse, or financial control and is often hidden from public view."

The South Hadley Police Department also has a Crisis Intervention Team which is composed of specially trained officers who respond to mental health crises in order to provide further assistance for the different people involved.

Officer Boyle, Officer Whelihan, Officer Tebo, and Officer Cebula are the dayshift CIT officers; Officer Chonmany and Officer Burke are the second and third shift CIT officers.

In addition, there is a Clinician scheduled at the police station on Mondays from noon to 9 p.m., and Wednesdays from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. in order to provide additional support.

"During Fiscal Year 2025, South Hadley Police Officers responded to 109 domestic violence calls for service, compared to 139



Submitted photo

You are loved, important, and wanted by this community.

calls in Fiscal Year 2024. While the number of calls has decreased, domestic violence remains a very real danger-both to community members and to the officers

who respond," said Chief Jennifer Gundersen.

The SHPD helps victims of domestic violence by en-

Please see **SHPD**, page 2

Proposed duplex and ADU project hearing stirs debate

By Walter Hamilton
Correspondent

SOUTH HADLEY - The Planning Board, in its first hearing on a developer's plan to build accessory dwelling units (ADUs) allowed under a new state law, on Monday encountered potential conflicts between that law and an existing town bylaw and a state fire safety regulation.

Agawam developer Steve Aube raised questions about town limits on "curb cuts" that enable vehicles to access private driveways and fire safety specifications that ensure access for emergency vehicles onto private property. Aube has proposed building a pair of two-family duplex dwellings at the site of a now-demolished former derelict single-family house

at 27 Ludlow Road and an adjacent parcel that together measure about 10 percent more than a half-acre. The property is zoned Residence B, which allows two-family dwellings by right. Aube's plan also includes the construction of two detached 900-square-foot accessory dwelling units (ADU) to the rear of each duplex building. The plan includes an access driveway for the ADUs that would be located between the duplexes, leading to debate over the plan for four curb cuts for the two 3260-square-foot, two-story duplexes and a fifth for the ADU driveway.

Aube defended the five proposed curb cuts and another section of the same bylaw that mandates review by a number of town dele-

Please see **PROJECT**, page 10

Handbag Bingo is on November 8: Purchase your tickets before they sell out!

SOUTH HADLEY – Tickets are now available to the popular Handbag Bingo fundraiser being hosted on November 8 at St Theresa’s Church by the Friends of Buttery Brook Park. This annual fundraising event will benefit improvements to the park, specifically, the addition of shade structures. “The recent park improvement project allowed us to add some wonderful new pieces to the playground. These, coupled with our great spray park, brought more visitors to the park this summer. We often see families trying to crowd under small trees by the playground to get some respite from the sun. We know there is a need for additional shade,” commented event organizer and Friends’ board member Kim Prough. Tickets are \$40 each and can be reserved by emailing Kim at ksprough@me.com.

SHPD from page 1

ensuring their immediate safety, where officers separate both parties, secure the scene, and provide medical assistance if needed. Arrest is mandatory when there is probable cause for a felony, misdemeanor involving abuse, or a violation of a restraining order.

“The South Hadley Police help victims by ensuring safety, enforcing the law through arrest when required, informing them of their legal rights, assisting with restraining orders, connecting them to resources, and maintaining close coordination with courts and advocacy services. When police officers know that their intervention may save a life or prevent future harm, this reinforces the value of their role.”

Also within their written police are protective orders, or 209A Orders, where officers will inform the victims of their right to seek an emergency restraining order, and if the court is closed, help the victim obtain an order through an on-call judge.

The SHPD also provides written copies of their rights, as well as numbers and contacts for local domestic violence advocates, shelters, and hotlines. They will also assist victims with finding safe shelter, and may provide or arrange transportation if needed. They also let victims know they are allowed to retrieve personal belongings safely with police presence if needed.

Officers complete detailed reports and take photographs in order to support the prosecution, even if the victim is reluctant. The reports are forwarded promptly to supervisors, the courts, and the District Attorney’s office. They will also then coordinate with the Hampshire County District Attorney’s Domestic Violence Unit.

“There are resources available in our community to support survivors and help break the cycle of violence. SHPD continues to work closely with our partners to ensure that individuals and families have access to the assistance they need,” said Gundersen.

Please contact the Police Department di-

rectly at 413-538-8231 if you are in need of help, or know someone who is. In the event of an ongoing emergency, call 911. No judgment, just help.

#988 is available all day, every day, for all people. No judgment—just help. 988helpline.org #SuicidePreventionMonth #988Lifeline #SPM #YouMatter

For information, services, and help for yourself or someone you care about see below: Center for Women and Community (formerly the Everywoman’s Center) - UMASS

(413) 545-0800* (888) 337-0800* (toll free) (800) 832-1901* (voice/TTY) (toll free) Shelter Referral/Advocacy/*24 hr Safe Passage Northampton (413) 586-5066

Court Advocacy SAFEPLAN (court advocacy) Belchertown (413) 323-1197

Safelink: 1-877-785-2020 is a 24-hour, free, and confidential multi-lingual domestic violence hotline in Massachusetts.

To find the domestic violence program nearest you outside of Massachusetts, call the National Domestic Violence Hotline: 800-799-SAFE (800-799-7233)

Jane Doe Inc., the Massachusetts Coalition Against Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence – (617)557-1807; www.janedoe.org

The National Domestic Violence Hotline offers assistance and safety planning 24/7. Call 1-800-799-7233 for live support. If you’re unable to speak safely, you can log onto www.thehotline.org to chat online.

The Network/ La Red (LGBT Project) Hotline (617) 742-491

Massachusetts Office for Victim Assistance https://www.mass.gov/.../massachusetts-office-for-victim...

Other information can be found in the links below. https://www.thehotline.org/.../understand-relationship.../ https://www.yvworks.org/who-we-are/programs/

South Hadley Elementary School Building Committee invites community input

SOUTH HADLEY – The South Hadley Elementary School Building Committee invites all community members to a virtual community workshop on Monday, October 21 at 6 p.m. via Zoom.

This workshop is part of the Educational Visioning Process, where teachers, parents, students, and residents help define priorities for student learning, the spaces and programs that matter most, and how a new or renovated Mosier Elementary School can best serve the entire South Hadley community.

Project Update

The Committee recently selected Mount Vernon Group Architects (MVG) as the project’s designer. Together with the District’s Owner’s Project Manager, Skanska, and the Massachusetts School Building Au-

thority (MSBA), MVG has begun the Preliminary Design Program (PDP) phase. This phase will establish the project’s educational goals and evaluate potential options to address Mosier Elementary’s long-term facility needs.

South Hadley was one of only 19 school districts, out of 63 applicants in 2023, invited into the MSBA’s highly competitive grant program, which funds the design and construction of new or renovated schools. A Once-in-a-Generation Opportunity Built in 1969, Mosier Elementary has reached the end of its useful life.

The MSBA partnership presents a once-in-a-generation opportunity for South Hadley to address urgent facility challenges while shap-

ing a school that supports modern teaching and learning and reflects the community’s values.

“We look forward to hearing from residents and ensuring that this project reflects the values and priorities of our town,” said Diane Mulvaney, Chair of the South Hadley Elementary School Building Committee. “It will be important for our committee to blend the educational needs of our students with care, compassion, and fiscal responsibility, delivering a solution that serves our needs now and into the future.”

For more information, email: shbuilds@southhadleyschools.org, and be on the lookout for the upcoming posting of the Zoom on the Town Website and Facebook page.

Get your vaccines at the drive-thru clinic

SOUTH HADLEY – As flu season arrives, it’s important to get your flu shots. There will be a Drive-Thru Vaccine Clinic hosted at the Beers and Story Funeral Home parking lot at 646 Newton Street on Wednesday, October 15, from 2 to 6 p.m.

Vaccines available in-

clude the flu shot (Trivalent, High Dose Adult), COVID, Pneumococcal (Pneumovax 23, Prevnar 20), TDAP (Boostrix, Adacel), Shingles (Shingrix), Hepatitis B (Heplisav-B), and RSV (ABRYVVO, AREXVY, MRESVIA).

A drive-thru clinic is a great opportunity to get

vaccinated, especially for anyone with mobility limitations.

Please bring your insurance card if you have one. Pre-registration for the clinic is through Walgreens, but is not required. Registration will be available on-site or ahead of time on the town website.

Police Chief Gundersen’s community office hours for October

SOUTH HADLEY – Police Chief Jeniffer Gundersen is holding several drop-in office hours sessions:

October 14: 10 a.m. to noon at Lathrop Village.

October 24: 1 to 2:30 p.m. at the South Hadley COA.

October 27: 5 to 6:30 p.m. at the South Hadley Public Library.

October 31: 10 a.m. to noon at Newton Manor.

Christmas card collection

SOUTH HADLEY – The Friends of the South Hadley Seniors are collecting Christmas cards for their annual holiday stocking project. If you have some unused cards to donate, there will be a collection box at the entrance to the Senior Center through October 31. Unused cards can be dropped off at the front desk of the Senior Center (45 Dayton Street). The Friends appreciate the community support.



Welcome fall – renew friendships

SOUTH HADLEY – Join the Trustees of the Gaylord Memorial Library on Friday, Oct. 10 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Toast the change of season with a cup of hot cider. Discuss community life

while enjoying apple treats and other comfort food. Tickets are \$10 a person, and parking is free. See you at the Gaylord Memorial Library at 47 College Street, South Hadley, on Friday, Oct. 10.

SPECIAL DISTRICT MEETING

South Hadley Fire District #2
Tuesday, October 21, 2025 at 6:00 PM
Meeting will be held at
District 2 Headquarters
20 Woodbridge Street

Everyone is welcome.
Only Registered voters of District 2
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Guided Vernal Pool Trek at Lithia Springs with Friends of the Mount Holyoke Range on October 18

SOUTH HADLEY— On Saturday, October 18, 2025, from 10 a.m. to noon, South Hadley's Conservation Commission and Bike/Walk Committee will host a guided Trek at **Lithia Springs Reservoir**, a beautiful spot that once provided water to the town. The free, family-friendly Trek will be led by Friends of the Mount Holyoke Range executive board member, Rebekah Cornell, with assistance from Bike/Walk member Jim Buckley. The Friends is a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of the Mount Holyoke Range through land conservation, natural history education, recreational activities, and cultural events. Since 1982, it has assisted environmental groups and state agencies in purchasing land for conservation, sponsored nature walks and presentations in biology, geology, and as-

tronomy, helped maintain hiking trails, supplied equipment for the State Park, hosted the annual Seven Sisters Trail Race, and presented an annual summer concert series in Skinner State Park's historic Summit House. Come explore with Rebekah on this leisurely guided hike as we stop at several places to discuss the intersection of land conservation, recreation, and preservation. The hike will pass several vernal pools, the tree of a nesting barred owl pair, and many neat natural features. As Conservation Administrator for the Town of South Hadley, Rebekah was involved in the recent upgrades to the Lithia Springs Reservoir Dam. She will talk about the key points of the project as the group takes in the autumn colors reflecting in the reservoir. Participants of all ages and new Trekkers are welcome.

Attendees will be able to take home blaze orange knit or baseball hats with the South Hadley town logo. These are being provided by the town Health Department to support hunter safe hiking on our local trails. Information on the Friends will be available. A family membership is only \$15 per year. Interested people can learn more at the Annual Meeting, open to all, to be held at the Notch Visitor's Center on Thursday, November 6, at 6 p.m. The meeting consists of a potluck, a short annual meeting, followed by a presentation. This year's presenter will be Kestrel Land Trust. Learn more at <http://www.friendsofmhr.org/> Wear clothing and footwear suitable for hiking in wet and muddy areas. The total hike will be about 3 miles of moderate terrain (due to some hills). The group will walk down Rt 116, onto Pearl



Submitted photos

The stunning fall colors are bright and full.



Come and see the beautiful scenery at Lithia Springs

St, onto Lithia Springs Rd to access the trails to the reservoir.

Please arrive on time to walk with the group. Trek organizers plan to leave at 10 a.m. from the Hiker Parking Lot on Amherst Rd/ Rt 116 (next door to 502 Amherst Rd). Please try to carpool as there is limited parking on Lithia Springs Rd and in the Hiker Parking Lot, which is about a half-mile from the Lithia Springs Rd Gate. If parking on Lithia Springs Rd, parking is only allowed on the left side of the road after the pavement ends. Obey all signs. If parking is full, you must park at the Hiker Parking Lot, where the Trek leaders will meet.

Treks are subject to change or cancellation due to weather or ground conditions. Please be sure to check the Bike/Walk page on the Town website for any cancellation notices or other information: www.southhadley.org/bike-walk. Should there be a cancellation decision, information will be posted online by 8 p.m. the night before the hike.

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Opinion

SOCIAL SECURITY Matters

By Russell Gloor

When will my disability become my regular Social Security?

Dear Rusty:

I hope you can answer this question.

I'm currently receiving Social Security Disability benefits, and I will be turning 65 in February 2026. I'm confused as to how Social Security Disability transitions to regular Social Security, and when I assume it's age 65, but maybe it's my retirement date?

Also, does the amount remain the same or will it change? I'm not working. I've been on SSDI for about 15 years. Thank you.

Signed: Disabled Senior

Dear Disabled Senior:

If you are collecting Social Security Disability Insurance benefits, those SSDI benefits will automatically convert to become your regular Social Security retirement benefit when you reach your SS Full Retirement Age, which, in your case, is age 67. For information, FRA today is somewhere between age 66 and 67, depending on your year of birth, and the full retirement age for everyone born in 1960 or later is age 67.

The change from SSDI to your regular Social Security benefit will be transparent to you because your monthly benefit amount will remain the same. SSDI benefits were originally awarded to you based upon your full retirement age entitlement when you applied for

SSDI, even though you hadn't yet reached your FRA when you went on SSDI. Thus, the monthly benefit amount will not change because it is based on your lifetime earnings record, from before you became disabled.

FYI, although age 65 was once Social Security's "retirement age," full retirement age for Social Security today is based on the year you were born. So, your SSDI benefit will automatically switch to become your regular Social Security retirement benefit as soon as you reach age 67. Essentially, the only thing that will change is the Social Security Trust Fund from which your benefits will be paid.

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.

The Garden Lady answers a unique question on a unique plant

Sue, who gardens in Gilbertville called the Garden Lady with a question about Stinging Nettle. Apparently, she has it growing in numerous places on her four-acre property and wants to eradicate it.

"Roberta, are you familiar with this plant?" All I could say, was "Ah, yes," and then I began the story.

Not too long ago I was grabbing weeds by the handful, stuffing them into a bucket. Suddenly, out of the corner of my eye I saw the familiar saw-tooth shaped leaf and distinctive hairy stems within my clutches. As soon as my brain registered what I had just plucked, my hand started to sting...burn, really.

Yup, I was fooled again by stinging nettle. Ice helps a little, but usually the burn has to run its course.

Once you have identified stinging nettle, it won't be hard to miss. *Urtica dioica* and other members of the *Urticaceae* family have in common one particular trait: hairs on the undersides of their leaves as well as on their stems.

It is the hairs, that when brushed upon or grabbed, release formic acid into the skin causing a stinging, burning and a just plain painful

derground runners that sprout new stems every few inches.

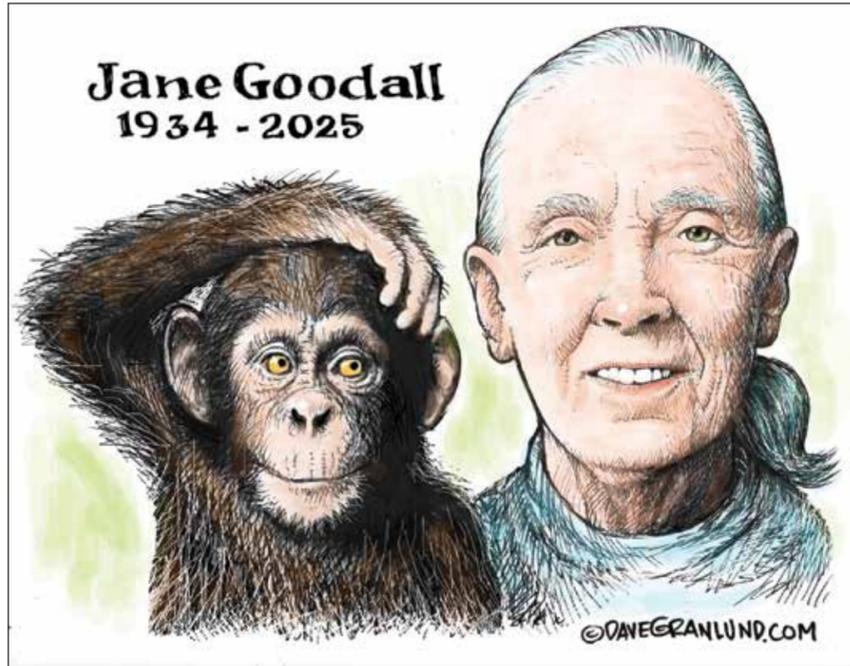
Once it has gotten a foothold it can be difficult to eradicate – think mint but on a larger, pickier scale! Expect to find it growing in rich soil along the forest's edge, in moist woodlands and even flood plains.

If you shuddered at my suggestion of eradicating stinging nettles, chances are you are aware of some of its reported health benefits. Some herbalists even go as far as to plant it on purpose!

I'll admit I even bought some dried leaves once to use along with other herbs in a spring tonic rich in vitamins and minerals. Although it grows wild all over my property I was afraid to harvest it! Since then, I have learned that once cooked or dried, the sting disappears.

Nettles have been used to treat all kinds of ailments over the years. Urtication was a common, albeit curious, practice in ancient times. It involved slapping inflicted

Please see **GARDEN**, page 5



in my BACKYARD

By Ellenor Downer

Red-bellied woodpecker

On Sept. 30, I saw two red-bellied woodpeckers fly from one tree to another.

Since I do not feed the birds suet or seeds until winter due to bears, I had not noticed them before. The red-bellied woodpecker has a black and white barred back and a pale belly. Males have a red crown and nape and the females have just a red nape, but no crown.

These woodpeckers cling to tree bark and use their stiff tail feathers for support while they probe into the bark for insects. White is visible on their wings in flight. They are about nine inches long, the same size as the hairy woodpecker.

Like other woodpeckers, they have an undulating flight. They pick at the bark rather than drill into it like many

other woodpeckers. They inhabit woodlands and forests from old stands of oak and hickory to young hardwoods and pines. They also appear at backyard feeders especially for suet.

They nest in a cavity excavated in dead wood. Males may begin cavity excavation with the female selecting one of the holes and completing it. The female lays two to six eggs. There most common call is a shrill rolling "kwirr" or "churr" given by both sexes. They also make a "cha cha cha" sound.

Helping birds

Another way to help birds is to plant native trees, shrubs and plants in ones yard. Many provide a food source and others become a nesting site or shelter. Leaving a section of yard not mowed and letting it "run wild" also attracts birds, but provides food, nest-

ing sites and shelter. Putting out bird feeders and water sources also bring birds to one's yard, but they also attract black bears and other unwanted visitors.

Blue jays

I heard blue jays squawking away on Sept. 30. I looked toward the noise and saw four blue jays flitting about among the trees. They were near a winter feeding spot. In winter, I put out shelled peanuts, which is a favorite of blue jays and tufted titmice to name a few. The first year I fed peanuts, I put out unshelled peanuts. They make a mess with the peanut husks, but I enjoyed watching them fly off with a whole peanut and opening it to get the peanuts inside.

Brimfield birds

A Brimfield birder, who emails regularly said, "In the yard most summer visitors have headed south but catbirds are still around and a couple of male towhees were seen last week. Also a male and

female common yellowthroat visited the bird bath."

He said, "I filled the hummingbird feeders last week but haven't seen a hummingbird in several days and the feeders haven't been used much because they are still almost full."

He reported he had to take down my feeders because bear were visiting during the day. He had planted a couple dozen sunflowers in the yard and last week he cut the seed heads off and hung them in the garage to dry. He attached a few of the seed heads to the poles where he hangs his bird feeders. A pair of cardinals, at least three titmice and a black capped chickadee came for the seeds.

Trip to Norwottuck Rail Trail

The Brimfield resident in his email of Sept. 30 said, "Last Saturday a friend and I spent a couple of hours walking on the Norwottuck Rail Trail, Station Road in Amherst. It was a beautiful day to be out and about. We didn't see song birds but a few ducks, a couple of great blue herons, three green herons (good looks at one quite close) and one horned grebe. A pair of beaver were out en-

joying the nice day and we got good looks at them. A few people walking the trail had never seen beavers before and were quite excited and asked lots of questions. Do they eat fish?"

Warren ponds

The Brimfield resident frequently visits ponds in Warren. He saw a bald eagle one day and yesterday (Sept. 29) in addition to three great blue herons I saw a northern harrier and two male turkeys.

Trail camera

The Brimfield resident said in his email, "The trail camera near the bird bath captured a visit by a bear one night. Three days later a bear visited again and chewed open a pumpkin and ate the seeds and then went to one of the poles with sunflower seed heads and knocked the pole down. It didn't bother another pole with seed heads."

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

OPINION PAGE/ LETTERS POLICY

Letters to the Editor have a maximum of 350 words. We require writers to include their name, address and phone number in order for our office to authenticate authorship prior to publication. Addresses and phone numbers are not published.

Unsigned or anonymous letters will NOT be published.

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

Please email (preferred) letters to townreminder@turley.com. Mailed letters can be sent to Town Reminder, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069.

Turley Election Policy

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

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

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Submitted photo

A stunning view of Quabbin Reservoir.

Inaugural Quabbin Days launches October 10

BELCHERTOWN – The inaugural Quabbin Days celebration (www.quabbindays.org) will have its official launch ceremony on Friday, October 10, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. at the Quabbin Reservoir Les and Terry Campbell Visitor Center, 100 Winsor Road, Belchertown. The opening ceremony will feature remarks by Quabbin Region state senators and representatives and other guests.

Running October 10 to 13, 2025, at the height of New England's breathtaking foliage season, Quabbin Days is a four-day celebration designed to highlight the natural beauty, cultural heritage, and community spirit of the Quabbin Region. It is a project of the Friends of the Quabbin (www.friendsofquabbin.org) and is being supported through a grant from the Mass Cultural Council's Creative Experiences program.

A Celebration of the Quabbin Region

Quabbin Days brings together towns, organizations, and businesses across the region to host activities that showcase what makes this area so unique. From historical tours and outdoor adventures to local arts, food, and culture, the Quabbin Region (www.quabbindays.org/region) offers something for everyone.

Visitors can use the

event website, www.QuabbinDays.org, to browse a growing calendar of activities and explore an interactive map to plan their own adventures. Participation is open and flexible, and any town, business, or community group can add an event to the lineup.

History and Inspiration

The Quabbin Reservoir, created in the 1930s, is one of the largest man-made public water supplies in the United States. Today, it provides pristine drinking water to 2.7 million people, primarily in the Metro Boston area, while serving as a haven for wildlife and outdoor recreation.

Managed by the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) and the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA), the Quabbin Reservoir and its surrounding lands stand as a model of conservation. For hikers, anglers, nature photographers, and history enthusiasts, Quabbin Days is an invitation to experience this extraordinary landscape at its most vibrant.

Event Details

- What: Inaugural Quabbin Days Launch Ceremony
- When: Friday, October 10, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.
- Where: Quabbin Reservoir Les and Terry Campbell Visitor Center, 100 Winsor Road, Belchertown, MA

Spooky Season and Banned Books Week at SHPL

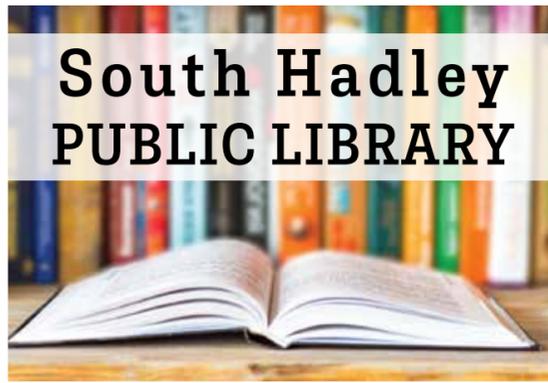
SOUTH HADLEY – The library's homepage will have a new look in October! We were faced with our long-time website provider closing their business and a reduced FY26 technology budget that required library staff to take a fresh look at what services and information needed to be available from our website. The new homepage contains information and (hopefully) easier access to the library catalog, online event calendar, local history resources, services and programs, and digital resources. We apologize in advance for any downtime over the first week as we work out the technical details.

Banned Books Week takes place this year during the first full week of October, celebrating the right of free people to read freely. This year's theme, in a nod to George Orwell, is Censorship Is So 1984. Read for Your Rights. The Library Trustees encourage our community to exercise their First Amendment rights at the South Hadley Public and Gaylord Memorial libraries.

Adult Programs at SHPL

Local author Jessica Usher shares her imaginative fantasy novel *The Seven Sees* on Wednesday, October 15, at 6 p.m., followed by Mario Bonavita's heartfelt talk *All About Me: My Life on the Autism Spectrum* on Saturday, October 18, at 10 a.m.

We close the month with paranormal researcher Ronny LeBlanc on UFOs on Wednesday, October 22 at 6 p.m., as he dives into the mysteries of UFOs (Unidentified Flying Objects) and UAPs (Unidentified Anomalous Phenomena)."



Are you reading what we're reading? Check out the library book discussion groups. Our Between the Covers Romance Club is reading *It Ends With Us* by Colleen Hoover and will discuss this on Tuesday, October 14, from 3 to 4 p.m. We also have books for the discussion groups that meet at the Senior Center. Check out the full selection near our new book area.

The library, public health department, and Baystate Health are teaming up to hold a Community Blood Drive on Monday, October 20, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Eligible donors will receive a gift card from Starbucks, Amazon, Panera, or Big Y. Email Fiona Ciuch to register. You can also visit the Public Health Drop-In Hour that same day from 3 to 4 p.m. to learn more about the services and assistance available to residents.

There are also Office Hours with Police Chief Jennifer Gundersen taking place at the library on Monday, October 27, from 5 to 6:30 p.m. Bring your thoughts, concerns, and ideas to share with her.

Online Author Programs

Finding My Way with Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Malala Yousafzai. Bestselling Author and Education Activist. Wednesday, October 22 at 7 p.m.

Courtly Intrigue and Whispers as Weapons with

Historical Fiction Queen Philippa Gregory. Bestselling Author of *The Other Boleyn Girl* and *Leading Voice* in Historical Fiction. Wednesday, October 29 at 2 p.m.

Children's Programs at SHPL

We're starting off the month with an all-ages Halloween Costume Swap! Bring in old costumes in good condition the week of October 6-10 and get a ticket to "shop the swap" on Saturday, October 11 at 10:30 a.m.

Banned Books Week, where we celebrate the freedom to read (fREADom!), is October 5 through 11. Consider writing to a favorite author with the Dear Banned Author campaign, or just check out any book(s) you like and celebrate #fREADom!

Special guest Mr. Liam will be joining us for Rhyme Time on Tuesday, October 14 at 10:30 a.m. Get ready for drums, puppets, ukulele, and ten-second dance parties!

All our usual programs continue: Baby Lapsit Storytime, Lego & Games, Rhyme Time, Storytime, Playgroup, and Graphic Novel Book Club on Thursday, October 9 at 4 p.m. Check the calendar for details!

Teen Programs at SHPL

This month's Crafternoon takes place on Thursday, October 16, from 4 to 5 p.m. We will be making

Spooky Garlands. No sign-up is needed. Night Craft will be happening on Tuesday, October 28, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. We will be crafting *Stitch a Spider Web*. None of these programs require signing up unless you would like an email reminder.

Our monthly gaming sessions will be happening on Tuesday, October 7 and 21 for Xbox1, and Monday, October 27, for Switch. All gaming sessions start at 3:30 p.m. and run until 5 p.m. in the Teen Room. No sign-up is needed.

Snackternoon returns this month on Thursday, October 23, from 4 to 5 p.m. This month features guest presenters, Food Explorers. They bring us a Chopped style program, making Tacos for Snackternoon. Please sign up so we can have enough supplies for all participants.

Our monthly Teen Takeaways continue to be available. This month features *Tealight Ghosts*. Sign up once and get a new Teen Takeaway every month. We also have our latest Booktrovert pick: *Kill Creatures* by Rory Power. There are no in-person meet-ups, just enjoy the book on your own time. Copies are available in the Teen Room for checkout.

Any questions please email Bethany.

Gaylord Memorial Library Programs

People of all ages can drop in for Cornhole on the back lawn on Thursday, October 16, from 4 to 7 p.m.

For kids, we also have our usual Story Times (Fridays at 10:30 a.m.). We have a special visit from UMass Live Insect Zoo on Friday, October 17, at 10:30 a.m., where you can meet and learn about bugs! LEGO Club meets on Thursdays, October 16 and 30, from 3 to 6 p.m., and we have Drop-In Crafts on Thursday, October 23, from 3 to 6 p.m.

Info session announced for those who want to run for office

SOUTH HADLEY – Interested in running for local office in South Hadley? Please join the South Hadley Board of Registrars on Thursday, October 23, from 6 to 8 p.m. in the Community Room at the South Had-

ley Public Library (2 Canal Street, South Hadley, MA) to learn more about the town election and nomination processes work.

All South Hadley voters are welcome to attend. No pre-registration is required.

GARDEN from page 4

body parts with bunches of stinging nettles to impart a cure of a particular ailment.

Slapping below a man's navel was thought to improve his virility. If a paralyzed limb was slapped it was hoped feeling would be renewed.

There are other bizarre accounts of the application of this herb. I read one case of crushed leaves being packed into the nose to stop a nose-bleed. Ouch! Or used in juice form to make hair grow. Grow? Maybe, but stand on end a definite!

All kidding aside, there are other benefits of nettles that go beyond folklore. Studies are being conducted for its use in treating prostate problems, asthma, allergies and arthritis.

Whether or not nettles are part of your apothecary chest, be sure to handle them with kid gloves! Although the stinging and burning sensation may last for only a few minutes, it very well could last for hours!

That brings me back to Sue's question. There are

multiple ways to try and eradicate the plant. You can suit up and hand pull or get the mower out and mow the area as you would the lawn. Repeated mowings during active growth will eventually kill it.

You can also take a soil test and make the necessary recommendations to improve the soil to a point that the grasses in your field will thrive and choke out the stinging nettle. Small areas can be covered in black plastic –again, you would do this when the plant is in active growth. Usually a month or more is necessary for this route to be successful.

Spot spraying with weed killers in another option but one that I only use as a very last resort. Good luck!

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@urley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.

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Tigers rise above .500, tie Hampshire

SOUTH HADLEY – On a very sunny Saturday afternoon, both Hampshire Regional and South Hadley notched single goals in the second half and the teams ended in a 1-1 draw. Hannah Haesaert had the goal for the

Tigers with Olivia Athas allowing a goal and making five saves. South Hadley, with a couple of wins, is now 6-4-1 on the season and looking to secure its spot in the state tournament in the coming week.



Cara Dean looks to intervene against a Hampshire player.



Mikayla Weaver circles around the ball.



Simone Quinn gets ready to play the ball.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli



Kelcey Zraunig clears the ball away.



Sofie Quinn uses her body to block her opponent from the ball.



Lea Agudelo competes with a Hampshire player for a loose ball.



Maya Thielen gets the serve away.

South Hadley girls volleyball defeats SICS

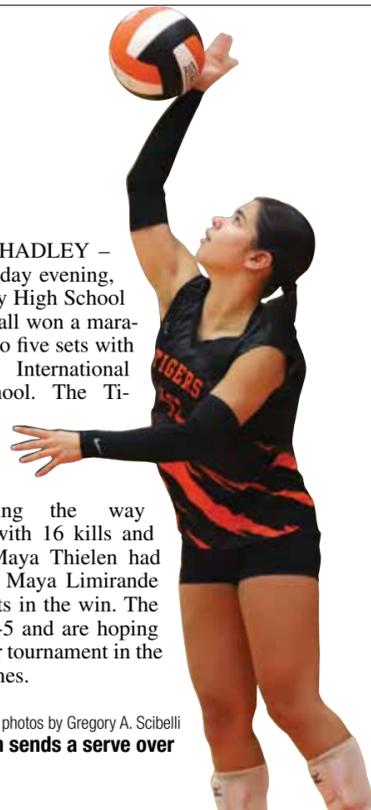


Sam Murphy bumps the ball back over to the opposition.

SOUTH HADLEY – Last Wednesday evening, South Hadley High School girls volleyball won a marathon, going to five sets with Springfield International Charter School. The Tigers scored a 3-2 win with Grace Matyszewski leading the way on offense with 16 kills and four aces. Maya Thielen had 12 aces and Maya Limirande had 17 assists in the win. The Tigers are 7-5 and are hoping to qualify for tournament in the next few games.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

Natalia Quinn sends a serve over the net.



Aimee George bumps the ball back inbounds.



Maya Lamirande sets the ball toward the left side of the net.



Khloe Constantine sends a bump toward the front line.



Peyton Leclair sets the ball over the net.

Rams outlast Athol

GRANBY – Last Tuesday evening at home, Granby High School girls volleyball scored a big win over Athol High School 3-2. Granby

trailed in the match 2-1 before winning the fourth set 25-16. The final set was wild, going to extra volleys with Granby finally winning 17-15 to take

the match. Granby is now 10-2 and guaranteed a spot in the state tournament.



Lea Charest is focused as she gets the bump.



Lauren Barlow sends the ball back over the net.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli



Audrey Pleisch bumps the ball back inbounds.



CJ Kibbie gets the set.



Gian Auselle send a spike away.



Sophia Rodrigues reaches out to get the bump.

T-Birds score preseason win over Bruins

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Thunderbirds picked up a 2-1 overtime victory on Sunday over the Providence Bruins inside the MassMutual Center to close their preseason slate.

The Bruins picked up the first goal of the afternoon on a power play with 1:08 remaining in the first, as Lynden McCallum lifted a one-timer over the right shoulder of Vadim Zherenko to give Providence the 1-0 lead at intermission. That came less than a minute after Hugh McGing was awarded a penalty shot, but could not get the puck past Simon Zajicek in the Bruins goal crease.

Springfield had an answer from one of their veterans at 3:53 of the second when Co-rey Schueneman lifted a point

wristler through traffic and past Zajicek to tie the score. McGing had what appeared to be the go-ahead goal on a power play at 14:07 of the period, but after replay, the officials waved it off, saying that the T-Birds forward had directed the puck in with a kicking motion.

Zherenko's night was complete after 40 minutes and 20 saves on 21 shots. Gage Alexander came on for the third period and overtime and stopped all nine shots he faced.

After neither team could break the ice in the third period, the T-Birds picked up the triumph in the extra frame as Nikita Alexandrov fed a saucer pass to McGing's blade at 3:32, and McGing got enough of it to beat Zajicek upstairs

to finish the game.

The T-Birds now prepare themselves for the regular season slate, beginning with MGM Springfield Opening Night on Saturday, Oct. 11, at 6:05 p.m. against the Charlotte Checkers inside Thunderdome. The action starts with the Community Bank N.A. Block Party from 3 to 5 p.m. at the Plaza at MGM Springfield, featuring live music from Moonlight Saints. Fans are encouraged to arrive at the MassMutual Center early for pregame ceremonies, including full team introductions, which will begin promptly at 6 p.m. - all fans in attendance will receive a T-Birds 10th Anniversary Banner and a magnet schedule.

Railers roster taking shape for new season

WORCESTER – The Worcester Railers Hockey Club (@RailersHC), proud ECHL (@ECHL) affiliate of the New York Islanders (@NYIslanders), and Head Coach & General Manager Nick Tuzzolino, announced today that goaltenders Henrik Tikkanen and Tristan Lennox were assigned to the Worcester Railers from the Bridgeport Islanders by the New York Islanders.

Tikkanen, 25, arrives in Worcester in second all-time in franchise history in wins (31), shutouts (4), minutes played (3794), and saves (1889), while being third in games played (65). The 6'9", 223 lb goaltender spent the 2024-25 season largely with the Bridgeport Islanders of the American Hockey League, playing in 30 games with a 4.12 goals against average and a .865 save percentage. All-time in the AHL,

Tikkanen has a 14-24-6 record with a .332 GAA and a .890 SV%.

With Worcester, the Lohja, Finland native has a 3.02 GAA, a .908 SV%, and a 31-28-4 record across three seasons with the club. Tikkanen (31) is 13 wins behind Mitch Gillam (44) as of the start of the 2025-26 season for first all-time in team history. Tikkanen is the first goaltender in franchise history to play parts of four seasons with the Railers.

Lennox, 22, comes to Worcester for the first time since the 2023-24 season, where he appeared in 13 games for the club. Across his time with Worcester, the 6'4", 196 lb goaltender owned a 2.94 goals against average with a .909 save percentage and a 5-6-1 record. The former 93rd overall selection from the 3rd round of the 2021 NHL entry draft made his Na-

tional Hockey League debut for the New York Islanders on Thursday, April 10th against the New York Rangers. He is the third ever Railer to debut in the NHL following time spent in Worcester.

Prior to professional hockey, the Ottawa, ON native played in 121 games for the Saginaw Spirit of the Ontario Hockey League. At the junior level, Lennox owned a 3.26 GAA, a .887 SV%, and a 59-45-7 record.

Worcester Regional Airport is the official airport of the Worcester Railers HC and presenting partner of all Railers transactions.

The Worcester Railers HC 2025-26 Opening Weekend at the DCU Center is Saturday, Oct. 18 and Sunday, Oct. 19 against the Maine Mariners and Adirondack Thunder. The 508 Club is now on sale for the 2025-26 season.

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 sam-

ples 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.

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

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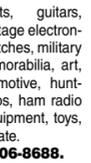
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CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT DIESEL MECHANIC - In charge of daily repairs & maintenance on trucks as well as keeping equipment records/ordering parts. Health insurance/vacation. Mon-Fri. Come & meet with us!
RB Enterprises Ludlow, MA 413-583-8393

PART TIME SNOWPLOW DRIVERS NEEDED

Part time snowplow drivers are needed for the Town of New Braintree for the 2025-2026 season. Positions available for both CDL and non-CDL License. If you are interested, please contact Highway Superintendent Richard Ayer at **(508) 867-2451** or email **hwyssecretary@newbraintree.org**.

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DEADLINES: **FRIDAY AT NOON**

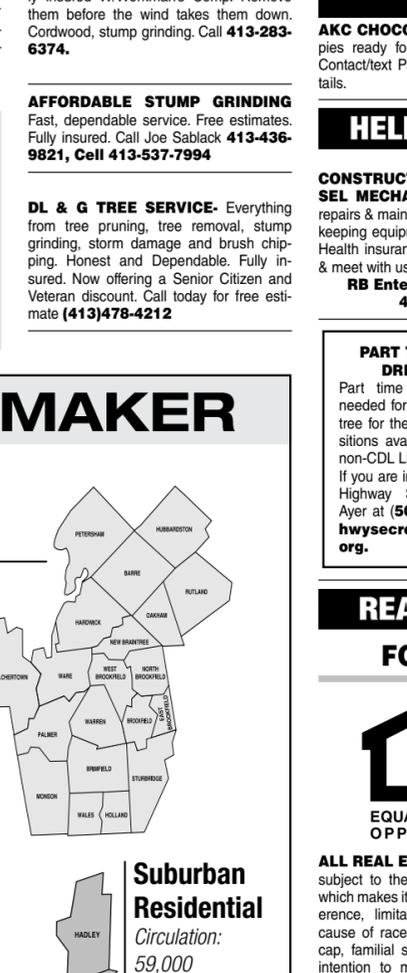
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BAND from page 1

why we're still here."

"So she's been making these for about a year now," said Christian Nanas. "She's a chemical engineer by trade so she just wants something to do, with her, like creative side. Then she loves jewelry as you can see here, it's one of her passions. So, she loves taking all the different types of natural stone and then creating her own design. We've been just trying to get our business up and running and we want to be more a part of the community itself too. One of our friends actually recommended us this. And we were like, 'perfect', especially if we can donate some money as well to the school." The name of their business is Mary and Icy.

Holly Francis also participated in the fair.

"Paper Pie is the name of the company," she said. "It's

children's books, we do anything from newborn to pre-teens. There's lots of different things you can do. We have book fairs for schools, we have fundraisers, we have a lot of homework helpers for those who are homeschooled or just need extra help, and then lots of books to grow from each stage of life. We have touchy feely books, to finger trail books so they can learn the shape and design of their letters and numbers."

Many members of the community came to support the music fundraiser. Music is such an incredible creative outlet, and it is fantastic the community recognizes this. It's clear Beauchemin and each vendor cares deeply about the South Hadley Music Program. For more information about the South Hadley Music Parents Association visit South Hadley Music Parents Association.



Liz Lamont at the Craft Fair in support of the South Hadley Music Program.



Karen and Terry Rougeau with "K's Kreations" at the Craft Fair in support of the South Hadley Music Program.



Samantha Sabbs at the Craft Fair in support of the South Hadley Music Program doing permanent jewelry.



Cheryl Haas at the Craft Fair in support of the South Hadley Music Program.



Veronica Perez at the Craft Fair in support of the South Hadley Music Program.



Trina Perreault at the Craft Fair in support of the South Hadley Music Program.



Christian Nanas with "Mary and Icy" at the Craft Fair in support of the South Hadley Music Program.

BUDGET from page 1

required to appoint one member. In addition, residents were encouraged to volunteer and were interviewed at selectboard meetings throughout the spring. "With this task force, all community members who expressed interest were selected," Nick Gingras, co-chair of the task force, explained.

Members include Gingras and Kevin McAllister as co-chairs, Andrea Miles as clerk, and Charles Miles, Dan Luis, Michelle Cruz, Gena Lomelin, Emily Young, Hector Lomelin, Forrest Bowlick, Nicholas Prentiss, and John McCarthy.

The task force's mission is to examine the town's budget and identify sustainable fiscal goals. "The Budget Task Force was convened as part of the FY26 budget development process in response to mounting budget pressures and the recognition of a structural deficit," Gingras said. "The committee is dedicated to understanding how to balance providing necessary and quality services with the financial status of residents. The study will include details about how recommendations impact the tax rate, and also consider other financial pressures that residents and businesses are facing."

The group's work is organized into three phases. Phase I involves reviewing the overall budget and diagnosing the key drivers of the projected gap. Phase II—currently underway—focuses on collecting data and conducting in-depth analysis of department budgets, comparing South Hadley's spending with other communities facing similar challenges. Phase III, scheduled between November and February, will focus on compiling findings and generating the final report.

To make the process more efficient, the task force created two subcommittees: finance/data Collection and communications.

Among the biggest fiscal challenges is a sharp increase in health insurance costs combined with limited revenue growth. With residential property taxes as the town's primary revenue source, projections for growth remain around 2.5%. "To be able to better insulate the town's budget moving forward, the community will need to investigate areas to drive more growth and find ways to keep health care costs under control," Gingras noted.

Transparency and public engagement are central to the task force's work. Meetings

are held every other Monday at 6 p.m. at the Council on Aging and are open to the public in a hybrid format. "Agendas are posted on the town website, and all sessions are recorded and available on SHCTV15," Gingras said. "Additionally, the task force plans to provide an update on progress to date at the Special Town Meeting on Nov. 5. Post this meeting, we plan to add in sessions to drive more community engagement."

The task force is expected to submit its report to the South Hadley Selectboard by Feb. 9, 2026. That report will outline short-term stabilization strategies and long-term recommendations to help reduce reliance on state funding and property taxes.

While the group's work is ongoing, Gingras has a clear vision of success: "Stabilizing the budget in the short term with the least amount of disruption to current services and identifying strategies to drive incremental revenue growth for the community."

For residents who want to stay informed, Gingras encourages visiting the Budget Task Force page on the Town of South Hadley website, which is updated regularly with meeting materials and reports.

Legal Notices

Town of Granby Invitation for Bid Charter Day Amusement Rides

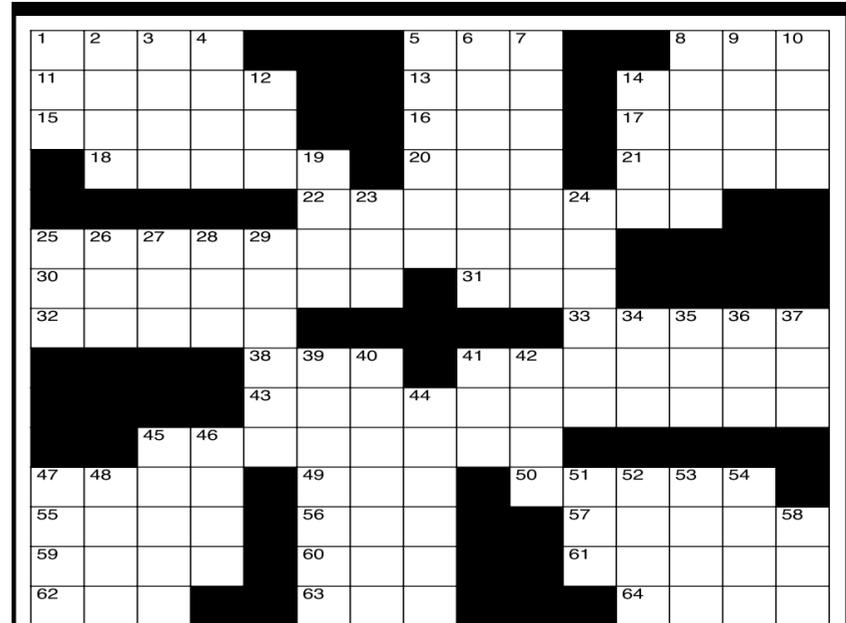
Sealed bids for Amusement Rides will be received at the Selectboard Office, Senior Center, 10-B West State Street, Granby, MA 01033, until **Thursday, November 6, 2025 at 1:00 P.M.** at which time they will be opened

publicly.

Proposals should be placed in a sealed envelope marked **Amusement Rides BID #CD20-01** in the lower left-hand corner and sent to the Board of Selectmen, Senior Center, 10-B West State Street Granby, MA 01033. Any questions pertaining to the bid requirements or documents should be directed to

Randy Guevin, Chair of Granby Charter Days Committee at 413-241-1893 or: GranbyCharterDays@granby-ma.gov.

If the Town Hall is closed due to uncontrolled events such as fire, snow, ice, wind, or building evacuation, the bid opening will be postponed until 1:00 p.m. on the next normal business day. 10/10/2025



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Comedic actor Rogen
- 5. Bits per inch
- 8. Tire pressure measurement
- 11. Angels great Mike
- 13. Own (Scottish)
- 14. Notable FI racing team
- 15. Upper bract of grass
- 16. Tax collector
- 17. Electronic counter-measures
- 18. Informal loan clubs
- 20. Skeletal muscle
- 21. Popular fish type
- 22. Salts of acetic acid
- 25. Arriving early
- 30. Worded
- 31. Single Lens Reflex
- 32. Amphibians
- 33. Warm greeting
- 38. Belonging to a thing
- 41. Segmented worm
- 43. Concerns
- 45. Audacious
- 47. Wings
- 49. A way to march
- 50. Wind chill formula scientist Charles
- 55. Island close to the U.S.
- 56. "To the ___ degree"
- 57. Daniel ___, French composer
- 59. A way to march
- 60. Where golfers begin
- 61. Spiritual leader
- 62. Of she
- 63. Mental disorder concerning body odor (abbr.)
- 64. Tall, slender-leaved plant

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Engine additive
- 2. Amounts of time
- 3. Fragrant brown balsam used in perfume
- 4. Color properties
- 5. One who hands over
- 6. Thieves of the sea
- 7. Put in
- 8. Nocturnal rodents
- 9. Pouches
- 10. Systems, doctrines, theories
- 12. Greek alphabet letter
- 14. Greek goddess of youth
- 19. Satisfy
- 23. Partly digested food
- 24. Dictator
- 25. Parts per thousand (abbr.)
- 26. The 17th letter of the Greek alphabet
- 27. A major division of geological time
- 28. Angry
- 29. St. Francis of ___
- 34. Romanian monetary unit
- 35. Stale
- 36. Go quickly
- 37. Commercial
- 39. Canadian city
- 40. One who slices
- 41. Perform perfectly
- 42. Nest of pheasants
- 44. Tactile sensations
- 45. Sword
- 46. Climactic
- 47. Adrenocorticotrophin
- 48. Fisherman's tool
- 51. Swiss river
- 52. Plant that makes gum
- 53. A French abbot
- 54. One point east of northeast
- 58. Get free of

Fall-ing in love with South Hadley



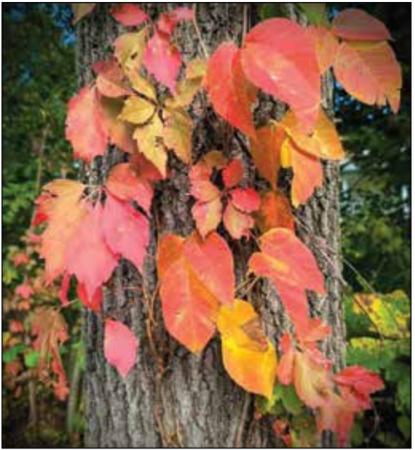
Two boys collecting apples from Olesiuk Farm.



This bear came to relax in a neighbor's yard.



The sun illuminating the autumn trees is one of the things that truly makes fall so beautiful.



Stunning leaves growing on a tree trunk.



A beautiful vantage point to look at the South Hadley Falls.



An adorable chipmunk on an autumn day.



A beautiful monarch butterfly stopping for some nectar before moving south.

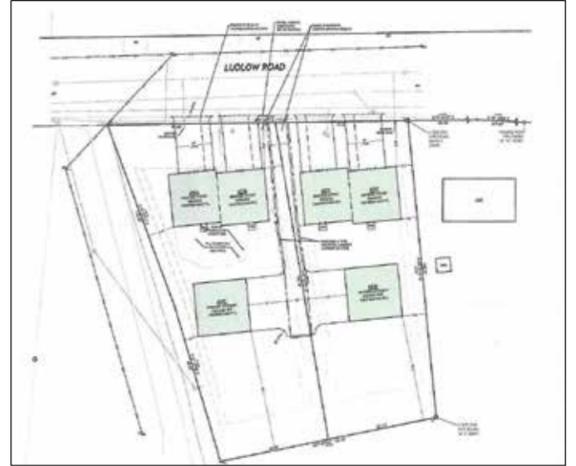


A stunning rainbow of leaf colors.

PROJECT from page 1

partments, including Fire District Planning Director Anne Capra, in defense of the board's position, Aube cited a portion of Section 255-148 Subsection A of the town zoning bylaw that both specifies criteria for a mandatory Site Plan Review (SPR). The SPR bylaw contains subsection A 7(c): "Curb cuts shall be minimized to the extent practical. Sites should be limited to one curb cut, unless safe and effective traffic management requires multiple curb cuts or unusual hardship exists. Curb cuts shall be located so as to minimize hazardous entrances and exits and turning movements." FD1, in its comments, stated in part that the ADUs behind the duplexes must be served by a 20-foot wide distance between the duplexes (which Aube confirmed is planned), and that no roadway is needed as long as the ADUs have a sprinkler system.

"If no sprinklers are planned, then the applicant, Aube, must provide a 20-foot-wide access road that meets the Fire Code requirements for an 'access road,'" FD1 stated in its review. Aube pointed out that three duplex structures with six units directly across Ludlow Road that he built and owns have six curb cuts for six driveways, while the proposed six-unit plan has five, one fewer than its neighbors across the street. Aube also argued that the restrictions sought by the Planning Board could vio-



Submitted photo

This graphic shows a schematic design for a proposed duplex and ADU project submitted by its developer.

late the state law that prohibits local mandates that are "more restrictive than are required for the Principal Dwelling" for ADUs in any residential area in the state. Planning Board Chair Diane Mulvaney defended the board's scrutiny of Aube's plan that if "we changed this (including the curb cuts rule), we will have to do the same for everyone that follows." Aube also said his plan, as now configured, contains no bedrooms in the duplexes that would be in view from the units to their rear. Neighbors, some of whom live in Aube's nearby dwellings, also commented for and against the project. Some cited speeding traffic and roadside parking, others the chronic flooding of their homes and property by water runoff from a significant nearby hill.

The hearing was continued until October 20. The Planning Board also agreed to continue a public hearing until October 20 on an application to build a 7 duplex (14 units, 800 square feet) townhouse rental development at 506 Granby Road (Route 202), to be accessed by Conti Drive. The board has engaged a consulting firm to conduct a peer review of the project. The review is expected to be ready for the continued hearing. An effort to revamp the town bylaws on signage was closed on September 22 without taking any board action. The board agreed that a draft by-law would need significant changes before it could be ready for Town Meeting consideration. The effort will resume before next year's spring Annual Town Meeting.

Send Us Your Holiday Event Information

Turley Publications will print your holiday calendar listings FREE OF CHARGE in our Holiday Dazzler Supplement which publishes Nov. 19th.

Deadline for submissions is October 20th

Community Holiday Events

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Date/Time _____

Location _____

Description _____

Cost _____

Contact name & phone number for more information _____

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