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TOWN Reminder

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Serving the town of South Hadley
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Appropriations Committee discusses STM articles

By Paula Ouimette
pouimette@turley.com

SOUTH HADLEY – The Appropriations Committee held a meeting with Town Administrator Lisa Wong to review warrant articles for the upcoming special town meeting.

At the Oct. 27 meeting, Chair Thomas Terry said there are only two financial articles on the special town meeting warrant, articles 2 and 11.

Article 2

Wong said article 2 is about changes to the fiscal year 2027 budget.

"There are some changes that we need to do this year, to transfer from one account to another," Wong said. "So overall, the budget bottom-line is not changing."

Wong said there are also some changes that the motion for article 2 will make that are different than the article. She said the article and motion have a total of four components to the FY 27 budget changes.

"We're looking at four transfers," Wong said.

Transfers include: Board of Health, $15,600 from Health Expenses to Health Personnel to hire a part-time Animal Control Officer; Town Accountant Personnel to Town Accountant Expenses, $25,000; Human Resources Personnel to Police Department Personnel, $75,000; and Ledges Capital– Clubhouse Phone System to Ledges Capital – Restaurant Doors, $12,000.

In terms of the Animal Control Officer, Wong said the town's long term vendor retired, and the part-time employee would cost the same as the vendor contract.

For the Town Accountant line items, Wong said the article had a placeholder amount of $10,000, but the motion will be for $25,000.

This higher amount will cover at least 10-12 weeks of town accounting services.

"We recently did a request for quotes for town accountant services to help us through the calendar year so the year-end tax rate recap that needs to be done, so that we can set the

Please see STM, page 7

American Legion offers spaghetti supper



Turley Photo by Ryan Drago

Shown from left to right are Sue, Ed, Rob, Jack, Dave and Steve inside the kitchen of the Granby American Legion Post 266 during the monthly spaghetti supper.

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

GRANBY – American Legion Post 266 hosted its monthly spaghetti supper for the month of October.

Rob Chauvin of the Granby American Legion said the post offers a monthly supper on the last Thursday of the month.

The meal always features spaghetti, sauce, salad and a roll for $8 per meal; with dine-in and take out available. Proceeds from the meals go toward supporting the Granby American Legion.

This was the eighth monthly supper offered by Granby American Legion and every month, members make about 65 meals for guests.

During the spaghetti supper, Dave Mendoza of the Granby American Legion was greeting guests at the door and collecting funds for the meals. Members Sue, Ed and Steve were preparing the meals in the kitchen.

Guests enjoyed the comfort of the dining hall with music playing in the background.

Granby American Legion Post 266 has around 300 members and works with affiliate groups throughout the year.

The post hosts a flag retirement ceremony on an annual basis and also participates in a Veterans Day ceremony and the town's Memorial Day parade.

The Granby American Legion, located at 74 Pleasant St., is also the home of the 266 Lounge. The lounge is open to the public and was open during the monthly spaghetti supper.

Throughout the year, the post also hosts a monthly building bridges veteran's lunch. The Granby American Legion also hosts family events such as Breakfast with Santa Claus and with the Easter Bunny.

Activities enjoyed at the Granby American Legion include darts, pool, horseshoes, pitch leagues and cornhole.

Joining members of the Granby American Legion during the spaghetti supper was Jack Neves of

Calvary Social Media.

Neves talked about an upcoming community fundraising event, the Calvary Media Night Out on Nov. 2 from 5-7 p.m. at Pic's Pub in Holyoke to benefit Miracle League Western Massachusetts and Holyoke Safe Neighborhood Initiatives.

The Son's of the Granby American Legion Post 266 is hosting its sixth annual Thanksgiving Day Turkey Raffle. Prizes include one turkey and one bottle of wine from the Wine Haus.

Proceeds go to benefit the Granby High School Scholarship Fund. Drawing for the raffle will be Nov. 22.

For more information, visit the Granby American Legion Post 266 Facebook page or go to granbymapost266.org.

Granby to ask voters to fund $1.1 million West Street plan

By Melina Bourdeau
Correspondent

GRANBY – The Select Board voted Monday to send a roughly $1.1 million renovation of the West Street building to town meeting voters, including a community gym and lower-level shell space for a future Council on Aging fit-out.

The motion puts "option three" on the warrant for a special town meeting scheduled for Nov. 16 at 7 p.m. It does not authorize construction and voters would decide whether to approve the funding.

The Finance Committee later voted to support "option three," while the meeting left the project's final financing unresolved.

The joint meeting considered three options for the former West Street Elementary School. Option one, estimated at $680,000, would replace windows on the West Street side and in the cafeteria, along with some exterior doors. The cost includes construction, contingency and project-team costs, said Lynne Mercier of the West Street Building Committee.

"Option two" would add a renovation of the gymnasium for community use and elections, bringing the estimated cost to $815,000.

"Option three" includes the exterior work and gym, plus full abatement of the lower-level area planned for the Council on Aging and sprinkler coverage. It would leave that area as shell space for a future fit-out, not ready for immediate occupancy.

"It just is a shell space that has been fully abated for the next step, the next phase, which would be getting a (Council on Aging) in there," Mercier said, referring to the Council on Aging.

Officials said acting now could preserve the current project team and avoid restarting the procurement process.

Please see GRANBY, page 9

'Fall back' into safety

STOW – State Fire Marshal Jon M. Davine and the Fire Chiefs Association of Massachusetts are reminding residents to replace the batteries in their smoke and carbon monoxide alarms and replace outdated alarms when they change their clocks this weekend.

"Smoke and CO alarms can save your life and protect the people you care for, but only if they're working properly," said State Fire Marshal Davine. "As we 'fall back' this weekend, please take a few minutes to check the manufacturing date on the back of your alarms, replace them if they're outdated, and put fresh alkaline batteries in the alarms that use them."

"Smoke alarms should be replaced after 10 years," said Brockton Fire Chief Brian Nardelli, who serves as president of the Fire Chiefs Association of Massachusetts. "Carbon monoxide alarms should be replaced according to the manufacturer's instructions - usually five, seven, or 10 years, depending on the make and model."

A 2015 update to the State Fire Code requires that

Please see FALL BACK, page 9



Change smoke and CO alarm batteries, replace outdated alarms.

Wyckoff Country Club to transition to half-acre single-family homes residential community

Project will not require zone change; addresses acute housing shortage in region

> **"This will truly be a spectacular residential community that will appeal to those in Holyoke looking to transition to a new home"**
> ***– Cesar Ruiz***

HOLYOKE—Cesar Ruiz, owner of the Wyckoff Country Club, today announced the transition of the 110-acre golf course and surrounding property into an upscale residential community. Development of the bucolic property will take advantage of spectacular views of the Holyoke Range, its access to major thoroughfares and the Holyoke Reservoir and responds to the acute need for more housing in the region.

Ruiz said the announcement comes after a thorough strategic planning exercise to determine the highest and best use for the property, which he originally purchased to be a component in the development of a new Volleyball Hall of Fame and sports complex.

"We have the opportunity to build a singular residential community at the base of the Holyoke Range, in the foothills of the Berkshires, while providing much needed housing. This spectacular location for single-family homes is among the best in all of Western Massachusetts with its access to Interstate Route 91 and the Massachusetts Turnpike. This site also takes advantage of access to the Connecticut River, the Holyoke Reservoir system and hiking, biking and passive recreation.

"This will truly be a spectacular residential community that will appeal to those in Holyoke looking to transition to a new home, those in the region looking for a unique residential space and may also appeal to those outside of the area wanting to purchase a home near the many natural resources and the lifestyle available in Western Massachusetts," Ruiz said.

According to the UMass

Please see HOMES, page 7

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, November 1st at 3 p.m. at Center Church located at 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.

About the Organizations: Music at the Center is a soft branding for public accessible music produced and hosted at Center Church, and JAzz Productions is a sole proprietorship promoting and supporting music, education, live performances, and event logistics in South Hadley and the region.

Holiday Bazaar will be held Nov. 7

BELCHERTOWN – Come join us for fun and fellowship at the annual Holiday Bazaar on Saturday, Nov. 7 at Hope United Methodist Church located at 31 Main Street, Belchertown, Mass.

We have a wonderful addition to our Bazaar this year. You will have a chance to say hello and sit with Santa and Mrs. Claus.

Come to stock up on our famous Conkey jams and jellies. There will be crafted items, tempting breads and baked goods. There will also be a Holiday Cookie Shop. Fill a bag with all your favorite cookies for only $8.

There will be a variety of vendors. Enjoy a morning snack with coffee and donuts, or grab a cup of soup and a finger sandwich for a quick lunch from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. They will also be offering a Grab"N Go Bag, for $5.

Come and enjoy the best place to do some early Christmas shopping. The Bazaar runs from 9 a.m to 3 p.m.

Fuel assistance season begins

SOUTH HADLEY – The Fuel Assistance season officially begins Nov. 1. Many of you are currently receiving your recertification packets from Community Action of Greenfield. If you need help completing your application, call the Welcome Desk at the South Hadley Council on Aging (413-538-5030, choose #3) to make an appointment with Ann Andras.

As in previous years, the drop off service is available. Ann will complete your recertification and notify you when to pick up your packet, ready for mailing. You may drop off your packet, including required documents of proof at the Welcome Desk.

First time applicants are required to have a face-to-face appointment.

2026-2027
Income Guidelines

1 person	$53,585
2 people	$70,073
3 people	$86,561

If you have any questions, please email Ann Andras at fuelassistancesouthhadley-coa@gmail.com

Food pantry wish list announced

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 products, 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.

HMC welcomes new Chief of Hospital Medicine, Dr. Kafle

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Medical Center has appointed Krishna Kafle, MD, as Chief of Hospital Medicine.

"I am excited to join the dedicated, compassionate, and professional team at Holyoke Medical Center, which is committed to providing high-quality care to patients and continuously improving patient safety," said Dr. Kafle.

Dr. Kafle earned his medical degree from the Institute of Medicine, Tribhuvan University in Nepal and subsequently completed his residency training at Coney Island Hospital in New York. He is board certified in internal medicine and spent 10 years practicing hospital medicine at Baystate Medical Center, where he also served as a Unit Medical Director for more than six years, providing physician leadership.

As Chief of Hospital Medicine, Dr. Kafle will focus on fostering a collaborative and inclusive environment where our physicians and care teams can work together, learn from one another, and continue to grow.

"Dr. Kafle brings extensive experience in hospital medicine and physician leadership to Holyoke Medical Center," said Vishal Tiwari, MD, MHCDS, FACP, Senior Vice President and Chief Medical Officer of Holyoke Medical Center and Valley Health Systems. "His experience has shaped his passion for hospital medicine, physician leadership, teamwork, and delivering high-quality, patient-centered care. We are pleased to welcome him to Holyoke Medical Center and look forward to the leadership he will provide to our Hospital Medicine team."

Monson Savings Bank supports Cancer Connection's new Springfield location

SPRINGFIELD – Cancer Connection is delighted to announce that Monson Savings Bank has commited

$1,000 to our new Springfield location at 1510 and 1502 Allen St. in Bicentennial Plaza in Springfield.

This grant will support Cancer Connection's recent Springfield expansion, serving the greater Springfield community with Bilingual services and programming, integrative therapies, and a branch of our signature Thrift Shop (which donates all proceeds to Cancer Connection programs).

Michelle Cayo, Vice President and Credit Risk Officer at Monson, is a longtime member of the Cancer Connection Board of Directors, and she shared her personal commitment to Cancer Connection's mission with her team at Monson.

"We are so grateful for Monson's support of this expansion, reflecting the bank's focus on community and investment in Springfield," said Chelsea Kline, Cancer Connection Executive Director. "This grant will help set us up for success in our new location, where we are so excited to introduce Bilingual services and serve the Springfield community."

Cancer Connection's new location allows convenient access to our (free) services for more people in this area who often face barriers to care. Ashley Colon offers Bilingual (Spanish and English), in person Befriending by appointment or walk-in, as well as by phone (please check our website for specific days and hours).

This month the Springfield center, part of the Integrative Health Group at 1502 Allen St., has launched integrative therapy appointments (massage, reiki, acupuncture), all free of charge. Bilingual support groups and additional programming are coming soon.

Cancer Connection will continue to offer our full range of free services and programs at our location at 41 Locust St. in Northampton and at our original Thrift Shop in Northampton. We also offer many of our programs in hybrid format, so they may be accessed from anywhere.

For the most up-to-date information on all of Cancer Connection's services, programs and hours, please visit www.cancer-connection.org

15th Annual Belchertown United Church of Christ Quilt Show & Sale

BELCHERTOWN – Quilts will be decorating the Belchertown United Church of Christ (Congregational) located at 18 Park St. in Belchertown. Featured this year will be Red & Cheddar quilts. Many antique and new quilts to view and to buy.

The Sewing Tag Sale, featuring fabric, yarn, any kind of needlework & tools, runs through the days of the show and on into the following week.

$5 entry fee for Show hours Oct. 30, 31 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Nov. 1 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Sewing Tag Sale Nov. from 2 - 7 p.m. hours are noon – 6 p.m. with no entry fee.

A handicapped lift is available in the parking lot side door of the church.

Questions? Email Jane at ahc60@hotmail.com.

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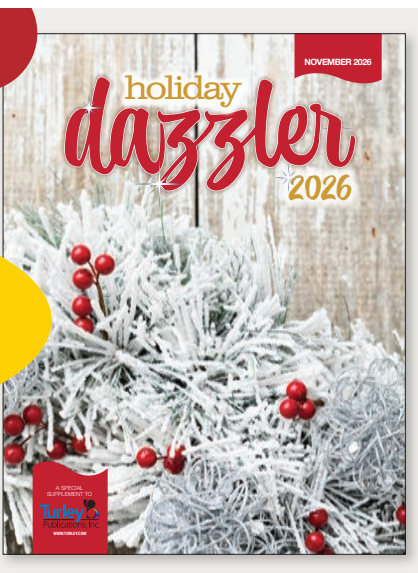
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Holyoke Community College is offering a free hotel and front desk training program starting on Nov. 4. Submitted Photo

Free hotel and front desk training at Holyoke Community College starts Nov. 4

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Community College is running a free, five-week hotel training program starting Nov. 4 for people interested in jumpstarting a career in the hospitality industry.

The hands-on, in-person classes for hotel front desk workers and hotel room attendants will take place in HCC's hotel training lab on the second floor of the HCC MGM Culinary Arts Institute on Race Street in downtown Holyoke.

The program runs on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. each day, Nov. 4 through Dec. 16. Each of the 10 class sessions runs 2 ½ hours for a total of 25 hours of class time. (There are no classes on Veterans Day or during Thanksgiving week.)

The course will provide students with up-to-date knowledge of the hotel industry, hands-on experience for front desk and/or room attendant roles, workplace skills, resume building, interviewing, job search assistance, and connections to local employers.

HCC's hotel lab is set up like a hotel reception area with front desk and adjoining guest room and equipped with the most modern technology and software. The hotel lab gives students the ability to learn in a model hotel room and reception lobby, gain knowledge about key card access systems, and understand point-of-sale technology.

No high school diploma or GED/HiSET test is required for admission.

Offered as part of HCC's Business & Workforce Development division, the hotel training course is free to qualifying applicants.

For more information, please call 413-552-2500 or fill out the inquiry form at hcc.edu/job-ready.

November Happenings at the Granby Free Public Library

Sci-Fi and Fantasy Book Club
Thursday, Nov. 5 at 5 p.m.

Join our discussions on the first Thursday of every month! The Three-Body Problem by Cixin Liu for November.

Adult Book Group
Thursday, Nov. 12 at 6 p.m.

The book group will be discussing The Lighthouse Keeper's Daughter by Hazel Gaynor.

Sketching: Collage the City
Saturday, Nov. 14 at 11 a.m.

A hands-on urban sketching workshop with a twist! Begin by playing with watercolors, creating watercolor washes in sunset hues, moody grays, and vibrant city pops. Once your painted papers have dried, you'll tear and cut them into rooftops, windows, trees, and street silhouettes, then collage them together to build your own unique scene-no drawing skills required. Space is limited - Sign-up!

Afternoon Book Chat
Tuesday, Nov. 17 at 2 p.m.

Join us in the afternoons for friendly, informal chat about fiction of all types of genres. The group is reading Broken Countryby Clare Leslie Hall for November. Copies of the book are available at the library.

Tabletop Games Club
Thursday, Nov. 12 at 5 p.m. and Saturday, Nov. 21 at 10:30 a.m.

Players of all ages 8 and up are invited to gather and enjoy a variety of board, card, dice, tile, and other in-person tabletop games with us!

Knitting Group
Every Wednesday afternoon at 2 p.m.

Bring your latest project and join us for conversation, tips and tricks.

Friends of the Granby Library Meeting
Thursday, Nov. 19 at 4:30 p.m.

The Library will be closed on Nov. 11, 26 and 27. Visit our website for more information and to sign up for our programs www.granbylibrary.org

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.

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.

Veterans' dinner on Nov. 14

GRANBY – The Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Granby will be celebrating Veterans on Saturday, Nov. 14, from 5 to 9 p.m. with our annual Salute to Veterans Pork Roast Dinner.

Take out and dine-in available. Cost per ticket is $15 and includes Pork Roast, Mashed Potatoes, Vegetable, Salad & Dessert.

Whether you are a Veteran, know a veteran, or just want to celebrate our heroes, all are welcome.

Tickets are available at the parish office or after all weekend masses. Immaculate Heart of Mary is located at 256 State St. in Granby, Mass.

For more information call 413-467-9821.



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INSURED AND CERTIFIED

Opinion

SOCIAL SECURITY Matters

By Russell Gloor

My brother died on Dec. 23 – Does he get Social Security for December?

Dear Rusty:

My question concerns the passing of my brother on Dec. 23, 2025. Since he passed away before the month was over, does that mean he will not receive a Social Security payment for December 2025? Does the fact he passed before the end of December negate him receiving benefits for December 2025?

Signed: Executor of my Brother's Estate

Dear Executor Sister:

Please accept our sincere condolences on your brother's passing. FYI, according to Social Security law, all SS benefits are paid in the month following the month they are earned, which means two in things in this circumstance:

1. Any SS payment your brother received during the month of December (his month of death) is legally his or his estate's because that payment was for the month before he died (November 2025).

2. Any SS benefits received thereafter (e.g., SS benefits paid in January 2026 for the month of December 2025) must be returned to Social Security. The bank, which received his SS payments, would normally handle this automatically if they were notified of your brother's death.

Social Security benefits are not paid for the month of death because the beneficiary did not live the entire month and SS benefits are not paid for partial months. So even though your brother lived about 3/4ths of the month of December, he (his estate) will not get any SS benefits for the month of December. Indeed, even those who pass shortly before midnight on the last day of the month do not get Social Security benefits for the month they died.

For additional information, if your brother was married and his wife is still living, she would be entitled to a one-time, lump sum death benefit of $255 (if she is also eligible for her own SS retirement benefit). And, depending on her own SS retirement amount, she might also be eligible for a surviving spouse benefit as your brother's widow.

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.

A fall question and a request for the Garden Lady

Karen, who reads the column, wrote in with this question for the Garden Lady: "Should you remove all the blossoms from Hydrangeas before the snow falls?"

What a great question and the perfect time to tackle it. Here are some post bloom tips for the beloved hydrangea.

To first answer Karen's question, you can snip off the flowers but you don't have to! If you like a tidy look, trim off the spent flowers right below the bloom and above the first set of healthy leaves.

You can also choose to leave the flowers in place. They add a bit of winter interest and some experts say that they insulate next year's flower buds.

While we are thinking about next year, continue to water your hydrangea bushes, especially if Mother Nature is stingy with rain. Concentrate your watering efforts at the base of the plant.

Refreshing bark mulch now will also help seal in moisture and offer a measure of winter protection. Leave the stems intact – don't cut them back to the ground even though they may look like rigid sticks all winter.

For hydrangeas that bloom on old wood, you definitely want to keep "old wood" in place.

A long time reader of The Register, Frank, asked for more recipes from the harvest. He said that he didn't try the pickle recipe that I published this summer, but that it did inspire him to make his own long-standing recipe.

That's great. I am happy to inspire.

in the Garden

by Roberta McQuaid



So Frank, here is a recipe that I just happen to be making today, Butternut Squash soup, originally shared with me by my sister. You don't need to use butternut, either. Really any winter squash or pumpkin will do!

Now that my stash is in storage it's time to get creative and enjoy it, and this is one of my favorite recipes. First we have to cook it! Any squash or pumpkin can easily be cooked up by roasting.

Don't go through the trouble of peeling and cubing then boiling. Simply cut in half, scoop out the seeds and bake cut side down in an oiled glass pan or on a cookie sheet at 375 degrees for 45 minutes to an hour.

A fork should go into the non seeded part of the squash easily. Once cooled, scoop out the flesh and it's ready for all sorts of seasonal delights.

To make the soup, first, sauté a chopped onion, one stalk of chopped celery and one clove of minced garlic, a half teaspoon of salt and a teaspoon of finely minced rosemary in a couple of tablespoons of olive oil. Let this fragrant mixture cook for about 10 minutes, until the onions are transparent.

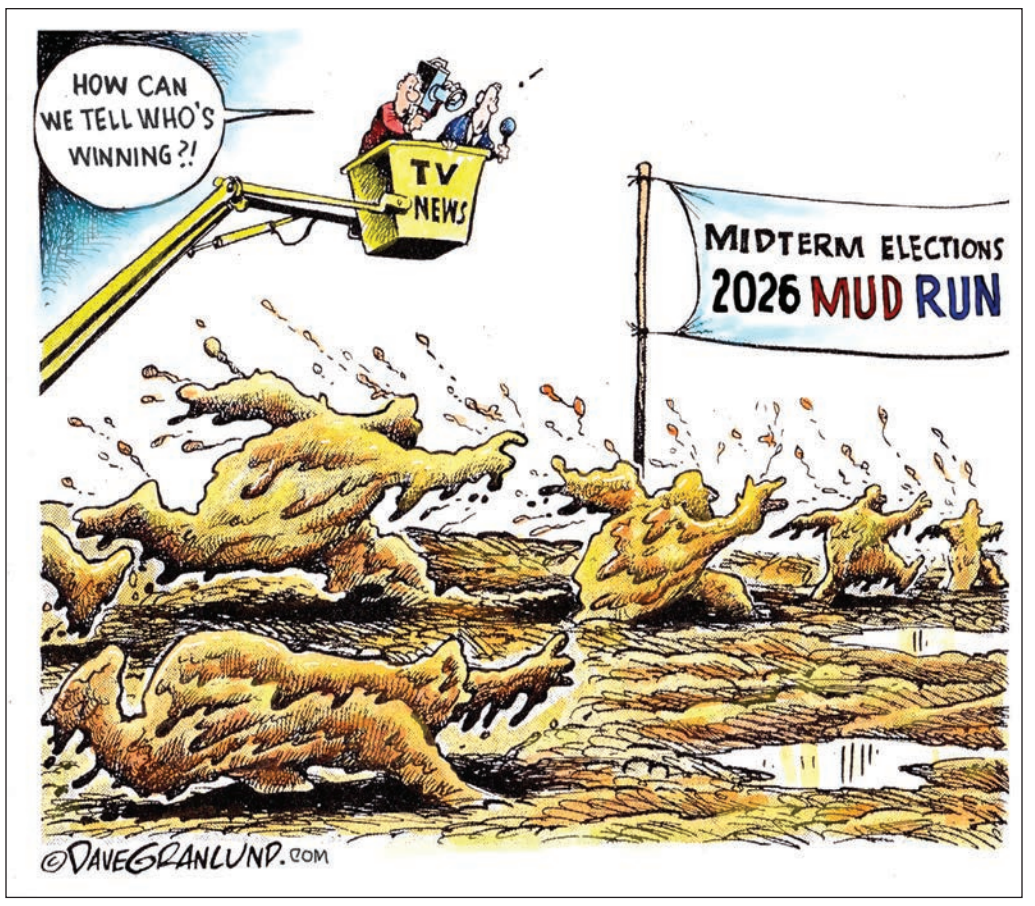
Once it has cooked, add about two pounds of squash and 32-ounces of chicken broth. I always tend to have some broth in the freezer from my last chicken dinner.

If you purchase broth, go for the low salt option or adjust the salt in this recipe to your taste.

After it comes to a boil, simmer for a few minutes and then ladle the chunky soup into a blender. You will likely have to do this in two or three batches.

Return to the pot or serving bowl and enjoy! Some folks like to garnish with parmesan cheese or toasted pumpkin seeds, but I am more of a soup drinker, so I like it just fine in its plain state.

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.



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.

WE ♥ OUR READERS

in my BACKYARD

By Ellenor Downer

Recently, I watched a pair of white-breasted nuthatches climbing up and down an oak tree in the yard.

They have a gray/blue back with a white face and black cap. They are a small, compact bird with a long, sharply pointed bill and short tail.

Females look similar to the males, but have a gray cap rather than a black one. Both sexes have white bellies and a chestnut colored patch on the lower belly and near the tail. The head is large and they have almost no neck.

They are about 5.1 to 5.5 inches long. White-breasted nuthatches are agile birds that creep along trunks and large branches, probing into bark furrows with their straight, pointed bills.

Like other nuthatches, they often turn sideways and upside down on vertical surfaces as they forage. A friends mother called them "upside down birds" for that reason. Unlike woodpeckers, they don't lean against their tails.

They inhabit mature woods and woodland edges particularly deciduous stands like maple, hickory, basswoods and oak. They also are found in coniferous forests.

White-breasted nuthatches eat mainly insects including weevil larvae, wood boring beetle larvae, other beetles, tree hoppers, scale insects, ants, gall fly larvae, spiders, caterpillars including spongy moth (also known as Gypsy moth) and tent caterpillars.

They cache food typically hiding it under a piece of bark, lichen, moss or even snow.

They also eat seeds and nuts including acorns, hawthorn, sunflower seeds and sometimes crops such as corn. At feeders, they like sunflower seeds, peanuts, suet and peanut butter.

White-breasted nuthatches are cavity nesters and sometimes use nest boxes. The female builds the nest and lines the nest cavity with fur, bark and lumps of dirt.

She builds a cup nest of fine grass, shredded bark, feathers and other soft material. They reuse their nest holes in subsequent years. The female lays five to nine eggs and raise one brood per year.

Eastern phoebe

An Oakham couple saw an eastern phoebe on Tuesday, Oct. 13. They were surprised the bird was still around and had not headed south by now. The phoebes, which nest every year near me, left last month.

eBird sightings

eBird sighting on Sunday, Oct. 18 included a Carolina wren and a common raven in Hardwick and a yellow-billed cuckoo at Longmeadow flats. Pontoosuc Lake in Pittsfield had a spotted sandpiper.

Common raven

Monday, Oct. 19 I heard and then saw a common raven. It frequents the woods behind the house. Sometimes I spot it flying, but mostly I hear its low, gurgling croak.



White-breasted nuthatch

Dark-eyed juncos

I spotted my first juncos on Oct. 10. I saw a small flock take flight as I drove on a country road in Barre. I noticed their white tail feathers.

They are one of my favorite winter birds. I enjoy watching them pick up seeds dropped by other birds at the feeder. They also come for suet.

A few days later, I saw two or three in the yard. They flew up when I drove into the driveway.

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

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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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Fire service leaders raise awareness of battery safety

WEST SPRINGFIELD – Fire service leaders from across Western Massachusetts and New England gathered at the Big E fair recently to promote Fire Prevention Week and emphasize the safe charging of lithium-ion batteries.

These batteries power countless devices we use at home and work – and are also the cause of a growing number of fires.

Fire Prevention Week, the nation's longest running public health observance on record, runs from Oct. 4-10. This year's theme emphasizes the importance of safely charging these batteries by using the original equipment manufacturer's charging equipment, charging on a hard surface such as a table or counter, keeping large devices away from doorways and other emergency routes and properly disposing of old batteries.

Hosted by West Springfield Fire Chief Christopher J. Bartone and joined by the National Fire Prevention Association, the state fire marshals of Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Vermont shared practical fire safety information in a press conference outside the Massachusetts Building as fairgoers watched and listened.

Bartone kicked off the event with a reminder that working smoke alarms are a must in every household – especially as colder weather creeps in.

"As we turn on the heat and spend more time indoors, we start to see more late night and early morning fires that tragically lead to death and serious injury," he said. "Before we go any further, I want to emphasize the importance of working smoke alarms on every level of every home. Working alarms give you time to escape before a fire turns deadly, so be sure you can hear that beep wherever you sleep."

Massachusetts State Fire Marshal Jon Davine said that almost all of today's rechargeable devices use lithium-ion batteries, and that battery fires have become more common as they've grown in use.

"Across the country, battery fires jumped by almost 400% between 2020 and 2023. We saw the same thing in Massachusetts, with reported battery fires climbing from fewer than 20 to more than 130 in just a couple of years. And we're on track to have more battery fires reported this month than any other since we started collecting data. And the hazard isn't just in batteries starting fires. Lithium-ion batteries have a high energy density, meaning they pack a lot of power into a small device. That means any kind of damage, including heat from an unrelated fire, can cause them to explode in sparks and flames, spreading a fire faster and further," he said.

Connecticut State Fire Marshal Lauri Volkert, Vermont State Fire Marshal Michael Desrochers and New Hampshire State Fire Marshal Sean Toomey shared tips on reducing the risk of a battery fire:

Be sure to use a battery intended for the device and the original manufacturer's charging equipment.

Generic or aftermarket cords and chargers might be a little cheaper, but they may not deliver the right voltage or communicate with the battery effectively. This can lead to overcharging and catastrophic damage.

When you're charging your device, place it on a hard, stable surface such as a table or countertop – not a bed or a couch, and never under a pillow or pile of clothes. Softer surfaces like these can trap heat and increase the risk of fire.

Larger batteries will cause more damage if they ignite or explode. That's why it's safer to store larger equipment like battery-powered scooters and e-bikes outdoors and out of the sun, if possible.

If you must store them in the house, keep them away from doors, windows, and stairways. These are your emergency exits in case of fire, and they're the routes that firefighters will take if they need to gain entry.

Keep an eye on your devices when charging them. Don't leave them unattended, especially for a long period of time, and always unplug them when the battery is fully charged.

Overcharging causes heat and stress on the battery, and it's even safer to keep it below 100%.

There are often signs that a battery is failing. If the device feels hot to the touch, if it starts to swell, or if it smells strange or starts to leak, stop using it and move it away from flammable items. If the battery begins to smoke, get to safety and call 9-1-1 right away.



Submitted Photos

Massachusetts State Fire Marshal Jon Davine (at right, in uniform) reviewed lithium-ion battery fire data with Robert Duval, New England Regional Manager for the National Fire Prevention Association; Connecticut State Fire Marshal Lauri Volkert; Vermont State Fire Marshal Michael Desrochers; and New Hampshire State Fire Marshal Sean Toomey. With other fire officials, they promoted battery fire safety outside the Massachusetts building at West Springfield's Big E fair.

Today's battery fires can involve explosions of sparks and flames. They can release toxic smoke and gases. Recognizing the warning signs can help you protect yourself and your loved ones.

Bob Duval, New England Regional Manager of the National Fire Protection Association, said fire departments across New England have seen an increase in fires in trash and recycling trucks, as well as dumpsters and compactors. While the exact cause often goes undetermined, officials believe many of them involve lithium-ion batteries being damaged and igniting.

"The safest way to dispose of today's rechargeable batteries is through a battery recycling program," Duval said. "Don't place them in household trash or recycling. Instead, bring them to your community's household hazardous waste collection or a recycling center that accepts them. You can find one near you at BatteryNetwork.org."

To learn more about battery safety, visit the Department of Fire Services' Lithium-Ion Battery Safety page, www.mass.gov/info-details/lithium-ion-battery-safety.



Flanked by a group of Western Massachusetts fire chiefs, Bob Duval of the National Fire Prevention Association urged fairgoers to dispose of old rechargeable batteries at a battery recycling location, not in household trash or recycling.

Study abroad opportunities available for high school students

Qualified high school students are offered a unique opportunity to explore the world by spending an academic year, semester, or summer in Europe, Asia, North or South America, Australia, or South Africa as part of the World Heritage Student Exchange Programs.

A nonprofit, public benefit organization, World Heritage is dedicated to promoting closer ties of friendship between the U.S. and other countries by fostering intercultural understanding through youth exchange programs.

Students, 15 to 18 years old, qualify on the basis of academic performance, character references, and a genuine desire to experience life abroad with a volunteer host family. Prior knowledge of the host country's language is not a requirement. Scholarships are available and are based on academic performance, leadership skills, and financial need.

Families abroad are carefully screened, and students do not need to know the language of the host country prior to departure, but will acquire the language skills through experiencing the day-to-day local culture and attending regular high school classes along with their new teenage friends.

World Heritage also provides the experience of a lifetime to American families who are interested in hosting an international student from Spain, Italy, Germany, Ukraine, Thailand, Japan, and many other countries. These exceptional young students will attend the local American high school for an academic year or semester.

Students or families interested in learning more about becoming a World Heritage exchange student or host family should contact World Heritage at 1-800-888-9040, visit www.studyabroad.asse.com, or send an email to info@world-heritage.org.

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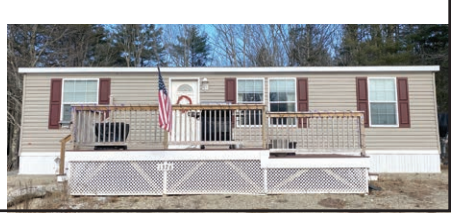
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Deadline for photos and forms is Thursday, December 4, 2026

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Tigers conclude impressive regular season



SOUTH HADLEY – Last week, the South Hadley High School field hockey team put the finishing touches on an impressive regular season, going 13-1-1 overall, including a 2-0 win at Palmer High School last Wednesday afternoon. South Hadley's only loss came to Belchertown earlier this season. The Tigers finished off the regular season with wins over Amherst and Smith Academy and then drew a rematch with Smith Academy earlier this week in the semifinals of the Class B Tournament. The Tigers will be in the state tournament as well, which will get underway next week.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

Teagan Cavanaugh grabs hold of the ball before it goes out of bounds.



Nora Vaughn readies a long pass.

Quinn Carlson tries to bring the ball in the circle.



Ella Haber tries to shoot during a penalty corner.



Sam Harrison goes after the loose ball.



Samantha LaFlesh gets ready to send a pass away.

Rams finish regular season undefeated



Marcela Tapia is pressured by an opponent.



Margo Healy tries to pass ahead of pressure.



Makayla Dennis advances up the right side of the field.



Kara White makes a throw-in.

GRANBY – Last week, Granby High School girls soccer wrapped up the regular season and headed for the Class D tournament, where they drew the No. 2 seed and a Tuesday quarterfinal matchup with Hoosac Valley. The Rams defeated Southwick, Easthampton, and Chicopee Comprehensive last week and are 13-0-3. The Rams finished the season with an eight-game win streak. They are also currently ranked No. 1 in Division 5 and could have home advantage through the semifinal round if successful.



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

Sophia Press goes for a loose ball.



Kalli White sends a long pass deep into the other end.

Despite first loss, Tigers in contention for D7 tourney

SOUTH HADLEY – Last Friday evening, the South Hadley High School football team was finally defeated, falling on the road at Lee 52-6. Prior to that, the Tigers had won six games, showing a very impressive amount of offense. That was finally stopped by Lee last week. South Hadley was ranked No. 10 in Division 7 last week, and has one final regular season game scheduled on Friday, Oct. 30 at 6 p.m. at home against Easthampton. After that, the Tigers will learn their fate for Week 9. A win could likely place the Tigers in the state tournament this year.

Since the new format has begun, the Tigers have never won a state tournament game, though they have qualified a few times during the past five years.

T-Birds grab split with Charlotte

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – The Springfield Thunderbirds (3-3-1-1) saw another standout performance from their young netminder in a 2-1 victory over the Charlotte Checkers (5-3-0-0) on Saturday night inside Bojangles Coliseum.

Both teams exchanged minor penalties and unsuccessful, abbreviated power plays in the opening four minutes, but the Springfield man-advantage got another crack and opened the scoring at 5:51. After wrestling the puck out of a board scrum, Michael Buchinger freed it up and dropped it back to Theo Lindstein at point position. The second-year blueliner danced toward middle ice before firing a seeing-eye wrister past Kirill Gerasimyuk's glove, giving Springfield the 1-0 edge.

That proved to be enough for Will Cranley to hold the T-Birds lead into the intermission, as the second-year backstop denied each of Charlotte's seven shot attempts.

The game's pace grinded to a halt in the second period, as both teams paraded their ways into the sin bin. The teams would combine for 28 penalty minutes and seven separate power play opportunities, but despite all the chaos, shots were a scarcity, with Charlotte launching only six attempts at Cranley, while Springfield managed just four at Gerasimyuk.

Oskar Sundqvist had the T-Birds' best chance to extend the 1-0 lead, but the veteran forward rattled the crossbar with a high-rising wrister.

After beginning the weekend 0-for-7 on their power play, the Checkers did finally cash in with just 27 seconds left in the period as Jack Devine funneled a wrister from point position over Cranley's glove, tying the score and sending a 1-1 game into the third for a second straight evening.

As was the case on Friday, shots on goal heavily favored the Checkers for the game and especially in the third, as Charlotte twirled 15 pucks on Cranley. However, the T-Birds proved opportunistic, as Jack Finley found a loose puck in the left circle near the boards and whipped a perfect blind cross-ice feed to Dylan Peterson, who punched a shot through Gerasimyuk to restore the T-Birds lead, 2-1, at 6:32 of the third.

Peterson's clutch tally would be all Cranley needed, as the Springfield penalty kill dispatched two additional Charlotte power plays to bring the game to its finish line. Cranley finished with 27 stops and has now turned away 111 of 116 shots over his first four starts.

The T-Birds now return home with a 3-1-0-0 road record to begin their season, as Springfield looks to find its home ice advantage when they open a five-game homestand on Friday, Oct. 30 at 7:05 p.m. against the Providence Bruins.

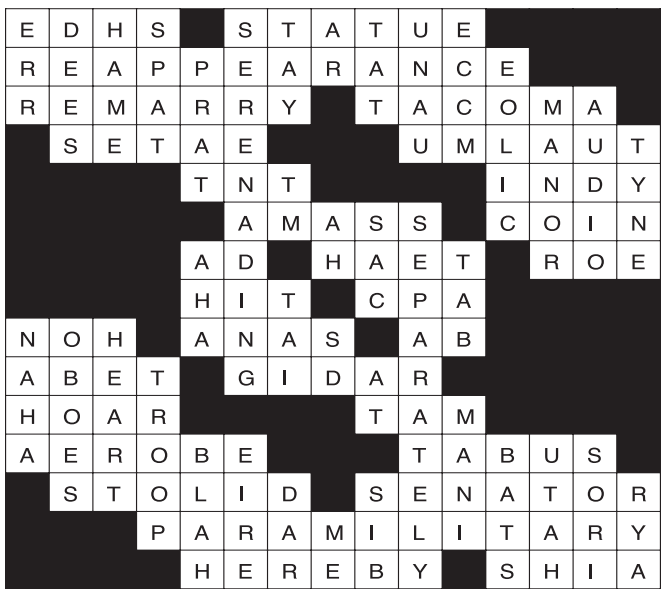
Annual holiday craft fair to be held Nov. 7

BELCHERTOWN – The Belchertown United Church of Christ (BUCC) will be holding their annual Holiday Craft Fair in the Church Parish House located at 18 Park Street on Saturday, Nov. 7 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Numerous Crafters from throughout the area will be selling various handmade items including painted slates, knitted, crochet and quilted items, handmade soaps, photography, paintings, cat toys, jams, jellies, jewelry, personalized ornaments and more.

Lunch will be served. Spaces still available.

For more information or an application please email Lucy at luse26@charter.net



STM from page 1

tax rate in December and then into probably January," Wong said. "We're anticipating that we will be using a firm probably one to two days a week on average, between early November…through, at this point in time, early February."

Wong said this contract for accounting services can also be extended if necessary, and the town will continue advertising to fill the position. Wong said she is unsure what the town can afford next year in hiring a Town Accountant, and one of the two current staff members in that office is retiring next year.

"We do have to come up with a permanent plan for that office prior to then, so there's a good transition," she said.

Wong said they have reviewed applications for the Town Accountant position, but didn't have many with municipal accounting experience.

"It's just an internal decision to go to town accounting services for now and then to spend a few months trying to figure out what the long term strategy is going to be," Wong said. "We are having a little trouble affording, and therefore attracting and retaining personnel."

For the Human Resources position, Wong said the position has been vacant since the end of September and she will now take on the responsibilities

She said the Human Resources position was set to be eliminated next year regardless.

"We are not filling that position," Wong said.

Wong said the Police Department is applying for two grants to help restore positions. She said the department is looking to bring back at least one School Resource Officer position.

"The $75,000 would help cover the personnel expenses if we were to get those grants," she said.

Wong said these positions would not increase the Police Department's staffing, but rather help to restore staffing that was previously cut. She said there is a need for staffing to serve the youth and the schools as well as respond to domestic violence calls.

Resident Emily Young spoke about the $75,000 transfer, and she recommended the committee not support this request. She said the town has a history of using matching grants to fund ongoing operating costs.

"That is not good financial sound planning," Young said.

Young said the money should be used for one-time projects or needs to help the town become more financially sustainable.

She said the schools did not request the positions that the grants (if received) would help to pay for.

Young said the Town Administrator taking on four functions is not good policy and the focus should be on hiring more administrative staffing.

"We need flexibility to do the right things for this community in terms of hiring people that can help us shift what we're doing," Young said. "To get more revenue in here, to deal with economic development, to broaden the tax base of this community…I just feel this is not a good use of $75,000."

Young said restoring those two Police Department positions will create more "difficult decisions" later down the road.

Wong said the request to transfer the $75,000 came from her, and that the schools and Police Department need these positions.

"We know the need is now," she said, in terms of youth and domestic violence calls. "This is what I'm recommending that I need and I feel extremely strongly about it and so does the Select Board."

Article 11

Article 11 is a petition that received over 100 certified signatures to transfer $148,000 to "reflect additional Chapter 70 education aid received by the commonwealth."

Wong said the School Committee met prior to the petition being certified, and declined to support an effort like this. She said the School Committee might bring up the topic again, officially, now that the petition has been certified.

Wong said if this amount was added to the school district's budget, it would come from free cash. Right now, there is about $60,00 in free cash that is not allocated.

"Even though state aid went up, we are still having assessments that went up [by $750,000]," Wong said.

Wong said free cash is trending downward, and is about a million lower than last year.

"We're not in a position where we can spend this year, without thinking about the next few years," she said.

Recommendations

The Appropriations Committee voted to support the transfers as outlined in the motion for article 2. The committee did not support article 11.

STM date

The special town meeting will be held in the auditorium at South Hadley High School on Monday, Nov. 9 at 6 p.m.

HOMES from page 1

Amherst Donahue Institute, their 2025 study on the state of housing need indicates that Hampden County has a shortage of 12,991 homes. In the four-county region in total, some 23,420 homes are needed to meet current demand, according to the study. This fall a statewide referendum is on the ballot that will make housing easier to build and access, as leaders and housing advocates grapple with the current shortage.

The Wyckoff property is zoned Residential and no zone change will be required to develop the new residential community. Minimum building lots will be 20,000 square feet. Ruiz said he is in the process of identifying a residential home developer for the project. Engineering studies, including a traffic study, are underway and will inform the development. The 110-acre expanse can comfortably house 126 homes, Ruiz said. The community is expected to generate around $1 million annually in real estate taxes to Holyoke.

Ruiz said the golf season ending on November 1 this fall will represent the conclusion of Wyckoff as a golf course. "While I am sad to see this transition, and we made a concerted effort to the golf course and the Wyckoff community and membership, I am enthused about what this new chapter will bring to the property and to the city and region. I want to thank all of the members and guests we entertained at the Wyckoff over the past two years and look forward to an exciting future for this signature property," Ruiz said.

Ruiz shared that with **Wyckoff Country Club closing on November 1, 2026 all events scheduled for November 2, 2026 and beyond are canceled**.

Ruiz said the over-saturation of golf in the region and the emergence of virtual golfing alternatives also were taken into account in strategic planning. "We certainly made large investments of capital and time to the golf course and related, but after our thorough analysis we came to the conclusion that the best use of the property is clearly to add to a very thin housing stock. There still are plenty of golf opportunities in the region, but there are not enough homes to serve our local population," Ruiz said.

"I am proud of what our team was able to accomplish at the Wyckoff. This is a property that was in decline for many years and we made significant investments to upgrade the golf course and make our banquet hall and restaurant vibrant, after many years of dormancy," he said.

Ruiz also revealed that he had a major health scare over the summer and his time in recovery allowed him to analyze all of the options for Wyckoff. "Experiencing a major health challenge, which I am happy to say I am recovering from, allowed me the time and space to determine what was the best and highest use for the property in a community that I am heavily invested in. In my heart, I know this is the right thing to do for the community."

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dannyselectricllc.com
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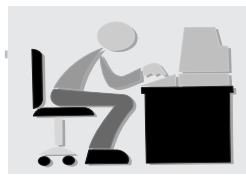
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Over 30 Years Experience
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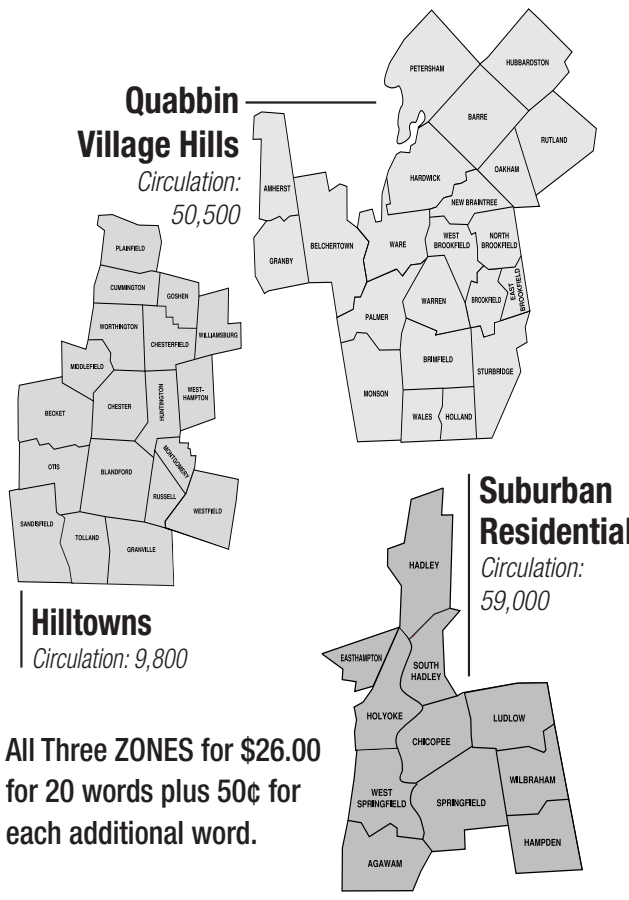
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9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
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21 Base Price $26.50	22 Base Price $27.00	23 Base Price $27.50	24 Base Price $28.00
25 Base Price $28.50	26 Base Price $29.00	27 Base Price $29.50	28 Base Price $30.00
29 Base Price $30.50	30 Base Price $31.00	31 Base Price $31.50	32 Base Price $32.00
33 Base Price $32.50	34 Base Price $33.00	35 Base Price $33.50	36 Base Price $34.00
37 Base Price $34.50	38 Base Price $35.00	39 Base Price $35.50	40 Base Price $36.00



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This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertising in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development " HUD" toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

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Legal Notices

Town of South Hadley
NOTICE OF
PUBLIC HEARING
RE: Application for a Change of Stock Interest
568 Newton St., South Hadley, MA 01075

Notice is hereby given in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 138, Section 15A of the General Laws of Massachusetts, as amended, Aaryna, Inc dba White Wing Package Store has applied for a Change of Stock Interest to be exercised at 568 Newton St., South Hadley, MA.

The Selectboard as Licensing Authority will hold a public hearing on said application on **Nov. 10, 2026 at 7:05 p.m.** at 45 Dayton St. The hearing will be held in a hybrid fashion with the opportunity for both in-person attendance and remote. Please note that while an option for remote attendance and/or participation is being provided as a courtesy to the public, the meeting/hearing will not be suspended or terminated if technological problems interrupt the virtual broadcast, unless otherwise required by law. Members of the public with particular interest in any specific item on this agenda should make plans for in-person or virtual attendance accordingly. For purposes of in-person attendance, the Selectboard will host the meeting in the multi-purpose room with remote participation details noted below.

Remote Meeting Connection noted below:

Dial-in Number: +1 646 558 8656

Webinar ID: 868 3095 1290

Passcode: 725656

Please use this URL to log-in: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86830951290?pwd=HmGtKYa2mybEhupU704AlRrDbWl9jA.1

Meeting attendees should mute phones (*6 for landlines) unless asking questions or commenting. All attendees should wait to speak until other participants are finished.

Town of South Hadley
Select board,
Licensing Authority
Jeff Cyr, Chair
Carol Constant, Vice Chair
Priscilla Marion, Clerk
Renee Sweeney, Member
Kevin Hennessey, Member

Under M.G.L. Chapter 138, § 15A and §16C, any school, church, or hospital within 500 feet of 568 Newton St., South Hadley, MA, 01075 wishing to object to the issuance of such license must voice objections in writing.
10/30/2026

Town of Granby
Massachusetts
Conservation Commission

The Granby Conservation Commission will hold Public Hearings pursuant to the Wetland Protection Act (MGL Chapter 131, Section 40) on **Tuesday, November 10, 2026** to be held at 1 Library Lane-Old Carnegie Library-Top Floor to consider the following:

1. **7:15 pm -NOI**- filed CIL Realty of Massachusetts Inc., applicant, Acre Hill, LLC, Owner for a proposed site development of a single-family dwelling with driveway and parking area to be located at 43 East Street and known as map 4-4E--2 in the Town of Granby.

Members of the public can attend virtually by phone at +1 (312) 757-3121 using **Access Code:** 282-289-421or by visiting https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/282289421.

Anyone wishing information and/or to be heard on this matter should appear at the time and place designated. The complete materials (including text and maps) relative to this "NOI" are available for inspection during regular business hours at the Selectmen's Office located in the Granby Senior Center Building, 2nd Floor, 10-B West State Street. Additionally, copies of the application may be inspected on the Conservation Commission's web page at www.granby-ma.gov.

William Shaheen, Chair
Granby Conservation Commission
10/30/2026

Spooky Spectacular Scene in South Hadley





Photos submitted

A Grove Street resident's display is just as exciting during the day and yet comes alive a night with Halloween decorations galore.

FALL BACK from page 1

replacement smoke alarms in most Massachusetts homes have sealed, 10-year batteries. Now, more than 10 years later, many alarms purchased to comply with the update are at or near the end of their useful lifespans.

Davine and Nardelli offered these tips for anyone replacing out-of-date single-station smoke alarms. Following these guidelines will reduce the risk of a disabled or outdated alarm failing to alert residents: choose photoelectric alarms from a well-known, national brand; look for the mark of an independent testing lab like UL or Intertek/ETL; select alarms with a sealed, long-life battery and a "hush" feature" alarms that meet UL Standard 217, 8th edition or later; and use the latest multi-criteria technology to reduce nuisance alarms caused by cooking smoke.

If your alarms are less than 10 years old and take alkaline batteries, then put in fresh batteries to be sure you're protected all winter long. And remember to test your smoke and CO alarms once a month to be sure they're working properly.

In an average year, about 54% of Massachusetts residential fire deaths take place between November and March, Davine said, with home heating equipment being the second-leading cause of house fires in 2025. Carbon monoxide incidents start even earlier as residents start turning up the heat for the first time since summer.

"Carbon monoxide is a leading cause of accidental poisoning, and heating equipment is the main source of carbon monoxide at home," Nardelli said. "We can't see, smell, or taste carbon monoxide. Working CO alarms on every level of your home are the only way to detect this invisible killer."

Massachusetts firefighters encountered carbon monoxide hazards at about 5,000 calls last year, Davine said.

"Changes to building construction and furnishings mean we have less time to escape a fire at home than ever before," said Davine. "You could have just three minutes to get out safely."

"Working smoke alarms and a practiced home escape plan are among the most fundamental and important tools for surviving a fire," said Nardelli. "Be sure everyone in the home knows what to do and where to go when the alarm sounds, including young children, older adults, and persons with disabilities."

Fire officials recommend planning two ways out of the building, the apartment, and each room if possible. Be sure to select a family meeting spot a safe distance from the building.

Adults over 65 are at disproportionate risk of death or serious injury in a fire, especially if they live in one- or two-family homes. The Healey-Driscoll Administration has delivered more than $1.5 million to fire departments across Massachusetts through the Senior SAFE grant program, which can provide older adults with smoke and CO alarm assistance.

Seniors who need help installing, testing, or maintaining their alarms should contact their local fire department or senior center for assistance.

GRANBY from page 1

The owner's project manager, architect and engineers' contracts were expected to end in December. Mercier said the committees needed to select an option and bring it to town meeting in time to extend those contracts.

Neil Joyce, the owner's project manager, said hiring a new team could delay substantive work by five to six months.

"You would be upwards of five to six months before you could begin substantive work again on the project that we have," he said.

Joyce estimated the additional construction time at about two months for "option one," three months for "option two" and four months for "option three."

The shell-space work would not complete the Council on Aging move. Joyce estimated that a future fit-out could cost $3 million to $4 million at current prices, before potential increases.

He said construction costs could rise by 4% to 8% annually, depending on market conditions.

Town Administrator Ron Aponte said Council on Aging leaders had reacted positively to the shell-space concept.

He also said relocating the Council on Aging could allow the town to sell its current building. A prior appraisal cited at the meeting was about $757,000, while informal estimates discussed were as high as $800,000.

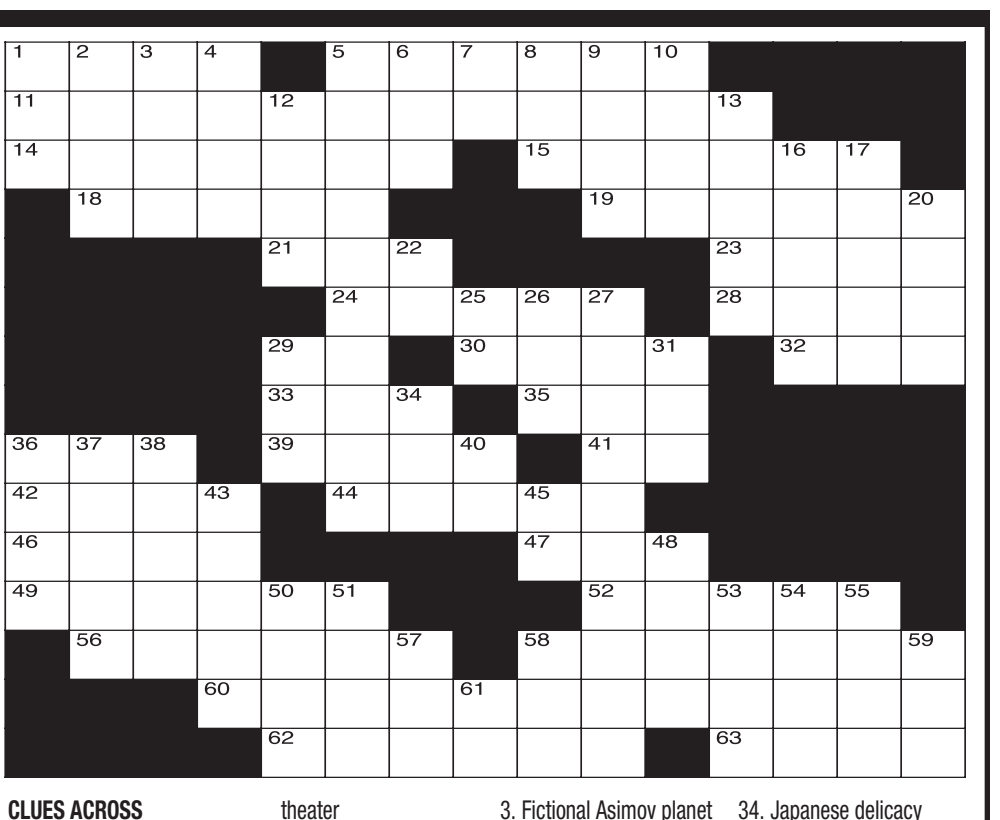
No sale or sale proceeds are guaranteed.

Aponte said a commercial buyer could return the property to the tax rolls and bring local economic activity.

Financing estimates presented by Treasurer Steve Nally included annual debt service of about $222,000 for a $1 million, five-year loan at 4.25%, or about $126,000 annually for 10 years at 4.75%.

Officials said free cash or private contributions could reduce borrowing, but the amounts were not yet known. Aponte said a potential benefactor had expressed interest but had not specified a contribution.

Select Board members also cited the gym's potential use as an election site, avoiding the need to bring voters into schools. The motion to put "option three" on the warrant passed and the Finance Committee separately voted to support it.



CLUES ACROSS
1. El Dorado High School
5. A sculpture representing a human or animal
11. A type of return
14. Tie the knot again
15. Washington city
18. Hairlike structures
19. Mark used over a vowel
21. Explosive
23. Popular 500 car race
24. Pile up
28. Currency
29. Commercial
30. A minute amount (Scottish)
32. Mass of fish eggs
33. Baseball stat
35. Licensed accountant
36. Japanese classical theater
39. Gasteyer and de Armas are two
41. Blood group
42. Assist in wrongdoing
44. Language of Cameroon
46. Grayish-white
47. A woolen cap of Scottish origin
49. Microorganism
52. Strong social customs
56. Calm and dependable
58. Congressman
60. Force
62. As a result of this document
63. A main branch of Islam

CLUES DOWN
1. Make a mistake
2. American DJ Rick
3. Fictional Asimov planet
4. Coughed out
5. Singing to one's lover
6. Scotland's longest river
7. One of the six noble gases
8. Body art
9. Two-toed sloth
10. Electronic counter-countermeasures
12. A foolish person
13. Of the wind
16. Mansion
17. Sound
20. English river
22. Business symbol
25. Exclamation of surprise
26. Pouch
27. Individually
29. Satisfaction
31. The bill in a restaurant
34. Japanese delicacy
36. Port in southern Japan
37. Double-reed instruments
38. Center
40. "The Mount Rushmore State"
43. Soldier
45. Indicates position
48. Beauty treatment: __-pedi
50. Nonsense (slang)
51. Republic of Ireland
53. Ballplayers' tools
54. American state
55. Clusters of a fern frond
57. Patriotic women's group
58. A person's brother or sister
59. Breed of sheep
61. Of I

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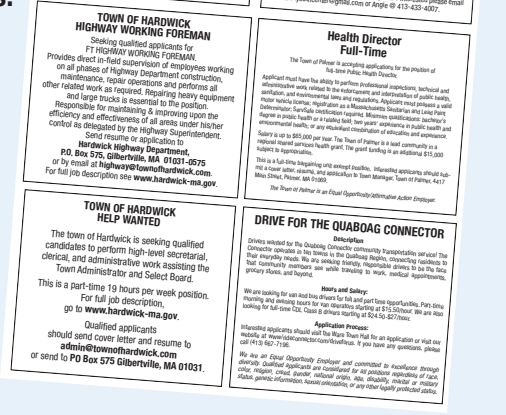
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$80 for each additional paper

10.75" x 8"
$600 for three papers
$160 for each additional paper

10.75" x 15.75"
$1,200 for three papers
$320 for each additional paper


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1. Are you sick and tired of health insurance companies denying or delaying your treatments and claims ?
2. As prices go higher and higher, should your household income be free of federal income taxes up to $100,000.00 ?
3. Do we need to get the millions and millions of corporate PAC money out of our political system ?
4. Should we invest our tax dollars here in western Massachusetts and in solving America's problems, not in endless foreign wars ?
5. Do you believe the pursuit of Life, Liberty and Happiness applies to all of us, not just the rich elite ?
6. Should we cap runaway rent increases, and make housing more affordable by banning corporate land speculators from buying up our neighborhoods ?
7. Do we need more doctors in western Massachusetts so you can get appointments and see specialists when you need them ?
8. Do you support a woman's right to make her own health care decisions ?
9. Should we make our medicines here in western Massachusetts so we aren't dependent on foreign drug manufacturers and supply lines, as happened during COVID shortages ?
10. Do you believe there should be term limits in Congress ?
11. Do we need to stop our elected officials and their families from enriching themselves at taxpayer expense while in office ?
12. Has Richard Neal been in Congress too long and is he unresponsive to people in western Massachusetts ?
13. Do you believe both major political parties are broken and that we should elect more Independents who aren't under their control ?

Congress needs a big shake-up. And it's not going to happen if we keep re-electing people who've been there since the 1980s. There's no mistaking where Nadia Milleron stands on the issues. And if you stand where she stands, make your voice heard on Tuesday. Get to your polling place and vote to take your government back from the career politicians who have ruined it.

NADIA MILLERON
INDEPENDENT
FOR CONGRESS

NadiaforCongress.com

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