

TOWN Reminder

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Serving the town of South Hadley

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Students bring their culture and homes to seniors

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

SOUTH HADLEY – Diversity is what makes the United States run as a country, a melting pot of all backgrounds, ethnicities, and cultures that deserve to be celebrated and learned about.

The MacDuffie students went

to the Senior Center on Wednesday to share with all who gathered a bit about the countries they came from, their history, culture, and delicious cuisine, and even traditional dress.

“I’m so proud of their love for their countries, and the fact that they’re willing to spread the joy of their homes,” said Jill Skibel, the Community Service Coordinator

at MacDuffie. “It was nice to see that people came and asked questions so they could answer them.”

There were a total of five presentations, with six students from different countries, regions, and cities who wanted to share with the seniors a little bit of their heritage.

Countries included China, Turkey, Vietnam, and South Korea,

each of the students taking time to share a presentation of photos and information of the country and its history.

The seniors gathered got a chance to learn new things about these countries, and the students got to talk about their home countries and share some of their language as the room gave space for diversity and stories to be shared.



Turley photos by Emily-Rose Pappas

The MacDuffie students who came to the senior center shared about their home countries.

SHPL hosts puzzle competition

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

SOUTH HADLEY – The world of puzzles is wide and full of fans of all ages, whether you choose a puzzle with 6 pieces or 60,000 pieces or more. Puzzles are here for all ages to enjoy and take part in.

“What inspired the competition wasn’t me - it was the patrons. They asked for it. Just like the Puzzle Swap, this Jigsaw Puzzle Race came directly from a patron suggestion. I’m always open to ideas, recommendations, and feedback. If someone brings me a program idea and it’s something I can make happen, I’ll absolutely try,” said Adult Services Librarian, Desiree Smelcer.

The competition featured eight teams of all ages, completing a beautiful, circular 500-piece puzzle, with a ticking timer to get them done. The teams had one minute to strategize and plan how to get



Turley photos by Emily-Rose Pappas

Winners of the Puzzle Competition: Mireille Bejjani, Hannah Bevis, Laura Lyman, and Rebecca White.

it done, and then two and a half hours to complete the puzzle. “I love the enthusiasm and energy people bring into the library. I honestly had no idea how much people love

puzzles - from 300 pieces to 3,000, and from ages two to one hundred. People really love working on puzzles,

Please see **PUZZLE**, page 5

Town administrator Tammy Martin fired by Selectboard

Martin’s attorney has filed open meeting complaints, says dismissal was without cause

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

GRANBY – The Granby Selectboard has fired Tammy Martin, and the ousted town administrator is claiming she was terminated without cause.

In addition, her attorney alleges the Selectboard violated the Open Meeting Law on the date they dismissed her from the position.

An Open Meeting Law complaint has been filed

against the town by former Martin, who was fired on Dec. 1, 2025.

In a letter to the Sentinel, John Clifford, of Clifford & Kenny LLP stated that “Ms. Martin was fired without any justification or cause.”

The letter alleges that Martin’s termination was a breach of her contract with the town and violated state labor and transparency laws.

According to the letter sent to the Sentinel, an affiliated publication to the Town Reminder, Clifford writes: “On November 26, 2025, the day before Thanksgiving, the Select Board posted two agendas for December 1, 2025... The executive session agenda was intended for negotiations with non-union personnel. The open session agenda did not list or include any items relating to the Town Administrator’s employment.”

Clifford filed an Open Meeting Law violation complaint with the Attorney General’s office on Dec. 10. Per state law, the complaint was also filed with the Granby Selectboard.

Clifford has since shared plans to move forward with a lawsuit against the town of Granby on behalf of Martin.

In a statement made at the Monday, Jan. 5 Selectboard Meeting, Chair Mark Bail said, “Attorney John Clifford, who is representing former Town Administrator Tammy Martin, filed a complaint that the Select Board violated open meeting law.

Tonight, we are voting to authorize labor counsel Jack Collins and town counsel Brian O’Toole to respond to those allegations.

“Last week, Attorney Clif-

Please see **SELECTBOARD**, page 7

Workshop provides stress-free opportunity to learn tech

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

SOUTH HADLEY – Figuring out the ever-changing, ever-expanding world of technology can be a daunting task, especially for older adults or others who did not grow up with technology and are learning to use technology.

The South Hadley Council on Aging, through a Title III grant program provided by Community Access Partners, is hosting an iPhone Basics workshop.

The workshop began with technology instructor Maria Heffernan in October 2024, and the COA’s Technology Services Program.

The Program helps seniors with basic fixes to their technology, provides classes, workshops, and presentations on many different topics, including online scans and safety for online shopping, as well as information about Generative AI and ChatGPT.

The Program assists older adults with one-on-one tech time, where 30-minute sessions are offered on Thursdays from 9 to 11 a.m., and people can sign up for these sessions ahead of time by calling the Senior Center.

“While [the workshop is] technology training, it’s also training for practical things,” said Heffernan. “It’s simple and teaches things seniors will need to know for day-to-day uses of their cellphones,

like FaceTiming grandkids, researching on Google, or using Maps.”

The iPhone Basics Workshop is composed of three sessions that build upon one another, and so it is not open now as it already started, and attending all three sessions is highly recommended. There will be another iPhone Basics workshop people can register for, as well as one for Androids, this spring, for those who have missed this series.

The first session is on iPhone basics, and goes through a tour of the phone, and how to text and make phone calls. The second session goes through and details the different apps and everyday tools on the phone, and how to view, delete, and share

photos, set alarms, create calendar events, and how to install and find apps in the App Store. The third session will focus on safety and security, how to avoid scam calls, texts, and emails, and how emergency features like sharing location, SOS, and Find My iPhone work, and more.

“There’s always a lot of interest, and we will run the class again, and we keep the classes small so people don’t feel intimidated about asking questions,” said Heffernan. “It’s like one-on-one, but alongside their peers so they can learn from each other. There’s a lot to be said about learning from our peers, too.”

Please see **WORKSHOP**, page 7



Submitted photo

Maria Heffernan beginning the series with the first lesson: the basics.

All About Town

Get to know your town employees

Brandon Dumas

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



Turley Photo Submitted by Emily-Rose Pappas

New Program Director at the Senior Center, Brandon Dumas.

SOUTH HADLEY – We are featuring your town employees to recognize and thank them for their hard work and dedication.

These town employees are what help keep our communities running, providing resources, help, information, fun events, organization, and more for us to enjoy.

Here is an interview with South Hadley Senior Center's new Program Director, Brandon Dumas.

What is your favorite thing about the town?

"I've noticed that South Hadley is a very close-knit community. Another thing I like and enjoy is that it is a small town, which is what makes it close and helps the community to be more familiar with one another. You can tell there is a strong sense of community in the town, and a lot of the patrons that live here are passionate about where they live."

What do you do in your position?

"I am the new Program Coordinator. I organize and assist with all the day-to-day programming at the senior center, plan new programming, and bring in entertainment."

How would you describe an average day at the office?

"Very busy. We are a very fast-paced senior center with a very wide variety of activities, always busy, learning new things, and learning from the patrons."

Tell me a bit about you. Are you a resident? What's your education?

"I'm originally from Springfield. I've worked in human services for the past 12 years. I started with a small organization called Visibility Ink, and my main focus was with working with persons with disabilities. From there, I moved on to working with older adults at the Rivermill Senior Center in Chicopee."

What other departments or committees/boards do you work closely with?

"We work very closely with our Friends of the South Hadley Seniors, as well as our travel club to help promote activities within the center."

What is the most fulfilling part of your job?

"For me, it's people that necessarily wouldn't have a place of being or belonging, making them feel like they have some sort of worth, and the positivity of seeing these seniors get out of their homes, make friends, and socialize. The benefit to the seniors is what the reward is. Something I've done since starting here is for programming to be fair and equal to others and to everyone who comes here."

What inspired you to take on the position?

"I was working at my current position in Chicopee, and this has allowed me to take on more responsibility and have a change of scenery."

Where is your office located? What are your office hours?

"My office is here at the COA, and my office is usually open the same as the center from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. I don't have specific hours, but I am available."

What is the history of your department? What makes it unique from others?

"What makes it unique is that without this position, there are new supports for programs. You don't have a Center if you don't have programs."

What do you want the community to know about your position?

"I'm open to hearing new ideas around programming at the Center, different things that our older adults are interested in seeing or learning about, and that we are here to support them."

Two Town Food Drive set for Feb. 7

SOUTH HADLEY/GRANBY – South Hadley and Granby Democratic Town Committees come together to create a special food drive in order to stock up food pantries in the area.

South Hadley is supporting Neighbors Helping Neighbors, South Hadley. Drop off at the South Hadley High School, 9 a.m. to noon. Contact: Ann Stockton email:

southhadleydemocrats@gmail.com

Granby Food Drive will focus on Granby to Go, 12:30-3:30 at the Congregational Church 235 State Street: Tobias Wilson Email: chair@granbydemocrats.com.

These are the following items are most in demand:

- Any feminine hygiene products, Shampoo/condition comb, toothpaste, deodorant,

- and Bar soap
- Cereal hot or cold, Soups, especially during the winter
- Pet food, canned and dry for cats and dogs
- Canned meats such as spam, beef stew, corned beef, and hash
- Please check expiration dates.
- Food and monetary donations will be accepted

Upcoming Budget Task Force listening session

SOUTH HADLEY – The Budget Task Force will review initial findings and recommendations from their work over the past 6 months. Share your input before the

report is finalized in early February. Join the task force on Thursday, January 22, at 7 p.m. at the Senior Center or on Zoom (https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83659863718?p-

wd=bkZqYvJBQGXWN-DCyqQO5Z4CI6G7xOF.1) for the second installment of Budget Task Force Listening Sessions.



Submitted photo

Students singing at the annual PVPA Music Showcase.

A Winter Music Showcase

SOUTH HADLEY – The Pioneer Valley Performing Arts (PVPA) Charter Public School Music Department is pleased to present Chills + Thrills, a Winter Music Showcase. The show will run Friday and Saturday, January 16 and 17, 2026, with performances beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the main stage theater at 15 Mulligan Drive, South Hadley.

Ticket prices are as follows: \$13 general admission; \$10 military and seniors; \$7 PVPA alumni, and \$5 students, and are online at www.pvpa.org/shows. There is a sliding scale when purchasing three or more tickets for a performance. Tickets at the door are +\$2/tix first-come, first-served.

Under the direction of David Cavallin, PVPA's Winter Music Showcase features the

sounds of our premier ensembles as well as some of our up-and-coming musicians. Both nights will feature different groups and different material, making for two unique musical evenings directed by Rahul Roy, Jeremy Milligan, and David Cavallin. Friday night performances will feature first-semester works from PVPA's Orchestra, Middle School String Ensemble, Concert Band and Chorus, as well as the High School ensemble Adagio and the Middle School Rock and Soul Revue ensemble. Saturday evening performances will showcase the department's audition ensembles, including Sharp Attitude (A Cappella), Gig Band, and Pop R&B.

PVPA's music department works diligently to provide students the opportunity to

explore music in a variety of formats, play for different audiences, experience the demands of professional musicians, and encourage creativity in the musical process both on and off stage.

Pioneer Valley Performing Arts Charter Public School is a regional public charter school serving 400 students in grades 7-12. We seek to connect the creative process with critical thinking to inspire a love of learning. PVPA's mission is to offer students an intensive exposure to the performing arts within the context of an excellent college preparatory curriculum. For more information about PVPA, or to apply www.pvpa.org/admissions. The deadline to apply for the 2026/2027 school year is Feb 11, 2026.

Residents: Take the Budget Task Force Survey

SOUTH HADLEY – You are invited to participate in a research study for the Town of South Hadley. This project is being conducted under the direction of Dr. Melinda Tarsi-Goldfien, Department of Political Science, Bridgewater State University, in collaboration with the South Hadley Budget Task Force. The purpose of this study is to collect feedback from residents on the town's finances.

The study is voluntary and confidential. The survey responses are collected and compiled by Bridgewater State University under the direction of Dr. Tarsi-Goldfien. The survey results will be reported to the Budget Task Force and residents upon completion. Take the survey at https://bridgew.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3UleV5odmoqmw4K.

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Sunday, Jan. 18th
Jimmy McArdle & Jerry Murphy 2-5pm

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Charlie Bongiovi 6-9pm

Saturday, Jan. 31st
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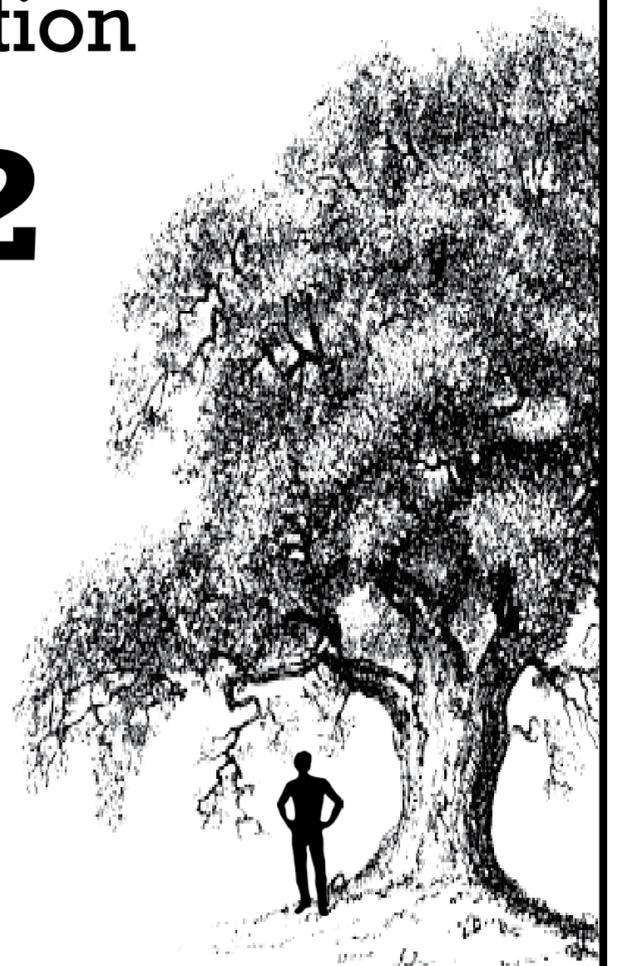
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INSURED AND CERTIFIED

Opinion

SOCIAL SECURITY

Matters

By Russell Gloor

Why didn't my friend's wife get all her SS immediately?

Dear Rusty:

A friend told me about what he believes is a strange thing in the Social Security system.

His wife reached her full retirement age of 66 several years ago. She delayed filing for Social Security past her FRA and claimed on her 68th birthday in June of that year, exactly two years after her FRA. When she filed, she was told she would receive approximately \$300 per month, which, of course, was more than she would have received at her FRA.

She was told however that she would only receive \$300 per month as of Jan. 1 of the following year. Between June of the year she turned 68 and filed for SS until the end of that year, she would receive an amount less than \$300. This lower amount was the amount she would have received if she had filed in December, the year she turned 67. She said she was told that was how SS works. She would never receive the difference in benefits she lost from June through December of the year she filed. If the above is true, can you explain?

Signed: Astounded Friend

Dear Astounded:

What your friend described is, indeed, a unique methodology for how Social Security handles benefit payments for those who choose to wait beyond their Full Retirement Age to claim SS benefits. To understand it, let me first describe how Social Security retirement benefits are calculated.

At Full Retirement Age, a person is entitled to 100% of the SS benefit they have earned from a lifetime of working. That FRA benefit amount is known as the person's "Primary Insurance Amount" and is based upon the highest earning 35 years over the individual's lifetime.

From those past years, average lifetime monthly earnings are computed, known as the person's

"Average Indexed Monthly Earnings." Their AIME is subjected to a formula which yields their Primary Insurance Amount – the benefit the person is entitled to in the month they attain their full retirement age – typically about 40% of the person's average monthly lifetime earnings. However, if the person chooses to do so, they can wait beyond their FRA to claim Social Security to get a monthly benefit even higher than their PIA, by earning Delayed Retirement Credits.

DRCs are applied to the person's PIA when they claim Social Security. For each month after FRA the person claims, they will have .667% added to their PIA. That means that for each full year of delay, that person will get an extra 8% added to their PIA. For someone (like your friend's wife) who claimed 24 months after her FRA, she would receive a benefit 16% higher than her FRA amount. However, Social Security normally only applies DRCs in January of each year.

So, even though your friend's wife claimed her SS benefits in June, 24 months after her FRA, she would initially only get the DRCs she had accumulated through the end of the previous year – in this case, about 18 months' worth of DRCs or an SS payment about 12% higher than her PIA (her FRA amount).

She would not get her remaining earned DRCs (another 4%) until January of the following year. So, in effect, the wife's initial benefit didn't reflect all her earned DRCs until her later January benefit payment. Thus, the wife essentially lost that extra benefit money for the period between June and December of the year she claimed Social Security. In other words, she wouldn't get the full 16% amount until SS applied the additional 4% DRCs to her benefit

Please see
SOCIAL SECURITY
page 5

Baking bread with herbs

There has been a resurgence lately in doing things the "old fashioned way!" I am definitely all for that, since I have often felt I was born a century too late.

People are making their own soap and laundry detergent, growing gardens, and canning and preserving the harvest. Many have also gotten the sourdough itch, and are baking all sorts of breads, rolls and treats using sourdough starter. My niece shared some of her starter with my husband and I! It traveled several states to make it to us and boy was our first loaf delicious.

I don't feel as if I will give up making yeasted bread entirely, though, especially since my favorite bread of all time is a braided bread that incorporates herbs. (You knew that eventually I would weave in a gardening topic!) I'm excited to share the recipe with you.

Maybe you will even become inspired to grow your own herbs to use in this or any number of recipes down the road.

This time of year it is likely you won't have fresh herbs on hand, so before we begin, I'd like to give you some tips for using dried herbs.

First, remember to break them up finely just before you incorporate them into any recipe. Honestly, there is nothing worse than coming across a full-size piece of Rosemary foliage, for example. It's like you are chomping on a pine needle!

Besides making the herbs more palatable, the flavor will be released ever so nicely once they are finely ground. Small amounts of herbs can be crushed between your fingertips – larger amounts can be ground up using a mortar and pestle.

Pulverize whole spices in a coffee grinder. Some folks gently roast them first to intensify their flavor. If you want to substitute fresh herbs for dried in any recipe, use at least twice as much; likewise in this recipe you would use only have

bine 2 1/2 cups flour and salt.

Stir into yeast mixture 1/2 cup at a time to form a slightly sticky dough, adding up to 1/2 cup additional flour if necessary.

Turn dough out onto a lightly floured surface and knead until smooth and elastic, about 5 minutes. Place dough in a large bowl that has been lightly buttered.

Turn dough to coat entire surface. Cover with a clean cloth and let rise in a warm, draft-free area until the dough has doubled in volume, about 1 1/2 hours.

Punch dough down. Divide into thirds.

One by one, take each third and knead in the individual herbs. Roll each dough ball between the palms of your hands into a rope about 20 inches long. Taper the ends.

When complete, lay the three side by side and working from the middle, braid each end. Transfer the bread to a buttered baking sheet and cover loosely with a clean cloth.

Allow to rise in a warm place for 45-50 minutes, until doubled in size.

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Brush loaf with remaining 1 tablespoon of melted butter and bake for 20-30 minutes or until golden and loaf sounds hollow when tapped.

Cool for 30 minutes before serving. Serve it warm with a pat of butter or have some olive oil handy for dipping!

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 33 years she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to pouimette@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.



the amount if using dried.

Store dried herbs and spices away from heat and light; even so, they will start to lose their flavor after about a year. When I buy a new jar of dried herbs, I find it helpful to mark the date right on the bottle.

Without any further ado, here is the recipe for that wonderful bread – as pretty as it is flavorful. Certainly a nice addition to a bowl of soup on a winter's night! And it makes the best croutons, too!

COUNTRY HERB BREAD TWIST

1 envelope active dry yeast
1 teaspoon sugar
1/4 cup water (110 degrees)
1/4 stick unsalted butter, melted (2 tablespoons)
2 1/2-3 cups all-purpose flour
1 1/2 teaspoons salt
1 tablespoon minced fresh oregano

1 tablespoon minced fresh thyme
1 tablespoon minced fresh rosemary

Sprinkle yeast and sugar over 1/4 cup warm water in a large bowl; stir to dissolve. Let stand until foamy (approximately 15 minutes).

Blend 1 cup water and 1 tablespoon of the melted butter into the yeast mixture. Com-



Other birds at Lake Lashawy

The Lake Lashawy resident also had red cardinals, blue jays galore, gold finches and a red bellied woodpecker. She said bald eagles are very common visitors on the lake.

Brimfield birds

I received an email from a Brimfield resident on Jan. 5. He said, "Not much happening in the yard. We've seen one white-throated sparrow after recent snow storms and a group of about a dozen house finches show up often. Yesterday there was a group of American goldfinch in a birch tree eating seeds but they didn't come to the feeder."

Christmas bird count

He said, "My wife and I did the Christmas Bird Count with the Allen Bird Club again this year. We cover the town of Ludlow. The weather was fine but the birds were not cooperating. We managed 26 species



Male evening grosbeak

which is a few below our average. Woodpeckers (only 1 downy) and sparrows (3 junco) were hard to find."

He also said, "At the Ludlow Reservoir there was a good amount of open water but few birds, eight hooded mergansers and four mallards. Curiously last year there was a lot less open water at the reservoir but a lot more birds. Go figure."

People may visit <https://netapp.audubon.org/CBCObservation/CurrentYear/ResultsByCount.aspx> to obtain Christmas Bird count results. Enter the county and state to get Massachusetts counts.

He said he did not know the Springfield count results, but the Worcester count had 78 species.

Snowy owls

He also heard there have been two snowy owls in Northampton for a few weeks now. Initially they were seen in fields north of Route 9, but lately have been seen in the fields near the airport.

Barred owl and pileated woodpecker

I saw a barred owl and a pileated woodpecker in the same day, Jan. 6. The barred owl was perched in a tree and stayed awhile before flying off. When I went to pick up my grandson at the bus stop, I saw a pileated woodpecker on Lincoln Road.

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

OPINION PAGE/ LETTERS POLICY

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

Unsigned or anonymous letters will NOT be published.

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

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

Turley Election Policy

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

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

TOWN Reminder TEAM

EDITORIAL
townreminder@turley.com



STAFF WRITER
Emily-Rose Pappas
epappas@turley.com



SPORTS EDITOR
Greg Scibelli
sports@turley.com

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SOCIAL MEDIA



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PATRICK H. TURLEY
CEO

KEITH TURLEY
President

Turley Publications, Inc.

www.turley.com

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Resident of Lake Lashawy saw her first ever evening grosbeak in the morning at her feeder on Sunday, Jan. 4.

The evening grosbeak is an eight inch long, chunky, thick billed finch, which wanders widely in winter.

The males are yellow and brown with black and white wings. The females are gray with white and black wings.

Both sexes have a thick bill. They have notched, square tipped tails and pointed wings.

Often evening grosbeaks visit feeders in large flocks. They inhabit conifer forests and in winter are seen in box elders, maples and fruiting shrubs. They breed in the coniferous and mixed forests. They are seen in spruce and fir trees in the northern forests and pines in the western mountains. They are seen in winter in deciduous woodlands and semi-open country. Their song is a series of short, musical whistles. Their call

note is similar to the chirp of a house sparrow, but louder.

The female lays three to four pale blue to blue green, blotched with brown, gray or



By Ellenor Downer

purple eggs. The female does all the incubating, but the male may feed the female during this time. Both parents feed the nestlings.

Their diet is mostly seeds and some berries and insects. They prefer seeds of box elder, ash, maple, locust and other trees. At feeders, they prefer sunflower seeds. They also will feed on oozing maple sap. They extended their breeding range eastward in the 19th century and early 20th century. The population declined in the east in recent years.

Personal property bills have been mailed

SOUTH HADLEY – FY 2026 Qtr. 3 Real Estate & Personal Property bills were mailed out to residents on December 31, 2025. The due date for Real Estate & Personal Property bills is February 2, 2026.

If you have not received your bills, please email our

office at: collector@south-hadley.ma.gov or call 413-538-5030 ext. 6189, and we can send you a new bill.

Bills can also be viewed/printed through Invoice Cloud which can be accessed from our website.

Payment can be made online through the Town

of South Hadley's website, southhadley.ma.gov (click on the online bill pay box on the home page), by mail, dropped in our Dropbox located behind the Police Department on Bridge Street or you can pay in person Monday through Friday from 8:30 am to 4:00 pm.

Winter happenings at the Granby Library

GRANBY – Come and join in on the fun at the Granby Library this winter.

Tabletop Games Club Saturday, January 24, from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

The Granby Library Tabletop Games Club invites players of all ages 8 and up to gather and enjoy a variety of board, card, dice, tile, and other in-person tabletop games in a welcoming, social environment. This club fosters a sense of community by offering a fun and interactive space for people to connect, develop new friendships, and strengthen inter-community relationships through friendly competition and teamwork. This group typically meets on the third Saturday of each month.

landscape. In this class, we'll learn some basic techniques. First, we'll practice painting on wet paper to create soft, blended colors. Then, we'll try painting on dry paper for sharper lines and details. After that, we'll use both methods together to paint a simple urban scene. The goal is to look closely at everyday



things around us and try to capture what makes them interesting. It's a relaxed class focused on learning the fundamentals and appreciating the simple views in our own neighborhood. Sign-up required for this event.

knitter, Jeanne Crosby.

Upcoming Events: Friends of the Library Book Sale March 3 to 31

The Friends of the Granby Free Public Library are changing things up with a Book Sale during the month of March 2026! This sale will take the place of the Spring Book Sale that is typically held during the month of May. Beginning on January 15th, the Friends will be accepting donations of hardcover and paperback books, DVDs, music CDs, playable video games, and audiobooks in good condition acceptable for resale. The Library does not accept donations of: Textbooks, encyclopedias, Reader's Digest books, or books with smoke, mold, mildew, or water damage. Donations are accepted at the Library during open hours. Please do not leave donated books outside the library or in our book return. Donations accepted until February 26th.

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

Chief Gundersen's Office Hours

SOUTH HADLEY – Police Chief Jennifer Gundersen will be hosting several office hours around town between now and the end of March.

- January 20, 5 to 6 p.m., at the South Hadley Public Library
- January 29, 10:30 a.m. to noon, at the South Hadley Council on Aging
- February 4, noon to 1:30 p.m., at Neighbors Helping Neighbors
- February 5, noon to 1:30 p.m., at Lathrop Village Community Room
- February 16, 10:30 a.m. to noon, at the South Hadley Council on Aging
- February 24, 5 to 6:30 p.m., at the South Hadley Public Library
- March 6, 10:30 a.m. to noon, at the South Hadley Council on Aging
- March 25, noon to 1:30 p.m., at Newton Manor

PUZZLE from page 1

especially together. If I can help lower the cost of finding new puzzles and give people a fun way to spend a Saturday morning with friends, I'm all in," said Smelcer.

The puzzle competition was a great hit, as seen with their puzzle swap that occurred at the beginning of December, where the line to

pick a puzzle stretched out into the lobby.

Puzzles are truly beloved and universal games, where people of all ages can find something to love and appreciate from completing them.

"I really want to stress that these programs work because of public input and the community's willingness to participate. Their ideas and enthusiasm are what make

the library - and its programs - successful," said Smelcer.

Smelcer is always open to hearing from the patrons of the library what they would like to see and attend for events, and you can bring your ideas and thoughts to her by calling her at 413-538-5045 or by email at ds-melcer@cwmarc.org.



Turley photos by Emily-Rose Pappas

Friends Amy Scribner, Dolly Werenski, and Jessie Labonte puzzling together.

SOCIAL SECURITY from page 4

payment the following January. And that is why your friend's wife initially received a payment a bit less than the \$300 Social Security said she was entitled to by waiting two years after her FRA to claim.

This surprises many who choose to wait beyond their full retirement age to claim Social Security. But, curiously, this process doesn't apply to those who wait until age 70 to claim their SS benefits. For those who wait until age 70 to claim, Social Security will immediately apply all DRCs that they have accumulated and provide them with their maximum SS benefit immediately.

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.

Granby to Go Mobile serving the community this month

GRANBY – The Granby To Go Food Mobile will be coming again to the Church of Christ parking lot located at 235 State St, in Granby on January 9, and January 23, from 4:30 to 6

p.m. This food mobile is for all Granby residents and is a drive thru food mobile. For more information or questions you may contact us granbytogo@granby-schoolsma.net.

Tuesday Night 6pm
Pitch Night
\$5 per person

Wednesday Night 6:30pm
Bar Bingo

Thursday Night 7-10 pm
Karaoke by
New England Disc Jockeys

Friday Night starts at 7:30 pm
Trivia Night \$5 per person

Saturday Night 5-7 pm
Spaghetti Dinner

7 Days A Week
Queen of Hearts Raffle
\$1 per ticket - unlimited tickets
Drawing Wednesdays at 5 pm

February 21st 7-10pm
Live Music by Kitchen Jam

AMERICAN LEGION POST 325
22 Sycamore Street, Holyoke, MA
Find us on Facebook Paper City Post 325



The room was packed with groups of friends putting together their puzzles.



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Phillips shines with 31 points, but Tigers fall



Kate Phillips gets the ball before a Longmeadow guard gets a hand on it.

Sofie Quinn passes to the middle of the court.

SOUTH HADLEY – Last Friday night, Kate Phillips sank half of the Tigers points, scoring 31 thanks in part to 13 made free throws. But the Tigers fell behind early and couldn't get back even as South Hadley lost 69-62 at Longmeadow. Olivia Athas also had a good game for the Tigers with 20 points. South Hadley is just 1-5 on the season, but the Tigers difficulty in schedule has changed significantly this year. The Tigers have played all larger schools in six games, including Minnechaug, Longmeadow, and Central. It reflects in their current power rankings in Division 4, as South Hadley is currently ranked No. 3 despite the one win.



Grace Sherman gets ready to pass.



Cara Dean prepares to make an inbound pass.



Ryley McMahon goes for the shot.



Olivia Athas heads into the paint.

Granby offense suffers power outage at Ware



Liam McKinnon hustles down the court.

WARE – Last Thursday evening, Granby fell to Ware 69-29 in boys basketball action. The offense struggled to find the net against the Indians with Raymond Colon being Granby's only bright spot with 14 points. Ware was led by Jack Gaudreau with 24 points, all on two-point field goals. Dalton Marquis would sink nine points. Ware got scoring from nine different players. Granby is now 1-8 this season while Ware is 3-5 now.



Brandon Carillon tries to power around his opponent.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

Samuel Moure heads up for a shot.



Brodie Funk tries to overcome a block.



Zavien Fernandez sends the ball sailing over his opponent.



Raymond Colon takes at free throw.

Tigers edged by Monument in OT

SOUTH HADLEY – Last Friday night, South Hadley and Monument Mountain took their matchup to overtime with the Spartans picking up the win 66-63. South Hadley got 24 points from Tim Loughrey, 23 points from Noah Hambley, and 14 points from Isiah James.

The Tigers opened the 2026 part of its scheduled with a loss at Frontier 55-46, and a win last Thursday evening in Westfield 67-57.

South Hadley is now an even 4-4 this season and had a special matchup on Thursday, Jan. 15 against Chicopee Comprehensive at the HoopHall Classic at Springfield College. Their next game will be at home on Tuesday, Jan. 20 against Chicopee High School at 7 p.m.

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Registration set to open Feb. 1 for Quabbin Valley

SOUTH HADLEY – On Sunday, Jan. 11, the Quabbin Valley Baseball League, an over-28 recreational league, held its first meeting of 2026 to prepare for the upcoming season.

At the meeting it was determined registration for players will open up on Sunday, Feb. 1.

For the 2026 season, the cost will be \$215 and will include a 16th game added to the regular season schedule.

During the 2025 season, the league experimented with playing on Mother's Day Saturday as well as a weeknight game to allow players an opportunity to play under the lights. While the night games were very successful, the Mother's Day Saturday games were rained out.

Those elements will return along with a 16th game with an opponent to be determined as the league's board explores possibilities for interleague matchups with another league in the region.

For returning players to the league, the deadline is Mar. 22 at 12 noon to be registered for the 2026 season in order to be guaranteed a roster spot. There will be open practices for all players but specifically targeted at new players scheduled for March 29 and April 4 at times and locations to be announced. The draft is currently scheduled to take place on April 4 following that practice.

The season is currently slated to start on Sunday, April 19 and following the success of the six-team fall league last

year, the league will also have a fall league in September and October this season.

The registration link will be live on Feb. 1 at www.quabbinvalleybaseball.org. Players must register and then pay the league dues via Venmo or contact the league leadership if an alternate form of payment is needed.

Aside from the weeknight and Mother's Day games, other games take place Sundays at 10 a.m. outside of Mother's Day, Memorial Day and July 4 weekends. Playoffs will be in August.

This is the 30th season for the league and league officials are looking to celebrate the anniversary with a couple of events.

SELECTBOARD

from page 1

ford sent a press release to the Daily Hampshire Gazette and Belchertown Sentinel. Because there are laws that rightly protect the privacy of employees, and on the advice of counsel, the Board will not be making further comment in this forum at this time."

The vote by the Selectboard to terminate Martin was 2-1, and was made under the understanding she was still in her current probationary period, which, under the "Compensation" section in her employment agreement, contains a footnote that pointed towards a six-month probation that would occur during the first year of her employment.

Martin, although her contract states that her employment agreement went into effect on March 3, did not begin with an official start date until June 2, according to the Selectboard. Using this date in June, Martin's probationary period would have ended on Dec. 3, two days after her termination.

The Selectboard posted a meeting that included an executive session to discuss her contract, but it does not show in the agenda that they were planning on terminating Tammy in any way, leading Clifford and Martin to file an Open Meeting Law violation. The Dec. 1 Selectboard agenda can be found on the Town

Website.

"The basic problem is that they signed a contract with Tammy that started last March, and that contract gives her job security in that she can't be fired without just cause," Clifford said in a recent interview.

Bail disagrees with Clifford's allegation of an Open Meeting Law violation, and that Martin had a probationary period in place, and the Selectboard decided not to extend this probationary period, and also shared that Tammy did not want to extend the period, and so, her employment ended with the end of the probationary period.

Bail said it is "customary for a contract employee to have a probationary period where they are an at-will employee during that time, and if it didn't work out, they could be fired."

Bail refused any public comment to the Sentinel regarding the exact reasoning for Martin's termination, and Labor Counsel Jack Collins declined comment, deferring to Town Counsel Brian O'Toole, who has not responded to the Sentinel's request for information as of press time.

Clifford countered with the claims that Martin's work contract says something different, and that the Selectboard "decided" to fire her as a probationary employee.

"The contract doesn't explain what this probationary period is, either," Clifford

said over the phone in an interview.

The press release from Clifford notes toward the end that "On a well-deserved day off, she was told by Mark Bail, via text message, that he intended to fire her that Monday evening."

Clifford states that the Selectboard did not give a reason for Martin's termination.

In a phone interview, Bail explained that there were some internal, private issues within personnel, but that he didn't have evidence for the issues, only words from others, and did not provide any further comment or information at this time.

Clifford, in the press release, details three violations against the town that they are taking action for: A violation of a breach on work contract, a violation of the wage act (she was fired on Dec. 1, and the town did not pay her all money owed on the day of her firing), and a violation of Open Meeting Law with no posting of decision before decision was made.

"By making this hasty, ill-considered decision, they've put the town on the hook," Clifford said in a phone interview.

The town is now searching for a new Town Administrator. At their Thursday, Dec. 4 meeting, the board appointed Police Chief Kevin O'Grady as the interim Town Administrator. Applications for the position will remain open until Jan. 30.

T-Birds stunned by Phantoms

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Thunderbirds (13-15-4-2) were snakebitten by a three-goal third period rally as the Lehigh Valley Phantoms (19-11-2-2) came away with a 3-2 win on Saturday night before a sellout crowd of 6,793 inside the MassMutual Center on Indians Throwback Night.

Entering the game having allowed only two total goals in their prior three victories, the Phantoms and their netminder, Carson Bjarnason, made it clear goals would not come easily for the T-Birds, as the rookie backstop turned away all 10 first period attempts from the home side.

At the other end of the rink, Georgi Romanov had a relatively quiet first period, making all seven saves asked of him in the Springfield crease. Neither team could connect

on a power play chance, and each goalie came up with a timely save off an odd-man attack, with Romanov stoning a Phil Tomasino 2-on-1 bid and Bjarnason rejecting a Juraj Pekarcik breakaway.

The T-Birds' power play wasted little time getting to the lead in the opening minute of the second, as Calle Rosen gathered a pass from Matthew Peca at the top of the left circle and picked the top corner over Bjarnason's glove to make it a 1-0 Springfield lead just 52 seconds into the frame.

That same man-up unit added to their tally at 16:53 on a gorgeous three-man passing play, as Alek Kaskimaki slid a pass to Chris Wagner at the left post. From there, Wagner stuffed a perfect between-the-leg pass over to

Matt Luff, who fired home his team-leading 12th goal to make it a 2-0 game into the intermission.

The third period began at 4-on-4, and the Phantoms finally got on the board as Lane Pederson curled to the middle of the ice before snapping a perfect shot upstairs over Romanov at the 27-second mark, cutting the Springfield lead to 2-1. On a power play just 2:40 later, Christian Kyrou dissected the T-Birds' defense and chipped a forehand over Romanov's glove, bringing Lehigh to a rapid tie, 2-2.

The 2-2 tie made it all the way to the game's final seconds, but a bad-angle shot from Anthony Richard at the bottom of the left circle somehow found its way home with 11.9 remaining, and Lehigh Valley escaped with the victory.

Throwback jerseys help Railers grab win over Florida

WORCESTER – The IceCats have been gone from these parts for more than 20 years but they keep winning anyway.

They kept their Railers victory streak alive Saturday night in the most compelling fashion possible, as the home team won one of the most dramatic victories in team history as they wore Cats uniforms.

Down, 2-0, to the powerful Florida Everblades with a little more than five minutes to go in the third period, Worcester came back to make it 2-2 and send things into overtime. For the fourth time this season, the Railers came away with the OT victory.

Max Dorrington scored the winner at 4:23 with Worcester on a power play. He tipped home a shot by Jesse Pulkkinen, who scored the Railers first goal of the game. It was the first professional goal of his North America career.

With the crowd of 8,025 roaring for most of the night, and with Worcester's Parker Gahagen and Florida's Cam Johnson both playing superbly in net, the building had a playoff atmosphere.

The Railers have never lost a game in front of a home crowd larger than 8,000. They are 8-0-0 in those games.

Pulkkinen got Worces-

ter's first goal at 14:36 of the third period on a sizzling slap shot from 55 feet. Ryan Mitto made it 2-2 at 17:00 as he tipped a shot by Michael Suda.

After Friday night's defeat, Worcester coach Nick Tuzzolino compared coming back from a two-goal deficit to climbing two mountains. His team could not do it Friday. Saturday night the Railers scaled Wachusett and Monadnock.

"I think we had a little bit better mindset," Tuzzolino said, "more positivity on our bench, myself included, trying to keep to our game plan."

The victory snapped a three-game losing streak during which Worcester was always playing from behind. Getting the game into overtime was just what the Railers wanted to do given how well they have played in the fourth period.

Saturday's triumph improved their overtime record to 4-1 this season. Worcester is 8-2 in its last 10 overtime games going back to last season.

There was no denying the energy in the DCU Center and both teams responded.

"If we're ever gonna talk about being a post-season team," Tuzzolino said, "and

playing post-season hockey, that's what we've got to get out of this. They're a great team."

Craig Needham and Reid Duke scored for Florida. Needham scored at 4:52 of the second period, one second after an Everblades power play ended. Duke made it 2-0 at 2:41 of the third.

The triumph was Worcester's second-ever over Florida. The Railers are 2-6-0 all-time versus the Everblades. It was just the second time they have beaten Johnson in six games. One victory is in overtime, one in a shootout.

As was the case Friday the first period was scoreless, although Worcester had a 10-7 edge in shots on goal. The home team took a while to get going and created its best scoring chances in the final minutes.

Riley Piercey had a re-direct from just outside of the crease that Johnson turned aside at 18:11. Shortly after that Worcester had several fine chances that did not go in, but as the buzzer approached Anthony Callin had a good look from the left and some net to shoot at but missed to the far side.

It took the Railers a while to stop missing, and that set up a great finish.

WORKSHOP from page 1

Heffernan will also travel to the homes of seniors who are unable to travel to the Senior Center to provide any technology assistance they may need.

"I love to see a lightbulb go off over people's heads when they see that something they thought would be really complicated is actually simple," said Heffernan. "I like that they can see that there is a way for people to walk away feeling more confident in using their devices."

Heffernan has been working in technical roles for the past 25 years, and has used her experience and expertise in business, e-commerce, technology management, tech support, marketing, and more to help shape and direct the COA's Technology Services Program.

"I would like people to know that it exists, because I know many senior centers may not have a program like this, so I'd love more people to know that this service is available to them, and that it is very welcoming and friendly, and not a scary topic source. We're really focused on empowering people to access technology," said Heffernan.

You can find more information about the Technology Services Program published in the monthly Golden Chronicle, and Heffernan is at the COA for five hours a week.

The Program welcomes donations in order to expand its services, like their iPad Loan Program, which allows seniors to borrow an iPad for six weeks before they buy their own.



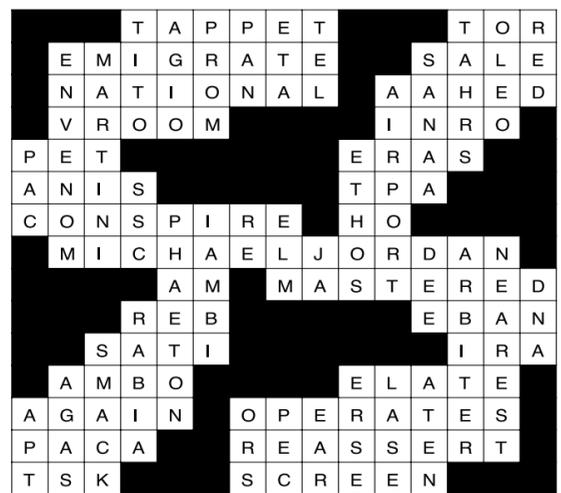
Submitted photo
Several people attended the first session of iPhone Basics, and are eager to learn more at the next two sessions.

Nathan Benson MVP and LEC Award

GRANBY – Nathan Benson of Granby, a First Year Student at Vermont State University @ Castleton, was awarded the 2025 MVP of the Men's Cross Country Team and was named to the first-ever Little East Conference Sportsmanship Team. Nathan is a Communications/Cinema Studies major.

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CAREER Education

HCSS: Empowering students for a brighter future

Are you searching for a school where academic excellence meets a supportive community? Hampden Charter School of Science (HCSS) is a top-ranked, tuition-free public charter school serving grades 6-12 in Western Massachusetts. Since its founding in 2009, HCSS has been dedicated to preparing students for college, careers, and a lifetime of success.

Why Choose HCSS?

HCSS stands out as a premier choice for families because of its unique combination of academic rigor, personalized attention, and community spirit. Our two campuses—the Middle School in West Springfield (Grades 6-8) and the High School in Chicopee (Grades 9-12)—offer students a seamless transition from middle school to high school and beyond. Here's what makes HCSS truly exceptional:

Academic Excellence: Our rigorous curriculum is guided by the College Board's AP standards and the Common Core. With honors courses beginning in 7th grade, 15 AP offerings in high school, and innovative programs like Project Lead The Way (PLTW), students are challenged to reach their full potential.

Comprehensive College and Career Preparation:



HCSS begins college and career readiness as early as 6th grade, including SAT/PSAT prep, dual enrollment opportunities, and experiential college campus visits. With a 100% college acceptance rate and over \$49M in scholarships awarded in 2025, our graduates are set for success.

State-of-the-Art Technology: Students benefit from one-to-one Chromebook access, SMART Inter-

active Displays, and hands-on science labs, preparing them for a tech-driven world.

Award-Winning Extracurriculars: From robotics, drone, and science olympiad clubs to competitive athletics and social activities, students thrive outside the classroom as well.

Join Us for an Open House
Explore what HCSS has to offer during our upcoming Welcome Saturday Open

House events. Meet our dedicated staff, tour our campuses, and learn how HCSS can help your child achieve their dreams. Interested families can also join a Virtual Information Session for an in-depth look at our programs from the comfort of home.

What Parents and Students Love About HCSS
Parents and students consistently praise HCSS for

its nurturing environment, where every student feels valued and supported. The school's commitment to diversity and inclusion fosters a vibrant community that celebrates different perspectives and cultures. Families also appreciate the convenience of free transportation and extensive tutoring services, ensuring all students have the tools they need to succeed.

Student Success Stories

HCSS alumni have gone on to attend prestigious universities, including Ivy League institutions like Harvard, Columbia, and Dartmouth. Our students' achievements are a testament to the school's dedication to academic and personal growth. With a consistent college matriculation rate of over 95%, HCSS prepares students not just to attend college but to excel once they get there.

How to Apply

Applications for the 2026-2027 school year are now open. Rising 6th-10th graders should apply no later than March 1, 2026, to secure a spot in our admission lottery. Visit www.hampden-charter.org to apply and take the first step toward a brighter future.

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February 28th

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MARCH 1, 2026





CAREER Education

St. Joan of Arc School offers comprehensive education

Located in Chicopee, MA, St. Joan of Arc (SJA) School is a private Catholic institution serving students from Pre-K through Grade 8.

St. Joan of Arc School provides a comprehensive educational environment focused on physical, intellectual,

and spiritual wellness.

In the fall the school community welcomed Mrs. Ashley Mahan as the new principal. A lifelong Chicopee resident and former educator in the local public school system, Mrs. Mahan brings extensive experience and a personal connection to the community.

Students can engage in several new and returning enrichment opportunities this year, including:

- Creative Arts: Liturgical Dance Troupe and Choir.
- STEM & Literacy: Robotics, 3D Printing, LEGO,

Book and Newspaper Clubs.

- Curriculum: Academic programs are integrated with technology, music, library, and physical education.
- Student Services: The school offers free breakfast and lunch programs and has hot meal options available for students.
- Extended Care: Affordable extended care and extracurricular programs are available to support families.
- Language Learning:

Innovative offerings include foreign language instruction through tools like Duolingo.

Our Preschool program for ages 3 and 4 offers full and part-time care, geared toward preparing your child for Kindergarten. Children learn Kindergarten readiness and pre-reading skills through a developmentally appropriate teacher-created curriculum designed to hold your child's interest and spark their curiosity. The school will be holding an Open House on Saturday, Jan. 31 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. (no appointment needed). Appointment only tours for families will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 3 and Thursday, Feb. 5 from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. Please call Janine or Chris in the Business Office at 413-276-4608 for registration information, or to make an appointment. To learn more visit www.sjachicopee.org.

We look forward to meeting you.

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Tuesday, February 3rd & Thursday, Feb 5th, 3pm-7pm

By Appointment Only



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St. Stanislaus School students shine as servant leaders

St. Stanislaus School proudly announces the success of its recent community service initiatives, exemplifying its motto: "Servant Leaders for Today and Tomorrow."

In a spirited effort to support those in need, Student Council organized a can drive that collected an impressive 3,500 items, surpassing their original goal by 1,000 donations. The drive demonstrated the school community's commitment to service, teamwork, and making a tangible difference in the lives of local families.

Building on this momentum, St. Stanislaus students also gathered toiletries, diapers, and other personal items to fulfill the wish lists of The Gray House and Christina's House in Springfield. These organizations provide critical support and safe spaces for individuals and families facing challenging circumstances.

"This can drive is run by our Student Council in grades 4-8," said Mrs. Katherine Rorrio, Principal of St. Stanislaus School. "This drive aligns with the state-

ment that we believe our students are servant leaders for today and tomorrow. It assists our school community in understanding the global community, where we are all neighbors and members of God's family. Our school theme this year is 'Go Make Disciples of All Nations.' Our students are wonderful examples of disciples going out and making a difference in the community. We are so proud of all of our students and families for being so generous to those in need."

St. Stanislaus School remains committed to fostering a culture of compassion, responsibility, and service, preparing students not only for academic success but also for meaningful engagement in their communities.

Founded over 125 years ago, St. Stanislaus School has a rich history of serving families in Chicopee and surrounding communities. Although the original building was lost to fire, the school will celebrate the 50th anniversary of its current building on Saturday, Jan. 31, beginning with Mass at 4 p.m., followed by an Open House and

Celebration. Families interested in scheduling a private tour at another time may call the school at (413) 592-5135.

St. Stanislaus School is a Roman Catholic, Franciscan, co-educational Pre-K through 8th grade school. Students are assisted in developing their potential spiritually, physically, and socially within a safe and diverse community. A foundation of academic excellence is created to prepare students to become contributing members of a global society.

The school has a welcoming Franciscan environment, modern air-conditioned facility, strong core curriculum, enrichment classes, certified faculty, full-day preschool (PreK 3 & 4) and Kindergarten, free breakfast and hot lunch, before and after school program, and one-to-one use and integration of iPads and Chromebooks into curriculum. Financial Aid is available. Interested students are invited to spend a day with us. To learn more please visit www.saintstansschool.org.

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- One to one use and integration of iPads & Chromebooks into curriculum
- Modern facility - full gym, full cafeteria, air conditioned, carpeted classrooms.



To learn more



Call us for more information and to schedule a tour. We welcome the opportunity for you to experience St. Stanislaus School! Interested students are invited to "spend a day with us."



www.saintstansschool.org
534 Front Street, Chicopee, MA 01013
413-592-5135



CAREER Education

HCC opens registration for Spring 2026 noncredit classes

Holyoke Community College has opened registration for its Spring 2026 catalog of noncredit personal enrichment and professional development classes.

The spring calendar begins Jan. 12, with individual classes running on different schedules throughout the semester.

New next semester is a series of classes for seniors focused on basic technology. Each one-hour class is available for just \$20 and cover a wide range of subjects, including Windows 11, Microsoft Word, Microsoft Excel, Microsoft PowerPoint, Canva (for graphic design), Artificial Intelligence, Zoom, smartphone use (Android or iPhone), managing and editing photos, document storage, web browsers, and computer scams.

Other classes for spring include cooking (Caribbean, charcuterie, Puerto Rican, Southern), wine tasting (winter reds, Tuscany, New Zealand, Rose, summer wines), sewing (for beginners), sewing (machine), watercolor painting, acrylic painting, drawing, piano, conversational French, conversational Spanish, music technology, voiceover coaching, financial literacy, retirement planning, K-12 education (professional development), writing and publishing (fiction, nonfiction,



tion, screenwriting, short stories, query letters, mysteries, travel, blogs), ChatGPT, how to launch a pet-sitting and dog-walking business, and Quickbooks.

Most classes meet in the Kittredge Center for Business and Workforce Development on the main HCC campus, 303 Homestead Ave. Cooking and wine-tasting classes meet at the HCC MGM Culinary Arts Institute, 164 Race St. Some classes meet over Zoom.

To see complete spring course listings and schedules, or to register, please visit hcc.edu/bcs.

More classes will be added as spring approaches.

The Commonwealth's oldest community college, Holyoke Community College opened its doors in 1946 as the first two-year college in Massachusetts. In the decades since, the college has paved the way for generations of learners from western Massachusetts and beyond, a beacon of hope and opportunity for people

seeking better lives. Please visit us at hcc.edu.

HCC's Kittredge Center for Business and Workforce Development is the Pioneer Valley's premiere resource for workforce training, professional development, and personal growth. It provides innovative and affordable programming that helps businesses, organizations, and individuals achieve their goals.



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A premier healthcare educator in our region.

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hcc.edu/healthcare



CAREER Education

Jump Start Preschool invites families to learn, play, and grow together

Two Locations in Feeding Hills and West Springfield

Jump Start Preschool is proud to welcome families to a nurturing, play-based learning environment where children are encouraged to explore, grow, and develop essential life skills. Serving children ages 2.9 to 5 years old, Jump Start Preschool focuses on learning through play while fostering independence, creativity, and confidence.

At Jump Start Preschool, social-emotional learning and communication are key components of each age group's curriculum. Children learn how to problem-solve with peers, practice self-regulation strategies, and build the foundational skills that help them succeed academically and socially. By supporting emotional growth alongside academics, Jump Start helps children thrive both in and out of the classroom.

Family and community partnerships are at the heart

of the Jump Start Preschool mission. In support of this commitment, Jump Start Preschool will host a 5K Run/Walk on May 30, bringing the community together to raise funds for Autism Allies and the children of Jump Start Preschool. Sixty percent of all donations will benefit Autism Allies. The event will feature live music, local businesses, exercise, and great company. Community members are encouraged to participate and support children and families.

Event information and registration: <https://Milesofhopeforautism.eventbrite.com>

Jump Start Preschool offers a wide range of perks designed to support both children and working families, including:

- Open year-round
 - Reasonable tuition
 - Family-friendly hours
- Feeding Hills:**
7:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
- West Springfield:**
7:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
- Free healthy morning and afternoon snacks
 - Community and in-

house field trips

- Family engagement activities throughout the year
- EEC-certified staff trained in CPR, First Aid, and medication administration
- State-of-the-art playground
- Preschool graduation with a professional photographer
- School photos twice per year
- Free occupational therapy and speech screenings twice annually

"Timeless moments come from learning through movement, creativity, and connection," said Jump Start Preschool. "We invite families to come dance with us and experience the joy of early learning."

Families interested in enrolling are encouraged to visit www.jumpstartpreschoolma.com and complete an interest form. Jump Start Preschool is currently enrolling preschoolers ages 2.9 to 5 at both the Feeding Hills and West Springfield locations.

Watch out — learning is happening.

Various ways newspapers are good for kids

Newspapers have long been part of the fabric of the communities they cover and serve. Whether it's a big-city daily tabloid or a small town weekly, newspapers keep readers and residents up-to-date on the latest goings-on in their communities and across the globe.

Newspapers have been linked to a range of benefits for adults that include greater civic engagement and stronger voter turnout. Such benefits are indispensable, and it's equally important to recognize ways in which newspapers benefit children.

• Reading and discussing newspaper stories can foster stronger language development. A 2022 study published in the *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health* noted that parents who provide newspapers at home for their children to read and then discuss stories with young readers can help kids develop strong language skills, which could ultimately benefit them in the classroom and in their personal interactions. The study also noted that discussing newspaper stories with youngsters creates opportunities for children to explore their thoughts.

• Newspapers can help children develop their critical thinking skills. A meta-analysis examining ways to teach students critical thinking skills published in the *Review of Educational Research* noted that critical thinking skills are vital because they bolster students' ability to interpret, analyze, evaluate, and make inferences. Newspapers are an invaluable resource for educators aiming to bolster kids' critical thinking skills, as they can be used to teach students to recognize why stories were written, how information in a given story was learned and gathered and how to verify information in a news story. Each of those lessons requires interpretation, analysis and evaluation, ultimately instilling in students vital critical thinking skills that can serve them in the classroom and beyond.



• Newspapers help students develop vital communication skills. A 2024 study published in the *Elementary Journal of Educational Research* found that reading newspapers helped student participants in the study improve their vocabulary, enhance their writing skills and more effectively articulate their ideas. Authors behind the study ultimately characterized newspapers as valuable educational tools, a conclusion that has been reached by researchers across a range of academic disciplines.

Newspapers are part of the fabric of the communities they cover, and children have much to gain from being granted access to their local papers in the classroom and at home.

Newspapers are part of the fabric of the communities they cover, and children have much to gain from being granted access to their local papers in the classroom and at home.

Jump Start Preschool

Enrolling Now for the

2026-2027

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Jump Start Preschool provides a safe, loving, nurturing and high-quality childcare and education that promotes and enhances each child's development with the assurance of our parents' peace of mind.

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Ages 2.9 to 5 years old



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For more information, call or visit our website:

www.JumpStartPreschoolMA.com

- Feeding Hills: 413.789.4987
- West Springfield: 413.301.5694

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At Gateway you can join our Early Education and Care program (EEC) in 9th grade!

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You will also be on track to:

- Know how to plan engaging activities and lessons
- Have CPR & First Aid certification
- Experience awesome internship opportunities



Visit:
www.grsd.org
for more information!



CAREER Education

Well-rounded education benefits students

Academic environments have undergone quite a change over the last several decades. Technological advancements have changed the way educators teach and how students learn, but there's also been a notable shift in what students are learning.

Science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) has become a point of emphasis in twenty-first century classrooms, and for good reason. The U.S. National Science Foundation notes that a workforce educated in STEM is vital to a country's prosperity and security. Opportunities in STEM fields are on the rise as well, as the Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates STEM occupations will grow by roughly 11 percent between 2022 and 2032.

The value of STEM is undeniable. However, students and parents also should recognize the many ways a well-rounded education that includes math and science but also the humanities and social sciences facilitates strong academic performance.

Critical thinking skills

A well-rounded education can instill important and useful critical thinking skills in students. When students direct the bulk of their attention to a single subject or



category of subjects, they're less likely to understand how interconnected coursework, and indeed the world, can be. A well-rounded education can instill in students a more nuanced way of looking at problems and potential solutions. That ability can positively affect students' personal lives and ultimately their professional lives when their formal schooling ends, as they will be in position to better assess situations.

Comprehension

Tests are designed to gauge students' grasp of material. Students' ability to comprehend lessons taught in the classroom is a big part of that, and a well-round-

ed education fosters strong comprehension skills. A 2018 report from the New York State Education Department noted that research has found that students are better readers after they have been exposed to the language and vocabulary of the natural world, the sciences and social studies.

Crossover benefits

A well-rounded education can help students perform better in all of their subjects. In 2021, a University of Buffalo academic and researcher studying children and dyslexia made a startling discovery regarding the value of reading and how it affects performance in subjects like math. The research found that reading proficiency crosses academic domains and actually guides how students approach various tasks and solve problems. That means a well-rounded education that includes reading-heavy subjects, like those in the humanities and social sciences, could actually improve how students perform in STEM classes.

A well-rounded education pays a number of dividends for students. Recognition of those benefits might compel parents to support a curriculum that includes a wide array of subjects and academic disciplines.

Gateway announces expansion of career pathways, Chapter 74 vocational opportunities

Gateway Regional School (GRS) is proud to announce the expansion of its personalized learning model, featuring anticipated openings in its premier Chapter 74 Vocational Programs for the fall of 2026. Designed as a "launchpad" for student success, GRS continues to bridge the gap between classroom learning and real-world career readiness for students in grades 6–12.

Innovative Middle School Exploration

The journey begins in the middle grades (6–8), where students engage in an expansive exploratory program. With 26 unique course options—ranging from Intro to Tourism and Woodshop to Data and Statistics in Sports and Sociology—students are encouraged to uncover their passions early.

By the eighth grade, students can gain a head start by accessing Gateway's Chapter 74 vocational programs, providing hands-on introduction to high-demand fields before they even enter high school.

Challenging Chapter 74 Vocational Programs

Gateway's commitment

to excellence is anchored by two flagship programs that prepare students for immediate entry into the workforce:

- **Welding & Metal Fabrication:** This program offers real hands-on experience in state-of-the-art facilities renovated in 2022. Students learn on modern equipment, including a robotic arm, and participate in both on-site and off-site internships.

- **Early Education and Care (EEC):** Starting in 9th grade, students in the EEC program are put on a track to become certified professionals. The curriculum includes lesson planning for young learners, CPR and First Aid certification, and immersive internship opportunities.

A Personalized Path to the Future

As students reach the 10th grade, they participate in a "demonstration of learning" to chart their specific goals for their final two years. This tailored approach allows for meaningful experiences, including:

- **Internships and Co-ops:** Real-world placements in students' fields of interest.
- **College Credits:** Through dual-enrollment and concurrent enrollment

partnerships with universities across the country.

- **Work-Study Placements:** Providing a practical balance between education and professional experience.

"At Gateway Regional School, education is more than coursework—it's a launchpad," Dr. Will Sullivan, GRS Principal, states. "We empower our students to excel in life after graduation through intentionally personalized learning pathways crafted to foster achievement and community impact."

Join the

Gateway Community

Gateway Regional School welcomes students from its six member towns and surrounding communities. Families interested in exploring these opportunities for the Fall 2026 semester are encouraged to apply today.

For more information on programs and how to apply, please visit www.grsd.org.

Media Contact: Gateway Regional School District Website: www.grsd.org
Gateway Regional School District is located at 12 Littleville Road, Huntington, MA 01050.

WELCOME TO GATEWAY REGIONAL SCHOOL



"AT GATEWAY REGIONAL SCHOOL, EDUCATION IS MORE THAN COURSEWORK – IT'S A LAUNCHPAD."

Gateway Regional School (GRS) is proud to educate and welcome students from the six member towns and surrounding communities in a vibrant, forward-thinking learning environment designed to prepare students for life beyond the classroom.

Serving students in grades 6-12, Gateway Regional School is built around one central goal: helping every student discover their interests, develop their strengths, and chart a clear path toward future success. That journey begins in the middle grades, where students in grades 6-8, participate in an expansive exploratory program offering 26 unique course options. From *Intro to Tourism and Woodshop* to *Data and Statistics in Sports, Financial Literacy, Engineering, and Sociology*, students are encouraged to explore new ideas, uncover passions, and start thinking about possible career pathways early on. Eighth-grade students can take that exploration even further by accessing Gateway's Chapter 74 vocational programs in *Early Education and Care* and *Welding*, giving them a hands-on introduction to high-demand fields before they enter high school.

Once students reach high school, Gateway shifts into a highly personalized learning model. In grade 10, students complete a demonstration of learning, sharing their goals and aspirations for their final two years at GRS. These plans guide meaningful experiences such as internships, co-ops, and work-study placements, allowing students to gain real-world experience in fields they are excited to pursue.

Gateway's strong partnerships with colleges and universities across the country further expand student opportunities through dual-enrollment and concurrent enrollment programs, helping students earn college credit while still in high school. Looking ahead, Gateway Regional School is excited to announce anticipated openings in its Chapter 74 Vocational Programs for fall 2026, creating new opportunities for students interested in *Early Education and Care* and *Welding*.

GATEWAY REGIONAL'S COMMITMENT TO THE FUTURE AND TO EXCELLENCE:

AT GATEWAY REGIONAL SCHOOL, STUDENTS ARE EMPOWERED TO EXCEL IN LIFE AFTER GRADUATION THROUGH INTENTIONALLY PERSONALIZED LEARNING PATHWAYS AND OPPORTUNITIES, CRAFTED TO FOSTER A FUTURE OF ACHIEVEMENT, CONTRIBUTION, UNDERSTANDING, LEADERSHIP, AND COMMUNITY IMPACT.



CAREER Education

PVPA continues to invest in Arts-focused education



At a time when many public schools are trying to manage difficult budgets by cutting Art programs, Pioneer Valley Performing Arts Public Charter School continues to invest in Arts-focused education for students in Grades 7 - 12.

With an extensive Course Catalog of challenging Academic and Arts courses, PVPA employs 15

full-time Arts teachers, and now has five Arts Departments: Music, Dance, Theatre, Visual Arts and new this year, Technical Design and Production.

Students are encouraged to find their artistic voice through a range of introductory courses and audition level course options, with multiple performance opportunities, all integrated with

their core academics.

PVPA students consistently show that incorporating the arts into education creates, not just better artists, but better students who are equipped to be active participants in their future.

Visit for an Open House on Thursday, Jan. 22, and see why PVPA is consistently voted one of the Best Charter Schools in the Valley.

As a public charter school, admission to PVPA is free and open to all Massachusetts students by lottery; no tuition or audition required.

Now accepting applications for the 2026/2027 school year for Grades 7-12 at pvpa.org/admissions.

For more information, please email admissions@pvpa.org.



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413-552-1580

Apply Now!

Grades 7-11

2026/27 school year



PVPA

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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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OUR CLASSIFIEDS REACH 50 COMMUNITIES EVERY WEEK!

Scholarship, Fellowship applications available

WESTFIELD – The Horace Smith Fund, located in Westfield, Massachusetts has scholarship and fellowship money available for residents of Hampden County, MA. Graduating high school seniors and students already in college may apply for Scholarships of up to \$12,000. Those in their final year of college and previous college graduates pursuing advanced degrees may apply for Fellowships of \$15,000. Applicants must maintain at least a B average in college and be enrolled as full-time students.

Awards are made based on both academic achievement and merit. Of great importance is a personal written account of why the student feels deserving of financial assistance and their goals in pursuing higher education.

Last year, \$297,000 was awarded to 24 individuals. Scholarships were given to 18 graduating seniors from 11 Hampden County high schools. Three scholarships were also awarded to current college students to as-

sist them in completing their undergraduate degrees, and three fellowships were given to college graduates pursuing advanced degrees, who had graduated from Hampden County high schools.

The Horace Smith Fund was established in 1899 by the successful and generous philanthropist named Horace Smith, co-founder of Smith & Wesson, established in Springfield. The scholarships and fellowships are named for Walter S. Barr, a West Springfield businessman, whose widow left the bulk of the family estate to The Horace Smith Fund in 1950.

Completed applications must be received either electronically or by mail to The Horace Smith Fund at 16 Union Avenue, Suite 2K, Westfield, MA 01085 no later than March 15, 2026. Applications will also be available at local high school guidance offices, college financial aid offices, online at www.HoraceSmithFund.org or by phoning (413) 739-4222.



Turley photos by Tina Lesniak

The wastewater treatment plant will need to be rebuilt in the coming years.

The work you don't see: How South Hadley's DPW keeps the town running

By Tina Lesniak
Correspondent

SOUTH HADLEY – The South Hadley Department of Public Works (DPW) is a constant, often unseen presence in daily life—one that quietly keeps the town running. From the moment residents take out their trash to the time snow is cleared from roadways after a storm, DPW crews are at work behind the scenes, ensuring essential services are delivered safely and efficiently.

“The DPW is a town department that provides everyday services that most residents take for granted,” said DPW Director John Broderick.

Those services span nearly every corner of the community: treating household wastewater and sewage, trash and yard waste collection, road and sidewalk maintenance, tree care, street sweeping, snow and ice removal, sewer and storm drainage repairs, public event setups and cleanups, and the maintenance and mowing of parks,

schools, and athletic fields. “The list is almost endless,” Broderick said, emphasizing that Water District 1 and Water District 2 are separate town departments and not under Public Works.

Beyond day-to-day operations, the department is continually assessing infrastructure needs and addressing challenges before they become larger problems.

“DPW is constantly evaluating issues that arise, and doing our best proactively to minimize impacts,” Broderick said. One recent example is a \$3 million sewer lining project from Brainerd Street to Main Street, completed to reduce groundwater infiltration that places strain on the Wastewater Treatment Plant. In addition, Buttery Brook Park received upgrades in 2025, adding new amenities for residents to enjoy.

Looking ahead, the department faces several major, long-term projects critical to South Hadley's future. Chief among them is rebuilding the Wastewater Treatment Plant

and its associated pumping stations, which are approximately 55 years old. “This is a 10-year project that will cost around \$40–\$50 million dollars,” Broderick said, but it is necessary to improve wastewater treatment processes for the next 40 years. Another transformative effort is the proposed full reconstruction of Main Street from the Chicopee line to Canal Street. The project, about a decade in design, carries an estimated \$11 million price tag and would include a shared path, new sidewalks, updated roadway layout, and amenities such as benches and new streetlights.

Managing these projects while responding to everyday service requests requires coordination and experience. According to Broderick, “The balancing act of requests, responsibilities, and residential demands happens seamlessly thanks to a very dedicated, experienced group of Public Works employees.” That teamwork is especially evident during severe weather

events. “The crews from the four divisions work together extremely well when a severe weather event occurs,” he said. “We can generally handle anything that Mother Nature throws at us.”

In addition to DPW-related projects, Broderick pointed to other major financial investments on the horizon, including a potential Mosier School renovation or rebuilding, a new South Hadley Electric Light Department building, and ongoing infrastructure, vehicle, and equipment replacements.

Ultimately, Broderick emphasized the value residents receive for their tax dollars. “Please understand that the DPW is the maintenance division for the tax dollars residents pay for living in the Town of South Hadley,” he said. “The employees are dedicated, trained professionals in their craft and are on-call 24/7/365.” While the work is often unpleasant, he added, it is essential—and something the community can take pride in.

SHHS basketball teams, service club host NHN donation drive

SOUTH HADLEY – The South Hadley Service Club, in partnership with the boys and girls basketball teams, is hosting a donation drive to benefit Neighbors Helping Neighbors. Monetary donations as well as food items are greatly appreciated.

For ever \$1 donated, or each food item donated, you will receive a raffle ticket for a chance to win a \$25 gift card to a choice of the

following: Granby Grain, Odyssey Bookshop, Big Y, Chipotle Mexican Grill, Vanished Valley Brewing Co., Master Chef, Pizza Palace of Granby, Thai Place, Dunkin Donuts, and Randall's Farm.

The drawings will be held during the halftimes of the following games: Boys Games: January 20 and 30; Girls Games: January 26 and 27, February 2, 6, and 9.

Free HCC line-cook training program begins Jan. 26

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Community College will be running both daytime and evening editions of its free, line-cook training program at the HCC MGM Culinary Arts Institute beginning Jan. 26.

The six-week daytime program starts Monday, Jan. 26, and runs until March 6. Classes meet Mondays and Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., and Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The 11-week evening program runs from Jan. 26 until April 8 on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays from 5 to 9 p.m.

Additional spring semester line-cook training programs will start on March 30 (daytime), April 27 (evening) and May 11 (daytime).

“HCC tries to meet the needs of its students by offering multiple options for start days and times,” said Paul Sheehan, assistant project coordinator for culinary arts programs. “Over the last few years, we have offered our free line cook training as separate day and evening programs to help students find the schedule that works best for them.” The program is designed for those already in the restaurant industry who want to upgrade their skills as well as unem-



Submitted photo

If you ever wanted to learn to be a line cook, free training is available at HCC.

ployed or underemployed individuals interested in starting new careers.

“We usually have a mix of young people entering the job market for the first time and people who are re-entering the job market, looking for a second career,” Sheehan said. “The course is perfect for anybody who's looking for a job and has a passion for food and the dining industry.”

All classes meet in person at the HCC MGM Culinary Arts Institute at 164 Race St.

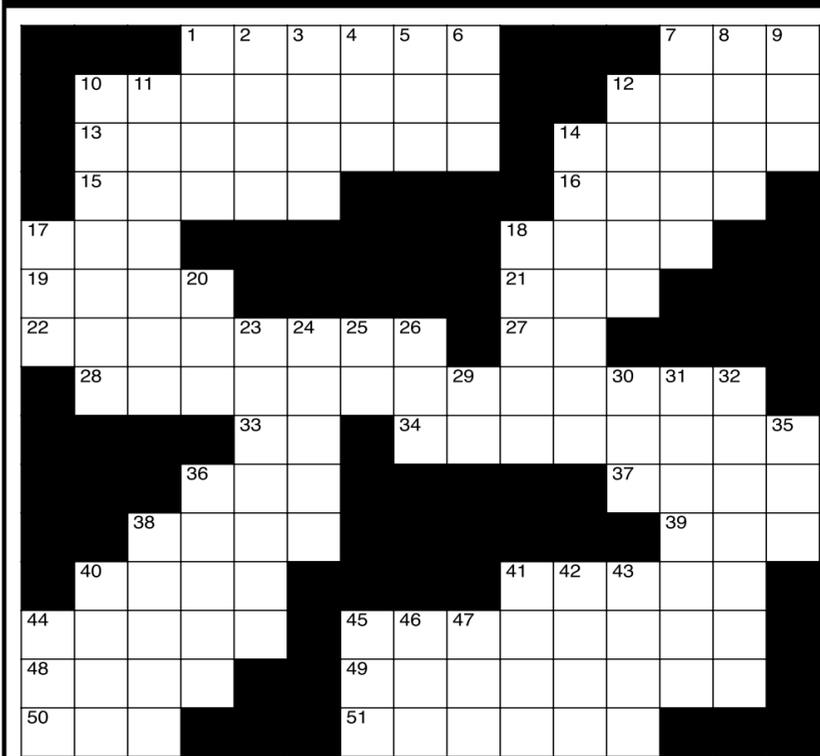
Participants will learn all the essential competencies they need to become success-

ful line cooks: knife skills; how to prepare stocks, soups, sauces, desserts, poultry, fish and meat; culinary math and measurements; moist and dry heat cooking methods; as well as workplace soft skills, such as building a resume and searching for jobs.

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

For more information, or to fill out an inquiry form, please go to hcc.edu/line-cook.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Mechanical lever
- 7. Rocky peak
- 10. Leave a country
- 12. Discount
- 13. D.C. ballplayer
- 14. Partner to "ooled"
- 15. Engine sound
- 16. Japanese ornamental box
- 17. Fido is one
- 18. Amounts of time
- 19. DiFranco and Phylo are two
- 21. Yearly tonnage (abbr.)
- 22. Make secret plans
- 27. "Tiny Bubbles" singer
- 28. "His Airness"
- 33. Morning
- 34. Perfected
- 36. Winger guitarist
- Beach
- 37. Abba __, Israeli politician
- 38. Self-immolation by fire ritual
- 39. A way to save money
- 40. Pulpit
- 41. Make ecstatically happy
- 44. Once more
- 45. Works on
- 48. Nocturnal S. American rodent
- 49. State again
- 50. Expression of disappointment
- 51. Type of door
- 4. Peter's last name
- 5. When you anticipate arriving
- 6. Israeli city __ Aviv
- 7. Goat-like mammals
- 8. Margarine
- 9. End-of-the-spectrum color
- 10. Make poisonous
- 11. Popular beverage
- 12. Actress Lathan
- 14. Where planes land and depart
- 17. Political fundraising entity
- 18. The distinctive spirit of a people or an era
- 20. Buffer used in microbiology
- 23. Light, open carriage
- 24. Metrical feet
- 25. Email subject line feature
- 26. A street with lots of nightmares
- 29. Rapper Rule
- 30. River in Scotland
- 31. One who settles a dispute
- 32. Most chummy
- 35. We all have our own
- 36. Arab tribe
- 38. Slap
- 40. Ottoman military commanders
- 41. Scottish or Irish Gaelic language
- 42. Emit coherent radiation
- 43. Sun or solar disk (Egyptian mythology)
- 44. Inclined to
- 45. Olfactory reference syndrome
- 46. Chest muscle (slang)
- 47. Body part

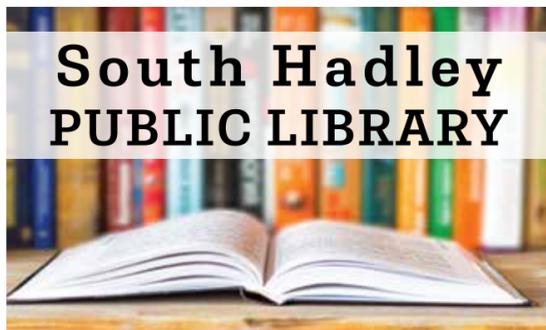
Legal Notices

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, February 10, 2026** to be held at 1 Library Lane-Old Carnegie Library-Top Floor to consider the following:
1. **7:30 PM-NOI**-filed by Vitaliy Babich, Owner, for the proposed construction of a Single-Family home in the Buffer

Zone to the BVW located at Lot 9 Morgan Street and known as map 5-A- 2-4 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

01/16/2026



South Hadley PUBLIC LIBRARY

Celebrate the new year at the library

SOUTH HADLEY – Happy & Healthy New Year! Looking for a new resolution to make for 2026? How about to read more? Studies show that reading is great brain exercise. It helps students retain information and preserves brain health in adults. Grab a good book today. Staff at South Hadley Public and Gaylord Memorial libraries are happy to offer suggestions and recommendations.

Currently, the Town of South Hadley is conducting a survey to measure the importance of certain public services among community members. Please take a few minutes to support the services you rely on. The more people who take the survey, the better representation we'll have for our town and the services you rely on. Go to the town website take the survey.

Adult Programs at SHPL
We still have space for a special book launch event with local author **Linda Bass** on **Tuesday, January 27, at 6:30 p.m.** in the Community Room. Bass, author of *A Tiny White Light*, brings her background in psychology to a candid and compelling memoir that explores the interior experience of her own psychotic episode, examining its roots in guilt, lost purpose, the tension between mothering and career, and the ambiguity of her relationship with her therapist. This thoughtful author's talk promises meaningful discussion and reflection.

The **Sustainable Living Book Club** returns on **Wednesday, January 28 at 6 p.m.** to discuss *Entangled Life* by Merlin Sheldrake. Books for these and the senior center book clubs are available at the library.

Online Author Programs
Nature, Art, and Service as Medicine with **Journalist Julia Hotz**, *Journalist and Award-Winning Author of The Connection Cure*. Tuesday, January 20 at 2 p.m.

Secrets and Second Chances with **Liz Moore**, *New York Times Bestselling and Award-Winning Author of The God of the Woods and Long Bright River*. Wednesday, January 28 at 7 p.m.

Children's Programs at SHPL

It's January, and we're excited about the new batch of medal and honor books that will be announced at the end of the month! In our storytimes and displays, we'll be featuring past Caldecott medal and honor books, plus other award books. **Story time is Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m.**, and **Pajama story time is Mondays at 6:30 p.m.**

Come for **Lego & Games** on **Mondays and Wednesdays** from 3 to 5 p.m. (no sign-up required). Attention, caregivers of

babies! **Baby Lapsit Storytime** is at **10 a.m. on Friday, January 16 and 23**, and special musical guest **Miss Julie** will join us on **January 30**.

Wildlife on Wheels from the Forest Park Zoo is filling up fast - sign up or get on the waitlist to meet some animals on **Saturday, January 31 at 10:30 a.m.**

All our regular programs continue as usual: **Pride Club** (January 27), **CFCE Playgroup**, and **Rhyme Time**.

Questions, comments, or suggestions? Contact Jenny with any questions.

Teen Programs at SHPL
Tweens and teens (ages 11 through 19) have a lot of great choices this month.

Night Craft will be happening on **Tuesday, January 27, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.** We will be crafting **Mini Glow Lights**. None of these programs requires signing up unless you would like an email reminder.

Snackternoon will be on **Thursday, January 22, from 4 to 5 p.m.** Please sign up so we can have enough supplies for all teen participants.

Our monthly **Teen Takeaways** continue, and this month features **Pen Doodling**. Sign up once and get a new Teen Takeaway every month.

We also have our latest **Booktrovert** pick: *Shackled* by Candy J Cooper. There are no in-person meet-ups; just enjoy the book on your own time. Copies are available in the Teen Room for checkout.

We continue our new **Teen Book Club**: the **Read Whatever Book Club**. Talk about whatever you're reading with other teens! Light refreshments provided. This program takes place on **Monday, January 26, from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.**, and no sign-up is needed unless you want an email reminder. Any questions, please email Bethany.

Gaylord Memorial Library Programs

Castle Nitor returns to Gaylord on **Thursday, January 22, at 5 p.m. for Block Printing**. Join the staff of Castle Nitor for a fun lesson on block printing. Use replica blocks of period prints and make your own blocks from potatoes. Take home a new treasure that you made on your own! Register here.

For kids, we also have our usual **Story Times (Fridays at 10:30 a.m.)**.

Drop-In Crafts Thursday, January 22, from 3 to 6 p.m., and **LEGO Club** meets **Thursday, January 29, from 3 to 6 p.m.**

Families can also join us on **Saturday, January 17, at 10:15 a.m. for Trains-n-Tracks**.

Art exhibit showcases Quabbin Art Association artists at North Brookfield Savings Bank

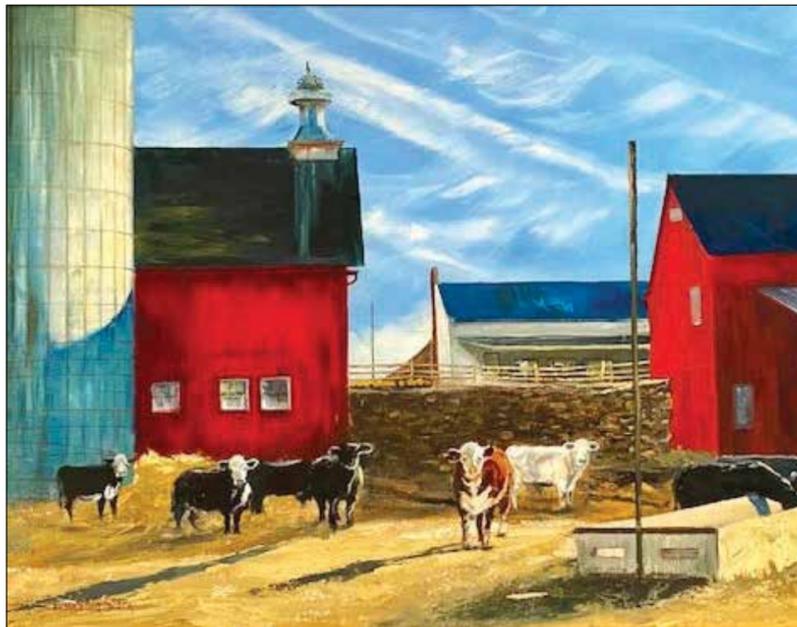
BELCHERTOWN – The Quabbin Art Association announces year-round rotating art exhibits at North Brookfield Savings Bank, 4 Daniel Shays Highway in Belchertown. The lobby will feature work by QAA members, with shows changing every three months.

The opening exhibit shows artwork by artists Terrence Kiernan, Susan Pecora, and Deborah Sacon, now on display through March during regular business hours.

QAA is grateful to North Brookfield Savings Bank for its support of local artists and commitment to enriching the community through the arts.

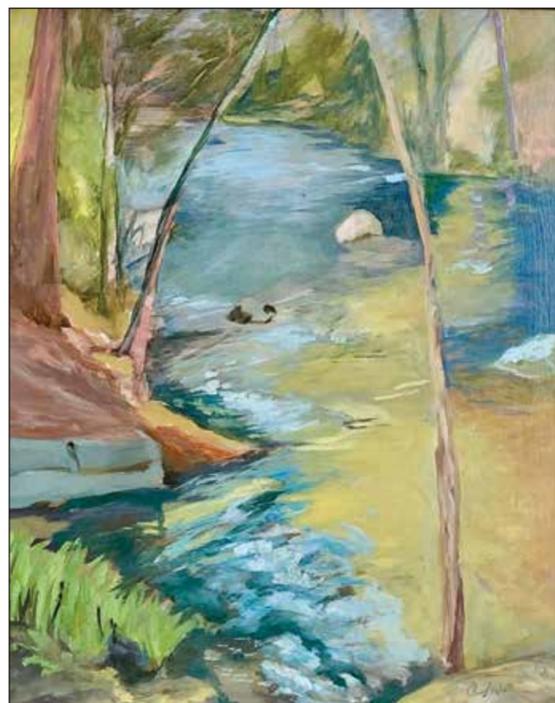
About Quabbin Art Association

The Quabbin Art Association (QAA) is a Belchertown-based regional arts organization dedicated to supporting artists and promoting access to the visual arts through exhibitions, education, and community partnerships. For more information, please visit their website at <http://www.quabbinartassociation.com>.



Susan Pecora.

Submitted photos



Deborah Sacon.



Terrence Kiernan.

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WARE RIVER NEWS • THE WILBRAHAM-HAMPDEN TIMES

CONTACT: DAN FLYNN
413-297-5886
DFLYNN@TURLEY.COM

DEADLINE
January 28, 2026

PUBLICATION DATE
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