

# TOWN Reminder

FREE  
January 24, 2025  
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INDEX

6  
9  
12

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## Harlequins prepare for **QUEEN** MUSICAL PERFORMANCE

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

SOUTH HADLEY – Members of the Harlequins Performing Group are looking forward to the end of the month, where their hard work and long hours dedicated to practicing song and dance will finally pay off.

Directed by Beth Ayn Curtis, the Harlequins will be performing “We Will Rock You,” originally written by Ben Elton, which uses the songs of Queen to tell a story.

The musical is a stage show, and it was performed in England for three years before it came to the United States, and it is a full-fledged Broadway show.

“It’s set in the future, in a place where Global Soft controls all of the music. There is no live music, and it is all computer generated, and the hero is trying to find the live music again,” said Curtis.

The Harlequins performing group has been a part of the South Hadley High School since at least the seventies, and Curtis took over as director in 1997.

The cast and crew is made up of about twenty-five students from both



Please see **QUEEN**, page 12

Michael and Zander singing “I Want to Break Free.”

Turley Photo by Emily-Rose Pappas

## Seeking candidates for the spring election

By Tina Lesniak  
Correspondent

SOUTH HADLEY—As South Hadley gears up for its 2025 town election on April 8, the town clerk’s office is reminding residents that the deadline to submit nomination papers for various local positions is fast approaching. Potential candidates must return their nomination papers by Feb. 18, ensuring they have at least 50 signatures from registered voters to qualify for the ballot. Those running for town meeting member seats can submit nomination papers with just 10 signatures from voters in the same precinct.

“Local government directly affects your day-to-day life, and volunteering for a board or committee is a great opportunity to learn about how it works,” said Zoe Ingram, assistant town clerk. “It can be rewarding to identify an issue in your community, bring that up to the board, and then be a part of the solution.”

As of now, several positions remain unfilled, and Town Clerk Sarah Gmeiner is encouraging interested individuals to take action. The board of health has two open seats, but no one has pulled papers for either position yet.

Please see **CANDIDATES**, page 3

## Planning Board approves eight-parcel land consolidation

By Walter Hamilton  
Correspondent

SOUTH HADLEY – A plan to consolidate property that comprises The Village Commons was unanimously approved by the town Planning Board on Feb. 13. The new parcel will incorporate eight existing parcels, all owned by the Center Redevelopment Corp.

Jeffrey Labrecque, Center Redevelopment Corp. Chief Operating Officer and Director of Operations and consultant Richard Harris said the move to consolidate the parcels would facilitate planning, administration and permitting of the property, since the lot lines of former parcels sometimes ran through some buildings, such as the Odyssey Bookshop.

Labrecque, when asked if changes in the combined properties were planned, he answered, “not at this time.”

The former separate parcels begin from the south at the drive-

way on College Street between the Mount Holyoke College Admissions office and the Charles E. Merrill House Professional and Graduation Education building. The Merrill House is not included in the new, larger parcel.

The consolidated parcel extends north along College Street to the intersection with Hadley Street, and down to the existing driveway into the lower parking area and a water runoff detention area. It includes a professional office facility at 6 Hadley St.

The new parcel extends to the parking areas behind the Village Commons, and further below to the stream that borders Evergreen Cemetery and private property on Hadley Street.

In other business, the board continued its discussions of revising the town’s Subdivision Bylaw Regulations after Special Town Meeting in November 2024 rejected amendments to an existing Flexible Development Bylaw (Chapter 255-31). The 1995 bylaw has been found to be

complicated and confusing.

The rationale for the discussions were outlined in background material provided by the Planning Board staff as follows:

“Subdivisions are allowed by right and have no requirements for the protection of open space, natural, scenic or historic resources on the site (local, state and federal laws and regulations do apply).

“Flexible Developments do require open space and natural/scenic/historic resource protections but are permitted through discretionary Special Permits. The intended approach was to reverse this and allow for the preferred development scheme (clustered housing with open space conservation) to be permitted by right with Site Plan Review to incentivize its use and thereby discourage the less desirable form of residential development in the form of standard subdivisions.

Please see **LAND**, page 2

## Chamber hosts business dinner, elects new officers

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

SOUTH HADLEY – In order to celebrate the successes of the year, the South Hadley and Granby Chamber of Commerce held their annual Business Dinner last week to recount the 2024 year, as well as elect new people to positions in the Chamber.

Former president Regina Zebrowski opened the meeting before guests got their catered dinner from Mount Holyoke’s Willits-Hallowell Conference Center.

“The year of 2024 was marked by great growth,” Zebrowski said. “The year of 2025 brings a new slate of officers.”

Please see **DINNER**, page 2

Steve Laplante  
greeting the  
guests to the  
dinner, happy  
to have the  
opportunity to  
serve as the  
new president  
of the Chamber.



# South Hadley library closed Feb. 6-7

SOUTH HADLEY—The South Hadley Public Library will be closed to the public on Thursday, Feb. 6 and Friday, Feb. 7 due to a carpet replacement project. The location of the work will make the building inaccessible. Staff will be monitoring email and phone calls. No items checked out from SHPL will be due on those days and patrons are asked to return them to the Gaylord Memorial Library or hold on to their items until the following week.

There will be extended hours and programs at the Gaylord branch on Thursday, Feb. 6. The Gaylord Memorial Li-

brary at 47 College Street will open early at 9:30 a.m. and there will be a full slate of programs that day: children’s programs in the morning and afternoon, an after school teen crafternoon program, and the popular Spice Club (registration required) for adults in the evening. On Friday morning, children’s storytime will take place at Gaylord at 10:30 a.m. The online calendar, on the library’s website, has more information on programs.

People with questions or concerns are asked to contact Library Director Joseph Rodio by email: jrodio@cwmars.org or phone: 413-538-5045.

# Town bills mailed out

SOUTH HADLEY— Real Estate and Personal Property bills were mailed out to residents on Dec. 31, 2024. The due date for Real Estate and Personal Property bills is Feb. 3.

If anyone has not received their bills, please email our office at: collector@southhadleyma.gov or call 413-538-5030, ext. 6189 and a new bill can be sent. Bills can also be viewed/printed

through Invoice Cloud which can be accessed from the town website.

Payment can be made online through the Town of South Hadley’s website, southhadleyma.gov, by mail, dropped in our Dropbox located behind the Police Department on Bridge Street or pay in person Monday through Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

# Local nonprofit offers \$1,000 scholarship to two high school seniors

BELCHERTOWN/GRANBY – Local charitable organization Nick’s Waves of Change is holding a special scholarship program of \$1,000 towards college for two students.

Nick’s Waves of Change was created for Nicholas R. Boileau who passed away from acute myeloid leukemia in 2021, and in his memory, the organization strives to create “waves of change” throughout the community.

One student from Nick’s alma mater, Belchertown High School, and one to another high school senior in Western Massachusetts that matches the qualifications will receive the scholarship.

The application can be found on their website, www.nickswavesofchange.org under the “Scholarship Opportunities” tab, as well as requirements for the grant award. Applications are due to be completed by April 17, 2025.

# LAND from page 1

“However, Town Meeting didn’t support this strategy and the amendments to the Flexible Development Bylaw, and associated supporting bylaws, were not adopted.”

The proposed new section of the local Subdivision Bylaw Regulations contained in Chapter 360, the detailed zoning rules allowed by town Zoning Bylaws (Chapter 255), is titled: “Submission and Approval of Plans for More than One Building for Dwelling Purposes Per Lot.”

The proposed section continues: “Not more than one building designed or available for use for dwelling purposes shall be erected or placed or converted to use as such on any lot in the Town of South Hadley without the consent of the Planning Board, and such consent may be conditioned upon the providing of adequate ways furnishing access to each site for such building in the manner as otherwise required for lots within a subdivision.”

Developments, such as condominiums, are an example of multiple dwellings on a single lot.

Board member Brad Hutchison, raised the possibility that the language of the proposed new local section might conflict with the Affordable Homes Act signed by Gov. Maura Healey in August 2024 that allows Accessory Dwelling Units (ADU), amounting to more than one dwelling unit per lot, up to 900 square feet, by right in single-family zoning districts statewide.

Additionally, South Hadley Town Meeting in May, 2023, approved a local bylaw, Ch. 255-50, that allows accessory dwelling units with required use and dimensional standards.

Board members noted that they are waiting for state officials to issue regulations pertaining to the Affordable Homes Act that could clarify whether the provisions of “More than one building per lot” section of local regulations would conflict with the new state law.



Regina Zebrowski talking about the wonderful year of community events the Chamber is able to celebrate.



Comedian Mark Riley ending the night with laughs to celebrate Steve Laplante in a silly way only true friends can.

# DINNER from page 1

Jennifer Therkelson was appointed Clerk, Jamie Fitzgibbon as Vice President, and Steve Laplante as President, and reappointed Michele Lyman as Treasurer, and all members present sharing their support of the new officers.

“Our commitment to the community soared in 2024,” said Zebrowski, recounting the Spring Fling with the Easter Bunny, the Trunk-or-Treat with dozens of businesses, and the annual Holiday Stroll and tree lighting, all successful community events.

The Chamber was able to also give out over \$10,000 to nonprofit organizations, and twenty-two grants were awarded all across South Hadley and Granby.

“The Chamber continues to work on collaborative events to outside communities in order to come together,” said Zebrowski. At the end of 2024, the Chamber had eighty-four members and is looking forward to welcoming more in 2025.

The meeting welcomed speakers and sponsors to come forward to say a few words about the Chamber before their keynote speaker, Town Administrator Lisa Wong came to say a few words.

New president Steve Laplante, who has been with the Chamber since 2018, is looking forward to being able to take on this new position.

“When I found out about all the things the Chamber did for the community, I wanted to join,” Laplante said. “By giving my time, energy, and commitment, the Chamber has given back to me one hundred times over. One of the favorite parts of the Chamber is the friendships we get to make along the way.”

Sponsors Michael Loesch-Fries of Save a Tree, Jamie Fitzgibbon of Superior Plus Propane and new Vice President of the Chamber, and Michelle Theroux CEO of the Berkshire Music Academy all came to say how they appreciated the Chamber as well.

“Much like the Chamber, my company is dedicated to the community,” said Fitzgibbon.

“We are so happy to be here to sponsor the Chamber’s annual meeting,” said Theroux.

Town Administrator Lisa Wong came forward to share her speech with those in attendance, reflecting on how much joy it brings her to be in “the friendliest place I’ve worked in.”



New Vice President Jamie Fitzgibbon sharing her thanks for the Chamber and community.

“In addition to being fun, there’s so much fundraising, and it’s amazing how much they’ve accomplished,” said Wong. “They’ve really put in the work to help small businesses. It’s a pleasure and an honor to be a part of the team.”

Those in attendance got the chance to ask Wong questions about the work the town has been doing, and new goals she is looking forward to with the 2025 year and the Master Plan.

“The part that I’m excited about is when people come forward with new ideas to drive forward the town,” said Wong. “Something is happening and more can happen. If I combat apathy and unlock passion, I think we can do more and more as a community.”

At the end of the night after enjoying a delicious dinner and dessert, Laplante spent time to thank his “real estate family”, including Melissa Whitelock, Joni Fleming, Maria Laplante, and Kristen Allard.

Former clerk Jen Marion and former president Regina Zebrowski were given flowers and a special gift from the Chamber in order to thank them for their years of service.

“You can truly feel the passion in this room,” said Zebrowski.

Comedian Mark Riley also came on to share some jokes and laughs to end the night, and it was captured by the talented photographer Shannon Ortega.

The South Hadley and Granby Chamber of Commerce is looking forward to the year of 2025, and the new and regular events for the community to enjoy as it works towards strengthening our nonprofits and small businesses.



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<b>Ireland The Band</b>	<b>Jim McArdle &amp; Jerry Murphy</b>
	

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**Nomination Papers for the South Hadley Fire District No. 2 Annual Election**

are available at District 2 headquarters, 20 Woodbridge Street beginning January 27, 2025 for the following:

**Prudential Committee (3 year)**  
**Water Commissioner (3 year)**

*Nomination papers with a minimum of ten (10) signatures are due back to the District Clerk's office, 20 Woodbridge Street, by Noon on February 18, 2025. Annual District Election will be held April 8, 2025 from 7:00 am to 8:00 p.m. at South Hadley High School, 153 Newton Street.*

# School Committee addresses concerns and budget drivers

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

**SOUTH HADLEY** – The School Committee met to discuss budget drivers for the 2026 fiscal year, as well as care for Chromebooks, a security breach in PowerSchool, and more.

Chair Eric Friesner held the Jan. 17 meeting, and he was accompanied by all members, including Vice Chair Danielle Cooke, and members Dan Vieu, Jackson Matos, and Jack Witowski.

Also in attendance were Superintendent Mark McLaughlin, Assistant Superintendent Jennifer Voyik.

## FY26 Budget Drivers

The board reviewed the budget drivers for the fiscal year 2026 budgets, and Voyik shared the drivers for the budget and how and where big increases there will be.

There are three types of transportation- yellow school bus, special education, and vocational- and each of these transportations are looking at a 5% to 10% increase in costs to transportation.

Because South Hadley is up for negotiations this year, the

district is looking to see what they can do to make the increase be between 5% to 10% from Van Pool and other companies the transportation is coming from.

The middle school has already begun the process of vocational schools, and middle schoolers have until March 1 to apply for these programs.

The third budget driver is salaries, and Voyik shared the remainder of the positions funded by ARPA grants through work with the Selectboard.

A mental health coordinator, and many others were granted, and the biggest part is moving these positions into the local budget for FY25.

McLaughlin also shared further details about the budget, and Voyik also shared the different aspects of the budget that the special education departments will have needs.

Friesner also remarked on the benefits of more families coming to the town, as the student population is dropping, but more students are beneficial to the schools and town.

## Update of PowerSchool Security Incident

McLaughlin shared some information regarding this evidence, and because South Had-

ley is a PowerSchool customer, it was important to share about it and discuss it.

“The important thing to note is that this was really a worldwide event,” said McLaughlin. “We immediately reached out to our attorneys and wanted to figure out from them what our recourses and resources were.”

The security incident is still being investigated, and McLaughlin shared the disappointment that the response to the incident has been coming in slowly from PowerSchool to its customers.

PowerSchool has an updated Frequently Asked Questions pages, but McLaughlin shared his disappointment at the lack of knowledge of the situation but acknowledged that the organization is trying to update its customers as quickly as possible.

“Again, we are continuing to work with our attorneys as there are reasonable and significant updates, we will update you, as most things we can’t do anything about until we hear from PowerSchool,” said McLaughlin.

The IT Department is also taking steps to consider what more they could do to oversee and process the security incidents to prepare for future ones.

## Care and Maintenance of Chromebooks

The South Hadley school system became a one-to-one community during COVID, and the committee is looking at ways to include in the budget ways to maintain and take care of these Chromebooks that are being shared.

“While we understand we are at the end of life, we are seeing that Chromebooks are not being taken care of to maintain that life,” said Voyik.

Voyik and McLaughlin are considering looking at the Acceptable Use Policy and reviewing it to send it back out to the community.

The committee addressed the need for more care to be placed on these Chromebooks, as they are public property, as well as how to go about addressing the Acceptable Use Policy.

“When you’re loaning the computer, there’s some level of responsibility for the student and the family,” said Witowski.

They discussed how to differentiate between over and regular use of the Chromebooks, and misuse or damaging the computers, and how to address both problems.

“This can help students learn about accountability,” said Matos.

## Student Records

The board then addressed concerns about providing student records upon request, and McLaughlin shared the state laws regarding the security of the students and their records.

“In a nutshell, the error that was made was properly understanding what is allowed to be given to custodial versus non-custodial parents when student records are requested,” said McLaughlin.

“We’re really trying to drive home to those personnel who receive those student record requests, and to principals and to folks like me as well, to understand who is eligible for records when they’re requested, and who is not, and under what conditions they are not,” said McLaughlin.

The custodial parent needs to provide, in cases of another non-custodial parents requesting records, reasons why they are not to have access to the records within 21 days.

McLaughlin shared that these legislations will be reviewed and put together an overview of these rules and regulations to the families after it is finished being reviewed by the committee.

## South Hadley warming shelters

**SOUTH HADLEY**— The following are the locations for the South Hadley warming shelters.

### South Hadley Fire District #1

- 144 Newton St, South Hadley

### South Hadley Fire District #2

- 20 Woodbridge St, South Hadley

### South Hadley Public Library

- 2 Canal St, South Hadley
- Monday through Wednesday 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- Thursday through Friday 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Saturday - 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

### South Hadley Senior Center

- Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Our extended hours are now Thursdays, 8 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

## CANDIDATES from page 1

Similarly, the housing authority has a vacant seat, and as of this writing, no candidates have come forward. There is also a discrepancy in the race for the municipal light board, where only one person has pulled papers for two available seats.

The deadline for town meeting members to submit their notice of intent to seek reelection is Feb. 11 at 5 p.m. Several incumbents have yet to declare their intention to run for another term, including members from Precincts A and C, where there are also partial-term vacancies to be filled.

In the event that no candidates run for a particular office, the election process allows for write-in candidates. If a write-in candidate receives the most votes

and is eligible to hold the position, they will be contacted by the town clerk’s office to determine whether they accept the role. If the write-in candidate declines the position, the seat will remain vacant and filled according to the town’s bylaws.

For those who cannot commit to a monthly or bi-weekly meeting, running for a seat in South Hadley’s Representative Town Meeting is a great place to start, as it is not a monthly meeting. With just an annual town meeting in May and a special town meeting typically in the Fall, this is where the budget is formally approved for the next fiscal year and where bylaws can be added or updated.

Additionally, the Board of Registrars has created a new guide for running for local of-

ice, available online. This comprehensive resource provides detailed information about each elected committee, its duties, meeting schedules, and helpful links for those interested in running for office.

For those concerned about being able to complete paperwork during regular office hours, the town clerk’s office is offering flexible options and is available by appointment outside of office hours. To schedule an appointment, residents can email the office at elections@southhadley-ma.gov or call 413-538-5030 ext. 6183. For anyone curious about running for local office, now is the time to get involved. South Hadley residents have an opportunity to shape the future of their community through public service.

## SHPD chief office hours

**SOUTH HADLEY**—The South Hadley Chief of police office hours for the month of January.

Wednesday, Jan. 29 - 12 noon - 2 p.m. at Neighbors Helping Neighbors

## NOTICE

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## Nomination Papers for the South Hadley Fire District No. 1 Annual Election

Will be available at District 1 Headquarters, 144 Newton Street beginning January 27, 2025 for the following:

- Prudential Committee (3 year)
- Water Commissioner (3 year)
- Water Commissioner (1 year)
- Moderator (1 year)

Nomination papers with a minimum of ten (10) signatures are due back to the District Clerk’s office, 144 Newton Street, by 12:00 p.m. on February 18, 2025. Annual District Election will be held April 8, 2025 from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. at South Hadley High School, 153 Newton Street.



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# Opinion



## When to claim Social Security and taxation of benefits

Dear Rusty:

I am 65 and currently working full-time.

Can I apply for and start receiving my Social Security benefit? I'd expect to have to pay income tax on it if/when I do.

Signed: Curious Worker

Dear Curious Worker:

If you are working full time, you should likely delay claiming Social Security at this time. At age 65, you haven't yet reached your SS Full Retirement Age, so you will be subject to Social Security's "annual earnings test" which limits how much you can earn from work while collecting early benefits. The earnings limit for 2025 is \$23,400 and if you earn more than the annual limit, SS will take away \$1 in benefits for every \$2 you are over the limit.

If you earn significantly over the limit, you may even be temporarily ineligible to collect SS benefits. FYI, the annual earnings limit goes away when you reach your full retirement age, which for you is 66 years and 10 months, or March 2026.

As you obviously already know, a portion of your Social Security may be subject to income tax after you start collecting. The threshold for taxation of SS benefits depends on your IRS filing status – if you file your taxes as a single and your combined income from all sources (including half of the SS benefit you received during the tax year) exceeds \$25,000 then 50% of your received SS benefits are taxable.

But if you file taxes as "married/jointly" and your combined income is over \$32,000, then up to 85% of your received SS benefits are taxable. Thus, whenever you claim SS, you may wish to consider having income tax withheld from your SS benefit. This is optional, and you can do this by submitting IRS Form W-4V to your local Social Security office, or you could choose to increase your income tax withholding at work or, alternatively, pay estimated income taxes quarterly.

So, whether you can claim Social Security now depends entirely on how much you will earn from working full time prior to your FRA. If you exceed the annual earnings limit before your FRA, SS will take away some of your benefits or, if you greatly exceed the earnings limit, you may even be temporarily ineligible to get benefits until you either reach your FRA or earn less. But note, if you decide to claim early and any SS benefits are withheld because you exceeded the earnings limit, you will get credit for that in the form of a slightly increased benefit after you reach your full retirement age.

*The Association Mature Citizens Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. This article is intended for information purposes and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the Association Mature Citizens Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association. To submit a question, visit [amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory](http://amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at [ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org](mailto:ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org). Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.*

**WE ♥ OUR READERS**



## Catching up on questions for the Garden Lady

This column will be used to play catch-up. I received a couple of questions a few weeks back on Christmas plants and then another looking forward to the new gardening season.

Read on as I do my best to answer them!

Connie is the keeper of her mother's poinsettia and it's become tree-like! "We read your article about poinsettias in the Country Journal. I have been caring for my mother's poinsettia she purchased three Christmases ago. She is hoping you can help us as I never cut it back because I didn't know to do that. Now it is a small tree. There is bark on it. I had one red bract last Christmas but no yellow center. I did try to put it in a dark room but as you can see, it is too big now to do that. Any suggestions?"

Many years ago when I joined my brother on a trip to St. Thomas, I became fully aware of the poinsettia and its true, tree-like form. It looks like you are well on your way to replicating that in your house!

First, congratulations, from the picture you provided you are clearly growing a healthy specimen. The leaves are a beautiful shade of green. I would recommend that, if you want to make it more manageable in size, you do try to cut it back.

It looks as if there is a lower "tier" of leaves. If you can cut it back to those stems, I think that is a good place to start. Do that in April when it will be in active growth.

At that time, I would also transplant it into a container one size bigger. So, if it's in a six inch pot now, try one that is seven or eight inches, but not any bigger.

Fertilize with an all purpose houseplant fertilizer once a month. New growth should appear by the end of May.

After the danger of frost has passed, move the plant outdoors. Continue to water but increase fertilization to every two weeks. Pinch plants in late June or early July to promote bushy growth. Bring the plant indoors as temperatures fall in September.

The poinsettia is photoperiodic, and long nights of uninterrupted darkness encourage it to bloom. Bracts will turn red and the small yellow flowers in the center will form. Most people get on a 5 p.m.-8 a.m. schedule beginning on Oct. 1 and continue it for eight-10 weeks until color shows on the bracts.

Placing the plant in a closet or basement with no light interruption will work fine. It is a commitment, that's for sure. Night temperatures should be no higher than 70 degrees

or flowering may be delayed.

Good luck; I bet you will be successful this year!

Beverly has me stumped!! She wrote in with this question: "After my Christmas cactus has bloomed, I get very tiny buds (like pimples) all over the plant. However, they quickly fall off so no more blooms. Can you explain what to do about this?"

This is a tricky one, Beverly! I am wondering if this is a newer breed of Christmas Cactus that is expected to bloom over a longer period of time than the old-fashioned types.

Usually buds fall off if there is a change somehow. Overwatering, underwatering? Perhaps a change in location whereby the plant is now near a heater when it wasn't before. Or maybe a change in fertilization practices?

That's about all I can come up with. I do hope that once blooming is over your plant remains healthy and provides many flowers for years to come!

This came to the Garden Lady from Gary: "I enjoy reading your articles.

Is there value or harm mixing old coffee grounds into your flower or vegetable gardens? Thanks!"

Thank you for your compliments on the column! My dad used to sprinkle coffee grounds around our blueberry bushes when I was a kid.

It was his theory that the acidic grounds would be good for blueberry bushes which by nature are acid-loving. Well, it turns out that most of the acid from the coffee grounds is leached into the water when the coffee is brewed, leaving a near neutral product that aligns with pH of most common vegetables and flowers!

Coffee grounds are high in nitrogen and have lesser, but still respectable amounts of the other two major nutrients, phosphorus and potassium, as well as many of the micro-nutrients. The nitrogen is "tied up," however, and not readily available to plants.

It must be composted first to make it available. So, I would recommend you either add it to a compost pile or mix it in with other mulches you may be using on top of the soil.

It can be combined with wood chips, grass clippings or chopped leaves to make a great and fertile mulch, that, as it breaks down, will add organic matter to the soil and be a nutritious food for your plants and the earthworms. In fact, folks who vermicompost (keep a worm bin) notice just how much the worms love coffee grounds mixed in with other food waste.

You've encouraged me to get a bit more serious about putting our household coffee grounds to good use!

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](mailto:pouimette@turley.com) with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.

## OPINION PAGE/ LETTERS POLICY

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

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# Granby garden provides plants to support community

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

GRANBY – The Pioneer Valley is rich in great farmland, and there are countless farms all around the region that supply the community with fresh produce, plants, and more to enjoy.

Dave’s Natural Garden on 35 Amherst Street is a beautiful space with nineteen greenhouses filled with all sorts of produce like fruits and vegetables, herbs, flowers, and house plants like succulents.

Dave Kaskeski and Meghan Hastings work together to run the farm with the many other resolute people who help keep it all running.

Kaskeski opened the farm in 2003, and is eager for its 22nd season, and there are many plants beginning to grow as the plants are sensing the sun staying out longer every day as spring approaches.

“This time of year is one of the best, because you’re watching the sunlight increase daily, and you can see it in the plants- it’s like they know,” said Kaskeski.

“It started out as just a few plants, and it really grew,” said Hastings.

The propagation greenhouse is filled with pots and humidity tanks to grow from tiny seeds. Propagation is when larger plants are trimmed, and planted into new pots which will grow new plants.

Hastings met Kaskeski and began working with him on the farm in 2019 after meeting online, working together as a couple and great team to keep the farm

going.

The greenhouses hold a variety of different plants, including succulents, potted herbs, and hanging baskets of cherry tomatoes and strawberries will be available soon.

The farm is also excited to have a new short bus that will be at markets, and for the first time in years, the farm will also be open daily through the summer and at several different farmers markets.

“We’re really excited about this new opportunity,” said Hastings.

The farm also has chickens, geese, ducks, and turkeys, and they supply eggs for sale, with chicken eggs available all year round, and eggs from the geese and ducks seasonally.

The farm is open now on weekends only, and at the end of April, it will be open daily. A few of the greenhouses will also be open to explore the different house plants for sale.

The store also has local meats like chicken and pork, as well as ice cream, cheeses, and treats from other local producers like crackers, salad dressings, coffee, and the store also has oranges.

“I think it’s really satisfying, to grow food that feeds an entire community,” said Hastings. “I’ve always loved gardening and buying from local farms, and now I get to combine the two.”

Hastings and Kaskeski also have some special personal plants, including a banana tree expected to have bananas this year, and a little papaya tree with two growing on its branches now.

There are more interesting plants and succulent varieties, from the true Christmas cactuses that you can’t find in supermarkets, as well as leafy ferns in hanging baskets, and one unique plant called a sea



New plants propagating, getting ready to create new ones to go home with you.



Meghan Hastings and Dave Kaskeski in one of the greenhouses.



A strange plant, called the sea onion, will add charm to any space it resides in.



The papaya tree growing tall, and with two papaya growing.

onion, which looks like a head with silly hair.

There’s also many varieties of jade plants, a giant rosemary bush used to propagate and make mow to sell, and leafy greens like spinach, kale, arugula, and claytonia.

Kaskeski went to school originally for dairy farming, and ended up finding a Please see **GARDEN**, page 6



Hanging baskets and potted plants, all different ways to hang and display these beautiful plants.



Succulents galore and more hanging plants for a tropical paradise.



Succulents waiting to be potted of all different colors.



Succulents and more available at the store.

Turley Photos by Emily-Rose Pappas



The banana tree is almost ready to start producing its first bananas.



The store is home to veggies and more so you can support locals.



Geese and turkeys ready to say hello and ask for some snacks of course!



Beautiful hanging plants above the herbs.

**GARDEN** from page 5

love for gardening, and has also received an NRCS grant for another greenhouse and solar pump to irrigate the plants from their nearby pond.

“Sometimes you just fall

into a career, and it goes from there,” said Kaskeski. “Customers came, and it just kept growing. It’s really fun and fulfilling.”

The farm doesn’t use harmful pesticide sprays, and prefers utilizing the help of beneficial

insects, and some approved pesticides sparingly on the fields to keep things as natural as possible.

Dave’s Natural Garden is the perfect local place to find all sorts of plants, and support other local farms and businesses.

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**PRESENTATIONS**

9:30 - 10:30 AM  
Opening Remarks & Keynote, Living Well: Panel of Individuals Living with Dementia; Presented by Meghan Lemay, MS, and Panelists  
This session will highlight what it is like to live with Alzheimer's disease and other dementia. Panelists will discuss coping with the diagnosis and combating the stigma associated with the disease. They will also talk about the importance of disease education, social engagement, and having a voice in your own care.

10:30 - 10:45 AM: Break

10:45 AM - 12:00 PM: Living Well with Cognitive Challenges: Tips and Strategies Presented by Julie Brody Magid, PsyD  
Establishing a more simplified routine and schedule can be helpful and affect one's well-being. This session will review cognitive strategies to help manage common difficulties encountered in daily life with the goal of improving feelings of well-being and self-reliance. Specifically it will focus on how to develop a person-centered roadmap to optimize meaning, structure and appropriate levels of stimulation.

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Cianna Gurek makes her way down the court.

Maddie Soderbaum sends a pass away.



Kate Phillips looks to shoot from short range.

## Offense continues to roll for Tigers

SOUTH HADLEY – The South Hadley High School girls basketball team won its eighth straight game in dominating fashion last Friday night. The Tigers defeated Taconic 61-32 to clinch a spot in the state tournament and improve to 9-1 on the season. The entire team got involved in the matchup though Kate Phillips led all scorers with 14 points. In all, 13 different players registered points in the matchup for the Tigers. South Hadley also defeated Hoosac 73-48 last Monday evening. Coming up, the Tigers will travel to Belchertown on Jan. 27 at 7 p.m.

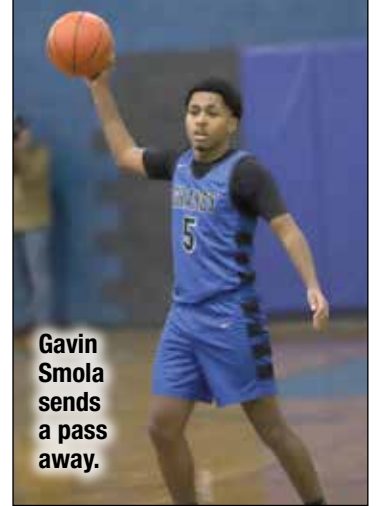
Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com  
Cara Dean goes for a shot.



Ava Asselin takes the three-point shot.

## Panthers suffer loss at home to Granby

PALMER – Last Tuesday evening, Granby boys basketball jumped out to a lead and was able to hold onto it as they defeated Palmer 52-33 for its ninth win of the season. Granby is now qualified for the Division 5 state tournament. Gavier Fernandez had a big game with 16 points while Cody White turned in 10 for the Rams, who are now 9-2. Palmer was led by Stephen Fredette, who scored 11 points for the Panthers. Palmer is 5-4 so far this season.



Gavin Smola sends a pass away.



Dylan Doherty looks for an open teammate.



Stephen Fredette receives a pass from outside the arc.



Jordan Jones goes for the long three-point attempt.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com  
Braydon LaDuke attempts to work away from the side.

## Pacers fall to Agawam

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

HOLYOKE — The Agawam and Amherst hockey teams were co-champions of the Fay Division two years ago. Amherst finished in first place in the league standings last year followed by Agawam.

Before the start of the 2024-25 regular season four of the Fay Division teams and three teams from the Wright Division were combined into one Division, which is now called Fay-Wright.

Even though there was a couple of changes made to the Division, Amherst and Agawam were still the top two teams in the Fay-Wright standings at the midway point of this season.

The Brownies kept their league titles hopes alive with a 4-1 victory over rival Chicopee at the Fitzpatrick Skating Rink in Holyoke, last Wednesday night.

“This is a very big win for us because one of our team goals is to win the league title,” said Agawam head coach Todd Rowley. “We’re chasing Amherst for first place in the league standings. We’ll need to win the rest of our league games and hopefully get a little bit of help from a couple of other teams. Any team in our division can win a game on any given night, so you can’t afford to take a team lightly.”

The Brownies, who also won the first meeting of the season

Please see PACERS, page 8



Jake Fournier looks to get around an opponent.



Brennan Corcoran goes after a loose puck.

## Sports

# Thompson Speedway to feature 10 events

THOMPSON, Conn. — After weeks of careful planning, the American-Canadian Tour (ACT) and Pro All Star Series (PASS) have finalized and released the 2025 schedule for Thompson Speedway. Beginning in late March through Columbus Day weekend in October, rolling thunder returns to the 'Quiet Corner of Connecticut' for ten individual dates in 2025 including the annual Icebreaker and Sunoco World Series weekends along with a return to monthly Wednesday night racing.

Everything begins on Saturday, March 29 with the first of two days celebrating the 51st Icebreaker weekend to kick off the 2025 New England racing season! Saturday is headlined by the return of the Monaco Modified Tri-Track Series for the first of two spectacular showings on the Thompson highbanks in 2025 plus the PASS Super Late Models, Evolve Bank Pro Truck Challenge and R&R Race Parts NH Open Street Stock Series! Saturday's showcase also kicks off the 2025 track championship

season for the Sunoco Modifieds and Mini Stocks plus the introduction of Thompson Speedway's newest division, the Thunderstock Crown Vic Division!

Sunday, March 30 is headlined by the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour Icebreaker 150 plus the second Sunoco Modified event of Icebreaker weekend along with the Thompson Late Models, Street Stocks and SK Light Modifieds for a spectacular closer to the season's rip-roaring start!

The Monaco Modifieds return to headline the first Wednesday night action on May 14, complete with all six Thompson track championship divisions before the fan-favorite Dash for Cash Series returns for the first of three Wednesday Night programs on June 18, complete with the Evolve Bank Pro Truck Challenge and six Thompson divisions. The Dash for Cash 50 lap sprints will also return with the NEMA Lite special on July 9, the Wednesday, September 17

Please see **RACE**, page 9

# T-Birds get win at Bridgeport

BRIDGEPORT, Conn. — The Springfield Thunderbirds (17-15-2-1) had six players record multiple points in a 6-4 triumph over the Bridgeport Islanders (8-25-2-2) on Saturday night at Total Mortgage Arena.

The T-Birds and Islanders' netminders had all the answers in the opening 20 minutes, as Colten Ellis picked up where he left off from his shutout performance on Wednesday with 10 more stops in the opening frame. In the Bridgeport net, Hunter Miska made his first AHL start in nearly three years and was up to every Springfield challenge with 11 first-period stops.

The night marked the much-anticipated debut of Blues' 2023 first-round pick Otto Stenberg, and the 19-year-old wasted little time in period two making his mark on the game, taking a drop feed from Hugh McGing in the left circle and roofing a wrister short-side on Miska for his first AHL goal on his first shot at 2:43.



Unfortunately, the excitement of Stenberg's opening tally was quickly tempered when Chris Terry evened the slate with a power play goal at 3:29 for Bridgeport, snapping Ellis's shutout streak of over 83 minutes.

The T-Birds returned fire at 8:56 when Hunter Skinner leaned into a one-time slapper off a Matthew Peca drop pass, beating Miska over the stick hand to give Springfield a 2-1 advantage.

Once again, however, the Islander power play had a rebuttal. This time, a Samuel Bolduc point wrister eluded Ellis and got the game back even, 2-2, at 13:50.

Springfield continued to be just a tick faster than the Islanders in the see-saw second frame as Stenberg let a wrister fly from the left side at 15:45, creating a rebound for McGing to bury behind Miska and restore the T-Birds' lead.

Finally, the Islanders could not get the game back to a stalemate, and Alek Kaskima-

ki lifted a backhand under the crossbar on a net-crashing play up the left side at 19:20 to send Springfield to the second intermission dressing room ahead 4-2.

Bridgeport still did not keel over, and with the teams skating 4-on-4 in the opening minute of the third, Liam Foudy capitalized on a rebound outside the paint to make it a 4-3 contest.

MacKenzie MacEachern further bolstered the Springfield advantage when he picked the puck off from Bolduc and cruised in on Miska before beating the netminder glove side on a breakaway to make it a 5-3 game at 7:33.

McGing capped off his best night of the season with his second goal of the evening in the dying seconds of a power play at 11:13 of the third to up the lead to 6-3.

Eetu Liukas would get one back for the Islanders with 1:03 to play, but it was too late for the home team as Springfield cashed in its fourth straight win and second in four nights over Bridgeport.

## PACERS from page 7

against the Pacers, 4-1, had a 7-3 overall record and a 7-2 league mark following last Wednesday's match. Their three remaining league games are against McCann Tech (Feb. 1), Easthampton (Feb. 4), and Amherst (Feb. 11), who had a 4-0-1 league record.

The top four finishers in the Fay-Wright Division will also qualify for the Western Mass. Class B. Tournament.

"We're in a great spot to qualify for this year's Western Mass. Tournament, which is another one of our goals," Rowley added. "Only the top four teams in the Fay-Wright Division will qualify for the Class B. Tournament. It's going to be like a Beanpot style tournament."

Agawam will most likely qualify for the Division 2 state tournament.

Chicopee, who co-ops with Chicopee High, Comp. South Hadley, Granby, Holyoke and the Pioneer Valley Chinese Immersion Charter School in Hadley, were sitting in fifth place in the league standings with a 2-7-1 overall record and a 1-5-1 league record. The Pacers defeated Peabody (6-5) and Easthampton (3-2). They tied Amherst (2-2).

"We might not win every game that we play, but we've become one big family," said Chicopee senior Chris Walczak, who attends South High School. "Even though we lost tonight's game, we still tried our best."

Agawam doesn't co-op with any other high school.

"I'm a math teacher at Agawam High School and it's nice seeing all of my players during the school day," Rowley said. "There is nothing wrong with a co-op, but I think there is a little more pride having players from the same school."

Agawam and Chicopee failed



Darwin Irschick gears up for a shot on goal.

to score a goal during the opening period.

The Brownies did receive their first power-play opportunity of the game with 37 seconds remaining in the first period.

Thirty four seconds into the second period, senior Aiden Pisano scored a power-play goal giving the Brownies a 1-0 lead.

"The power-play goal at the start of the second period was huge for us," Rowley said. "Then we scored a couple more goals right after that."

The senior duo of AJ Robbins and Cole Buffum were credited with assists on the game's first goal.

Less than a minute later, senior Evan Connery scored Agawam's second goal, which was assisted by senior Trevor Del Barba, and Buffum.

"We came out on fire offensively at the start of the second period," Connery said. "Aiden got things started with a power-play goal. Then I scored a goal a couple of minutes later. The puck was in the air, and I grabbed it with my glove before banging it into the net. This is a very good

win against one of our biggest rivals."

Agawam took a 3-0 lead when senior Vinny Montagna fired a shot into the net past Chicopee freshman goalie Landyn Dugan (42 saves) with 12:50 left in the second period.

The Brownies third goal was assisted by junior Anthony Barbarini and sophomore Kaeden Clifford.

The Pacers, who only had five reserve players and a back-up goalie against the Brownies, did get on the scoreboard two minutes later following a power-play from freshman Jake Fournier, which was assisted by junior Darwin Irschick.

The Pacers also had consecutive power-plays in the third period, but the Brownies managed to keep their two goal advantage.

"The penalty kill is one of our strongest parts of our game," Rowley said. "We were able to kill back-to-back penalties in the third period."

The Brownies sealed the deal with a goal by Barbarini with 56 seconds remaining in regulation.

The assists were given to



Tyler Denison looks for a teammate to pass to.



Chris Walczak heads for the goal.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

sophomore Camden Saltmarsh and senior Landon Ashford.

Agawam sophomore goalie Dmitri Huey made a total of 30

saves in the Brownies second win of the regular season against the Chicopee hockey team.



### Red cross training now available

HOLYOKE— The Holyoke Parks and Recreation Department is offering a lifeguard Red Cross certification training course at the Holyoke Boys and Girls Club, 70 Nick Cosmos Way. Session 1 will take place Feb. 15, Feb. 16 and Feb. 23 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Session 2 will take place May 10, May 11 and May 18, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Participants only need to attend one full session, (one Saturday and two Sunday's). Applicants must be 16 years of age. Strong swimmers are encouraged to apply. Participants must pass a pre-skills test at the start of class. \$175.00 for Holyoke residents and \$275.00 for non-residents.

Please register at the Holyoke Parks and Recreation Department, 413-322-5620.

Participants must register and be paid in full before attending the class. Limited space available.

## Worcester Railers grab point in OT loss

WORCESTER – The Worcester Railers beat the Wheeling Nailers, 3-4 in overtime, Sunday afternoon at the DCU Center.

Not a typo, no. It is just that all things considered, the point Worcester earned was one of the best points a Railers team will ever get out of a hockey game.

They trailed the best team in the league, 3-1, with less than five minutes to go in the third period. Then, at 15:23, Jordan Kaplan converted a shorthanded breakaway to make it a one-goal game.

With goaltender Hugo Ollas on the bench, Worcester took it down to the limit and Anthony Repaci scored with four seconds to go in regulation. He converted a pass from Griffin Loughran and beat Taylor Gauthier from the bottom of the right circle with a low shot.

It was the latest game-tying goal in franchise history.

"I actually thought we had a lot more time than we did," Repaci said, "maybe something

like 20 seconds. That was cutting it close but it was an exciting finish."

Yes, you might say that.

That Matt K o o p m a n scored for Wheeling to win it just 49 seconds into overtime was a downer, but it did not ruin the day, all things considered.

Even before the opening puck drop the Railers were in a hole.

It was their third game in less than 72 hours, and it was against the team with the best winning percentage in the ECHL. Two of their defensemen, Matias Rajaniemi and Cam McDonald, were called up by Bridgeport before the game. Worcester replaced them with one defenseman, Anthony Hora up from the SPHL and making his ECHL debut. So the Railers dressed only 17 skaters.

With McDonald and Ra-

janiemi in the American Hockey League, there were

no Bridgeport contract players in uniform. The only NHL contract player was goalie Hugo Ollas. He is assigned here by the Rangers.

Worcester responded with a great effort from the start although it took a while for everything to fall into place.

"For us playing a three in three, with the effort they put out, I just wanted them to play to the wire," coach Nick Tuzzolino said. "If the score had stayed 3-1 I probably would have been just as happy. I thought they played well. That's a pretty gutsy effort against a really good team."

Over the last two weekends Worcester took six of a possible eight points versus Wheeling. The Railers extended their overall points streak to eight games. They are 5-0-3 in those games.

It is their longest points streak since they won nine in a row to open the 2022-23 season.

It was 0-0 after 20 minutes. David Jankowski scored for Wheeling at 8:55 of the second period. Cole Donhauser answered for Worcester at 14:26, snapping a 12-game goals drought. Manny De St. Phalie's goal at 15:48 allowed the Nailers to take a 2-1 lead into the third period.

When Chris Ortiz made it 3-1 at 6:21, it seemed unlikely that the Railers would have enough petroleum in the tank to come back. Kaplan changed that perspective, then Repaci wound up rescuing the point.

It allowed Worcester to earn five of a possible six points on the weekend with all three games ending in 4-3 scores.

The All-Star break is here. It will give the Railers time to rest up from their dramatic weekend, but Tuzzolino isn't going anywhere.

"I can't," he said. "I've got to go find some players."



### RACE from page 8

showdown and the Friday of Sunoco World Series weekend.

The NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour is back for their traditional midweek showdown on August 6 headlined alongside the New England Supermodified Series and six Thompson Speedway divisions for a thrilling midweek special that cannot be missed!

The 63rd Sunoco World Series of Speedway Racing begins on Friday, October 10 headlined

by the Dash for Cash \$5,000 to win sprint plus the R&R Open Street Stocks and Senior Tour Auto Racers (STAR) alongside track championship finales for the Late Models and Mini Stocks. The Thunderstock Crown Vics will also run on both Friday and Saturday of World Series weekend.

Saturday afternoon is headlined by the incredible 75th annual Race of Champions 150 held for the first time at Thompson Speedway with a \$12,500 prize headed for the winner of

the iconic Al Gerber Memorial trophy! Saturday also features the championship finale for the New England Supermodified Series, along with the Evolve Bank Pro Truck Challenge and Harry Kourafas Memorial 22 for the New England Pro-4 Modifieds. The Sunoco Modifieds will compete in their first of two days during the Sunoco World Series and the SK Light Modifieds will crown their 2025 track champion.

Sunday, October 12 will feature the NASCAR Whelen Mod-

ified Tour Sunoco World Series 150 with the Sunoco Modifieds and Street Stocks crowning their track champions with the NEMA Lites rounding out the season-closing program.

"We've built up a schedule we think works for everyone," said PASS President Tom Mayberry. "There's a little bit of everything for each event that we believe works for both fans and racers alike."

"Both Tom and I have had quite a few conversations with competitors and 2025 looks

promising," said ACT managing partner Cris Michaud. "The return of the Dash for Cash races and expanding the Crown Vic races are something we're looking forward to seeing grow at Thompson next season."

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

For more information on news or community features for the Town Reminder, please email [townreminder@turley.com](mailto:townreminder@turley.com).

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# SCJW scholarships now available

SPRINGFIELD— The Jewish Federation of Western Massachusetts's Jewish Endowment Foundation is inviting undergraduate and college-bound students to apply to its annual Common Fund and Springfield Council of Jewish Women (SCJW) scholarships through March 28. Qualified students regardless of race, religion, and gender are encouraged to apply. Scholarships are awarded based on a combination of academic, financial need and community involvement.

"The value of education is strongly embedded in our Jewish culture, which is why we are proud to award Common Fund and Springfield Council of Jewish Women scholarships to support students on their educational journey," said Nora Gorenstein, CEO of the Jewish Federation of Western Massachusetts. "These scholarships are an example of one of the many ways Federation supports families in Western Massachusetts, and we look forward to receiving scholarship applications from our future leaders and professionals."

Federation's Jewish Endowment Foundation Common Fund grants college scholarships to all qualified high school students who are residents of Hampden, Hampshire, and Franklin counties. Since 2015, Federation's Jewish Endowment

Foundation Common Fund has awarded more than \$260,000 in scholarships to more than 240 college bound students. Approximately thirty students are selected each year to receive this scholarship.

Federation's SCJW Scholarships are available to qualified high school students and undergraduate students residing in Chicopee, Springfield, East Longmeadow, Longmeadow, Wilbraham, Hampden, Agawam, or West Springfield. The SCJW established its first scholarship fund in 1943. Since then, the scholarship fund has grown substantially. In 1992, the SCJW transferred their funds to Federation's Jewish Endowment Foundation. Since 1992, it has awarded more than \$2.5 million dollars to financially assist thousands of local students in their pursuit of higher education.

Recipients for both scholarship types are chosen based on academic performance, financial need, and community involvement. Once chosen, undergraduate students are eligible to renew their awards for their full four years of college. The application deadline for Federation's Jewish Endowment Foundation Common Fund scholarships and SCJW scholarships is March 28. To apply, visit <https://jewish-westernmass.org/grants-scholarships>.

# COLLEGE NEWS

## Fall 2024 president's list at Dean College

FRANKLIN— Hannah King of South Hadley has earned a place on the president's list for the fall 2024 semester. Students named to the president's list have demonstrated a serious commitment to their studies while at Dean College.

## Roger Williams University fall 2024 dean's list

BRISTOL, RI— Select students have been named to the fall 2024 dean's list at Roger Williams University in Bristol, R.I. Full-time students who complete 12 or more credits per semester and earn a

GPA of 3.4 or higher are placed on the dean's list that semester. The following students are from South Hadley: Cole Hambley, Clara Jolley and Allie Sowers.

## Paige Marjanski named to Fall 2024 Dean's List

EASTON—Paige Marjanski, a member of the Class of 2025 from South Hadley, has been named to the Fall 2024 Dean's List at Stonehill College. To qualify for the Dean's List, students must have a semester grade point average of 3.50 or higher and must have successfully completed all courses for which they were registered.

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**TOWN ADMINISTRATOR Middlefield, MA.**  
Part-time, 960 hrs/yr, \$36-40,000 range. Email resume+ cover letter highlighting strengths/ flexibility to Administrative Assistant: [middlefield.assistant@gmail.com](mailto:middlefield.assistant@gmail.com)

**TOWN OF BLANDFORD HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT**  
The Town of Blandford is seeking a qualified individual for the position of Highway Superintendent. Salary range starting at \$75,000-\$80,000+ negotiable based on experience/skills. Please visit our website [TownOfBlandford.com](http://TownOfBlandford.com) or email Administrator@[TownofBlandford.com](mailto:TownofBlandford.com) for more information.

**WILBRAHAM UNITED CHURCH** is hiring a sexton three evenings, 7-10 hours per week, \$16 per hour. Additional compensation for hours needed for weddings and funerals. Please send resume to [admin@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org](mailto:admin@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org)  
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# Public Notices

## TOWN OF SOUTH HADLEY PLANNING BOARD NOTICE OF HYBRID PUBLIC HEARING

The Planning Board will hold a hybrid public hearing on **Monday, February 10, 2025 at 6:30 p.m.** to consider an application for Special Permit filed by Caleb Machak, 11 Brockway Lane, to construct an addition on a dimensionally non-conforming structure at 11 Brockway Lane Assessor's Map 47 Parcel 63, pursuant to the Zoning Bylaw Article IX (Special Permit); 255-7 (Existing uses, buildings and structures; nonconforming uses); and the Zoning Use and Dimensional Regulation Schedules.

The public hearing will be held through hybrid format with in-person attendance to be located in the multipurpose room of the South Hadley Senior Center, 45 Dayton Street South Hadley MA 01075. Virtual attendance will be hosted through the log-in information below:

URL to join: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85119424056?pwd=bHwFbTbG4DuxWEqfIgoXY2NWsCTDjq.1>

**Or join by phone: +1 (301) 715 8592 Webinar ID: 851 1942 4056 Passcode: 558960**

The property is located within the Residential A-1 and Agricultural Zoning Districts and is an existing single family home. The addition is proposed within the Residential A-1 portion of the property.

The application is on file in the Planning & Conservation Department Office (Room U6) in Town Hall and is posted at [www.southhadley.org](http://www.southhadley.org) on the Planning Department page under 'Permit Applications'- 'Special Permit' under section 'Brockway Lane (11) - Alteration/Expansion of Nonconforming Structure' or can be viewed at: <https://www.southhadley.org/1181/Special-Permits>. Any person interested in, or wishing to be heard, should appear/join the hearing at the time and in the manner designated. This meeting is being conducted consistent with Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2023 which extends the March 2020 Governor's Order suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law MGL Ch. 30A Sec. 20 until March 31, 2025.

Joanna Brown, Clerk  
South Hadley Planning Board  
01/24, 01/31/2025

## Notice of Sale of Motor Vehicle under G.L. c. 255, Section 39A

Notice is hereby given by DM Towing LLC, 254 Old Lyman Road, South Hadley, MA 01075 pursuant to the provisions of G.L. C. 255, Section 39A, that on 02/07/2025 at 12:00 PM at 254 Old Lyman Road, South Hadley, MA by private auction the following motor vehicles will be sold to satisfy the garagekeeper's lien thereon for storage, towing charges, care and expenses of notices and sale of said vehicle.

2016 Acura ILX  
VIN: 19UDE2F38GA003069  
Reynaldo Schelmetty  
66 Oswego St., Apt. 1L  
Springfield, MA 01105

2010 Chevrolet Impala  
VIN: 2G1WB5EK3A1226799

Jonathan Javier Rodriguez Martinez  
57 Virginia St.  
Springfield, MA 01108

By: Wm Forget  
01/15/2025

This notice has been given under the provisions of G.L. c. 255, Section 39A.  
01/24, 01/31, 02/07/2025

## TOWN OF SOUTH HADLEY NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

The Conservation Commission will hold a public meeting pursuant to the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act and the South Hadley local wetlands bylaw and regulations to consider a Request for Determination filed by Micael Avis to remove five trees within Riverfront Area at 510 River Road (Map 43, Parcel 21).

The meeting will be held on **Wednesday, February 5, 2025 at 6pm virtually**. Login information will be provided with the posted agenda on the Town website. A copy of the request is on file in the Conservation Commission office, Room U6, in the Town Hall, and is available to the public for inspection between the hours of 8:30am to 4pm Mon - Fri. Plans are also available online at [www.southhadley.org/603/Project-Plans](http://www.southhadley.org/603/Project-Plans).

Any person interested or wishing to be heard should appear at the time and place designated.

April Doroski  
Conservation Chair  
01/24/2025

## TOWN OF SOUTH HADLEY PLANNING BOARD NOTICE OF HYBRID PUBLIC HEARING

The Planning Board will hold a hybrid public hearing on **Monday, February 10, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.** to consider an application for Special Permit filed by Robert Szklarz, Colonial Carpentry Innovations Inc, c/o William and Meghan Mcissac, 3 Roundelay Road, to construct an addition on a dimensionally nonconforming structure at 3 Roundelay Road Assessor's Map 20 Parcel 9, pursuant to the Zoning Bylaw Article IX (Special Permit); 255-7 (Existing uses, buildings and structures; nonconforming uses); and the Zoning Use and Dimensional Regulation Schedules.

The public hearing will be held through hybrid format with in-person attendance to be located in the multipurpose room of the South Hadley Senior Center, 45 Dayton Street South Hadley MA 01075. Virtual attendance will be hosted through the log-in

information below:  
URL to join: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85119424056?pwd=bHwFbTbG4DuxWEqfIgoXY2NWsCTDjq.1>

**Or join by phone: +1 (301) 715 8592 Webinar ID: 851 1942 4056 Passcode: 558960**

The project location is within the Residence A-1 Zoning District and is an existing single family home.

The application is on file in the Planning & Conservation Department Office (Room U6) in Town Hall and is posted at [www.southhadley.org](http://www.southhadley.org) on the Planning Department page under 'Permit Applications'- 'Special Permit' under section 'Roundelay Road (3) - Alteration/Expansion of Nonconforming Structure' or can be viewed at: <https://www.southhadley.org/1181/Special-Permits>. Any person interested in, or wishing to be heard, should appear/join the hearing at the time and in the manner designated. This meeting is being conducted consistent with Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2023 which extends the March 2020 Governor's Order suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law MGL Ch. 30A Sec. 20 until March 31, 2025.

Joanna Brown, Clerk  
South Hadley Planning Board  
01/24, 01/31/2025

## TOWN OF SOUTH HADLEY NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

The Conservation Commission will hold a public meeting pursuant to the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act and the South Hadley local wetlands bylaw and regulations to consider a Request for Determination filed by Water District 1 to conduct repair work on the outlet of Leaping Well Reservoir Dam located at Granby Rd (Map 31, Parcel 31).

The meeting will be held on **Wednesday, February 5, 2025 at 6pm virtually**. Login information will be provided with the posted agenda on the Town website. A copy of the request is on file in the Conservation Commission office, Room U6, in the Town Hall, and is available to the public for inspection between the hours of 8:30am to 4pm Mon - Fri. Plans are also available online at [www.southhadley.org/603/Project-Plans](http://www.southhadley.org/603/Project-Plans).

Any person interested or wishing to be heard should appear at the time and place designated.

April Doroski  
Conservation Chair  
01/24/2025

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Public notice deadlines are Mondays at noon, Fridays noon for Monday holidays.

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The talented artists a part of the Harlequins, getting together to sing and dance for the musical.



Michael and Jane singing "Under Pressure" together.



Cast and crew getting directions from Director Beth Ayn Curtis for today's rehearsals.

Turley Photos by Emily-Rose Pappas

**QUEEN** from page 1

South Hadley High School, as well as a few from PVPA, and the saying is "no one gets cut" as all are welcome to join any of the Harlequins' performances.

Curtis has been directing for thirty years, and for her degree in music education and performance at UMASS Amherst and has directed sixteen performances for the Harlequins at SHHS.

The musical features 15 to 20 of the most well-known of Queen's songs, from "Bohemian Rhapsody" to "Somebody to Love" to "Under Pressure".

"I wanted to do something that everyone knew, so when I came across this one, I thought it was perfect because everyone knows Queen music," said Cur-

tis. "I'm excited to see the audience's reaction."

Mars Lambert, a junior at SHHS and playing the character Khashoggi, is very excited for the play to begin, getting ready for showtime.

"I'm excited to see the stage come to life and seeing all the costumes and dances," said Lambert. "My favorite thing about theater is the community. Everyone's smiling and learning the dance moves. It's nice to work together to get the show ready."

Senior Michael Beauchemin, who is playing Galileo, is also looking forward to the play, saying, "I really like singing, but I also like seeing the audience's reactions to the performance. I like performing. You put in a lot

of work and get to see it done at the end."

"I really hope the audience appreciates the music, but also the work we put in as actors," Beauchemin said.

The play will be showing on Friday, Jan. 31 at 7 p.m., and Saturday, Feb. 1 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Tickets are sold at the door and online, at <https://ticketsource.us/south-hadley-high-school>, and are \$10 for students, children, and seniors, and \$12 for adults.

Get ready for a play new to the Harlequins but will find a special place in the hearts of all who attend to see a performance of music that has held a special place for generations.

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- Alexandra L. & Dremus W.

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