

TOWN Reminder

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Chamber recognizes dedicated member's work

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

SOUTH HADLEY – The South Hadley and Granby Chamber of Commerce's Annual Business Dinner was held last week at Johnny's Tap Room.

The Business Dinner featured an opportunity to share the accomplishments and events of the Chamber in 2025, as well as what they are looking forward to in 2026.

"I believe the one word to describe our Chamber is 'connector'. We connect businesses through networking events, referrals, and partnerships by promoting local commerce and encouraging residents to support local," said Chamber President Steven Laplante. "Not only is our Chamber a connector of local businesses, but we are also a connector of the Business Community to local non-profits, and programs

that help strengthen the communities of South Hadley and Granby."

Laplante also announced a new Loyalty Card Program coming to the Chamber this year, which will help the Chamber to grow more than ever, encouraging members of the Chamber to support one another's business, and further the theme of the Chamber being a "Connector."

The Dinner featured guest speaker Rob DelMastro, Regional Director for the Western and Berkshire Regions of the Massachusetts Small Business Development Center.

The MSBDC provides assistance, encouragement, and advice to new small business owners as a free resource, and the Chamber asked him to speak as they partner to assist and encourage small businesses in the region.

Please see **CHAMBER**, page 5



Submitted photos

Clapping and celebrating the accomplishments of the Chamber in 2025 and looking forward to what is to come in 2026.

Community shares their love for the

SNOWSTORM



Weather so cold, our hair freezes straight out!



Submitted photos

You gotta have some humor when you're cleaning off your car.



Somebody's pumped about the snow.



The snow can't stop the Girl Scouts from making their deliveries.



Plowed sidewalks do make the best starts to a fort, after all.

Please see **MORE SNOW PHOTOS**, page 10

Town supports WSB Project

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

GRANBY – The town hosted a Special Town Meeting on Tuesday evening at the East Meadow gymnasium in order to vote to transfer funds from the Municipal Buildings Stabilization Fund for the West Street Building renovation projects.

Administrator Search Committee, and interested parties can contact the Town Hall.

"We're here tonight with a decision to make," said Selectboard Chair Mark Bail.

Originally, the project was a total of \$5.6 million, which came from a combination of appropriated funds that were unspent, as well as a federal grant. Because left-over funds cannot be spent

"We have a year to move out of our offices. We couldn't afford to build new, and we can't do it now; we certainly can't do it by the end of the year when our lease with the town and the annex ends."

– Chair Mark Bail

In attendance at the meeting were the Selectboard, Acting Town Administrator Kevin O'Grady, Town Attorney Brian O'Toole, Town Clerk Emily Reed, Finance Committee Chair John Libera, and members of the West Street Building Committee. Selectboard Member Glenn Sexton also put out a call for interested parties to volunteer for the new Town

on anything, they go into the general fund, which is essentially the town's bank account.

The West Street Building Project is being paid for by unspent money in this general fund, as well as a federal grant. Of this \$5.6 million amount, then, the town has a total of \$3.8 million of which

Please see **PROJECT**, page 2

A Village at Work: How the Mosier Elementary PTA supports students

By Tina Lesniak
Correspondent

SOUTH HADLEY – At Mosier Elementary School in South Hadley, much of the magic that students experience outside the classroom—from assemblies and field trips to family events—can be traced back to a dedicated group of volunteers working quietly but tirelessly behind the scenes. The Mosier Elementary School PTA, led this year by president Danielle Langevin, plays a vital role in enriching school life at a time when public school budgets are increasingly stretched thin.

For families unfamiliar

with the PTA's day-to-day work, Langevin describes it simply and clearly. "The Mosier School PTA is a group of parents who voluntarily dedicate their time to meet, organize, and facilitate school-wide events, fundraisers, and other programming to raise funds for assemblies, field trips, and other special events for the Mosier community to enjoy throughout the school year," she said.

Those efforts are especially important because PTA funds are entirely separate from the school's operating budget. "The Mosier PTA is not factored at all into the school budget," Langevin explained. "All of the funds that

we raise are purely through fundraising and the extremely generous donations of our Mosier community and parents." As a nonprofit organization, the PTA bases everything it provides—assemblies, grade-level field trips, and end-of-year field day activities—on what it is able to raise during the year.

That fundraising translates directly into meaningful experiences for students. Langevin noted that there are so many that it's hard to narrow it down to one to share. Last October, the fourth grade took a field trip to the outdoor learning and ropes

Please see **VILLAGE**, page 2



Submitted photos

The annual Trunk or Treat is one of the PTA's signature events.

Growing Wild South Hadley's winter seed sowing workshop

SOUTH HADLEY – Start a pollinator garden for pennies. Grow your own plants from seed over the winter!

Use the same technique to start your vegetables and annuals in late winter/spring. Join the South Hadley Growing Wild Committee of the Conservation Commission for a "Winter Seed Sowing

Workshop" at the South Hadley Public Library on Thursday, February 5, from 6:30 to 8 p.m.

Learn how to start seeds in gallon milk jugs. After a short presentation on the basics of winter sowing, we will get our hands on the dirt. We will provide native perennial seeds and all the supplies

to create your own first milk jug planters to take home. We will also offer seeds if you want to do more on your own later.

Space is limited. Kindly email so we are sure to have enough materials for everyone: kdavis@educ.umass.edu.

Making South Hadley greener with trees

SOUTH HADLEY – Make South Hadley even greener, and watch your child grow alongside a tree! Get a free tree for #EarthDay2026,

thanks to the South Hadley Public Library's partnership with Neighborhood Forest. Sign up before March 15 at www.neighborhoodforest.org.

Trees will arrive ahead of Earth Day, April 22, and you will be contacted regarding pickup details.

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.

- 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

The Horace Smith Fund

\$317,000 Available in Scholarship and Fellowship Awards – Application Deadline March 15th

REGION – The Horace Smith Fund will be awarding \$317,000 in scholarships and fellowships to residents of Hampden County who have also graduated from an eligible high school or private school. This year, 21 scholarships, four fellowships and one William R. Rooney Award for students with special needs will be presented to recipients at the June 18th Awards Night ceremony at

Storwton Carriage House in West Springfield.

Scholarships are offered not only to graduating high school seniors but also to students already in college or those wishing to return to college. Scholarships of \$12,000 are distributed as \$3,000 annually and are renewable each year until graduation. Fellowship awards of \$15,000 are distributed as \$7,500 annually and renewable for one additional year to students pursuing a full-time graduate degree. Students must maintain at least a B average to renew.

Recipients are selected on a variety of criteria, including academic records, merit, and financial need. Of great im-

portance is a personal written account of why the student feels deserving of financial assistance. Applicants must submit their transcripts and, if applicable, college entrance exam scores or graduate degree-specific tests, along with three letters of recommendation.

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

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 Univer-

sity, 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 Bridge-

water 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_3U1eV5odmqm4K.



Party on the Playgrounds kicks off the PTA's events for the year.

Submitted photos

VILLAGE from page 1

course at Springfield College. The PTA covered transportation costs so the entire class could attend. There, students participated in small-group activities focused on problem solving, teamwork, and listening to one another—learning that happened quite literally outside the classroom walls.

The PTA's calendar for the rest of the school year is just as full. "The Mosier PTA has so much planned for the remainder of this school year. It's hard to believe that we will find time to do it all," Langevin said. Current and upcoming efforts include the Hillside Pizza fundraiser, with frozen pizzas delivered just in time for Super Bowl Sunday, and a February Bingo Night emceed by longtime Mosier favorite David Gallagher during one of his final

events before retirement. The PTA has also fully funded a second-grade Amazon wish list for classroom supplies and is planning multiple assemblies and additional field trips for all grade levels.

Leading the PTA during a period of financial uncertainty has been both challenging and eye-opening. "Every family is feeling the effects of the current economy to some degree," Langevin said, noting that the organization works hard to keep events free or low-cost so all families can participate. Sometimes that means giving away concessions; other times it means selling snacks to continue raising funds for students. She emphasized how grateful the PTA is for community generosity, whether through donations, baked goods, or online contributions.

That sense of collaboration is what keeps the PTA

running. "It truly takes a village when hosting and facilitating one of our PTA events," Langevin said. Committees, subcommittees, and an active executive board share responsibilities, making it possible for working parents to stay involved. She pointed to the annual Party on the Playground as a perfect example, an event made possible by parents and high school volunteers working food stations, running games, and helping with activities from face painting to tie-dye.

Looking ahead, Langevin hopes readers understand the heart behind the PTA's work. "It's very important to know that everyone in the Mosier PTA does the best we can and we're involved because we love our kids, their friends, their teachers, and want the very best that the school can offer," she explained. "We volunteer our time outside of

our real-life jobs and raise our own families because we care and want to. Anyone can join at any point throughout the year! I have always said, 'If I don't do it, who will?' We love working collaboratively with the principal, vice principal, office administration, and of course, our teachers. Anything we can contribute or do to enhance their jobs of teaching our children inside and outside of the classroom makes it all worth it.

As Langevin put it, without participation, "there would be no Mosier community. I will speak on behalf of Katie July, Jenna Snyder, Amy Methot, and myself when I say thank you to every parent who has participated in one of our fundraisers, attended one of our events with their family or has benefitted from all of our hard work in one way or another."

PROJECT from page 1

comes from various past projects that were unspent, the "left overs."

"We will lose \$1.88 million if we don't do this project," said Bail.

Bail then explained that the ARPA funds, the American Rescue Plan Act, were awarded to the town, but the town must use the funds for the given reason in order for the sum to be given in full.

"If we don't spend that money on this project, we say goodbye to \$1.88 million," said Bail.

The two articles on the ballot are either/or, and only one can be passed.

"The first article would provide funds for a supplemental budget and enough money to renovate the space for an office for the town administrator," Bail explained. "The second article would provide funds to supplement the existing budget, but would not include office space for the town administrator. That space would be prepped for a future renovation, but would not be usable."

The Selectboard asked Town Meeting members to vote in favor of one of the articles; if Article One passed, the Selectboard would withdraw the second article.

"We have a year to move out of our offices. We couldn't afford to build new,

and we can't do it now; we certainly can't do it by the end of the year when our lease with the town and the annex ends," said Bail. "If we vote down both of these articles tonight, we'll have to find temporary accommodations for our offices."

Many in attendance favored the idea of closing the senior center, and using that space for the new town offices, for which Bail said, "I strongly disagree with that idea, but without the West Street School project, it's a possibility."

OPM Neil Joyce and architect Tim Whitman were present to share their plan for the West Street Building and were present to answer questions.

"We have completed a design which, as presented in your handouts, includes two different options," Joyce said. "The first option collocates both the town administrator's office and the balance of the municipal offices in the north wing of the existing West Street School."

The total project budget is \$6,694,639, compared to the previous \$5,686,639, resulting in a total \$1,800,000 shortfall.

After a time of discussion and questions, the town meeting members voted in favor of passing Article 1 by majority vote, allowing for a

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<p>Saturday, Jan. 31st 6-9pm Billy Eagen</p>	<p>Saturday, Feb. 7th 6-9pm Jack & His Guitar</p>
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<p>USDA INSP. FRESH BONE-IN ASSORTED PORK LOIN CHOPS..... \$1.88 lb</p> <p>USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS PORK SIRLOIN CUTLETS..... \$2.22 lb</p> <p>USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS PORK BUTT STRIPS..... \$2.59 lb</p>	<p>USDA INSP. FRESH BONE-IN BEEF RIBE EYE STEAK \$9.99 lb</p> <p>USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF TOP SIRLOIN PICANHA STEAKS \$7.99 lb</p> <p>USDA INSP. IQF FROZEN GROUND FRESH DAILY DIET LEAN GROUND BEEF \$4.99 5 LB BAG</p>	<p>USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS & SKINLESS CHICKEN BREAST 10 LB BAG..... \$1.77 lb</p> <p>USDA INSP. FRESH CHICKEN DRUMSTICKS 10 LB BAG..... 75¢ lb</p> <p>USDA INSP. FROZEN WHOLE DUCK TRAY PAK..... \$4.99 lb</p> <p>USDA INSP. FROZEN TASTEE CHOICE FAMILY MEAL: CHICKEN CARBONARA or SHRIMP ALFREDO..... \$4.99 ea</p> <p>USDA INSP. IQF FROZEN RAW SHRIMP 15/20 COUNT HEAD ON, TAIL ON 24 OZ BAG..... \$6.99 ea</p>
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SOUPS ON

<p>USDA INSP. TURKEY BREAST..... \$3.99 lb</p> <p>USDA INSP. PROVOLONE CHEESE..... \$4.77 lb</p> <p>USDA INSP. FROZEN BEEF OXTAILS..... \$9.99 lb</p> <p>USDA INSP. FRESH FOWL CHICKEN (SOUP CHICKEN)..... \$1.49 lb</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">90 Meat Outlet</p> <p style="text-align: center;">HOURS: Mon. - Wed. 8-4 Thurs. 8-6 • Fri. 8-6 • Sat. 8-3</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">90 Avocado St. Springfield 413-737-1288 www.90meat.com</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">We reserve the right to limit quantities.</p>
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SALE DATES: 1/29/26-2/4/26 BUY DIRECT FOR SAVINGS • SELECTION • SERVICE

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WE OUR READERS

Nomination Papers available for 2026 Annual Town Election

SOUTH HADLEY - Nomination papers for the April 14, 2026, South Hadley Annual Town Election are available from Monday, December 8, 2025, until Friday, February 20, 2026 in the Town Clerk's Office at Town Hall, 116 Main St., South Hadley. Nomination papers may be obtained during office hours, Monday through Thursday, from 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. and Fridays from 8:30 a.m. - noon. Appointments outside of regular office hours may be available by request. Any changes in hours will be posted to the Clerk's webpage at www.southhadley.org/clerk.

Interested candidates must be registered voters in the town of South Hadley. To appear on the ballot, candidates must obtain nomination papers from the Town Clerk's Office and have them signed by local registered voters.

Town-wide offices require 50 signatures on nomination papers from registered voters in South Hadley. Town Meeting Member offices require 10 signatures from registered voters in their respective precinct. It is recommended that prospective candidates obtain more than the minimum number of signatures.

Papers for the following

- seats will be available:
- Selectboard- Two Seats - Three-Year Term
 - School Committee - Two Seats - Three-Year Term
 - Board of Health - Two Seats - Three-Year Term
 - Municipal Light Board - One Seat - Three-Year Term
 - Board of Assessors - One Seat - Three-Year Term
 - Housing Authority - One Seat - Five-Year Term
 - Trustee Free Public Library - Three Seats - Three-Year Term
 - Planning Board - Two Seats - Three-Year Term
 - Town Meeting Member - Eight Seats per precinct - Three-Year Term
 - Town Meeting Member - One Seat, Precinct B - Two-Year Term
 - Town Meeting Member - One Seat Precinct B, One Seat Precinct C - One-Year Term
- Once the candidate has obtained all the signatures needed, nomination papers must be returned to the Town Clerk's Office by 5 p.m. on Tuesday, February 24, 2026 for signatures to be certified. Interested candidates may direct their questions and comments to the Town Clerk's Office by phone at 413-538-5030, ext. 6183 or by email at elections@southhadley.ma.gov.

Getting ready for the St. Patty's parade



Submitted photo

Members of the South Hadley and Granby Chamber of Commerce welcoming and congratulating Andrew Beaudry of Private Financial Design for being named the Holyoke St. Patrick's Day Parade Marshal.

SOUTH HADLEY - The South Hadley and Granby Chamber of Commerce is looking forward to the Saint Patrick's Day pa-

rade, where officers of the Chamber will march in it, but also are spending time congratulating Andrew R. Beaudry of Private Finan-

cial Design who is the Parade Marshal. Chamber members Bodies in Motion will also be in the parade, and the mem-

bers are looking forward to a fun and exciting parade on Sunday, March 22 in Holyoke.

SHPD reminds residents of snow removal bylaw

SOUTH HADLEY - Just a reminder that the South Hadley Town Bylaw § 315-2.3 requires the removal of snow from sidewalks. The snow must be removed within twenty-four (24) hours after a snowfall. Failure to remove snow could result in

a fine of \$100 each day the snow is not removed. Property owners that abut sidewalks that are on the DPW sidewalk list are not absolved of their responsibility for sidewalk maintenance. § 315-2.4 Placement of snow on public streets.

No person shall shovel, plow, blow, or otherwise place snow onto any public street. Any person found violating any subsection of this section may be subject to a fine not to exceed \$300.

Important dates and announcements for the town

SOUTH HADLEY - Keep note of some important dates coming up for the town and budgets, budget votes, and town meetings and elections. February 10, 6 p.m.- Selectboard vote on Special Town Meeting

February 25, 6 p.m.- Tentative Special Town Meeting
 March 3, Selectboard Meeting- Budget Public Hearing
 March 11, School Committee Meeting- Budget Public Hearing
 March 17, Selectboard Meeting- Budget Vote

March 25, School Committee Meeting- Budget Vote
 March 28, Annual Town Election and tentative Override Vote
 You can find a tax impact calculator online now at <https://southhadley.org/1504/Budget-Task-Force>.



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INSURED AND CERTIFIED



Opinion

SOCIAL SECURITY

Matters

By Russell Gloor

Claiming Social Security early and investing it

Dear Rusty:

I am a 63-year-old single lady and I have questions regarding Social Security "early retirement," though I will still be working full time.

I know there is a maximum allowable income limit and, if I exceed that, I will need to return probably 2/3 of my received Social Security benefit. I'm thinking about taking those early SS benefits about \$1,400 per month and putting them in my high yield savings or CD where I can gain the interest on it and have it stay "liquid" so I can return what I need to.

My current interest rate is 3.65% on the savings and over 4.25% on CD, with options for 3,6,9 mos. or longer- but I want to be able to access the money to pay Social Security back at the end of the year. Can you advise me on this?

Signed: Still Working but Wondering

Dear Still Working:

I commend you, for investigating your options before claiming early Social Security benefits while still working. FYI, the 2026 annual earnings limit for those collecting early SS benefits is \$24,480 (changes annually). If your 2026 work earnings exceed the annual limit, Social Security will take away \$1 in benefits for every \$2 you are over the limit. The annual earnings limit lasts until you reach your Full Retirement Age and the limit is about 2.5 times higher during the year you attain FRA.

FYI, when you apply for benefits, Social Security will ask if you are working and, if so, how much you make. Using that information, they will evaluate whether you can take benefits now and, if so, how many months they can actually pay your benefits.

For example, if your projected 2026 earnings are, say, \$100,000, you would be about \$75,000 over the annual limit which means that half of that \$37,500 would need to be paid back to SS. Since your monthly SS benefit at your cur-

rent age would be about \$1,400 per month, Social Security will say that you are temporarily ineligible to collect early benefits because you cannot pay back within one year what you would owe for exceeding the limit. In other words, they won't pay your SS benefits just yet because your earnings are too high and they do not want to overpay benefits, which you will only need to return.

For additional perspective, if your expected 2026 earnings are less say about \$50,000 that means you would be about \$25,000 over the limit about half of that (about \$12,500) would need to be paid back to SS. In that event, SSA would tell you they will withhold nine months of your SS payments in advance and pay your benefits for only 3 months. This because the overpayment, with your current benefit of about \$1,400, could be recovered by withholding your SS payments for nine months. They do not want to intentionally overpay your SS benefits.

So, despite your best repayment intentions, Social Security will not favor intentionally overpaying your benefits. Historically, overpayment of benefits due to exceeding the annual earnings limit has been a notoriously difficult issue for the Social Security Administration. So, to get your early SS benefits while you are working full time, you would likely need to lie about your anticipated 2026 earnings on your application for SS benefits, which we strongly discourage.

Keep in mind that this all changes when you reach your FRA (67), because the earning limit goes away entirely when you reach FRA and the limit goes up by about 2.5 times in the year you attain full retirement age. So, depending on your earnings level, you may wish to either wait until your full retirement age, or until you stop working full time, to claim SS.

Now, as for the gener-

Please see **SOCIAL SECURITY** page 7

Sow onion seeds to get the season started

If you are sick and tired of winter, and want to get the gardening season going already, why not sow some onion seeds?

Onions are the first seeds I sow each year and I always welcome this task as a true harbinger of spring! Many gardeners only know of growing onions from sets, but you can indeed start them from seed, both indoors in the garden.

Read on for more information on growing onions from start to finish, right out of the archives.

First it's important that we "understand the onion," in other words, come to know its life cycle. Onions are biennial.

We are all familiar with biennial flowers like foxglove, hollyhock and Canterbury bells, who develop foliage the first year of their lives and bloom and set seed in the second, but few gardeners today ever experience a biennial

vegetable. That wasn't always the case. Just visit the Freeman Farm at Old Sturbridge Village where in the summer you will see beets, parsnips, onions and more in year two of their life cycle, complete with seed heads.



by Roberta McQuaid

As the seeds ripen, 19th century gardeners would have stored them away for use the following spring.

So then, if the onion is a biennial and its goal is to make seeds the second season of its life, what is it trying to accomplish in its first? Exactly what you and I want: a big bulb!

The bulb is the food stor-

age unit for the plant during its dormancy period- the winter between years one and two. A big bulb gives the second year plant a good head start and almost always directly relates to increased seed production as compared to smaller bulbs.

For me, understanding this concept was one of those "aha" gardening moments.

It all really came together when I recognized that big bulbs are a direct result of lush topgrowth.

Just imagine the green part of the plant photosynthesizing, drawing in all of that wonderful energy from the sun and turning it into a big, fat onion! Luckily, we gardeners can provide just the right conditions for lush top growth.

Get an early start

All onions have a built-in mechanism that triggers "bulbing up" in response to warmer temperatures and increased daylight hours. Likewise, as

Please see **GARDEN**, page 7

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Let's try this budget solution

To the Editor,

South Hadley's budget is in crisis. It's now time for wealthy, tax-exempt institutions to step up and voluntarily pay a portion of the taxes assessed on the property they own in town. They currently pay nothing.

These annual payments are known as Payments instead of Taxes or PILOTs.

Springfield is exploring such funding. Holyoke Gas & Electric already makes a PILOT of over \$1 million to the city of Holyoke. Amherst College recently agreed to pay the Town of Amherst \$2.5 million over 3 years. Harvard makes a PILOT to Cambridge.

South Hadley could start by negotiating a PILOT from Mount Holyoke College (MHC), which has a \$1.1 bil-

lion endowment. Then South Hadley could seek PILOTs from other well-off non-profits like the Berkshire Hills Music Academy, which has assets of \$13 million.

According to the 2025 tax-exempt property list from the tax assessor's office, there are 349 properties owned by tax-exempt entities. MHC owns 65 of these. Their total tax bill, if they did not have federal tax-exempt status, would be \$2,782,912.89 per year.

If Mount Holyoke College paid 25% of the taxes on this property, that's \$695,728 per year for South Hadley.

MHC says they can't pay because 85% of their \$1.1 billion endowment is restricted and therefore not available to help the Town. But that means

15% or \$165 million is unrestricted.

MHC also justifies their current unwillingness to make a PILOT by saying they pay water and sewer fees, and for ambulance service. Residents pay that, plus property tax.

MHC also says they contribute to the local economy. Don't we all? And MHC points to a handful of special town needs they have funded in the 189 years they have been in our community. Gifts are welcome and appreciated. But

South Hadley needs an ongoing commitment from MHC to make an annual PILOT and support the beautiful town it calls home.

Linda Sachs
South Hadley



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Snowy owl

see a snowy owl. Keep a safe distance to observe quietly. Do not play bird calls from your phone or other device. Don't feed the owls. Avoid flashes when taking photos. Keep noises to a minimum. If you find an injured owl: contact your state wildlife agency or local rehabilitator. If you find a dead owl: contact your state wildlife agency.

Also people should avoid using rodenticides; they are poisonous to birds and other animals even a pet. If an owl or other birds of prey eat a rodent that ingested, it will kill them.

Evening grosbeaks

A Worthington resident reported a friend saw two evening grosbeaks on Tuesday, Jan. 6. He said in his email he remembered when they used to be in giant flocks. He asked if they were rare out my way. I have not seen evening

wintering raptors like Northern harriers in Massachusetts in early January.

On Jan. 6 and again on Jan. 13 a male King Eider was seen among thousands of common Eiders in North Chatham. A Pacific loon and over 400 razorbills were at Race Point in Provincetown.

Brimfield resident

A Brimfield resident sent an email on Jan. 6 that he received a preliminary total for the Springfield Christmas Bird Count, which was 66 species, a few below the average. He also said, "We occasionally see them in the yard and sometimes hear the barred owls calling."

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

The Town Reminder is published every Friday by Turley Publications, Inc., 24 Water St., Palmer, Mass. 01069. Telephone (413) 283-8393, Fax (413) 289-1977.

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In late December of last year and early January of this year, a snowy owl has been seen at Northampton Airport and in a cornfield.

The snowy owl is an irruptive species from the tundra. Usually, it is the young snowy owls that head this way. There have been reports of snowy owls at Plum Island this month. Logan Airport is another common location for them.

The snowy owl is large and white. The mature males have a lot of white. Females and juveniles have dark brown and black barring. Living in the Arctic, it is well adapted to cold with dense feathers including feathers on their feet. They hunt rodents like lemmings in open tundra. They have exceptional sight and hearing.

Their flight is silent allowing them to catch unsuspect-

ing prey. They hunt during the day, a rarity for most owls. They expand south during winter food scarcity in the tundra. It is one of North America's heaviest



By Ellenor Downer

owls with a wing span of 4.5 to 5.5 feet.

They are generally solitary, but form pairs. They build nests in the ground in shallow scrapes. The female lays three to 11 eggs, the number of eggs depending on food availability. Males bring food and the females incubate and feed the chicks.

Helping owls

Here are some tips if you

CHAMBER from page 1

DelMastro shared five tips to encourage small business owners, reminding them they are not alone in their endeavors, how to “know your numbers” and not rely just on data-driven decisions, that technology is a competitive equalizer, that every business needs a neutral advisor, and to never wait until you’re overwhelmed to get help.

The Dinner also featured a time to celebrate and thank Regina Zebrowski for her nine years as a part of the Chamber, her unwavering support, and her work in planning, preparing, and taking part in the different events they held.

“During my nine years on the Chamber of Commerce board, supporting our community’s nonprofits and local businesses became one of the most meaningful parts of my service. I loved being able to champion the organizations and entrepreneurs who make our town vibrant, resilient, and connected. Helping them grow and collaborate,” said Zebrowski.

Zebrowski took on the leading role on the Chamber’s Economic Workforce Grant, which helps local businesses and nonprofits in the community, calling her work on the Grant “the most rewarding part of my service.”

“Over the past nine years, Regina Zebrowski has been a consistent, committed leader for our Chamber. Regina’s dedication, collaboration, and countless hours of service helped shape who the Chamber is today,” said Laplante. “The impact of her contributions will be felt for

years to come. Regina always took a hands-on approach on numerous committees, projects, and events, and always put the best interests of the Chamber and its Members first!”

“Community is the perfect word to describe the SHG Chamber of Commerce. Our chamber thrives on bringing people together—business owners, local leaders, and residents—so it becomes a hub where relationships grow and collaboration turns into real progress,” said Zebrowski. “All of this fosters growth and support to our businesses, nonprofits, and the Community at large. It’s not just an organization; it’s a network of people who care about the same town and work side by side to make it stronger.”

The Chamber hosts many wonderful and fun events every year, including the Trunk-or-Treat, monthly Business After 5’s, Celebrity Bartending fundraiser for Neighbors Helping Neighbors, and so much more, all with a focus on helping and building the small businesses in Granby and South Hadley.

“As President of the SHG Chamber of Commerce, it means a great deal to me to help support an organization that provides opportunities to our Members that help them succeed. When our local businesses succeed, our communities benefit, and that’s what makes the Chamber’s work so meaningful to me,” said Laplante.

The Chamber is looking towards 2026 with hope and excitement as they think of and plan the different events and more for people to enjoy.



Submitted photos

Members of the South Hadley and Granby Chamber of Commerce and keynote speaker Rob DelMastro at their Annual Business Dinner.



Keynote speaker Rob DelMastro shares his five tips to success in business.



A special thank you to the servers at Johnny's.



The room was filled at Johnny's Tap Room for the Business Dinner.



Regina Zebrowski (center) receiving a gift from Steve Laplante and the Chamber, thanking her for her years of service.

NOMINATION PAPERS for the
South Hadley Fire District No. 1 Annual Election

Will be available at **District 1 Headquarters, 144 Newton Street** beginning February 3, 2026 for the following:

Prudential Committee (3 year)
Water Commissioner (3 year)
Clerk/Treasurer (3 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 5:00 p.m. on February 23, 2026. Annual District Election will be held April 14, 2026 from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at South Hadley High School, 153 Newton Street.

Nomination Papers for the South Hadley Fire District No. 2 Annual Election are available at District 2 headquarters, 20 Woodbridge Street beginning February 3, 2026 for the following:

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

Nomination papers with a minimum of ten (10) signatures are due back to the District Clerk’s office, 20 Woodbridge Street, by 3 p.m. on February 23, 2026. Annual District Election will be held Tuesday, April 14, 2026 from 7:00 am to 8:00 p.m. at South Hadley High School, 153 Newton Street.

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Tough second half hurts Tigers



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli
Isiah James hustles toward the hoop.



Tim Loughrey keeps the ball moving around the perimeter.



Chase Pecia turns play around after making a steal.



Noah Hambley heads for the layup.



Griffin Soderbaum is pressured near the arc.

SPRINGFIELD – Last Wednesday evening, South Hadley was not able to keep its first half lead, and fell to host Sci-Tech 59-44. For the Tigers, Tim Loughrey had 20 points while Noah Hambley finished with 12 points. Isiah James finished with 10 points. South Hadley had a 25-19 lead at halftime, but gave it up during a 24-9 run for Sci-Tech in the third quarter. The Tigers are now 5-7 on the season.

Granby girls grab win against Ludlow

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

GRANBY—While their first three losses of the 2025-26 regular season were on the road, it has been more than a year since the Granby girls' varsity basketball lost a game at Sullivan Gymnasium.

The Lady Rams secured a Division 5 state tournament berth by defeating Franklin West rival Ludlow, 67-42, last Thursday night, staying undefeated at home.

"We just earned our tenth win and a spot in the state tournament," said Granby head coach Dave Padavano. "We played very well right from the start of tonight's game. Everyone contributed."

The Lady Rams had a 10-3 overall record and a 6-2 league mark following their sixth home victory of the season. Southwick was the last visiting girls' basketball team to win a game at Sullivan Gymnasium. They defeated Granby, 50-27, on January 20, 2025.

Granby was ranked seventh in the MIAA Division 5 state power rankings, which was released on January 23. The Lady Rams are hoping to play a couple of home games in this year's state tournament as opposed to having to make a long bus ride to Eastern Mass. like



Brenna Moreno angles toward the hoop.



Rowan Cook makes a jumping pass over an opponent.



Kaitlyn Curran eyes the other side of the court.

they did a year ago. "One of our goals at the beginning of the regular season was play a couple of home games in the state tournament," Padavano said. "We really don't want to make another long bus ride again this year."

Granby ended its season a year ago with a 66-57 loss in the round of 32 at Prospect Hill Academy Charter School in Cambridge.

The Lady Rams were also the first place team in the

Western Mass. Class D power rankings.

Last Thursday's home contest was very memorable for Granby junior Brenna Moreno, who scored 11 of her career-high 22 points during the opening quarter, which helped the Lady Rams build an eight point lead.

"I challenged Brenna before tonight's game to play like she did last season," Padavano said. "She responded very well and came out firing in the first quarter. I'm very

happy with her performance."

The Lady Rams' other two double digit scorers against Ludlow were junior Kalli White (11 points) and senior K.C. Curran (15 points).

White achieved a significant milestone last week, recording her 1,000th career point during a 55-52 non-league home victory over Mount Greylock.

"Kalli is an excellent athlete and it was incredible

Please see **GRANBY**, page 7

Pacers finally get first win

CHICOPEE – The Chicopee High School co-op ice hockey team finally was able to get a win in the 2025-2026 season. They defeated Keefe Tech 5-4 on Jan. 17. In the win, Landon Johnson, Braydon LaDuke, Brennan Corcoran, Aidan Nadeau, and Dylan Haryasz scored the goals for the Pacers,

who co-op with Chicopee Comprehensive, Granby, and South Hadley. Chicopee would lose to Easthampton on Wednesday, Jan. 21 8-3 and are now 1-8-2 on the season. They are next scheduled to face Agawam on Saturday, Jan. 31 at 4:30 p.m. at Olympia Ice Center in West Springfield

Ott named new head coach of T-Birds

SPRINGFIELD – St. Louis Blues President of Hockey Operations and General Manager Doug Armstrong announced today that Steve Ott will assume the role of head coach for the team's AHL affiliate, the Springfield Thunderbirds, for the remainder of the season. Ott replaces Steve Konowalchuk, who has been relieved of his duties. Current Thunderbirds assistant coach Chad Wiseman will serve as the interim head coach for today's Thunderbirds game against the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins until Ott can join the team later this week.

"The Blues want to thank Steve Konowalchuk for his contributions to our organization over the last two years and wish him all the

best moving forward," said Armstrong. "We're looking forward to Steve Ott taking over in Springfield to push our young players to get better every day and further their development path to become St. Louis Blues. The current staff will take over his duties with the Blues for the rest of this season."

Ott, 42, has nine seasons behind the Blues' bench after first joining the staff as an assistant in the summer of 2017. During his tenure, the Summerside, PEI, native has helped the Blues compile a 350-244-74 (.588 points percentage) regular-season record and four postseason appearances. In 2018-19, just his second season as a coach, Ott played an instrumental role in helping the Blues make a

historic rise in the standings during the regular season, ultimately capturing the 2019 Stanley Cup championship. Ott becomes the fifth head coach in Thunderbirds history

As a player, Ott enjoyed a 14-year NHL career, including 122 games with the Blues from 2014-2016. Overall, he accumulated 288 points in 848 career regular-season games, including stints with Dallas, Buffalo, St. Louis, Detroit, and Montreal.

Konowalchuk, 52, was in his second season as head coach of the Thunderbirds and has recorded an overall record of 47-50-4-8 (.486 points-percentage) during his time in the organization, including a record of 13-18-4-2 (.432) this season.

GARDEN from page 4

daylight begins to decrease, the onion is cued into dormancy.

If lush tops are our first goal, we have to get our onions in early, so that they achieve lots of top growth before being prompted to bulb up. Those of us who garden in the north choose "long day" onions, while southern gardeners opt to grow "short day" types.

Long day onions bulb up when day length reaches 14-16 hours per day; short day begin at 12-13 hours. If we plant short day in our locale we'd end up with fat scalions, but not much more, so choose accordingly.

Reputable seed companies will list the type of onion it is next to the variety name, or feature them under appropriate headings.

Choose your method

There are three ways onions can be grown: by seeds sown directly in the garden, from transplants started indoors, or from sets, which are tiny onions. One huge advantage of utilizing seeds is the variety at your disposal as compared to sets.

They are also less expensive. Some folks even argue that onions sown from seed store longer. The rest of this article will be devoted to starting onion seeds indoors, which is best accomplished in late January through Valentine's Day- good news for those of you itching to get your hands "dirty!"

Onion seeds are sown indoors in small flats filled with moist soilless growing medium. Spacing can be a little closer than prescribed for outdoor germination, with sowing at 1/4" apart. The use of heat mats set at 72 degrees is helpful, but not entirely necessary; regular room temperatures will also encourage sprouting.

Supplemental lighting is vital, however, so that the onions grow straight and strong. Once onions are up, thin seedlings 1/2" to 1" apart from one another – onions hate competition, so this step is important!

I generally cut out the ex-

tras using scissors, right at the soil line so as not to dislodge the roots of those we are growing on. As the seedlings continue to grow, keep them trimmed at 3" tall; this will encourage strong roots and a straight, bulky plant.

About a month prior to the last frost, the transplants should be hardened off for a week by gradually acclimating them to outdoor conditions. When they are ready, seedlings are sunk into 1" furrows 3-4" apart and watered carefully; they can be protected from sun and wind off and on for the first week should it seem necessary; here a floating row cover supported by wire hoops would come in handy, but old pots or trays would work fine too. Additional rows should be one foot apart.

Stayed tuned for part two of this column next week, and extra-large onions will be yours come fall!

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.

GRANBY from page 6

watching her score her 1,000 career point the other night." Moreno said. "I'm very glad that we have another year to play high school sports together."

White has also recorded more than 100 career points as a member of the girls' soccer team and has tallied more than 100 goals for the Lady Rams lacrosse team.

Curran, who made a total of five 3-pointers, is a co-captain this season, along with senior Mylin Laliberte.

"Our two seniors have been awesome this year," Padavano said. "They provide a lot of leadership and guidance. They've also helped me out a lot as well."

The Lady Rams will hold their senior night on January 29, when they play against Monson High School.

The Lady Lions (2-10, 1-7) have shown a lot of improvement since their first meeting of the regular season against the Lady Rams, which was a 36-25 loss at Mullins Gymnasium.

"This was one of our best offensive games of the season. I thought we competed well against Granby, especially during the second half," said first-year Ludlow head coach Samantha Partridge. "The players are playing with a lot more con-

fidence now. We're just focusing on getting a little bit better in each game. I also want them to have fun playing basketball."

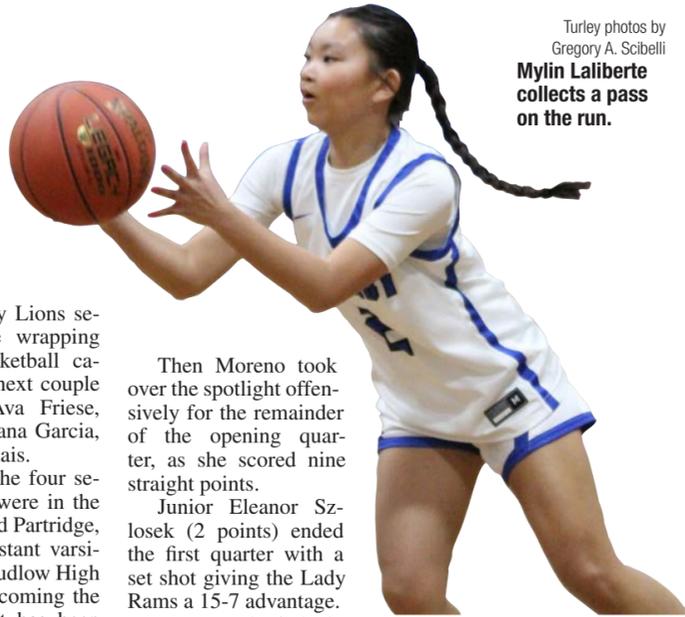
The four Lady Lions seniors, who'll be wrapping their varsity basketball careers during the next couple of weeks are Ava Friese, Nora Adams, Eliana Garcia, and Aneysa Donais.

"I've known the four seniors since they were in the eighth grade," said Partridge, who was an assistant varsity/J.V. coach at Ludlow High School before becoming the varsity coach. "It has been very nice watching them grow and mature. I'm hoping that we can finish the season strong for them."

The Lady Lions will hold their senior night on February 2, when they also face the Monson Lady Mustangs.

Donais finished the Granby game with a team-leading 12 points. Adams also reached double figures for the visiting team with 10 points. Junior Karley Roman chipped in with six points.

Donais made a 3-pointer less than two minutes into the contest giving her team a 3-2 lead.



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli
Mylin Laliberte collects a pass on the run.

Then Moreno took over the spotlight offensively for the remainder of the opening quarter, as she scored nine straight points.

Junior Eleanor Szlosek (2 points) ended the first quarter with a set shot giving the Lady Rams a 15-7 advantage.

Moreno buried her second 3-pointer of the game from the right side at the start of the second quarter, which pushed Granby's lead into double digits (18-7) for the first time.

The Lady Lions responded with back-to-back baskets from Adams and Roman, but they were still trailing, 31-14 at halftime.

Granby held a 37-16 advantage two minutes into the third quarter following a White jumper and two more field goals by Moreno.

Led by the trio of Adams, Roman and junior Maddie Riley (4 points), the Lady Li-

ons scored 16 points during the third quarter, but they were trailing 49-30 entering the final eight minutes of the contest.

Freshman Kara White, who's Kalli's younger sister, came off the bench and scored all six of her points during the final quarter.

Granby's other ten points in the fourth quarter were scored by sophomore Kaelyn Slapski (2 points), freshman Arianna Mislak (4 points), and junior Meredith Bartosz (5 points).

SOCIAL SECURITY from page 4

an idea of taking early benefits and investing them, many have said they wish to do that and we understand that logic. Our caution is that it requires religious discipline to put the SS money into a higher yield investment vehicle to accomplish the goal of beating the SS increase realized when you wait to claim. Many who try it succumb to the temptation to use the invested funds for emergency needs and sometimes non-emergency needs. I offer this only as something to be aware of, as some have shared that they failed in their investment objectives with their Social Security money.

The Association Mature

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Kalli White tries to nab an offensive rebound.



Kara White looks to pass inside the paint.

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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 advertised 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!

Two Town Food Drive on 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.

Granby Lions Club holding ‘Groundhog Fuel Assistance Fund’

February 2 – March 16, 2026

GRANBY – Once again this winter heating season, the Granby Lions Club has established an Emergency Fuel Assistance Fund for Granby residents. This fund, titled the “Groundhog Fund”, will

enable residents of Granby to obtain needed assistance for fuel to help them through the next six weeks of winter.

The Lions Club Groundhog Fund will begin helping residents on February 2 and will continue until March 16.

Residents who would like to apply for needed assistance are asked to complete an ap-

plication, and these applications are available in the Senior Center/Council of Aging Office at 10 West State St. in Granby from 9:00 am – 3:00 pm Monday through Friday.

The Granby Lions Club appreciates the continuing support that the community of Granby gives to our projects and activities.

SHHS basketball teams and 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.

DCR celebrates Massachusetts’ Indigenous History with launch of First Peoples First Stewards Children’s Library Program

Reading libraries featuring titles by Native American authors will now be available in visitor centers at nine DCR properties

BOSTON - The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) announced today the start of the First Peoples First Stewards (FPFS) Children’s Library, a new initiative available at nine DCR properties, designed to promote youth-focused written works by Native American authors. Featuring more than 20 titles, the reading library program celebrates the region’s Indigenous communities, histories, and their enduring relationship to the lands and waters that make up the nearly half a million acres that DCR stewards across Massachusetts.

“Massachusetts’ history began long before the arrival of colonists, with Indigenous communities who cared for the land and continue to do so today. As stewards of this land, DCR has a responsibility to preserve and uplift the stories of our first and continuing stewards,” said **DCR Commissioner Nicole LaChapelle**. “By making this history accessible at DCR properties, we hope visitors gain a deeper understanding of what these lands represent –and the people who have been connected to them for generations.”

“I am delighted visitors are being welcomed across Massachusetts with Indigenous-created books through DCR’s First Peoples First Stewards Children’s Library,” said **Traci Sorell, author and Cherokee Nation citizen**. “I am honored some of my books are included but especially heartened that creators from local Native Nations have titles provided too. Wado (thank you)!”

In many Indigenous traditions, winter is a time when communities come together to tell stories and pass knowledge onto younger generations. This winter, the First Peoples First Stewards Partnership Program invites the public to nine visitor centers at

parks and watersheds throughout Massachusetts to have an experience grounded in that tradition. Each library will feature works of fiction and non-fiction depicting accurate, first-hand accounts of Indigenous history, culture and lived experience, available for reading on site.

Visitors will be able to peruse titles in the new reading libraries and sit with their family members to enjoy stories in the following visitor centers: Blackstone River and Canal Heritage State Park in Uxbridge; Blackstone River Greenway Visitor Center at Worcester; Blue Hills Reservation in Milton; Borderland State Park in North Easton; Breakheart Reservation in Saugus; Fall River Heritage State Park; Great Falls Discovery Center in Turners Falls; Mount Greylock State Reservation in Lanesborough; and the Quabbin Reservoir in Belchertown.

The reading library locations were intentionally chosen to provide experiences across various geographical areas of the state. FPFS will continue to evaluate other potential sites for additional libraries at DCR properties.

“Developing the First Peoples First Stewards Children’s Library for DCR visitor centers is a project that has brought me joy and is near and dear to my heart. As a former educator specializing in Indigenous content, it is vital that the Indigenous visitors see themselves represented at DCR properties, and that non-Indigenous visitors can be introduced to Indigenous literature and experience in a matter of minutes an Indigenous perspective on life, the environment and community.” said **DCR Indigenous People’s Partnership Coordinator Leah Hopkins and a citizen of the Narragansett Indian Tribe**. “The books in each of the libraries tell both traditional and contemporary stories and not only represent local Indigenous voices but also stories from other parts of Turtle Island (North America). They all share common themes of

community, resilience and connection to the land-concepts we can all connect to.”

The First Peoples First Stewards Children’s Library represents an important step in FPFS and DCR’s ongoing commitment to promote and provide space for public dialogue on Indigenous experiences in a way that is respectful and interactive. The books provided at each location were thoughtfully curated to ensure accurate, first-person representations of Indigenous culture, history, and stories.

Through the FPFS Partnership, DCR aims to uplift the cultural continuity and sovereignty of Indigenous Peoples by building reciprocal relationships with Tribal Governments and Indigenous Community Stakeholders. These relationships will inform DCR land management practices by centering traditional ecological knowledge and Indigenous culture.

For more information about the Partnership and the work of DCR’s Indigenous Peoples Partnership Coordinator, visit the program’s webpage.

The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) oversees nearly half a million acres of land, making up one of the largest and most diverse state park systems in the country. Our work focuses on nurturing the vital connection between people and the environment by protecting, promoting, and enhancing our common wealth of natural, cultural, and recreational resources for the well-being of all. Our infrastructure connects people to and through the beautiful landscapes and accessible recreational facilities we care for –strengthening our communities and driving our economy. Our staff strive to build a healthier, more resilient Massachusetts where all residents and visitors can relax, reflect and feel a sense of belonging in our open spaces and public lands. To learn more about DCR, our facilities, and our programs, please visit www.mass.gov/dcr or contact us at mass.parks@mass.gov.

Legal Notices

TOWN OF SOUTH HADLEY ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 40A of the Massachusetts General Laws, and Article X of the Town of South Hadley Zoning Bylaw, the South Hadley Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing on **Thursday, February 19, 2026 at 4:00 p.m.** to hear the petition of Andrew Bazukin, 40 King Street, Westfield MA 01085, for a Variance from the requirements of Section 255-21 (Attachment 2) of the Town’s Zoning Bylaw regarding the required setback requirements of primary structures within the Residential A-1 zoning district.

The subject property is located at 0 Granby Road, identified as Assessor’s Map 16 Parcel 90, and located within the Residential A-1 zoning district. The parcel is currently undeveloped and located at the corner of Granby Road and Lakeview Avenue.

The public hearing will be held at the South Hadley

Public Library, Trustees Conference Room, 2 Canal Street, South Hadley, MA 01075.

The application is on file with the Town Clerk’s Office. The application and submitted materials may also be viewed on the Town’s website at the Zoning Board of Appeals page under the tab “**Granby Road (Map 16, Parcel 90)**”, or at the following link: <https://www.southhadley.org/1523/Granby-Road-Map-16-Parcel-90>. Anyone interested in, or wishing to be heard on, the application should appear at the time and place designated.

The Zoning Board of Appeals Martha Terry, Chair 01/30, 02/06/2026

TOWN OF SOUTH HADLEY PLANNING BOARD NOTICE OF VIRTUAL PUBLIC HEARING Subdivision Regulation Update

The South Hadley Planning Board will hold a virtual public hearing on **Monday, February 9, 2026 at 6:30 p.m.** to consider repeal and replacement of South Hadley’s current Subdivision

Regulations (Chapter 360: Subdivision Regulations) with updated regulations to include new Articles I through XII; and new Appendices A through H. The materials relative to the proposal are available on the Town’s website at the following link: <https://www.southhadley.org/1318/ProposedDraft-Bylaws>. Alternatively, hard copies of the documents may be viewed at South Hadley Planning and Conservation Department office.

The public hearing will be held through virtual format with log-in information below:

URL to join: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82239969930?pwd=CGVSN01dmQVbJLgQk5kFyvtP0B66n0.1>

Or join by phone: 1 (301) 715 8592 **Webinar ID:** 822 3996 9930 **Passcode:** 091311

Any person interested in, or wishing to be heard, should appear/join the hearing at the time and in the manner designated.

Brad Hutchison, Clerk South Hadley Planning Board 01/23, 01/30/2026

Samaritan’s Purse celebrates 12.2 million Operation Christmas Child shoebox gifts

REGION – Samaritan’s Purse is celebrating a successful season after collecting 12.2 million Operation Christmas Child shoebox gifts in 2025, sharing the love of Jesus with children in need around the world.

The milestone reflects the generosity of millions of shoebox packers helping to fill shoebox gifts with toys, school supplies, and personal care items. Across the U.S., the project collected 10.9 million shoebox gifts in 2025. Combined with those collected from partnering countries, the ministry is now sending over 12.2 million shoebox gifts to children worldwide, including those whose lives were turned upside down by Hurricane Melissa, a category 5 storm that recently struck Jamaica.

“Each shoebox gift is an opportunity to remind boys

and girls around the world that God loves them,” said Franklin Graham, president of Samaritan’s Purse. “We are so thankful for the generosity of every person who packed a shoebox. These gifts are bringing joy and the hope of the Gospel to children in need.”

For many children, a shoebox gift is the first gift they have ever received. Each one is a tangible expression of God’s love, offering hope to children facing war, poverty, disease and disaster. Since 1993, Operation Christmas Child has collected and delivered more than 244 million gift-filled shoeboxes to children in more than 170 countries and territories.

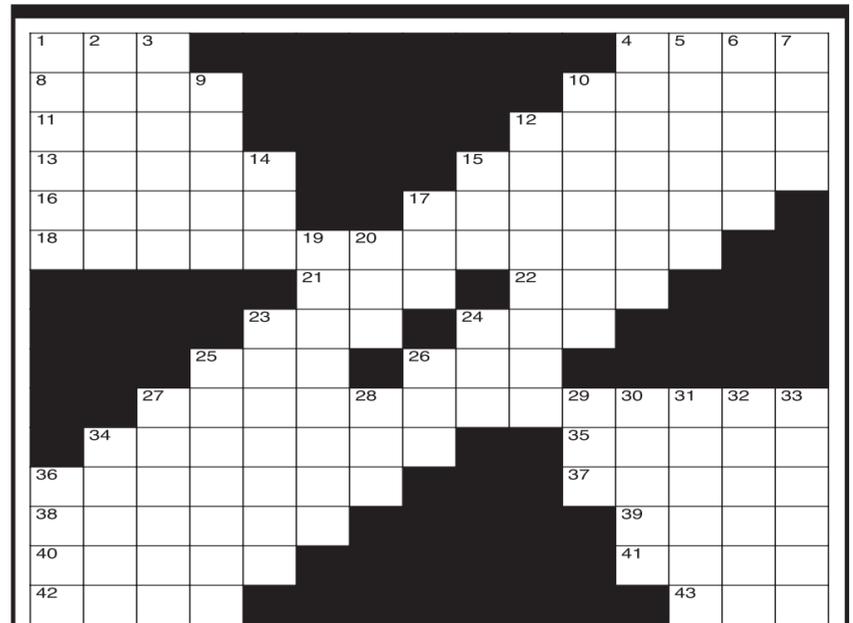
While local drop-off locations are closed until National Collection Week, Nov. 16 - 23, 2026, anyone can

participate year-round by packing a shoebox gift online at samaritanpurse.org/buildonline. These shoebox gifts built online go to the hardest-to-reach areas in the world—whether deep jungles, city slums, or steep mountainsides.

Information about ways to get involved year-round can also be found at samaritanpurse.org/occ.

Operation Christmas Child, a project of Samaritan’s Purse, seeks to demonstrate God’s love in a tangible way to children in need around the world and, together with the local church worldwide, to share the Good News of Jesus Christ. Since 1993, Operation Christmas Child has collected and delivered more than 244 million gift-filled shoeboxes to children in more than 170 countries and territories.

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



CLUES ACROSS

1. Racket sport pros
4. Make tea
8. City South of Moscow
10. Spanish bullfighting term
11. Egg-shaped
12. Could not remember
13. French modernist painter
15. Persons
16. Painful intestinal obstruction
17. Professions
18. Is up to the task
21. Wood or metal bolt
22. Tax collector
23. A way to save for the future
24. Georgia rockers
25. Midway between

CLUES DOWN

1. Type of bomb
2. South Pacific islands
3. Celestial body
4. Negotiates
5. Consider in a specified way
6. Type of group in organic chemistry
7. Buddhist monasteries
9. Inhabitant of Bering Sea island
10. Body part
12. Milestone birthday
14. Thyroid-stimulating hormone
15. More (Spanish)
17. Chicago ballplayer
19. Leaves a place

CLUES DOWN

20. Cannot be found
23. One’s internal body parts
24. Tell on
25. North American peoples of southwest
26. Soviet Socialist Republic
27. Extract used for jams and jellies
28. Greek goddess of the dawn
29. Old English letter
30. A way to exaggerate
31. Get up and leave
32. “Boardwalk Empire” character
33. More generous
34. Hanging cloth used as a blind
36. Ancient Greek sophist

More SNOWSTORM photos



Siblings enjoying the snow together all bundled up.



There is a sense of peace that comes after a snowstorm.

Submitted photos



Misty loves the snow.



Goose is one happy pup in the snow, and found the best stick around.



Making snow tunnels should be considered an Olympic sport.



Maverick enjoying the snow at the South Hadley Dog Park.



A little pony in the snow at Sapowsky Farm.



Little lab puppies dusted with snow.



Little Isabella "Belly" is not too sure she liked the snow this weekend.



Even the squirrels are baffled by all the snow.



A beautiful church, standing regally in the snow.