

TOWN Reminder

FREE
February 7, 2025
Vol. 55, No. 42

INDEX

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FIRE DEPARTMENTS ARE HERE TO HELP

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

SOUTH HADLEY – The fire departments who serve our town are an essential part of it, providing all sorts of resources to the community to ensure they are kept safe.

From fighting fires to saving cats from trees, using the boat to save people from drowning, helping people who injure themselves right outside their doors, or using various tools to open up cars or buildings to free trapped people, fire fighters, paramedics, and EMT's are truly our heroes.

The South Hadley Districts 1 and 2 fire departments are led by two dedicated men, Tom Stark at District 1, and Ryan Moore at District 2.

Chief Stark, a life-long South Hadley resident, has been a firefighter for 35 years with District 1, and has been chief for the past year.

Chief Moore of District 2 has been a firefighter for 18 years and has been chief for 8 months.

Please see **FIRE**, page 12



Mark Mercier, Jess Washington, Chase St. Andre, Zach Fournier, Aaron Gallaspie at the District 1 fire department.

Turley Photo by Emily-Rose Pappas

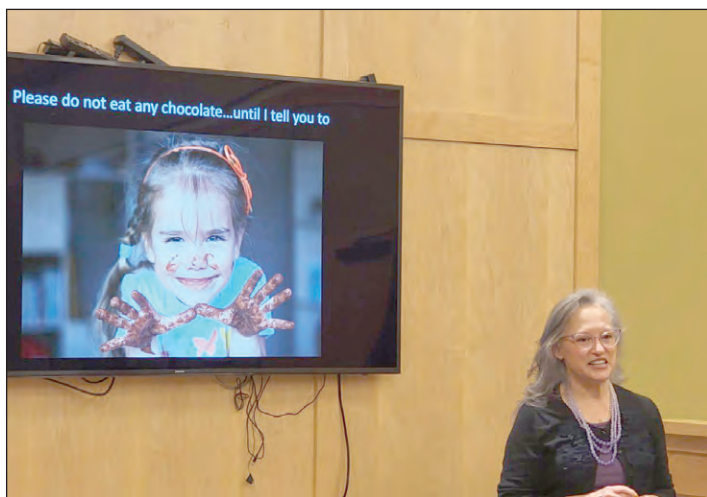
Members of the PD recognized

By Tina Lesniak
Correspondent

SOUTH HADLEY - If not for enough well-trained and level-headed police officers, the events of Oct. 19, 2024 may have turned out very differently. Three members of the South Hadley Police Department were recently recognized for their actions on that night.

Sgt. Ray Hebert, Officer Alexandra Cebula and Dispatcher Josh Sorensen have each received a Commander's Commendation for their actions that night when Dispatcher Sorensen received an E911 call saying that a female caller was inside a pickup truck and the male driver would not let her out. While Sorensen kept the caller on the line, tracking her location, Officer Cebula and Sgt. Hebert responded to the call, observing the pickup

Please see **PD**, page 3



Submitted photos

Dédé Wilson giving a presentation on her class, **The Chocolate Experience**.

Author teaches the art of chocolate

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

SOUTH HADLEY – Chocolate is one of the universal sweets that most people enjoy, and comes in a variety of tastes, textures, flavors, and more that help make it even more exciting.

Finding the perfect snack to pair with chocolate, depending on what you like, may not be

as easy as one would think, as tastes and textures have a more diverse range than one may think.

Dédé Wilson, who found an interest in all things culinary, began to explore more about food in general, starting with the diets found within a low-FODMAP one for people who have an array of dietary restrictions.

Please see **CHOCOLATE**, page 5

Departments receive new equipment through grant

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

SOUTH HADLEY – With technology advancing left and right and electric vehicles becoming more and more popular, it is important to find ways to navigate and respond to emergencies with them.

The South Hadley districts, through the hard work and help of Sharon Hart, the Director of Public Health and Emergency Management Director, acquiring a grant in order to fund the needs of new technology.

The grant received by Hart, an EMPG, or Emergency Management Planning Grant, came from MEMA after Hart worked with the departments to find their needs, and she secured the funding in the amount of \$4,600.

"We're focusing mainly on the fire departments and their immediate needs," said Hart, who works closely with the fire and police departments in order to acquire grants.



Captain Jay Houle, Sharon Hart, and Chief Tom Stark standing proudly with the new equipment at District 1 station.

Turley Photo by Emily-Rose Pappas

Please see **EQUIPMENT**, page 11



All About Town

SOUTH HADLEY SENIOR CENTER

Get to know your town employees: Julie Pearce

SOUTH HADLEY – As part of a new addition to the papers, we are looking to add in features of our town employees to recognize and thank them for their hard work and dedication.

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

Here is an interview with the South Hadley Senior Center's Director, Julie Pearce.

What is your favorite thing about the town?

"My favorite thing about South Hadley is the incredible wealth of knowledge contained within our community. From community members to Mt. Holyoke College staff to the South Hadley Public Library and so many other sources in between, South Hadley is a hotbed of knowledge. Thankfully, there is also a willingness to share, and this has created amazing programs we are able to offer to our patrons each month."

What do you do in your position?

"As the Director of the Council on Aging, I wear many different hats. I am responsible for the daily operations of the Council on Aging, management of the staff and all fiscal matters. It

would be difficult to identify all of the things I do within my role, but I like to sum it up by saying I am a "Julie of all trades."

Describe an average day at the office?

"From the time I walk through the door, I am assessing the Center and my schedule to prioritize anything that needs to be addressed. I strive for a balance of accomplishing computer related tasks, while also spending time each day interacting with the wonderful people who come to the Center. My days consist of a wide variety of activities, from meetings and projects to grant reporting and brainstorming innovative ideas for the future."

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

"I am originally from California and currently live in Longmeadow. I have a Bachelor of Social Work and a Master of Social Work, both from Westfield State University. I am also a licensed Social Worker, holding an LCSW in both Massachusetts and Connecticut."

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

"I work closely with the Council on Aging Board and the Friends of the South Hadley Se-

niors. Given the many facets of my role, I am regularly involved with nearly all of the other Town Departments."

What is the most fulfilling part of your job?

"The role of a Council on Aging is to provide a safe environment where older individuals can participate in social activities, get a nutritious meal and enjoy programming that meets their level of ability. Having the services we provide at the Council on Aging make a difference in the lives of older adults in a meaningful way is the most fulfilling part of my job."

What inspired you to take on the position?

"My chosen Social Work focus has always been working with older adults and Veterans. Having been the Director of Elder Protective Services previously I am acutely aware of the challenges older adults can face regarding their physical, emotional and fiscal wellbeing. I moved from Elder Protective Services to working at a Council on Aging to try and improve access to supportive services and programming to help individuals avoid concerns like self-neglect, neglect or abuse. Working in the role of Director of Senior Services allows me to advocate for community members on a macro level and make changes to improve the lives of all those who attend our Center."



Turley Photo by Emily-Rose Pappas

Julie Pearce, the one who helps keep the South Hadley Senior Center running.

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

"My office is located in the Council on Aging at 45 Dayton Street. We are open 8 am - 4 pm, Monday - Friday, with late nights on Thursdays we are open until 6:30."

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

"On March 14, 1970 the Council on Aging was officially established at the Town Meeting. In 1973, Margaret McDonnell became the first Director of the

Council on Aging, implementing programs and services to assist older adults within the South Hadley Community. It went from Margaret McDonnell working from the kitchen table in her home and is now in a 16500 sq. ft. building which is humming with activity 5 days a week. Our department is unique from other departments as we provide food and transportation options to older adults in addition to all of our other programming."

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

"Within my role, I am always striving to improve the Center, the options we provide to our patrons and the opportunities we create within the community. I have feedback forms at our front desk to allow a space for community members to share their suggestions, compliments, concerns or any other feedback. I want to hear from patrons and community stakeholders as that is how the Center will continue to grow and serve the community."

If you, or someone else you know, as a town employee would like to take part in the Get to Know Your Town Employee series, please contact Emily-Rose Pappas at epappas@turley.com.

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Lions Valentine dance

GRANBY—The Granby Lions Club will be having a Valentine dance on Saturday evening, Feb. 8, from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. at the Granby American Legion Hall on Pleasant St in Granby. Tickets are limited and are available from any Granby Lion or at the Legion bar. The cost is \$10 and will feature The James Germano Band as well as a cash bar.

All About Town



GRANBY SENIOR CENTER

Get to know your town employees: Natalie Archambault

GRANBY – As part of a new addition to the papers, we are looking to add in features of our town employees to recognize and thank them for their hard work and dedication.

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

Here is an interview with the Granby Senior Center's Director, Natalie Archambault.

What is your favorite thing about the town?

"I love the rural community as a kid. The Town of Granby has certainly grown since then."

What do you do in your position?

"Day to finance, design the monthly newsletter, and event calendar. I also coordinate residents' needs with existing COA services."

Describe an average day at the office?

"Work on the budget, adding or improving events for the town residents."

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

"I have been a Granby resident since before elementary school. I have gone through the Granby school system and graduated from Granby High. I have raised my family here and I still reside in town."

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

"I have monthly meetings



Turley Photo by Emily-Rose Pappas

Natalie Archambault, the one who helps keep the Granby Senior Center running.

with the COA Board."

What is the most fulfilling part of your job?

"I love getting different activities for the residents in town. If you ask for a certain activity, I will work hard to provide it."

What inspired you to take on the position?

"I have this desire to help people. It is a great opportunity for me to do this in my own community."

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

"Granby COA is located at 10 West State Street, Granby from 9 am-3pm."

What is the history of your department? What makes it

unique from others?

"Granby COA is unique because it is small, and we get to know our residence. I get to help people who helped me grow in this town."

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

"When it comes down to it, it's your COA, and I'm the middleman to help with what you need."

If you, or someone else you know, as a town employee would like to take part in the Get to Know Your Town Employee series, please contact Emily-Rose Pappas at epappas@turley.com.

PD from page 1

truck traveling toward Chicopee with the passenger side door open. Although Cebula turned on her cruiser lights, the driver did not pull over and continued along James Street. Chicopee Police joined the pursuit and the fleeing vehicle headed onto Route 33, speeding, failing to stop for red lights, and crossing the center line. Finally, the vehicle was stopped by Chicopee police, the suspect was taken into custody, and the victim was safe.

"I am most proud of the collaboration that occurred during this incident," explained Jennifer Gundersen, chief of the South Hadley Police Department. "Officer Cebula worked closely with her supervisor Sgt. Hebert to follow up on this incident. [They] used the resources of Dispatcher Sorensen to make other communities aware of this time-sensitive and dangerous incident, summon their help and keep other communities immediately up to date on what was occurring. It was a quick-moving, fluid incident that required a lot of coordination, communication and commitment between these three members of the department."

For the recipients, this award recognizes the difficult work that they do daily.

"I became a police officer out of a desire to help others who find themselves in vulnerable positions," noted Officer Cebula. "This call was a perfect example of the type of the reason I, and most officers I know, want to work in law enforcement. My favorite part of my work is being there for people on their worst day and trying to make it less traumatic for them if I can."

"I enjoy working with such dedicated men and women and working together to

keep our community safe," added Sgt. Hebert. "I am very proud of the dedication to public safety by not only Officer Cebula and Dispatcher Sorensen but those who were involved from the Chicopee Police Department. It took an incredible amount of teamwork to bring a favorable end to such a stressful incident."

While recognition for a job well done is always welcome, Cebula warned that the evening could have had a different result if there had not been enough staff on duty.

"Often, South Hadley runs only two officers and a supervisor per shift. Had that been the case on the night in question, there is a good chance I would not have been able to locate the truck since Sgt. Hebert went to the dispatched location and I was able to respond to a predicted location based on my knowledge of town geography," explained Cebula. "We humbly implore the town to provide more officer positions so we are not in a position where we find ourselves unable to locate the victim of a kidnapping who is desperately pleading to be rescued due to low manning."

Chief Gundersen grants the awards, but it is the awards committee, made up of four sworn members of the police department, that recommends them.

"Unfortunately, in law enforcement, the public hears more when we make those rare missteps versus the hundreds of times in our careers where we are courageous, professional, brave and bring credit to our community and profession. These awards, especially being peer-driven, are an excellent way for the personnel to be thanked for all that they do," noted Gundersen.

South Hadley achieves Green Communities designation

By Tina Lesniak
Correspondent

SOUTH HADLEY - With its new "Green Communities" designation, the town of South Hadley is poised to make greater sustainability changes for years to come, ensuring an environmentally efficient town. The designation, which the town received in November, brings a \$180,350 grant for energy projects, such as solar panels, and the ability to apply for a wider range of grant programs.

"South Hadley now has three electric vehicle (EV) charging stations available, with a total of six plugs; we would like to see that momentum continue," explained Robert Salthouse, chair of the sustainability and energy commission. "The town has applied for a grant to install on-street EV charging. There are about 86 locations in town with solar panels installed, including large installations at Mount Holyoke College, the public library, and the town landfill. We would like to find ways to encourage more electrification, such as wider adoption of heat pumps to replace boilers using

fuel oil or gas."

"When doing energy projects we also rely on utility incentives and other grant opportunities," added Scott Moore, director of building operations. "We have multiple projects in the planning stage including HVAC upgrades, LED lighting, and building envelope improvements for various town facilities. Once these funds are exhausted we can apply for competitive grants annually. We will be more energy efficient and reduce costs."

The designation has been in the works for some time and hit a few bumps in the road before it came to fruition this fall. The town worked collaboratively with Moore, the commission and the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission to meet five criteria to achieve it: pass zoning for renewable energy and an expedited permitting process for those sites, establish and adopt an energy reduction plan to achieve a 20 percent reduction in energy use after five years, adopt a fuel-efficient vehicle policy, and adopt the stretch en-

Please see **GREEN**, page 7

Free trees for South Hadley kids

Free trees for kids! The South Hadley Library has partnered with Neighborhood Forest to give free trees to any youth Grade 12 or under who lives in or goes to school in town. Parents/Guardians/Caregivers can register using the link below before March 15 to receive their free tree the week of Earth Day, April 22-30.

The tree will be the White Pine, *Pinus strobus*, a fast growing evergreen tree native to New England. Trees beatify your neighborhood, reduce your carbon footprint, and instill a sense of love for our planet. Register at <https://www.neighborhoodforest.org/parent-registration/?school=105699>



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February 26, 2021

Grab and go in the snow



The St. Patrick's Ladies Guild, joined by several other volunteers, prepared meals for residents in need.

in the Garden

by Roberta McQuaid



'Spring' into action with these tasks

The groundhog determined we would have six more weeks of winter. Is that really a surprise to anyone?

I mean, as I write, it is only Feb. 2. But we gardeners are an impatient lot, and we so want to get our hands back into the soft earth.

There are many tasks, albeit those that are behind the scenes, that can be done now, so that when warmer weather does arrive, we can "spring" into action.

Take inventory

Last month I talked a lot about prepping for indoor seed starting, first by taking inventory of our seeds and then gathering the necessary supplies that go along with that task. But what about our outdoor ventures?

I have been busy shopping around for new IRT mulch, greenhouse supplies and amendments. How are you set on lime, grass seed, and fertilizers?

Plan to take advantage of preseason sales by knowing what you need ahead of time. Also, assess the condition of your tools. Is your rototiller working its best? Mine needs to be serviced.

By taking it to the repairman now, I'll beat the spring rush and avoid having to turn the garden over by hand! The same goes for lawn mower blades. Have these sharpened yearly for the healthiest possible turf.

Practice good garden hygiene

Regularly inspect summer bulbs that have been stored away for the winter. Throw away any that are rotten or moldy.

If you find a lot of these, consider moving what is left to a drier location. On the other hand, dahlia tubers will shrivel when conditions get too dry, mist them with clean water to rehydrate.

It is also a good idea to take a close look at vegetables in storage. Squash with signs of rot can be cooked and the flesh frozen for later use. Sprouts that appear on potatoes should be rubbed off and used before they soften.

Experiment with onions that have sprouted by planting them outside once the ground thaws. This vegetable is a biennial and will produce seed during its second season.

If the sprouts come from an heirloom or open pollinated variety, save a few seeds come July and start them this time next year! In the seedling stage, onions thrive on ample nitrogen to develop thick tops that will feed what we hope are big bulbs.

Perform appropriate garden chores

I am usually negligent in cutting down asparagus foliage in the fall. Weather permitting I will get out there and cut it back to its base soon, then haul off the branches to prevent any bugs that overwintered there from infesting this year's spears.

It is also time to prune blueberries, apples and grapes. Pruning can vary depending on the age and health of your specimens. If you are not experienced at it, consult any number of good books on the subject before you head outdoors with your pruning shears and loppers.

Do make sure your tools are sharp, and if there is any hint of disease, be sure to disinfect in between cuts or at least in between specimens. If any of your fruit trees have old fruit, called "mummies" hanging from the branches, be sure to get rid of them for fear of overwintering pests.

Hang tight

Winter will be gone soon enough. Come out of hibernation and accomplish preseason gardening tasks now, before the spring rush but also remember that this is a season of rest and taking care of yourself is a good thing too.

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.

Opinion



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Public records request

To the editor,

Once again, the Secretary of State's Office has ruled in my favor in response to a Public Records Request Appeal and issued Determination SPR25/0318 to Kari Scytowski Clerk for District 1. The need for transparency at South Hadley Water District 1 has never been more urgent. Ratepayers deserve honesty, accountability, and open

governance- not backroom dealings and obstructions. (In fact, one of the Board members does not even live in the district-another slap in the face to voters). It is time for the District to operate with integrity and in the best interest of the public.

Sincerely,

Bruce C. Forcier
South Hadley



Dear Rusty:

If a financially well-off individual had multiple ex-spouses, could it happen that the multiple ex-spouses could each be collecting Social Security based on their own financial situation as compared to their rich ex-spouses?

Thus, multiple payouts by SS? Just curious, because there are probably many people in this situation as a result of the ever-increasing number of people involved in multiple marriages that each lasted more than ten years.

Signed: Curious Ex-Spouse

Dear Curious Ex-Spouse:

A former spouse can only collect one SS benefit either their own SS retirement amount, or an amount as an ex-spouse if the marriage lasted 10 years or more. And it is possible for multiple ex-spouses of a marriage to the same person to qualify for benefits from those unions, if each marriage lasted at least 10 years. But each ex-spouse can only qualify for one benefit payment either their own earned SS benefit, or their benefit as an ex-spouse.

In other words, someone with two or more ex-spouses might have their ex's collecting full benefits on their record, provided that each marriage lasted at least 10 years. But an ex-spouse can only get one benefit—their own SS retirement amount or an ex-spouse amount, whichever is higher.

It's possible, also, that an ex-spouse can collect benefits from a former spouse at the same time as a current spouse is also collecting spouse benefits on the same record. And there is no detriment to either's amount because multiple spouses or ex-spouses are collecting on a one person's SS record (Social Security is, after all, a means for spouses, or ex-spouses, to avoid poverty). However, an ex-spouse's own SS retirement benefit from their personal lifetime work record must be less than any ex-spouse benefit they are entitled to from a former spouse. Essentially, if the "10-years-married" rule is satisfied, ex-spouses are subject to the same benefit rules as a current spouse.

You are correct that we see some cases like this these days, but each eligible ex-spouse can only get one benefit and their ex-spouse benefit is always offset by any personal SS retirement benefit the ex-spouse may also be entitled to on their own lifetime work record.

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

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.

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.

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CHOCOLATE from page 1

“I have irritable bowel syndrome (IBS) myself. I am a professional recipe developer and wanted to help others with IBS, who are following with the low FODMAP diet, learn how to thrive on the diet! It is possible. No deprivation in my house,” said Wilson.

There are so many kinds of chocolates out there to choose from, and Wilson makes sure to keep up-to-date with the new selections in the industry, in order to keep her formal tastings- and personal kitchen- with plenty of delicious options.

With the different kinds of chocolates there are, there are many that are best for baking, melting, and snacking, each with different cocoa percentages and textures.

“First of all, if a recipe is developed well (and not all are), it will direct you to use a chocolate of a particular cacao mass. So, if a recipe says use a 60% cacao mass chocolate, do not substitute 70% or the recipe will not be at its best, and might not even work,” said Wilson.

Just as some chocolates are the perfect texture and percentage for baking, some are made for melting.

“Chips are formulated to retain their shape. I do not suggest melting chips. Blocks of chocolates, or discs or chip-like shapes that are meant for melting, typically have a higher cocoa butter content than the traditional “morsels” and that fat content will help them melt smoothly,” Wilson explained.

“Then, if you are melting for brownies, that is different from melting for a truffle coating, for instance, where you would want a more fluid consistency and even higher cocoa butter content.”



Submitted photos

The sampling sheet with a wide selection of chocolates to try and experience during Wilson’s class.

Snacking is where it is most simple, and goes based on what you like the most, whether its dark, milk, or white chocolate, and are around a 70% cocoa mass, any chocolate is good for snacking.

“It’s all about what appeals to your sense of taste and overall appreciation, which is unique. Some chocolates have an exquisitely smooth texture. Other chocolates are deliberately rough. Both can appeal,” said Wilson.

Wilson came to the South Hadley Public Library this past Wednesday with over thirteen kinds of chocolate, as well as raw cocoa butter and cacao nibs to try.

The event offered an opportunity for people to learn about chocolates, their pairings, and learn from Wilson’s long studies into the world of diets and how different foods can benefit our bodies.

And not just chocolate- she has also written 17 cookbooks about a range of topics, and her tasting class, The Chocolate Experience, is something she has been carrying on for 30 years, as chocolate is her favorite food.

“My books were all with major publishers, and as such, I had no say in format or design. That is the publisher’s milieu,” said Wilson. “I have been lucky enough to write books about my passions, from wedding cakes to truffles, cookies to Japanese cuisine and IBS, and a lot in-between.”

“In our Chocolate Experience I teach people how to look, smell, taste and feel chocolate on their tongue (mouthfeel). There is a way to “taste” chocolate; we don’t just bite into them.”

“Folks get excited when they learn why two 70% cacao mass chocolates taste differently! I teach all of this in the class. I absolutely love teaching this class, to lay people, as well as professional chefs,” said Wilson.

“I have taught it in homes where someone has a private Chocolate Tasting Experience for friends and family, as well as at schools for teenagers. Libraries are perfect venues, but schools and homes are great, too.”

You can organize a Chocolate Tasting Experience of your own by contacting Dédé Wilson through her email, dede@dedewilson.com, and you can find more information about the FODMAP diet on the website, <https://www.fodmapeveryday.com/>.

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Baked Stuffed Fish Dinner
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USDA INSP. FRESH PORK SHOULDER PICNIC \$1.49 lb	USDA INSP. FRESH STORE MADE ITALIAN SAUSAGE ALL VARIETIES \$2.77 lb	SUPER GAME SAVINGS
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CLIENT TESTIMONIAL

Maureen was fantastic throughout our home buying journey! As first time buyers, we really appreciated her patience and dedication. She guided us smoothly through every step and always had our best interests at heart. Thanks to Maureen, we found our perfect first home.

Highly recommend her for anyone stepping into the housing market!

- Ashley A.

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Tigers take down Belchertown



Kate Phillips looks to pass out of trouble.



Taylor Bullough goes for the layup.



Ava Asselin goes for the three-pointer.



Caitlin Dean passes to another teammate.



Cianna Gurek heads down the court.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

BELCHERTOWN – Last Thursday night, South Hadley girls basketball took down Belchertown 53-37. In the win, Cara Dean scored 15 points while Kate Phillips finished with 10 points. Later in the week, the Tigers defeated Hampshire Regional 59-41. Now, the Tigers are a very impressive 13-1 on the season. The Tigers are likely to achieve a very high seed in the state tournament and could also be a favorite to repeat as Western Mass. Champions. The Tigers face Drury on Monday night at 7 p.m.

Rams holding for playoff spot despite losses



Kalli White reaches out for a layup.

GRANBY – Last week, Granby High School girls basketball suffered a 57-38 loss against Renaissance School. It was the fourth straight defeat for Granby, which brought the Rams from 5-4 to 5-8 on the season. Against Renaissance, Kalli White was a bright spot with 20 points while Autumn Sicard turned in eight points. Despite the 5-8 record, the Rams are currently holding on to the No. 19 spot in the Division 5 state power rankings. Granby will next face Ludlow on Feb. 6 at 7 p.m.



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

Kaitlyn Curran makes her way down the court.



Autumn Sicard fakes and then drives into the arc.

Pacers edged out by Easthampton

CHICOPEE – In Chicopee co-ops most recent hockey action, the Pacers were edged by Easthampton on Jan. 24 4-3. The Pacers got goals from Chris Walczak and Jake Fournier. The Pacers are 4-9-2 heading into the final stretch of the season. There are not enough games for the Pacers to make up the ground to get to .500. Chicopee is ranked

No. 45 in Division 4 and would need some wins in order to crack the top 32 to automatically qualify for the tournament this year. Coming up, the Pacers have a tough matchup with East Boston High on the road Saturday at 3:50 p.m. They take on McCann Tech at home on Feb. 11 at 7 p.m.

Worcester Railers score win over Mariners

PORTLAND, ME – The Worcester Railers HC (18-19-2-4 42pts) took down the Maine Mariners (16-23-3-0, 35pts), on Sunday afternoon by the final score of 5-2 in front of a crowd of 4,421 at Cross Insurance Arena. The Railers are back on the ice next at the DCU Center taking on the Atlanta Gladiators on Wednesday, February 5th at 7:05 p.m. EST.

Worcester scored first Sunday afternoon when Matt Ustaski (1-0-1) scored 5:23 into the first. Maine answered back with a goal of their own from Wylum Deveaux (1-1-2) to tie the score at 1-1 heading into the second. Connor Welsh (1-0-1) was the second period's lone scorer

giving the Railers the 2-1 lead. Maine tied it early in the second period with a goal from Lynden McCallum (1-0-1), but shortly after the Railers grabbed the lead right back when Cole Donhauser (1-1-2) scored a shorthanded goal to give the Railers the 3-2 lead. The Railers finished the third period by scoring two more goals, the first scored by Mark Cheremeta (1-0-1) 15:52 into the third, and the second an empty net goal from Matias Rajaniemi (1-0-1) giving the Railers the 5-2 victory.

The scoring got started by the Railers 5:23 into the first when Matt Ustaski (2nd) found the

Please see **RAILERS**, page 7

Sports

T-Birds get huge weekend sweep

DES MOINES, IA — The Springfield Thunderbirds (21-17-2-2) got points from 14 of their 18 skaters in a 7-2 drubbing of the Iowa Wild (14-26-2-1) on Saturday night inside Wells Fargo Arena.

The T-Birds wasted little time jumping in front for a second straight night, as Simon Robertson and Hugh McGing capped a 2-on-0 with McGing cashing in on a one-timer past Jesper Wallstedt just 1:22 into action. Otto Stenberg also picked up an assist as all three players on the line broke point droughts of three or four games.

Sam Bitten, playing in the building his brother Will called home for three seasons, joined the fun at 5:47 with a perfect bar-down wrister from the right circle to push the lead to 2-0 off setups from Samuel Johannesson and Leo Loof. Johannesson has now registered a point in five of his last six games.

Vadim Zherenko drew the starting assignment in net and held his own with 16 stops in the opening period. Johannesson provided a helping hand after Zherenko made a mini-breakaway save on Hunter Haight, and the young blueliner successfully kept Mikey Milne from cashing in on a rebound to keep the score deadlocked.

Iowa finally would break through on its 16th shot of the period as Travis Boyd crashed the far post to tap home a 2-on-1 pass from Matthew Sop to get the Wild deficit down to 2-1 heading

into the first intermission.

There were more parallels from Friday's game early in the second period, as McGing unleashed a perfect shot under the crossbar at 2:23, beating Wallstedt for his second of the evening and restoring the two-goal lead, 3-1.

Iowa put together their best push of the night over the next five minutes, culminating in a tally by Luke Toporowski to cut the margin back to a single goal, 3-2, at 7:26.

Just as it appeared the Wild would change the tide of the game, the T-Birds had other plans as Nikita Alexandrov drove the net front from the right circle and beat Wallstedt to the near post to make it 4-2 just 17 seconds after the Toporowski goal.

The Springfield attack poured it on from there. Michael Buchinger announced his presence at 8:49, jumping into a play as a trailer before snapping a wrister past Wallstedt to make it 5-2 off a cross-ice setup from Matthew Peca.

Another potential momentum shift came at 13:39 of the second when Dylan Peterson barreled in on net, taking a shot on Wallstedt before colliding with the Iowa netminder. Peterson was given a five-minute charging major, setting the stage for the Wild power play to try to climb back into the game. Wallstedt was forced to leave the game as Samuel Hlavaj came on in relief.

Instead of the moment sparking the home team, the T-Birds

only further added to their lead when Peca intercepted a pass in the neutral zone, skated into the zone on the right wing, and snapped another perfect shot upstairs past Hlavaj for his team-leading 16th goal, making it a 6-2 game heading into the third.

The Wild had no answers for Zherenko in the third, despite Iowa throwing 16 pucks on the T-Birds net and 50 total by the night's conclusion. The third-year goalie finished with a season-high 48 stops to earn the win, and Alek Kaskimaki capped off the offensive onslaught with his second goal in two nights at 17:12 of the third to round out the scoring.

Dalibor Dvorsky will be in action on Sunday and Monday at the AHL All-Star Classic presented by Spotlight 29 Casino in Palm Springs, California. The rookie star will first participate in the AHL All-Star Skills Competition presented by Silvercrest on Sunday, Feb. 2 (9:00 p.m. ET). Then, on Monday, Feb. 3, Dvorsky and the Atlantic Division will look to take home the 3-on-3 crown in the 2025 AHL All-Star Challenge presented by Spotlight 29 Casino at 9:00 p.m. ET. Both events can be seen on NHL Network and AHLTV powered by FloHockey.

Springfield next takes to the ice on Friday, Feb. 7 to begin a home-and-home set against the Providence Bruins at Amica Mutual Pavilion.

RAILERS from page 6

back of the net off a pass from Jordan Kaplan. Maine tied the score at 1-1 just under ten minutes later off the stick of Wyllum Deveaux (8th). Shots favored Worcester 20-10 in the first period.

It took nearly 17 minutes of second period action for either team to score. It was Connor Welsh (5th) who scored giving the Railers the 2-1 lead. His shot from the left point deflected off of a Maine Mariner and beat

Bischel high. Shortly after the Railers goal, they went on the penalty kill following a five-minute major for boarding called on Griffin Loughran. The Railers successfully killed the first 2:32 of the Maine power play to wrap up the second period. Worcester outshot Maine 31-17 in the second period.

The Railers started the third period by killing the remainder of the Maine power play, but shortly after the penalty expired Maine was able to net one. It was Lynden McCallum (15th) who scored for the Mariners. The

Railers did not wait long to regain the lead, as Cole Donhauser (5th) forced a turnover at center ice and took it all the way home and scored the shorthanded goal giving the Railers the 3-2 lead. Mark Cheremeta extended the Worcester lead to 4-2 with his breakaway goal 15:52 into the third period. Matias Rajaniemi (2nd) capped off the Railers five goal night with his empty net goal 17:27 into the third, securing the 5-2 win for Worcester. Shots favored Worcester 8-7 in the third and 40-25 in regulation.

GREEN from page 3

ergy code for new buildings.

"Matt Roth, the previous chair of the commission, got the ball rolling. He realized that most of our neighbors had achieved this designation and it was time for

South Hadley to do so as well. Scott Moore became a highly effective advocate. He proposed energy savings actions and pushed to document all five criteria, which then got South Hadley across the finish line to achieve the Green Communities designation," noted Salthouse. "South Hadley is now

tracking our actual energy use and costs more closely, acquiring fuel-efficient vehicles as required by the new fuel-efficient vehicle policy, and ensuring new construction activities are in compliance with the stretch energy code, which requires using energy more efficiently."

Guided public trek at Ledges Golf Course on Feb. 8

SOUTH HADLEY— On Saturday, Feb. 8, 2025 at 11 a.m. the South Hadley Bike/Walk Committee will host a guided Trek at the Ledges Golf Club, 18 Mulligan Road, South Hadley, a property owned by the Town of South Hadley. Bike/Walk members Ruth Camuse and Jim Buckley will lead the Trek. Come and spend a Saturday morning enjoying the outdoors! Winter is a great time to explore the course, using paths normally reserved for golfing carts. During the off-season the paths may be enjoyed for exercise, photography, and beautiful views of the area, including Mount Tom on the other side of the Connecticut River. The grounds offer an opportunity for safe, non-vehicular passive recreation, such as walking, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing. Visitors should avoid the tees and greens, being careful not to damage fairway areas.

Meet at 10:45 a.m. in front of the Ledges Clubhouse. The Club's parking lot is located

on the right before the circle by the Clubhouse. Wear weather-appropriate clothing and hiking boots or other appropriate footwear, and bring water and walking poles, if desired. If there is snow on the ground, participants may wish to use cross-country skis or snowshoes. Please be aware that the club facilities, including restrooms, are closed for the season. Participants of all ages and new Trekkers are always welcomed!

Treks are subject to change or cancellation due to weather or ground conditions. Please be sure to check the Bike/Walk page on the Town website for any cancellation notices or other information: <http://www.southhadley.org/bike-walk>. Should there be a cancellation decision, information will be posted online by 8 p.m. the night before the hike. Our Ledges Golf Course Trek Map showing the Ledges cart paths and several Trek routes can also be found on the Bike/Walk page.

COLLEGE NEWS

Springfield College dean's list 2024 fall semester

SPRINGFIELD— Springfield College Recognizes dean's list students for the 2024 fall semester.

Bennett Allen from South Hadley, to the dean's list for academic excellence for the 2024 fall semester. Allen has a primary major of Exercise Science / Applied ES.

Kayden Avisata-Taylor from South Hadley, to the dean's list for academic excellence for the 2024 fall semester. Avisata-Taylor has a primary major of Sport Management.

Jacob Benson from Granby, to the dean's list for academic excellence for the 2024 fall semester. Benson has a primary major of Psychology.

Emma Blaney from South Hadley, to the dean's list for academic excellence for the 2024 fall semester. Blaney has

a primary major of Health Science / Pre-PA.

Ciara Charest from Granby, to the dean's list for academic excellence for the 2024 fall semester. Charest has a primary major of Psychology.

Maggie Cyr from South Hadley, to the dean's list for academic excellence for the 2024 fall semester. Cyr has a primary major of Health Science / Pre-PA.

Jade Samlall from South Hadley, to the dean's list for academic excellence for the 2024 fall semester. Samlall has a primary major of Social Work.

Lily Sterling from South Hadley, to the dean's list for academic excellence for the 2024 fall semester. Sterling has a primary major of Exercise Science / Applied ES.

With the designation in place, all parties involved are looking forward to creating a more sustainable and energy-efficient town. This initiative aims to achieve energy savings across municipal buildings, town facilities, and schools. Salthouse encourages residents who are inter-

ested in making a positive impact on the town and the environment to consider joining the commission as it works to bring its ideas to life. Currently, the commission has one opening for a member, but it is always open to hearing thoughts and ideas from the community.

SERVICE DIRECTORY

To advertise on this page call the Town Reminder at 283-8393

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Disabled veterans can benefit from HERO act

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

SOUTH HADLEY – The HERO Act was put in place by Governor Healey in early August of 2024, and has since made strides in helping the heroes who come home from war.

The HERO Act, or an act that is Honoring, Empowering, and Recognizing Our Services Members and Veterans, is designed to boost the support for thousands of veterans across the state in the U.S. military, estimated to be about 30,000 people.

Now, Veterans Services Officers across the state are working hard to ensure that those who need it are aware of the benefits that they can obtain through the HERO Act.

“For me it is good to see that the state has expanded eligibility for the veterans in the program and they are able to get additional benefits for their service,” said Veterans Services Coordinator Chris Plotniak.

“Hopefully with the expansion it gets more veterans to apply for disability benefits and talking to their local VSO’s to see what could be available to you.”

Just at the end of 2024, Governor Healey signed in a new benefit expansion to the Act, which includes an increase from \$2,000 to \$2,500 for the disabled veteran annuity, as well as \$2,500 tax credits for small businesses hiring veterans.

This new disabled veteran annuity will have a payout of once per year instead of splitting it into two payments like before.

“This annuity applies to veterans that are rated at 100% by the VA, any surviving spouse of a 100% veteran whose death was service connected, and parents whose child died during service,” said Plotniak.

You can find information to apply online or mailing in your documents, and you can reach out to your Veterans Services Officers, or VSO’s, for help. More detail is on the mass.gov website, as well as additional requirements that are detailed out.

There are also other exemptions available to disabled veterans, including motor vehicle tax exemptions, car registration exemptions, excise tax exemptions, driver’s license fee exemptions, and vehicle sales tax exemptions, and a local property tax exemption.

Veterans can apply and find more information on the website, and explore the program and all the many areas it covers and provides for.

“For South Hadley residents, even residents from outside of South Hadley, it is recommended to attend the various events that VSO’s hold in the area and talk to them about questions or concerns,” said Plotniak.

At the Council on Aging, there are many events held for veterans, including a Veterans Social Hour on the third Tuesday of every month from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.

“As a Veteran Service Officer I am here to assist all veterans and their dependents in our community, I am here to assist as best I can and to hopefully help them solve the issue they are having or point them in the right direction to get the help they need,” said Plotniak.

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.nicks-wavesofchange.org under the “Scholarship Opportunities” tab, as well as requirements for the grant award. Applications are due to be completed by April 17, 2025.

Events at SHPL Adult Programs

This winter, please remember that the South Hadley Public Library is one of the town’s Warming Centers and people are welcome to use the library as a place to stay warm and safe during cold weather (or any weather!). Other Warming Centers include the Senior Center and both fire stations.

The South Hadley Public Library will be closed on Thursday, Feb. 6 and Friday, Feb. 7 as workers will be replacing the carpet in the main entry area of the building. The Gaylord Memorial Library will have extended hours that Thursday, being open from 9:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. with programs offered throughout the day. Gaylord is also open on Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. We apologize for any inconvenience and hope you’ll stop in to see the new carpet the following week.

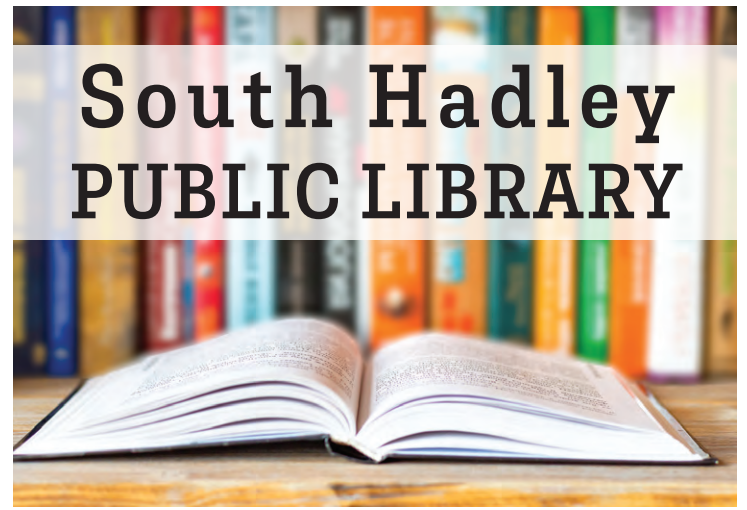
Adult Programs at SHPL

Looking to talk about books with some like-minded readers? Our two discussion groups will be meeting this month and invite you to join. The Between the Covers romance readers will meet on Tuesday, Feb. 11 at 3 p.m. to talk about *Virgin River* by Robyn Carr. Copies of the March discussion titles will be available to pick up at these meetings.

February is marked as a month of love. Come on down to listen to our local romance author Liz Alden on Wednesday, Feb. 12 at 6 p.m. in the Community Room. Author of 22 popular romance books based on her travels around the world.

The Middle East Conflict has been continuing in the news since October of 2023. Mt. Holyoke Professor Sohil Hashmi, Chair of International Relations and Professor of International Relations and Politics on Wednesday, Feb. 19 at 6 p.m. will give a talk on Middle East Conflicts: What to Expect in 2025. This program is sure to clarify and help everyone understand the conflict better. Maybe by the middle of February the Middle East will experience more love than war.

The end of February will bring beautiful music. The chorus from the Cathedral of St. Michael the Archangel will present beautiful Gregorian Chants on Saturday, Feb. 22 at 11 a.m. Do you love the sounds of histor-



ical music of monasteries? Come listen to an amazing chorus of singers.

Children’s Programs

February is a triple threat: Black History Month, school vacation week, and Valentine’s Day! We also welcome back Mr. Liam for Rhyme Time on Tuesday, Feb. 25 at 10:30, and introduce a new monthly baby lapsed program on Friday, Feb. 28 at 10 a.m.

School vacation week will be busy as usual, with our popular Toddler Dance Party on Tuesday, Feb. 18 at 10:30 a.m., followed by a Rock, Paper, Scissors tournament at 3:00. Wednesday we have our regular programs (Storytime and Lego & Games); on Thursday, February 20 at 1:00 there is an art workshop for kids in grades 3-5; and on Friday, Feb. 21 at 10 a.m., Buildwave will feature an hour of fun building challenges. (Registration required for Buildwave; space is limited.) Finally, “Be Our Guest” for a special storytime with the MESMS cast members of *Beauty & the Beast* on Saturday, Feb. 22 at 10:30 a.m.

The Graphic Novel Book Club (for kids ages 8-11) meets Thursday, Feb. 13 from 3:45-4:45 to discuss *Puzzled* by Pan Cooke, and *My First Book Club* meets Saturday, Feb. 8 at 10:30. Sign up to Read to a Dog, Duchess will be here Feb. 11 and Gwen on Feb. 26.

Drop in for any of our weekly programs: Lego & Games on Mondays & Wednesdays from 3:00-4:45, Pajama Storytime on Mondays at 6:30, Rhyme Time on Tuesdays at 10:30, STEAM Time on Tuesday afternoons 3:45-4:45, Story Time on Wednesdays at 10:30, and CFCE Playgroup on Thursdays at 10:15 (there will also be Playgroup on Saturday, Feb. 15).

Looking for a reading challenge, or need recommendations?

Join the Massachusetts Center for the Book Reading Challenge (Student Edition)

Read and vote for Massachusetts Children’s Book Award (MCBA) nominees (for kids in grades 4-6) Request a Book Bundle, personalized based on your reading preferences

Questions, comments, suggestions? Email Jen-

ny or call 413-538-5045.

Teen Programs

This month in Teens we continue with Crafternoon, Snackternoon and Xbox 1.

Snackternoon Thursday, Feb. 27 at 4 will feature a Hot Cocoa Bar! Please sign up here. Thank you to the Friends of the South Hadley Public Library for sponsoring our Teen Snackternoon.

We have a different game selection for this month’s Xbox 1 session Wednesday, Feb. 19 at 3:30. Our Teen Takeaways continue this month with Felt Fortune Cookies. Sign up once and get a new Takeaway every month! We end the month with our Teen Night Craft Tuesday, Feb. 25 at 6:30 where we will make Alcohol and Sharpie Painting.

For our YA Book Tasting Program

This month features our brand new Switch Monday, Feb. 10 & Monday, Feb. 24 at 3:30. A new selection of games are available. Our Teen Book Club Booktroverts continues and this month features Love Radio by Ebony LaDelle. There is no in-person meet up. Enjoy the book on your own time. Copies are available in the Teen Room to check out.

During school vacation week there’s exciting craft programs. Teen Ice Candles Tuesday, Feb. 18 at 4, and Invisible Ink Painting Thursday, Feb. 20 at 4. Please sign up for candle making as space is limited.

Any questions please email Bethany or call 413-538-5045.

Gaylord Memorial Library Programs

We also have Story Time every Friday at 10:30 with Miss Janet.

On Friday, Feb. 21 at 10:30 local author Dorka Fernández will be reading her book *Daniel the Balloon Boy* and teaching us how to breathe through our “big feelings.”

We have Lego Club Thursday, Feb. 20 from 3-6 p.m. and Drop-In Crafts Thursdays, Feb. 13 and 27 from 3-6. Families can join us on Saturday, Feb. 22 at 10:15 a.m. for a weekend edition of Lego Club.

You can make a Deluxe Sock Puppet with Eric Weiss of Homeslice Puppetry on Thursday, Feb. 27 at 5:30. You’ll learn to create a character, shape the puppet’s head and mouth, and give it a unique look. Sign up online, or stop by or call the Gaylord branch. (Ages 12+)

TOWN OF SOUTH HADLEY Center Street Neighborhood Improvement Project – Phase Two

The Town of South Hadley wishes to receive responses for engineering services for drainage and roadway improvements on all of Center, Graves and Warner Streets, approximately 900 linear feet in total.

The fee for services sought will be negotiated and shall not exceed \$51,831. A more detailed Request for Qualifications (RFQ) is available at the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, 60 Congress Street, Springfield, MA 01104, (413) 781-6045, between 9:00 AM and 5:00 PM. To request an electronic copy of the RFQ, please contact Sue Ortiz at sortiz@pvpc.org. The RFQ will be available from the time of this notice until the due date specified below. The Town of South Hadley reserves the right to reject any and all responses if it is deemed in the best interests of the Town to do so. The South Hadley Selectboard will be the awarding and contracting authority.

**Completed proposals are to be submitted
no later than 2:00 PM, Friday, February 28, 2025,
at the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission,
60 Congress Street, 1st Floor, Springfield, MA 01104.**

CHECK OUT ALL THE

Turley Publications

www.newspapers.turley.com

Consider running for local office

Nomination Procedures:

Nomination papers are available in the Town Clerk's Office at Town Hall (116 Main St, South Hadley, MA) beginning the first week of December for the offices listed below. The Annual Town Election is scheduled for Tuesday, April 8, 2025.

Candidates must be 18 years old or older and a registered voter in South Hadley.

Town-wide candidates need to obtain 50 certified signatures.

Town meeting candidates need to obtain 10 signatures from their precinct.

Candidates are encouraged to obtain additional signatures. All signatures must be returned to the Town Clerk's Office for certification. If the candidate does not obtain the correct amount of signatures, they cannot appear on the ballot.

Important Deadlines:

Last day to obtain nomination Papers: Thursday, Feb. 13, 2025, at 5 p.m.

Last day to submit nomination papers to the Clerk's office: Tuesday, Feb. 18, 2025, at 5 p.m.

All questions, comments, or concerns should be directed to the Town Clerk's office by phone at 413-538-5030, ext. 6183, or by email at elections@southhadleyma.gov.

Seniors

SH Senior Center special programs for February

SOUTH HADLEY—Don't forget to come meet our new Representative – Homar Gomez. He will be at the COA at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 18.

Food Safety Bingo! Nutrition Program with WNEC.

Monday, Feb. 10 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.
Join Registered Dietician Han-nay Clayton, MPH, RDN, LDN, from WMEC for a FREE, fun and informative nutrition education program. Prizes will be given out.

Social with MacDuffie School

Wednesday, Feb. 12 at 2 p.m.
Spend some time with students from the MacDuffie School. There'll be a chair volleyball competition!

Valentine Cupcake Decorating Class

Friday, February 14 at 1 p.m.
Our Friends at Mont Marie Rehabilitation will be offering a free Valentine cupcake decorating workshop. Please register in advance.

Luncheon Outing at the Tiger's Den Restaurant

Wednesday, Feb. 19 at 11 a.m.
Join us for a delicious lunch at the South Hadley High School and support their culinary students. Menu choices are available when you get your ticket at the

SH COA Welcome Desk. Tickets are \$12 per person.

Trivia Pizza Night

Thursday, Feb. 20 4:30-6:30 p.m.
Join us for our 2nd annual Trivia Night, have a choice of pizza prepared by Family Pizza in South Hadley, with soda or water. Tickets are \$8.00 per person. The Travel Club will donate a Big Y Gift Certificate and Travel certificates to the winning teams. For reservations, please call Huguette at 413-530-6162.

Gentlemen's Breakfast

Friday, Feb. 21 at 8:30 a.m.
Gents! Come savor a delicious meal prepared by the talented Chef Dakota. We thank Steven Laplante and Jameson Glanville of ERA M. Connie Laplante Real Estate for hosting this morning meal. The meal is free – donations are happily accepted. Please register with the Welcome Desk.

Black History Month

Tuesday, Feb. 25 at 2 p.m.
Join us as we wrap up our celebration of Black History Month with a presentation by Kijua Sanders-McMurtry, Ph.D. Dr. McMurtry is the VP for Equity and Inclusion at Mt. Holyoke College. This presentation will be a presentation and discussion of the role and experiences of Black Americans in the Northeast, South

Hadley and the information available at Mt. Holyoke College.

Hip Hop Line Dance with Rondae

Wednesday, Feb. 26 at 1 p.m.
Rondae Drafts, PhD., from Music Dance in Randolph, MA will lead a FREE line dance class featuring smooth R&B and Hip Hop music. This well attended class is our 2nd year with Rondae and generously sponsored by the Massachusetts Cultural Council. Please register at the Welcome Desk.

Women's Network

Wednesday, Feb. 26 at 2:20 p.m.
Join us for our monthly social program for women, featuring guest speaker Jan Lucier, Holistic nurse and Shamanic Practitioner. Refreshments will be provided, sponsored by the Friends of the South Hadley Seniors.

February Birthday and Anniversary Party

Thursday, Feb. 27 at 5 p.m.
Celebrate with us at our monthly Birthday and Anniversary party featuring entertainment by Soular Eclipse. If it's your birthday or anniversary in February, don't forget to enter our monthly raffle. Sponsored by the Massachusetts Cultural Council and the Friends of the South Hadley Seniors.

Public Notices

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampshire Probate and Family Court
15 Atwood Drive
Northampton, MA 01060
(413) 586-8500
Docket No. HS24P0696EA
Estate of:
Deborah Rae Dacruz
Date of Death: 03/04/2022
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Lisa C Bodzinski of Belchertown, MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Lisa C Bodzinski of Belchertown, MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 03/12/2025. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration

WITNESS, Hon. **Diana S. Velez Harris**, First Justice of this Court.

Date: January 31, 2025
Mark S Ames,
Register of Probate

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

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING TOWN OF GRANBY BOARD OF APPEALS

The Granby Board of Appeals will hold the following Public Hearings on **February 18, 2025**, at 259-A East State Street, (Public Safety Complex, Meeting Room), Granby MA 01033.

5:30 PM - to consider the petition of Jason Richard, Applicant/Owner seeking a variance of Section III- Regulations, 3, Table 2. - Dimensional and Density Regulation, regarding insufficient minimum front setbacks and insufficient minimum side setbacks regarding a proposed construction of a RV roof only carport located at 17 Cold Hill Dr., known as 3-A-B-11 in the Town of Granby, MA.

In addition to the above hearing, the Board of Appeals intends to conduct a public meeting following said hearings as time permits. This notice is given pursuant to Chapter 40A and Chapter 39, Section 23B of the Massachusetts General Laws.

Kathleen Bronner, Chair
Granby Board of Appeals
01/31, 02/07/25



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 SAI Shyam, LLC c/o Mr. Himanshu Patel to determine whether the boundaries of resource areas are accurately delineated 506 Granby Road (Map 32, Parcel 52).

The meeting will be held on **Wednesday, February 19, 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.

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

April Doroski
Conservation Chair
02/07/2025

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampshire Probate and Family Court
15 Atwood Drive
Northampton, MA 01060
(413) 586-8500
Docket No. HS13P0723EA
Estate of:

Henry A Barszewski
Date of Death: 11/09/2012
CITATION ON PETITION FOR REMOVAL

To all interested persons:
A Petition has been filed by: **John H. Barszewski of Harvard, MA** requesting that **Pamela Czewska of South Hadley, MA** be removed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate; also requesting that **John H. Barszewski of Harvard, MA** be appointed

ed as Successor Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond.

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before 10:00 a.m. on 03/05/2025.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an Affidavit of Objections within thirty (30) days of the return date, action may be taken without further notice to you.

Witness, Hon. **Diana S. Velez Harris**, First Justice of this Court.

Date: January 28, 2025
Mark S Ames
Register of Probate

Please check the accuracy of your legal notice prior to submission (i.e., date, time, spelling). Also, be sure the requested publication date coincides with the purpose of the notice, or as the law demands. Thank you.

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NEW EQUIPMENT from page 1

“For us, the biggest challenge is responding to fires with lithium batteries, and the only way to do that is to cool them down with lots of water,” said Captain Jay Houle from District 1.

Lithium batteries, which are what powers these electric vehicles, or EV’s, are highly flammable, and have been known to not only burn for hours or even weeks, but can also catch fire again after being put out, minutes, hours, or days later.

These lithium batteries aren’t just found in EV’s, but also in our cellphones, laptops, computers, watches, and more.

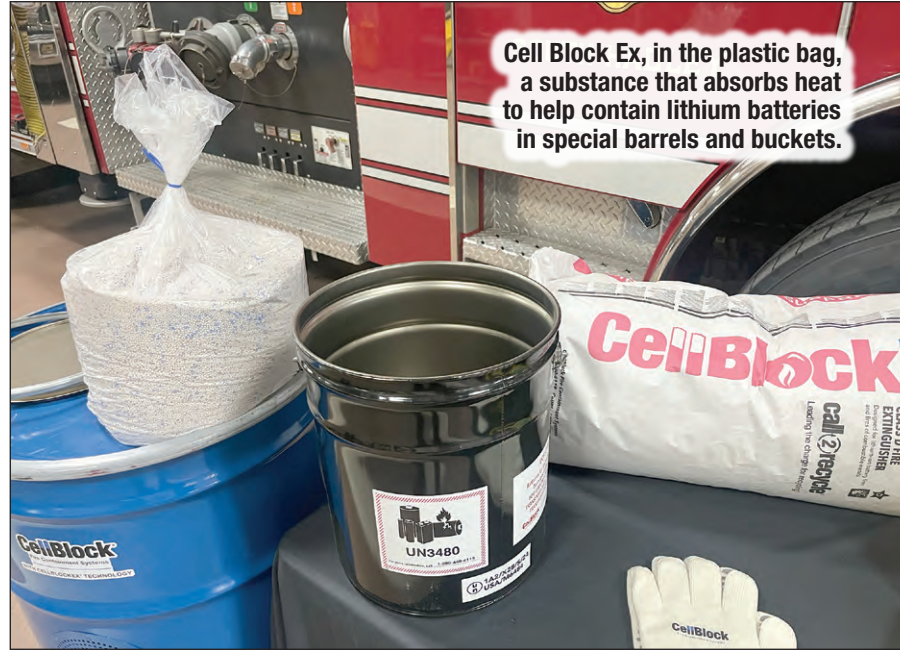
One of the items covered by the grant was a fire blanket, which is like a giant tarp that gets unfolded and draped over a car on fire, covering and distinguishing the flames by cutting off oxygen.

Just one of these blankets is over \$1000, so having one of these covered by the grant was a huge deal, especially in dealing with EV fires, which could reignite on the road to the metal containers it will be stored safely in until the fires finally stop.

The grant also provided 6 large bags of a substance called Cell Bloc Ex, and large barrels for lithium batteries to be placed inside.

The Cell Block helps to contain lithium batteries and keep them from reigniting by absorbing heat and suppressing smoke. The cannisters, large blue barrels and smaller black buckets, are cleared for road travel so it can be transported safely away and disposed of in a safe manner.

The grant also provided an Emergency Plug to each of the departments, which plug directly into the EV’s charging port, and has adapters for all different kinds of EV’s.



Turley Photos by Emily-Rose Pappas
The Emergency Plug with its adapters to be used on electric vehicles.

The way it works is that it tricks the car into thinking its being charged, and puts it in park, disconnecting the battery power to the rest of the car. This helps isolate where the power is coming in to the car.

“This is really going to help us,” said Houle. “It’s providing us with better response to these incidents. Knowing we have the proper equipment to deal with these incidents is great.”

“These grants are very helpful,” said Chief Tom Stark. “We are very grateful to Sharon for helping us get the grant for this equipment.”

Lithium batteries can be dangerous, and the wrong kinds just as much, with most cheaper Amazon replicas at higher risk of catching fire faster within a shorter time.



The fire blanket in its giant bag, weighing sixty pounds, ready to use to help put out fires.

The fire departments having these tools is a great help to those who may have to deal with a horrible fire, and help

to provide a sense of security as our departments are just that more prepared for any emergency that may come.

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Miscellaneous duties to include supporting current programs and developing new programs to increase attendance and participation of the growing aging population in the Oakham Senior Center. Up to 12 hours per week (flexible) \$20.00/hr. depending upon experience. Resume should be sent to Admin@Oakham-Ma.gov, or mailed to **Board of Selectmen, Town of Oakham, 2 Coldbrook Road, Oakham, MA 01068.**

COA COORDINATOR for Town of Westhampton. Description available online at www.westhamptonma.gov. Applications accepted until position filled.

HAMPDEN POLICE DEPARTMENT is now accepting applications for a **FULL-TIME police officer.** Review of applications begins immediately. Visit www.hampdenpolice.com for more information. EOE

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FIRE DEPARTMENTS ARE HERE TO HELP

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District 1 covers about 2/3 of the town, with everything south of the Stoney Brook Waterway, while District 2 works to cover the rest of the town north of the Waterway.

District 1 has a squad of 26 fulltime employees, 14 on-call firefighters/EMTs, and a total of 19 paramedics, 17 EMTs, and 4 first responders in EMT school.

District 2 has a roster of 31 firefighters, 24 of which are EMTs, and the two districts work hard and in tandem with one another to take care of any situation that comes up.

"We provide Paramedic (Advanced Life Support) service to the entire town. If District No2 responds to a medical call with their ambulance and need paramedics we respond and our paramedic gets on their ambulance. This is known as an ALS intercept," said Chief Stark.

There are many aspects of being a firefighter that are essential to the functioning of a department in order to keep the community safe.

"Ensuring the safety and effectiveness of the fire department, and safety of the residents of District 2," said Moore in reference to the importance of the job.

"Managing the department so that we provide the best service

possible to our residents. This includes ensuring that our members receive continuous training, our equipment and apparatus are maintained and up to date, as well as looking for ways to improve our service," said Stark.

The departments are constantly finding new ways to help people in the community, and want the community to know they can always reach out no matter what.

The departments respond to over 3,000 calls for service annually, with an aver of 2,600 medical calls, and there is a full-time captain at District 1 assigned to the fire prevention office who conducts business inspections, school inspections, inspections on homes for sale, inspections on oil burner, propane tank installations.

"We work very closely with our schools, senior center, and TRIAD group to teach fire and life safety education and fall prevention to our seniors. We also have members that are part of the Regional Dive Team and Regional Search and Rescue Teams," said Stark.

"We are a combination department made up of 6 career and 25 Call members, that form a dedicated team providing 24/7 Fire and Emergency Medical Services to the residents of District 2 and surrounding commu-



Turley Photo submitted by Leigh Savary
District 2 firefighters responding to a nighttime call with mist hanging in the air.



One of three ambulances at the District 1 department.



Mark Mercier showing how the hose tower works by lifting and lowering hoses.



The lights shining announcing that the ambulance is coming to help.

nities," said Moore.

Every year, both departments participate in many different events like the ones hosted by the Chamber of Commerce to provide outreach to the community, answer questions, and of course, give out honorary junior firefighter hats.

District 1 has ongoing programs for people to seek out, including the Smoke & Co Alarm

tion Office," said Stark.

"Every day is a new challenge and learning experience, to better serve the department and community," said Moore.

"[My favorite part is] serving the people of the district and the town. Also taking care of the men and women of the department," said Stark.

While the departments do not

installation program which provides new smoke and CO alarms through the American Red Cross.

"We also provide home visits to evaluate and make recommendations to our older adults to prevent falls and home fires. Residents can call the fire department at 533-7112 and ask for Captain Houle in the Fire Prevention Office," said Stark.

"Every day is a new challenge and learning experience, to better serve the department and community," said Moore.

"[My favorite part is] serving the people of the district and the town. Also taking care of the men and women of the department," said Stark.

While the departments do not

have their own junior firefighters program which provides new smoke and CO alarms through the American Red Cross.

"We also provide home visits to evaluate and make recommendations to our older adults to prevent falls and home fires. Residents can call the fire department at 533-7112 and ask for Captain Houle in the Fire Prevention Office," said Stark.

"Every day is a new challenge and learning experience, to better serve the department and community," said Moore.

"[My favorite part is] serving the people of the district and the town. Also taking care of the men and women of the department," said Stark.



Every firefighter needs a place to work out, and a retired member of the team painted the symbol on the wall of their fire station gym.



Turley Photo submitted by Leigh Savary
Rain or shine or even snow, the District 2 fire is ready to serve.