

# TOWN Reminder

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## STM makes motion for \$11 million override

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

SOUTH HADLEY - The town meeting members came together at the high school to discuss and decide on whether or not the town will vote on having an override to address the deficit.

**The Budget Reality**  
The Selectboard charged the Budget Task Force to deep dive into the budget crisis, and since July, have spent the past seven months interviewing department heads, looking at previous budgets, and creating a comprehensive report of the budget and the deficit realities.

**"It's not just the school budget, it's our entire community and how we're going to live for the next few years, so I strongly support this \$11 million option,"**

- Charles Miles

The town is facing a \$3.7 million gap between expenses and revenue, with income coming in at a decreasing rate and expenses happening at an increasing rate. Health insurance has risen in cost by \$2 million, the school by \$1.5 million, and other areas of town have risen as well.

from local taxes (56%), state aid (25%), and the other 19% of the income is in the form of available funds, local budgets, free cash, and enterprise funds.

The town is not expected to see much more growth, as it is much more built out than

Income to the town comes

Please see **STM**, page 5

## Kids enjoy school vacation week AT THE LIBRARY



Submitted photo

Hiding out under the big tent is the best part!

By Emily-Rose Pappas  
Staff Writer  
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SOUTH HADLEY - School Vacation Week was a blast as kids got the chance to partake in many different, fun activities provided at the library.

The library hosted a full week of programs for kids and teens to enjoy while taking their break from school with Jenny Arch and Bethany Roberts, including a range of events that can interest anyone.

For kids: Rhyme Time, Book Bingo (all ages), Sto-

ry Time, Playful Engineers Traveling Makerspace, an all-day hangout with Lego, board games, and crafts, and a Seussical Storytime presented by MESMS cast members from the upcoming production of Seussical. For teens: Xbox, open gaming, and a paint sip program.

"School vacation weeks and summer are a great opportunity for families who don't get to visit the library on a regular basis to come experience what we offer year-round, including programs and books for all ages

Please see **LIBRARY**, page 9

## Wildlife on Wheels introduces kids to new friends

By Emily-Rose Pappas  
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GRANBY - The Granby Free Public Library hosted a special time to welcome into the Community Room five animal ambassadors from the Zoo at Franklin Park in

Springfield.

Zoo educator Sara came to the library with five animals as a part of the program, including Ella the Umbrella Cockatoo, Darwin the African Side-Neck Turtle, Jack

Please see **WILDLIFE**, page 9



Say hello to little Darwin, the African side-neck turtle.



Jack Skellington up close- look at all his stripes.

Turley photos by Emily-Rose Pappas

## A watershed is full of action!

By Keith Davies  
Coordinator, Chicopee 4Rivers Watershed Council  
Guest Contributor

*Editor's Note: This is the second part in a multi-part series about the Chicopee 4Rivers Watershed Council.*

By 2014, the original Chicopee River Watershed Council (1970s) had ceased to exist, it had not been able to engage new people.

A small group of people saw a need to change that and began to renew an idea: the Chicopee Watershed and its tributaries are a special place and should be better known and appreciated by its local residents. Why and how to do that?

Rivers have long been the lifeblood of communities across the region. They helped build New England and they were worked hard and taken for granted.

By the 1970s, people be-



Submitted Photos

A paddler is shown enjoying a day on the river.

gan to realize we needed to clean up our rivers, they benefited us and wildlife in ways we had overlooked. Watershed Councils sprang up and helped start a process to turn things around and in the big picture, things improved, our rivers were cleaned up a great deal.

Yet the job is not done, and some practices still im-

pact healthy rivers in undesirable ways. Today we enjoy rivers recreationally and realize they serve wildlife and people in many important and healthy ways.

The new effort started with going community to community sharing the idea

Please see **WATERSHED**, page 6



Paddlers explored the Quaboag River Blue Trail.



Submitted photo

Mark your calendars for the upcoming flower show!

## 54th Annual Spring Flower Show at Mt. Holyoke College, March 7-March 22

SOUTH HADLEY – The Botanic Garden at Mount Holyoke College is holding its annual Spring Flower Show starting Saturday, March 7, 2026, and ending Sunday, March 22, 2025. The Spring Flower Show is held in the Talcott Greenhouse on campus and is free and open to the public.

This year's show is the fifty-fourth annual event. Visitors are invited to immerse themselves in the vibrant

colors and fragrances of this floral spectacle. Visitors will also be able to stroll through other parts of the Talcott Greenhouse complex, including the surrounding three acres of gardens.

"The show will feature thousands of vibrant tulips, cheery daffodils, fragrant hyacinths as well as other spring bloomers, all set amidst and in combination with plants from the permanent living collection," said Tom Clark,

the director and curator of the Botanic Garden. "The Flower Show is always a welcome burst of spring-like exuberance in the waning days of winter! We encourage visitors to explore the entire Talcott Greenhouse as it has a rich and diverse collection of plants from around the world."

During the show, the Talcott Greenhouse will be open to the public from 10 am to 4 pm daily.

## SHPD officers receive exceptional service awards

SOUTH HADLEY - Congratulations to Officers Spencer Hart, Corey Whelihan, and Josh Helems, who were honored with the Exceptional Service Award on February 20, 2026.

Their quick thinking, decisive actions, and unwavering commitment exemplify the dedication of the men and women of the South Hadley Police Department, who continually rise to the highest standards of courage, service, and professionalism. These officers are a testament to our department's mission to positively impact our community.

We are grateful to serve a community that strongly supports its police department, and we are incredibly proud of the men and women who wear the badge and serve the South Hadley community each and every day.

On December 30, 2025, Officer Hart was investigating a domestic violence incident involving a suspect who was at large and potentially armed. While speaking with the victim at the station, he learned that her apartment had been entered

earlier that morning. During the interview, the victim received a real-time surveillance notification showing a masked male inside her residence.

Without knowing if the individual was armed or his intent, Officer Hart, along with Officers Helems and Whelihan, immediately responded to the apartment. During a search of the residence, Officer Hart located the intruder in a bedroom closet. The suspect was found to be in possession of two knives, a loaded magazine, and a 9mm pistol.

Your training, professionalism, and tactical decision-making allowed for the swift apprehension of the suspect, ensuring the safety of a victim who had already been targeted twice that day. Your actions bring great credit upon yourself, the South Hadley Police Department, and the Town of South Hadley.

In recognition of your continued professionalism and devotion to duty, your peers at the South Hadley Police Department are honored to present you with the Exceptional Service Award.



Submitted photos

Officer Spencer Hart.



Officer Corey Whelihan.



Officer Joshua Helems.

## Feeling the 'Luck O' the Irish' at the COA

SOUTH HADLEY – There's lots to do coming up at the South Hadley COA! Come and join in on the fun!

### Nutrition and Shopping with Snap Ed

Wednesday, March 11, 1 p.m.

For this nutrition class, participants learn how to make healthy food choices while shopping on a budget. The session covers basic meal planning, smart grocery shopping tips, and selecting affordable, nutritious foods.

### Lunch and Learn with Cody and Joy from Westfield Bank

Thursday, March 12, 11:30 a.m.

"Medical Identity Theft": Medical identity theft is a growing threat that can impact your finances and healthcare. We will share practical tips and resources to help you safeguard your personal and medical information. Sign up for the program by registering for lunch by 11 a.m. on Wednesday, March 11. Please note: Lunch is a suggested donation of \$3.

### Fairy Garden Workshop with Meghan from Dave's Natural Garden

Tuesday, March 17, 12:30 p.m.

Come and join us and learn the step-by-step process to make your own fairy garden. All supplies included. Cost is \$30. Participants limited to 10 people, and registration is required.

### Harm Reduction and Impaired Driving 101

Wednesday, March 18, 1 p.m.

Join Tapestry Health and the Public Health Department

for this interactive program. Tapestry will share about their mission, vision, and the resources they provide to the South Hadley community. The Health Department will deliver a brief presentation about the risks of medication-impaired driving and related prevention measures. All attendees will receive a free giveaway!

### An Evening of Celtic Music and Dancing

Thursday, March 19, 4 p.m.

Enjoy a delicious Shepherd's Pie dinner created by our special guest, Chef Drew Kortright from Ledges Golf Club! Guests will be entertained by the Western Mass Celtic Band, Banish Misfortune, sponsored by the Friends of the South Hadley Seniors. Cost to attend is \$10. Registration is required.

### Veteran's Evening Social

Thursday, March 19, 4:30 p.m.

Join Veterans Services Director Chris Plotniak for an evening social. Veterans of all ages are welcome!

### Gentleman's Breakfast

Friday, March 20, 8:30 a.m.

Join us for a delicious breakfast prepared by our new Food Service Coordinator, Chef Harold Dixon an special guest chef, Dave Mendoza! Cost to attend is \$3 per person.

### Lunch and Learn: Electrical Safety

Monday, March 23, 11:30 a.m.

Join us for an electrical safety presentation by Ray Gouley, a consultant with the South Hadley Electric Light

Department. Learn how to spot electrical warning signs in the home with simple steps that can help prevent accidents and fires. Ray is offering Table Talk pies, American flags, and five \$50 gift cards to Walmart as door prizes! Registration is required. Sign up for the program by registering for lunch by 11 a.m. on Friday, March 20. Please note: lunch is a suggested \$3 donation.

### Android Phone Basics: A 3-Part Series for Beginners

Monday, March 23, 30, and April 6, 10 a.m.

Over three weeks, we'll cover the essentials of using an Android phone, from making calls and sending texts to managing photos, using helpful apps, and keeping your information safe. We start at the beginning and build skills step-by-step, with plenty of hands-on practice.

**This class is for you if:** your Android phone feels confusing, you're not sure how Wi-Fi works, you avoid apps, photos, or settings, or you mostly use your phone for calls.

**This class is probably not for you if:** you use an iPhone or you're already comfortable texting, taking and sharing photos, downloading apps, managing settings, and using your phone confidently day-to-day.

**Please note:** This is a progressive series. Each class builds on the one before it, and participants must register for and attend all three sessions. You'll need to bring your own phone to every class.

**Class 1:** Getting to know your Android phone, adjusting settings, and staying in touch with calls, texts, and video calls.

**Class 2:** Photos, alarms, calendars, apps, and everyday tools that can make your phone more useful.

**Class 3:** Avoiding scams, backing up your phone, managing passwords, and using built-in safety features.

**Bring your Android phone (fully charged) and your questions. Registration is essential.**

### Hip Hop SQUARE Dance for Seniors with Rondae

Wednesday, March 25, 1 p.m.

A social, energetic dance class designed for seniors, blending traditional square dance formations with modern hip-hop music and movements. Directed by Dr. Rondae Drafts, the program uses recorded instructions rather than a live caller to guide participants through routines, often featuring chair-based adaptations for accessibility.

### Be a Truth Detective! How to Outsmart Misleading Media

Thursday, March 26, 2 p.m.

Become a truth detective! South Hadley Public Library librarians Desiree Smelcer and Joe Rodio will break down common signs of mis- and disinformation in the media. Learn how to verify stories, check sources, and protect yourself from deceptive online content. This talk is perfect for anyone who wants stronger digital skills.

## Warm up with a good book at the library

SOUTH HADLEY – Early February is the winter's coldest time in New England, but the library remains a warm and welcoming place for all. Library programs are always free, planned for all age groups, with many being intergenerational. The library is one of the town's warming centers and people are welcome to stay the entire day with no questions asked. Our selection of materials is curated to meet the needs of South Hadley residents. We're here for you.

### Adult Programs at SHPL

We are putting out a call for volunteers for our upcoming Fix It Clinic in May. If you have a fix-it skill and can spare two hours helping repair items like jewelry, clocks, small lamps, or even plants, you'll be helping keep useful items out of landfills while rebuilding community. Interested volunteers can contact Desi Smelcer, Adult Services Librarian, at 413-538-5045 or dsmelcer@cw-mars.org.

Looking for a book club? Our library discussion groups offer terrific reading paired with good company.

### Children's Programs at SHPL

All our usual programs

continue this month: Pajama Storytime, Rhyme Time, Lego and Games, Pride Club (February 24), Story Time, and Playgroup.

Last but not least, we're collecting pajamas for the Cradles to Crayons/Boston Bruins Pajama Drive. Donations are appreciated.

Questions? Email children's librarian Jenny (jarch@cw-mars.org).

### Teen Programs at SHPL

This month for Teens (ages 11 through 19) we have a lot of great offerings!

Our monthly Teen Takeaways continue to be available. This month features Paper Hearts. Sign up once and get a new Teen Takeaway every month.

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

### Gaylord Memorial Library Programs

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

Families can also join us on Saturday, February 28, at 10:15 a.m. for Puzzles and Games.

## Chief Gundersen's Office Hours

SOUTH HADLEY – Police Chief Jennifer Gundersen will be hosting several office hours around town in March.

- 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

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# Second Chance urges pet owners to take action for Spay and Neuter Awareness Month

EAST BROOKFIELD - In recognition of Spay and Neuter Awareness Month, Second Chance Animal Services is highlighting the life-saving impact of its spay and neuter program and encouraging pet owners to take this important step for their pets' health while helping prevent pet overpopulation in our communities.

Spaying and neutering offer important medical benefits that can help pets live longer, healthier lives. Spaying female pets eliminates the risk of life-threatening uterine infections and greatly reduces the chance of mammary cancer, especially when done early. Neutering male pets prevents testicular cancer and lowers the risk of prostate disease. In both dogs and cats, the surgery can reduce behaviors such as roaming, fighting, and marking, which in turn decreases the risk of injuries and exposure to disease. More than just population control, these procedures are a proactive investment in your pet's long-term health and well-being.

Second Chance began offering spay and neuter services in 2005 with a once-a-week clinic at its Adoption Center, helping approximately 2,000 pets in that first year. At the time, the team could accommodate about fifteen pets on a surgery day. Today, thanks to expanded facilities and a highly trained medical team, Second Chance can care for up to 40 pets in a single day while maintaining the highest standards of safety and quality.

In 2025 alone, Second Chance performed 8,747 spay and neuter surgeries for dogs and cats. Since launching the program in 2005, the organization has spayed and neutered more than 95,000 pets, preventing unplanned litters and reducing the strain on shelters and communities.

"A lot has changed over the years to get us to this many surgeries," said Sheryl Blancato, founder and CEO of Second Chance Animal Services. "Today, we have veterinarians trained in advanced techniques that allow us to perform a higher volume



Submitted photo

**Ginger, pictured here, was one of 8,747 pets who received spay or neuter surgery through Second Chance Animal Services in 2025, helping improve her long-term health while preventing unplanned litters in our community.**

of surgeries in a single day without compromising care. These techniques reduce procedure time, which enhances safety by keeping pets under anesthesia for shorter periods. We have created a finely tuned process that allows

us to offer affordable pricing while maintaining the highest standards of care. Our staff treats every patient like their own pet, and I am so proud of the work they do."

Spaying or neutering a pet is one of the most important decisions a pet owner can make. In addition to preventing unwanted litters, it reduces the number of homeless animals entering shelters and increases the chances that a pet can remain in a loving home.

Every February, Spay and Neuter Awareness Month serves as a reminder that preventing pet homelessness starts before a litter is born. By choosing to spay or neuter, pet owners play a direct role in creating healthier pets and stronger communities.

Low-cost spay and neuter services are offered at Second Chance veterinary hospitals in North Brookfield, Southbridge, Springfield, and Worcester. For more information or to schedule an appointment, visit: <https://www.secondchanceanimals.org/spay-neuter/>

# Granby Free Public Library to host month-long book sale, March 3 to 31

GRANBY - Book lovers! Bargain Hunters! The Friends of the Granby Free Public Library will host their Month-Long Book Sale during the month of March in the Community Room of the Library. You will be able to choose from a large assortment of used and like-new hardcover, softcover, paperback books, teen books, and children's books, along with a selection of CDs, DVDs,

video games, and audiobooks. The sale will run during regular library hours from March 3 through 31.

The Library is no longer accepting donations after February 25th. Thank you for your support!

The Granby Free Public Library is located at 297 E State St, Granby, MA 01033. Visit [granbylibrary.org](http://granbylibrary.org) for hours and more information.



Turley photo by Emily-Rose Pappas

The community has been very generous with their book donations!

# South Hadley Chorale to present annual concert

SOUTH HADLEY - The South Hadley Chorale will present its annual concert on Sunday, March 15, 2026, at 3 p.m. in Abbey Memorial Chapel at Mount Holyoke College, South Hadley. The program includes Vivaldi's Gloria, a selection of inspiring and beautiful spirituals, and a work by the late Mount Holyoke College Professor of Music, Allen Bonde. Anita Anderson Cooper conducts the 70-voice chorus and orchestra. The Hampshire Young People's Chorus, under the direction of K.C. Con-

lon, is also featured.

This is Ms. Anderson Cooper's second year as Music Director of the South Hadley Chorale. A well-known area musician, she also directs the chorus of the Paul R. Baird Middle School in Ludlow and conducts the Smith College Handbell Choir.

The South Hadley Chorale is made up of singers ranging in ages from their 20s through 90s, from 17 area communities.

Tickets may be purchased at the door for \$25 general



Submitted photo by David Hillerby

**Music Director Anita Anderson Cooper leads a rehearsal of the South Hadley Chorale.**

admission, \$20 for senior citizens, and \$5 for students and children. Tickets may also be

purchased prior to the concert day for \$20, \$15, and \$5 from Chorale members; at the Odyssey Bookshop, South Hadley; or online at [www.eventbrite.com](http://www.eventbrite.com).

This program is supported in part by grants from PeoplesBank and the South Hadley Cultural Council, a local agency that is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council. For further information, please visit [www.southhadleychorale.org](http://www.southhadleychorale.org) or call 413-533-3833.

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## INSURED AND CERTIFIED



# Opinion

## SOCIAL SECURITY

### Matters

By Russell Gloor

#### My friend is 65; shouldn't she be exempt from Medicare payroll taxes?

##### Dear Rusty:

My girlfriend is 65 and she just enrolled in Medicare.

She is still working full time as a nurse, but they are still deducting Medicare taxes from her paycheck. I thought as soon as you started Medicare, that they would no longer take any Medicare taxes from her paychecks. Is that not correct?

##### Signed: Concerned Friend

##### Dear Concerned Friend:

Your understanding about Medicare payroll tax is, indeed, not correct. Medicare taxes are levied on everyone, who works and earns, regardless of whether or not they are currently enrolled in the Medicare program. That is how Medicare has worked since it was first enacted in the mid-1960s and how it still works today.

For Your Information, everyone who works for an employer must pay Federal Insurance Contributions Act payroll tax of 7.65%. Most (6.2%) of that payroll tax goes to support Social Security, but 1.45% goes to support Medicare Part A. Self-employed individuals must also pay this tax under the Self-Employed Contributions Act, which is equivalent to FICA, except the self-employed individual must also pay the employer portion of the payroll tax. The Social Security portion of the FICA/SECA tax has an earnings cap (\$184,500 in 2026), but there is no cap on earnings for the Medicare portion of the FICA/SECA payroll tax. FYI, employers pay an equivalent amount of Social Security and Medicare taxes and the Medicare portion of the payroll tax is paid on all earnings. There is no

cap on earnings from which the Medicare payroll tax is withheld.

To ensure understanding, Medicare Part A provides healthcare coverage for inpatient hospitalization services and Medicare Part B provides coverage for outpatient medical services (doctors, medical tests, etc.). That 1.45% of the FICA and SECA tax for the self-employed is paid by those who work to help fund the Medicare Part A program, which is premium-free for most Americans after age 65. For Medicare Part B, there is a separate premium which helps pay for Medicare outpatient healthcare services. The standard Medicare Part B premium for 2026 is \$202.90 per month, compared to Medicare Part A which is free to all who are eligible for Social Security benefits. But the 1.45% payroll tax which is being withheld from your girlfriend's paycheck is paid by everyone who has work earnings, even if they are enrolled in Medicare.

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

## Snow flowers for an impending storm

As I write, we are expecting a blizzard. More snow in a winter that has already provided plenty, at least in my humble opinion.

Instead of focusing on all of that depressing news, why don't we "think spring" by focusing on bulbs that appear just as the snow is melting.

Perhaps the earliest and best known of the spring harbingers is the Snowdrop (*Galanthus nivalis*). Toughened points on the leaf tips make it possible for the snowdrop to push through the crusty soil of late winter. Two or three strappy leaves grow from each bulb; most often there is just one flower.

You'll notice three white outer petals first and upon closer inspection you'll see green tipped inner petals. The flowers are held on the stem in a nodding fashion and in my experience they stay in bloom for upwards of three weeks.

Reportedly they are well adapted for bees, at least those that are brave enough to venture out of the hive in search of pollen during the warmest days of late winter!

Snowdrops will naturalize if happy, increasing in numbers both above and below the ground! Although we "deadhead" most bulbs, keeping spent flower heads of this genus in place will allow seeds to ripen and new plants to form. It is interesting to observe the process of a snowdrop self-sowing.

Once the flower has gone by a large seed will form; because of its weight, the stem

will bend toward the ground dropping its ripe seed at a perfect distance from the mother plant. Under no circumstances should the foliage of a bulb be removed until it is brown and dry.

It may not be the most

flowered lawn effect: don't mow until the foliage has yellowed or mow high to miss the foliage.

Another one of my favorite harbingers is the Snow Crocus (*Crocus tommasinianus*). Not to be confused with the large Dutch crocus, Snow Crocus is typically lilac in color and has white stems.

They grow about three inches tall and naturalize well with daughter corms forming around the mother corm. They are both squirrel and deer resistant.

Native to Hungary, Snow Crocus are sometimes called "Tommies" thanks to their species name, which was a tribute to Muzio G. Spirito de Tommasini, a Hungarian botanist. Years ago we had these beauties in a sequence of spring bloomers that started with Snow Drops, moved on to the Snow Crocus, then on to a Daffodil and then finally the Spanish bluebell. The combination spanned March through May.

Just the thought of that versus what we are expecting in terms of weather has lightened my mood some; I hope it has done the same for you.

*Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 34 years she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to [pouimette@turley.com](mailto:pouimette@turley.com) with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.*

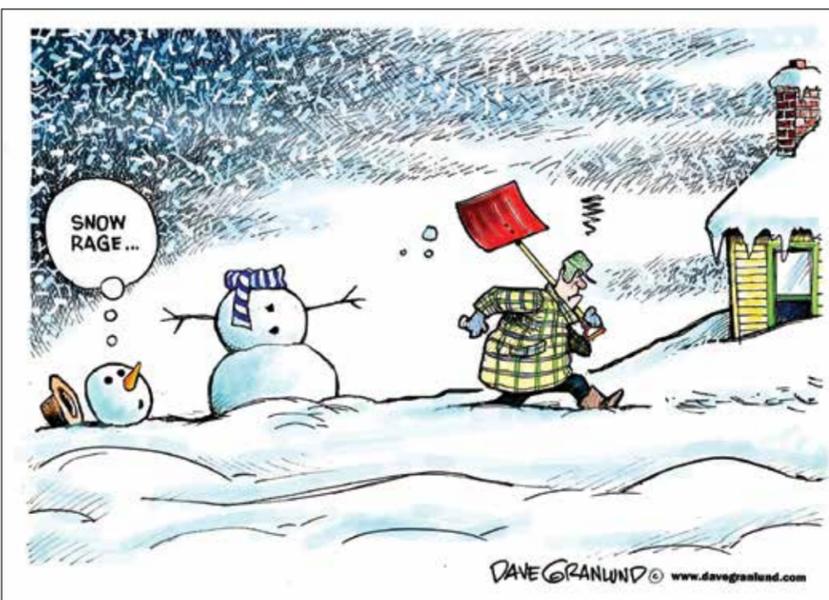
beautiful to look at, but all the while that it is green it is making and storing food for next year's flowers.

Glory of the Snow (*Chionodoxa luciliae*) is also one of the first spring bulbs to appear, sometimes right through the melting snow. Most common in periwinkle blue with a white center, these six inch tall, six petaled flowers also appear in pink and white.

They thrive in full to part sun situations, whether it be the rock garden, at the base of shrubs or deciduous trees or even when planted in the lawn! They naturalize easily, forming large colonies by bulb offsets and self-sowing. They are deer resistant.

Glory of the Snow stay in bloom upwards of two weeks, maybe longer if temperatures don't spike. Like other spring bloomers, the bulbs go dormant after the foliage ripens. It does not stick around long enough to be much of an eyesore in the garden.

One word of caution for those looking for the blue



Read the Town Reminder online at [www.townreminder.turley.com](http://www.townreminder.turley.com)

On President's Day I saw a northern flicker fly up into a tree as I traveled in Barre.

The white rump patch was clearly visible. A Brimfield resident said he has a friend in Belcher-town, who occasionally has a flicker come to his suet feeder. Four or five bluebirds also frequent his suet feeder.

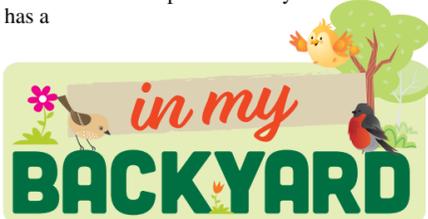
Northern flickers are a fairly, large woodpecker about 11 to 12 inches long. They are larger than a hairy woodpecker and smaller than a pileated woodpecker.

They appear brownish overall with a white rump patch that's is conspicuous in flight and often visible when they perch. The undersides of the wing and tail feathers are bright yellow for eastern birds or red for western birds. The brown plumage has black spots, barring and a black "bib." The sexes are similar, but the male has a black mustache.

Flickers spend a lot of time on the ground and like many woodpeckers fly in an undulating up and down path with flapping and gliding.

They make a repeated flicker or "wicka-wicka-wicka" call and a loud "kleer."

They inhabit open forests, woodlots, groves and semi-open country.



By Ellenor Downer

The female lays five to eight eggs sometimes more. Both sexes incubate the eggs with the male incubating at night and part of the day. Both parents feed the young by regurgitation. The young leave the nest in about four weeks after hatching, but parents feed them for while. Later, they follow them to good foraging sites. They mainly eat ants and other insects. They also eat fruits and berries in fall and winter.

##### Bird bath visitors

A Brimfield resident sent an email recently. He said, "I have a heated bird bath so I modified it by placing rocks in the center so that the only

water available is near the edge and birds can't immerse themselves in water to take a bath. The birds sit on the edge of the bird bath to drink."

He also said, "I have a trail camera aimed at the bird bath. I was looking at pictures taken during December (40,000) and saw that blue jays, house finches and juncos are the most frequent birds taking a drink. Birds that show up less often are cardinals, titmice and morning doves. Curiously chickadees drink infrequently even though they are often seen in the yard. We seldom see goldfinches drinking, but they are not seen in the yard often. I was surprised to see a downy woodpecker show up twice to get a drink. I can't recall ever seen a woodpecker drink at the bird bath before, summer or winter."

##### Helping birds

The Brimfield resident said creating brush piles provides shelter for birds. The piles also provide shelter for small animals as well. He said this time of year is a good time to trim trees and shrubs,



Northern flicker

a source of materials for a brush pile.

He said someone sent him a link about the possible dangers to birds of their feathers freezing if they take a bath in cold weather. For more information, people may visit the link at <https://blog.nature.org/2022/01/31/should-you-provide-birds-water-in-winter/>.

##### Project Feederwatch

The Brimfield resident also said, "I recently visited the Project Feederwatch 2025 results ([https://cdn.feederwatch.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/Winter-Bird-Highlights-2025\\_12.22.2025.pdf](https://cdn.feederwatch.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/Winter-Bird-Highlights-2025_12.22.2025.pdf)). The chart shows the top 25

birds seen in the Northeast during last year. The top 11 species can be seen most days in our yard."

Here is the list: 1. chickadee, 2. dark-eyed junco, 3. northern cardinal, 4. downy woodpecker, 5. blue jay, 6. mourning dove, 7. white-breasted nuthatch, 8. American goldfinch, 9. house finch, 10. red-bellied woodpecker, 11. tufted titmouse, 12. American robin, 13. European starling, 14. house sparrow, 15. hairy woodpecker, 16. Carolina wren, 17. white-throated sparrow, 18. song sparrow, 19. red-winged blackbird, 20. common grackle, 21. American crow, 22. brown-headed cowbird, 23. chipping sparrow, 24. northern flicker and 25 purple finch.

*People may report a bird sighting or bird related experience by emailing [mybackyard88@aol.com](mailto:mybackyard88@aol.com) or [edowne@turley.com](mailto:edowne@turley.com) or mailing to Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005. The Palmer office has a new phone system and I will be getting an extension where messages may be left. I will publish the number as soon as it is set up.*

## 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](mailto: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

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# South Hadley Democrats to elect state convention delegates on March 7

SOUTH HADLEY — Democrats in South Hadley will convene in person on Saturday, March 7, 2026, to elect 11 delegates and 4 alternates to represent our town at the 2026 Massachusetts Democratic State Convention. The caucus, which is hosted by the South Hadley Democratic Town Committee, will take place in the Community Room of the South Hadley Public Library, 2 Canal Street in South Hadley. The library is handicapped accessible.

Caucus sign-in opens at 9:30 a.m., and the caucus will start at 10 a.m. Those voting must be in attendance at the caucus. There will be no absentee or proxy voting at any local caucus for any reason.

Registered and pre-registered Democrats in South Hadley who are 16 years old by February 19, 2026, may vote and be elected as delegates or alternates during the caucus.

Opportunities are available for youth (age 16 to 35), people with disabilities, peo-

ple of color, and members of the LGBTQ+ community not elected as delegates or alternates to apply to the State Democratic Committee to be add-on delegates.

The 2026 Democratic State Convention will be held in person on Saturday, May 30, 2026, at the DCU Center in Worcester. This year, delegates will gather to voice support for the Democratic nominee for the US Senate and for Democrats across the Commonwealth and the nation. Convention

and delegate information is available at: <https://massdemocrats.org/massdemocrats-convention/>.

For more information or to get involved with the South Hadley Democratic Town Committee, visit [southhadleydemocrats.com](http://southhadleydemocrats.com) or email the Committee at [southhadleydemocrats@gmail.com](mailto:southhadleydemocrats@gmail.com). Massachusetts voters may register to vote or check registration online at: [www.RegisterToVote-MA.com](http://www.RegisterToVote-MA.com).

# Granby Democratic Town Committee to hold caucus

GRANBY — The Granby Democratic Town Committee will hold a caucus on Feb. 28 at 11 a.m. at the Granby Free Public Library, 297 East State Street.

The committee will elect four delegates and four alternates to the 2026 Massachusetts Democratic Convention, where Democrats from across Massachusetts will gather to endorse candidates for statewide office. The Convention will be held on May 29 and 30 at the DCU Center in Worcester.

The Democratic Commit-

tee welcomes participants. The caucus is open to all, but only Democrats registered in Granby can run for delegate. Registration will begin at 10:30 a.m., and the Caucus will start at 11.

The committee normally meets on the fourth Saturday of the month at the Granby Free Public Library. For more information on the caucus or the committee please contact Tobias Wilson at [chair@granbydemocrats.com](mailto:chair@granbydemocrats.com) or visit their website at [www.granbydemocrats.com](http://www.granbydemocrats.com).

## STM from page 1

surrounding communities, with an estimated \$100,000-\$150,000 increase

State aid has also largely decreased over the years and only boosted around the pandemic and with the Student Opportunity Act, but those dollars are running out and not matching inflation.

The town is facing the reality of having to have a tighter budget, which will result in less money for projects in the future, with the town wanting to take on a more conservative approach to deal with the money that they do have.

### Impacts on the Schools and Town

There are huge impacts that are set to impact the town and will also impact the many local nonprofits and small businesses in towns, and with state aid decreasing, the town is facing the hard choice to look at an override.

Earlier today, the health insurance group met to discuss plans and next steps regarding health insurance and ended up voting for a plan that would result in \$250,000 in savings, which the town can put to use towards the schools.

The school is facing impacts and cuts in the amount of \$1.5 million, resulting in cuts of all sports, all after school activities, music at the middle and high schools, 3-5 administration positions, including the mental health director and the assistant superintendent, 15-17 student-facing positions, grades Kindergarten to grade one having 25 students, grades two through four class sizes of 27-30 students, and grades five through 12 to have over 30 students. This is the

result of no or only a \$3 million override.

"This impact will be huge to sports. Extracurricular activities and sports are essential to school environments. We will lose veteran staff members because they have to think of their situation and evaluate if they can work there. I fear that we will continue to lose students and lose staff, and it will continue to snowball for many more years to come," said Superintendent Jennifer Voyik.

The town is also facing huge cuts, including having to reorganize management staff, regionalize dispatch, cut two police officers, cut two staff at the Town Hall, two staff at the Senior Center, reduce the hours of 10 positions at the main library branch, reduce the ability for there to be borrowing from other libraries, closing Gaylord Memorial Library, cutting two DPW staff, close the spray parks, reduce maintenance and capital, and reduce OPEB payments.

"This isn't a good situation," said Town Administrator Lisa Wong. "We're trying our best to address the shortfalls and make our way towards a balanced budget."

The town website has detailed information on how people can find out how much they can expect to be affected by the override in the coming months. As well as a tax calculator and more.

### Article 2: Budget Non-Override

Article 2 asked Town Meeting members to vote whether or not they have an override. A "no" vote on this article would mean the override would pass, while a "yes" vote would mean that the

override would not pass.

At the beginning of the Public Comment section, Charles Miles called for a vote for Town Meeting Members to vote to allow non-Town Meeting Members to be able to speak per Chapter 72-13 of the bylaw. The motion passed by a majority with ground rules from moderator John Hine that comment periods would still be limited to three minutes per person, and that Town Meeting members had to be able to speak first.

"Class sizes increasing to what they would be is nearly impossible for even the most seasoned of educators to handle, and I'd also like to point out as someone who participated in both sports and the arts... extracurriculars are crucial elements of a student's academic upbringing," said a resident and teacher.

Many other members shared the sentiment that the schools and how they run are essential to the future of the town and serve as a big point of interest for new families to move into town.

Many shared their love for their libraries, sharing that they are crucial resources, and that closing the Gaylord Memorial Library would be "anti-ethical".

Others shared that people would leave the town without growth, and that no one would

come to the town. Property values will take a hit, and the town will not be able to be sustainable with the amount of cuts if the override is not passed.

Maggie from Michael E. Smith Middle School urged the community to consider the override, and not to cut advanced placement classes, or else, as program cuts will cause students to lose motivation and other negative consequences.

"South Hadley won't improve if things aren't fixed now, and if people leave the town. We need to fund our schools, but as a resident, I want to know what else we can do," said Lily Newman.

While many were concerned primarily with the school's finances, others shared concerns about the taxes and how the town is dealing with \$6,500 in taxes currently.

"South Hadley has never, not once, passed a Proposition 2 1/2 override... we are one of the minuscule towns that have never had a yes vote for an override," said Ira Brezinsky.

On the other hand, many shared concerns about affordability and the people unable to actually afford to support the override, and how the town can help people at different income levels or on social security.

"I ask that we keep in

mind the people that really, really want to help, but may not be able to do that," said Kathy Davis.

The town moved to a vote, and the article passed by a majority of "no" votes, meaning that the override passed with approval.

### Article 3: Budget Override

The town moved on to the override article and looked at the options presented: \$0, \$3 million, \$6 million, \$9 million, and \$11 million.

"To support students and put back in place things that were cut, the \$11 million option allows the schools to get those services back," said School Committee Chair Eric Friesner, who shared that the Committee voted unanimously in favor of the \$11 million override option.

There was a motion to amend the Article by member Jodi Miller, to remove the option for \$0, as the town had already voted against no override, and the \$0 option felt redundant. Town Meeting members voted on this, and it passed by a majority to remove the \$0 option from the article.

Andrea Miles shared that the Selectboard discussed at their last meeting that they would not entertain a \$3 million override, as it would not provide all the fixes and

supports needed to save the town from the deficit. Town Meeting members agreed and looked to the other three options for their discussion.

"It's not just the school budget, it's our entire community, and how we're going to live for the next few years, so I strongly support this \$11 million option," said Charles Miles.

The vast majority of Town Meeting members strongly argued for an \$11 million override option, favoring it to restore South Hadley now and work towards rebuilding and creating a better town for their future.

"It's up to us to protect our kids from that instability and chaos," said Brian Willette.

Jim Bosman also encouraged the town to remember the senior population, as well as the 6% of residents who are below the poverty level for the state and rely on programs that the Senior Center works hard to provide, with congregate lunches and helping with the Meals on Wheels program to provide more than 6,000 meals.

The vote was called, and members voted on the four given options. By a majority, \$11 million was voted in favor of, as the town voted to save it all, and looked forward to a better South Hadley.

**Donovan's Irish Pub** 80 Jarvis Ave., Holyoke  
413-543-0791 [donovanspub.com](http://donovanspub.com)

Sun. 12pm - 8pm; Mon.-Thurs. 11:30am-9:30pm; Fri. & Sat. 11:30am - 11pm

<b>Saturday, Feb. 28th</b> 6-9pm <b>Baird Souls</b>	<b>Saturday, March 7th</b> 6-9pm <b>Desmond Burke &amp; Friends</b>	<b>March 12th</b> <b>Billy Eagen</b> <b>March 13th</b> <b>Kilashandra</b> <b>March 14th</b> <b>Corner Boys</b>
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**PUBLIC AUCTION SALE**  
Saturday, February 28, 2026 at 8:30 a.m.  
42 Main Street, Holyoke, MA

\* All Sales Cash \* Immediate Removal Day Of Sale  
**FURNITURE, APPLIANCES, TVS AND OTHER ITEMS**

LOT#(NAME)#(OF PALLET#):  
13689(S. Lemieux)(4); 15696(D. Mendez)(2); 15750(C. Payne)(6); 15833(J. Wilson)(3); 15901(Z. Rodriguez-Delgado)(1); 15935(E. Santana)(1); 16118(N. Reyes)(1); 16119(J. Pelkey)(3); 16127(J. Rivera)(2); 16153(A. Taylor)(1); 16163(J. Jackson)(6); 16172(C. Acevedo)(1); 16177(C. Pacheco)(1); 16182(J. Pizaro)(2); 16221(J. Cartagena)(6); 16229(L. Girard)(3); 16243(K. Greenleaf)(13); 16255(M. Rodriguez-Hernandez)(1); 16261(T. Rodriguez)(1); 16279(L. St Marie)(1); 16297(A. Musiak)(4); 16301(J. Healy)(3); 16303(E. Nunez)(2); 16314(J. Perez)(4); 16319(C. Wojcik)(1); 16320(R. Gould)(1); 16321(R. Gould)(1); 16325(K. Maxfield)(1); 16332(R. Webster)(1); 16339(M. Rivera)(2); 16370(A. Perez)(2); 16371(J. Doe)(1); 16372(R. Tollisano)(1); 16381(S. Howe)(8); 16390(M. Corbin)(1); 16392(S. Bostock)(1); 16394(E. Pike)(2); 16395(T. Brunelle)(8); 16427(L. Kielson)(2); 16430(I. Marin)(3); 16465(S. Cibelli)(7); 16480(L. Jones)(4); 16487(R. Timmons)(2); 16490(J. Torres)(1); 16495(W. Turner)(9); 16503(C. Kellett)(3); 16504(E. Emerling)(2); 16506(C. Porter)(3); 16535(T. Paradise)(2); 16542(J. Moon)(1); 16545(I. Robinson)(6); 16547(C. Bourelle)(3); 16551(C. Hardy)(1); 16559(D. Singletary)(4); 16566(B. Madewell)(1); 16569(L. Stamatou)(2); 16575(G. Germaine)(2); 16577(J. Peltier)(3); 16581(K. Lane)(6); 16585(A. Eggleston)(1); 16598(S. Tyson)(6); 16601(V. Provost)(1); 16608(C. Tenerowicz)(1); 16609(M. Rodriguez)(1); 16613(C. Doucette)(3); 16615(D. Beths at Grafton Street)(1); 16623(M. Torres)(1); 16627(B. Merchant)(3)

# Spring home

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## ► Obituary

### Thomas N. Hazen

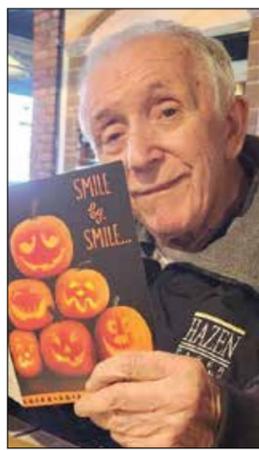
Thomas Norman Hazen passed away on February 16, 2026, at Loomis Lakeside at Reeds Landing. Born on April 2, 1935, in Holyoke, MA, he was the son of the late John Norman and Marie (Weis) Hazen. Tom was the devoted husband of Jane Hazen.

Tom has long been a very active figure in the Holyoke area. He grew up in Holyoke. He raised his children in Holyoke. The Hazen Paper Company (founded in 1925 by John N. Hazen) has its main manufacturing campus in Holyoke.

In 1999, after an extremely productive 40-year career, Tom deservedly retired from management responsibilities and decision-making at Hazen Paper and turned his immense energies to a wide range of outside interests. In his golden decades, Tom pursued his passion for civic involvement, socializing with his many friends, skiing, tennis, hiking, sailing, painting, opera, the Springfield Symphony, the arts, and his beloved grandchildren. Tom was a devoted member of the First Congregational Church (Center Church) of South Hadley and was a member of the Holyoke Rotary Club, Inc. "The 39ers" and "The Club."

In his retirement, Tom did a significant amount of work as a volunteer for several important non-for-profit organizations in the Holyoke area. He was on the Board of Directors of the Holyoke Medical Center, previously known as The Holyoke Hospital, for a number of years, and on the Center Churches Investment Committee. He was a member of the Holyoke Public Library's Investment Committee. Tom also served for several years on the Mayor of Holyoke's Industrial Development Advisory Committee. Tom was an active member of the Holyoke Taxpayer Association for decades.

In 2001, Tom was the recipient of «The Dwight Award,» an award given yearly to an area resident who has distinguished himself or herself as a servant of the



Greater Holyoke Community. Marie Weis Hazen (Tom's mother) received the award in 1958, and her father (Tom's grandfather), Joseph B. Weis, was the first recipient of "The Dwight Award" in 1940.

In the broader Massachusetts Community, Tom served as a member of the Board of Directors on AIM, the Associated Industries of Massachusetts, a Boston-based organization that works to get the local, state, and national governments to provide a climate that is friendly to private businesses. Tom was also a member of the Board of Directors of the Economic Development Council of Western Massachusetts. The EDC has goals very similar to AIM but focused on the Western Massachusetts Economy. Tom participated in meetings of the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission and the Massachusetts Taxpayers Foundation.

In his retirement years, Tom cheered on Hazen Paper's many expansions into holographic production and its myriad technological complexities. Tom was very proud to see the company remain 100% Hazen family-owned and grow as an employer during the turbulent and uncertain early decades of this new century. Hazen Paper relentlessly pushed ahead during a murky era of offshoring, downsizing, economic upheaval, and the epidemic of plant shutdowns that plagued the American manufacturing sector. Hazen's success despite the adversity was

#### Death Notice

Thomas N. Hazen  
Died February 16  
Services Beers & Story  
Funeral Home

immensely gratifying to Tom.

Tom was predeceased by his wife, Jane Hazen, in 2019 and tragically by his youngest son, Thomas (Tommy) W.D. Hazen, in 2023. Tom is survived by his eldest son, John H. Hazen (President of Hazen Paper) of South Hadley, and daughter Maria (Hazen) Lewis of Furlong, PA.

Since 2019, Tom spent most Sundays and holidays at the home of John and Gloria Hazen on Cedar Ridge in South Hadley, enjoying Gloria's culinary bounty and hospitality with a wide range of guests, including his many grandchildren and son Tommy (until his passing in 2023). Since 2009, Tom has resided in Loomis Village, South Hadley, within a very short (walking) distance of John and Gloria's home.

In 2018, Tom was slowed down by medical challenges, but he was able to live independently with the help of a local family and a group of devoted caregivers whom he adored. And his trusty wheelchair van gave him freedom and allowed him to regularly visit his favorite restaurants like The Parthenon, Cal's, and The Boat House. In December of 2025, Tom checked in to Reeds Landing in Springfield for skilled nursing care, although he remained and hoped to return to his South Hadley apartment. Su Castillo. Alas, that was not to be.

Calling hours will be held on Saturday, April 4, from 10 a.m. to noon at the Beers & Story South Hadley Funeral Home. A Memorial Service follows at 12:30 p.m. at the First Congregational Church (Center Church) of South Hadley. The burial will be held privately at the convenience of the family. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in his memory to the Center Church of South Hadley.

## Lenten Lunches return to South Hadley

SOUTH HADLEY – For 54 years, the All Saints' Church Lenten Lunch Committee has been welcoming diners from the area communities to meatless lunches during the Lenten season. In recent years, All Saints' has been alternating Friday luncheon sites during Lent with St. Patrick's Church in South Hadley Falls.

This year, the dates at All Saints' Church are Fridays: February 20, March 6, and March 20. At St. Patrick's Church, lunches will be available on alternate Fridays: February 27, March 13, and March 27. Remember these dates and locations, and bring a friend for lunch, or take home your favorite choice for

supper.

At All Saints' Church, Lenten Lunch chairperson Laura Marsh says, "Lunches should be ordered in advance by calling the Parish Administrator's Office at 413-532-8917, Monday through Thursday between 1 and 5 p.m."

Prices for each of the three luncheon offerings will be available upon request. Orders can be paid for by cash or check when lunches are conveniently picked up on Fridays in the church parking area located off Route 116 behind the church on Dunlop Place. Drive up, pick up, and enjoy our famous lunches made in our church kitchens on Fridays.

Committee members are Mary Ann Bail, Joe-Ann Bourguignon, Cammie Daigne, Miretta Campbell, Sue Frazier, Michele Pietras, and Cindy Steinbock. Publicity: Marilyn Gass and Don Marsh.

This year, the All Saints menu offers three choices: a lobster roll, chips, a choice of clam chowder or vegetable soup, crackers, and a brownie; a tuna salad roll, chips, a choice of clam chowder or vegetable soup, crackers, and a brownie; and a choice of clam chowder or vegetable soup, crackers, and a brownie.

Proceeds benefit area mission projects.

#### WATERSHED from page 1

and inviting people to get involved. We held many local meetings at town halls, libraries, and community centers and it stirred interest and awareness.

We hosted river paddles and clean ups. Some joined the effort!

To give this effort focus and connect people in meaningful ways to the rivers, C4R inaugurated two programs: Water quality monitoring and Paddling trail development.

We would monitor the basic bacterial health of the river for recreational use and enjoyment. This would invite people to see these special places and learn if they were a healthy place to enjoy.

We started with six sites on two rivers in 2015 and are now at 20 sites on all four rivers. We have created four Blue Trails, routes on and maps of the rivers that highlight both historical and natural places that people can explore to see how special our four local rivers are.

Knowing their special character and health benefits reveals their value.

Good progress, yet just a start. The initial excitement of renewing the idea has worn off a bit.

But once something of value is recognized, it needs to be maintained, cared for, what a handful of people had started needs more hands to keep things going. Could you help?

Next week we share our vision going forward...



Volunteers participated in one of many river cleanups in the Chicopee River Watershed.



Volunteers stood near a pile of trash and debris collected during a cleanup.

## Lenten Lunches at St. Patrick's

SOUTH HADLEY – The Ladies Guild is again offering Grab and Go lunches with pick up at the Social Center at 15 School St. This is one of the Ladies Guild's main fundraisers, with 100% of the net proceeds going toward scholarships and to many charitable organizations.

Their famous 100% lobster salad rolls are again

available for \$24. White albacore tuna croissants are \$13. Both come with a choice of clam chowder or homemade minestrone soup, a bag of chips, and a cookie.

The lunch dates are as follows:

- March 13 (order and payment are due by March 8)
- March 27 (order and

payment are due by March 22)

Order forms are available inside the church or on the rectory porch at 30 Main Street, or you can make your own form and mail it with a check payable to St. Patrick's Ladies Guild to St. Patrick's Church, 30 Main Street, South Hadley, 01075. Please include your phone number.

## South Hadley Public Library

2 Canal Street, South Hadley • shadleylib.org • 413-538-5045

### MARCH EVENTS

#### Avoiding Scams, Fraud & Identity Theft On Wed., March 4 at 6 p.m.

Presented by the Consumer Protection Unit/ Northwestern DA. As technology evolves, criminals are using it to try to steal money and personal information. The Northwestern District Attorney's Consumer Protection Unit will share tips about how to recognize and protect against identity theft and scams. The CPU will also share information about reporting and recovering from these types of schemes. The Consumer Protection Unit (CPU) works in cooperation with the MA Attorney General's Office (AGO). We are one of 20 programs throughout the state which receives a grant from the AGO to provide a local consumer program

#### Truth Detective: How to Outsmart Misleading Media on Wed., March 18 at 6 p.m.

Learn how to recognize misinformation (shared by mistake) and disinformation (shared on purpose to mislead). This program gives simple, practical tools to slow down, fact-check, and spot red flags before you share. No tech expertise needed — just smart habits for navigating today's information overload. Presented by: South Hadley Public Library Joe Rodio: Director & Desiree Smelcer: Adult Services Librarian. Seniors! This program will ALSO be presented on Thursday, March 26th at 2 at the Senior Center!

#### Pearl City: Presented by Leo Labonte on Wed., March 25th at 6 p.m.

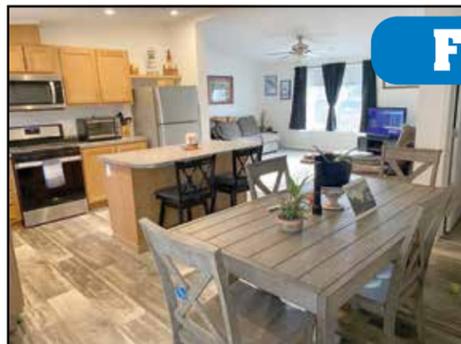
Sponsored by the South Hadley Cultural Council. A small hamlet situated between route 47 and route 202 bounded by the north on Pearl Street. The northern center of manufacturing in 1800 of four areas in town. Known for the world's first manufacturing of pearl buttons. We will look at more than 170 years of this little hamlets history supported by the energy of Batchelor Brook. Buttons, metallurgy, fabric, forge, cloth, paper, broom handles and dye products came from Pearl City. Presented by local historian Leo Labonte.

## FIVE ISLANDS

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## Tigers overcome big early deficit, beat Generals for title

HOLYOKE — Last Wednesday night, things looked bleak early on as South Hadley and Pittsfield matched up for the third consecutive year in the Western Massachusetts Class B Championship game at Holyoke Community College.

South Hadley was struggling to score and struggling to overcome the full court pressure defense that Pittsfield was utilizing.

Pittsfield defeated South Hadley in last year's title game, while South Hadley captured the win two years ago.

Thanks to a huge second half from the Tigers along with ice-cold offense from Pittsfield, South Hadley came from down 14 points to defeat Pittsfield 58-57 to win this year's sectional title.

The Tigers scored just 24 points in the first half and trailed 38-14 as Pittsfield finished the first quarter strong. They had multiple steals in the middle of the court and poured in the extra points on those extra possessions while their defense overwhelmed the Tigers.

But some adjustments at

Please see **TIGERS**, page 8



The South Hadley Tigers captured the Class B Western Massachusetts championship last Wednesday at Holyoke Community College.

Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli



Cara Dean gets ready to make a three-point attempt.

## Rams capture Western Mass. Class D title

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

CHICOPEE—After trailing third-seeded Pioneer Valley Christian Academy by twelve points late in the third quarter, the top-seeded Granby Lady Rams came storming back during the final eight minutes of the Western Mass. Class D finals.

Led by junior's Brenna Moreno and Kalli White, the Lady Rams captured the Western Mass. title for the first time since 2007 with a 64-56 win at Chicopee Comp's Herbert H. Curry

Gymnasium, last Tuesday night.

"It has been 19 years since our girls' basketball team has won the Western Mass. title and it just feels amazing," said Moreno following the championship game. "Our coach (Dave Padavano) gave us a pep talk before the start of the fourth quarter. It motivated us and we played well in the fourth quarter. I love all the girls on this team, and I knew that we could do it."

The 2007 Granby squad, which finished with a 23-2

Please see **RAMS**, page 8



The Western Mass. Class D Champion Granby High School girls basketball team.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com



Rowan Cook and Eleanor Szlosek go after a rebound.

## Registration for Pioneer Valley Baseball opens

SOUTH HADLEY — The Pioneer Valley Baseball League, an adult baseball league for players who are age 18 and over, has just opened up its registration for the 2026 season.

The adult league will be administered by the Quabbin Valley Baseball League, and a registration link is on the home page of the league's website www.quabbinvalley-baseball.org. Thought it will be under the Quabbin umbrella, there will be no major changes in how the league is operated.

This year, the PVBL will have a 22-game regular season

schedule followed by a double-elimination playoffs. The league, which had five teams last year and had to utilize multiple byes throughout the season, will be fielding a sixth team this season.

There are several spots open for that sixth team, so players interested in joining the league should get signed up as soon as possible to claim a spot.

The league is a wood-bat only league utilizing playing under regular baseball rules though all players do bat. The league operates on a Saturday-Tuesday schedule. Games are played on Satur-

day mornings with 10 a.m. starts typical and on Tuesday evenings with start times in the 5:30 to 6 p.m. range. The league will start play in late April and running through the end of August. There are slots open for both full-time players and part-time players. The fee for full-time players will be \$260 with part-time players getting up to 11 games for \$130. Fees paid go toward the operation of the league, paying for insurance, umpires, fields, and baseballs and no one profits in any way.

In addition to the new sixth team, there are limited open roster spots on the oth-

er teams in the league, so get your registration in as soon as possible to participate in this season.

Games are played at ballfields throughout the region from as far south as Southwick's Whalley Field, through South Hadley's Beachgrounds and up north at Frontier Regional High School in South Deerfield.

For any questions, please go to the league website for more information. The league hopes interested players will come out and join the fun this spring and summer.

**RAMS** from page 7

overall record, defeated Lee High School, 62-46, in the Western Division 3 championship game at the historic Curry Hicks Cage located on the UMass Amherst campus. They then defeated Quabog, 48-43, in the Division 3 state semifinals before losing to Eastern Mass. champion Archbishop Williams, 62-48, in the state finals.

Moreno scored 14 of her game-high 30 points in the Class D finals during the fourth quarter. It's the first time that Moreno has scored 30 points in a game since she joined the varsity basketball team in the eighth grade. She made a total of seven field goals and four 3-pointers, along with four free throws.

"Once I made my first shot of the game, I didn't miss very many other shots," Moreno said. "I was feeling very good out there tonight."

White, who achieved a significant accomplishment during the regular season by scoring her 1,000th career point, chipped in with 25 points in the championship game.

Moreno and White also combined to score 43 points in the quarterfinal game against eighth-seeded Smith Academy, which was a 55-42 victory.

The Lady Rams (18-3) didn't have very much trouble dispatching fifth-seeded Pioneer Valley Regional, 61-23 in the semifinals. Their first two games in the Class D tournament took place inside the friendly confines of Sullivan Gymnasium.

Granby's only other scorers in the Class D finals were freshman Rowan Cook (6 points), and junior Eleanor Szlosek (3 points). The two seniors listed on the Lady Rams varsity roster are Mylin Laliberte and Kaitlyn Curran.

PVCA (10-11) played in the Western Mass. finals for the first time in school history.

"Our goal before the start of the season was just to make it to the Western Mass. finals," said PVCA head coach Stephen Porter. "We don't have any seniors, so we're hoping to make it back here again next year and win the title. I'm very proud of my players."

With 2:30 remaining in the third quarter, the Lady Rams were trailing, 46-34, following a put-back hoop from junior Sadie Keegan, who led the Eagles with 27 points.

Moreno hit a 3-pointer before White made a layup during the final seconds, which sliced the Lady Rams deficit to seven points (46-39)



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

**Kalli White goes for the layup.**

entering the fourth quarter. "We were only down by seven points at the start of the

fourth quarter," White said. "Brenna was on fire offensively in the fourth quarter. It

was amazing watching her."

Granby also scored the first six points of the final quarter. They got within one point before a Keegan inside basket helped the Eagles keep the lead at 48-45 with 6:25 left.

The Lady Rams, who briefly held the lead at the end of the first half, took the lead for the second time at 51-50 when Moreno hit a jumper in the lane with 3:25 left in regulation.

Another Keegan put-back hoop gave the Eagles the lead back before Moreno drained a 3-pointer from the right side.

The score was tied for the final time at 54-54 before the Lady Rams finally pulled away with the help of a 10-2 run during the final two minutes. White scored four of those points, while Moreno and Cook both made 3-pointers.

The Lady Rams, who were trailing 19-12, at the end of opening quarter, outscored the Eagles, 20-14 in the second quarter.

Moreno's first 3-pointer of the game gave Granby the lead for the first time at 32-31 with a minute left in the first quarter.

The Eagles began the second half with a 13-2 run, which helped them build a

double digit lead, but the Lady Rams gave their faithful supporters plenty to cheer for during the final eight minutes.

Granby entered the Division 5 state tournament as the eighth seed. They were scheduled to host a round of 32 game.



**Eleanor Szlosek brings in a pass.**

**TIGERS** from page 7

halftime reversed the fortunes of the Tigers, and Pittsfield found itself limited to only 19 points in the entire second half while South Hadley took its turn on offense with 34 points.

Cara Dean would score 15 points to lead the Tigers while Olivia Athas added 13 points. Kate Phillips finished with 12

points.

South Hadley took on a much tougher schedule as they were moved into a new league this year with opponents like Pittsfield and Minnechaug on their regular slate. As a result, South Hadley managed to achieve a high ranking in Division 4 with a 10-10 record after the

Western Mass. semifinals. After the finals, South Hadley had risen above .500 at 11-10 overall and the No. 3 seed in the state tournament. South Hadley will play at home through the state semifinals, when sites become neutral. South Hadley girls basketball has played in the state semifinals multiple times and the

state finals once in the past five years since the new tournament started.

South Hadley awaits its first opponent of the state tournament potentially on Feb. 27 at 6 p.m. Their opponent will be the winner of the Feb. 25 preliminary round matchup between No. 30 Mt. Greylock and No. 35 Oxford.



Turley photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

**Kate Phillips looks to shoot under close pressure.**



**Olivia Athas splits the defense and takes a jump shot.**



**Brenna Moreno takes a shot.**



**Kaitlyn Curran gets ready to make a long pass.**



**Ryley McMahon makes an inbound pass.**



**Grace Sherman is pressured near the paint.**

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**LIBRARY** from page 1

and interests," said Children's Librarian Jenny Arch. The library is a place for imagination, play, and freedom to take place, and truly provides a space for everyone to feel welcome. Upcoming programs to watch for and plan to attend include a visit from the SSO Musical Petting Zoo on Saturday, March 28, and Henry the Juggler during April vacation week. Families can also find regular programming throughout the week, not just for va-

cation, and find something to enjoy, like Pajama Storytime on most Monday evenings at 6:30 p.m., or after-school chess with Andy (March 11 and April 8, registration required). "And of course, we have a great summer reading program planned: this year's theme is "Plant A Seed, Read!," said Arch. Get ready for more fun, and to see what else the library has in store for your child or teen.



Enjoying a fun round of Book Bingo!

Submitted photos



Learning the science behind how the different toys function.



Which activity would you choose?



The room was full with tables set up of things to explore for the Playful Engineers Program.

**WILDLIFE** from page 1

Skellington the California King Snake, a Madagascar Hissing Cockroach, and Dorothy "Dotty" the Striped Skunk. "We love coming out to visit people, and our ambassadors are friendly and ready to be greeted," said Sara. Sara spent some time showing each animal, then

telling the kids and their caregivers a little bit about each one, including their habitat, age, and favorite snacks. Kids got the opportunity to, in a safe and controlled environment, to learn that animals like insects and snakes aren't scary, but special and unique.



Dorothy, or "Dotty," the striped skunk curling up after some snuggles from the kids.



Darwin was certainly a favorite as the little ones got to say hello.

Turley photos by Emily-Rose Pappas



Darwin feels like he's flying as he goes around to meet the kids.



There's no need to fear this Madagascar Hissing Cockroach, a pro at helping create compost.



Saying hello to this adorable "danger noodle," Jack Skellington.



Ella kept interrupting to say, "Hi, Ella," and making everyone laugh.



Sara is giving little Ella, the Umbrella Cockatoo, some scratches.

**Public Works updates**

**SOUTH HADLEY** – MassDOT is evaluating eligible communities for the first round of FAIR (Funding for Accelerated Infrastructure Repair), formerly known as the Municipal Rapid Repair and Replacement Program. Below is a link to the Governor's press release announcing the program, along with other municipal investments. <https://www.mass.gov/news/at-mma-governor-healey-announces-major-infusion-of-support-for-municipal-transportation-projects-local-aid>

A bridge in South Hadley has been selected for the first round of this program. The bridge in your community that has been chosen is Morgan Street over Stony Brook – Bridge No. S-18-010(ON1)

This is a bridge preservation program, not a bridge replacement program. Therefore, the proposed work will consist of bridge preservation work such as beam and concrete repairs and we expect no Right of Way impacts and minimal environmental permitting.

The goal of this program is to prevent bridge closures, remove or reduce existing restrictions or weight limits, and extend the useful life of your structure. MassDOT will design, procure, and administer the construction of this work at no cost to your community, and our goal is to advertise this work for construction this year.

Therefore, we are currently performing preliminary investigations, so you may notice activity at your bridge, such as Engineers or Survey Crews. Inclusion in this program does not alter any maintenance or ownership responsibilities, nor does it alleviate the town's responsibility to respond to any emergencies in the interim.

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**Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Probate and Family Court  
Hampshire Probate and Family Court  
15 Atwood Drive  
Northampton, MA  
(413)586-8500  
Docket No.  
HS26P0073EA  
Estate of:  
Anne Theresa O'Connor  
Also known as:  
Anne T. O'Connor  
Date of Death: 11/07/2025  
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 **Sean T O'Connor of Quincy, 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 **Sean T O'Connor of Quincy, 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 03/13/2026. 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**  
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: February 13, 2026  
**Mark S Ames**, Register of Probate  
02/27/2026

**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.  
HS26P0080EA  
Estate of:  
Edward Norman Courchesne  
Date of Death: 11/11/2025  
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 **Raymond G Simon of South Hadley MA** and **Ronald Certer of Chicopee, 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 **Raymond G Simon of South Hadley MA** and **Ronald Certer of Chicopee, 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 03/18/2026. 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**  
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WITNESS, Hon. **Diana S. Velez Harris**, First Justice of this Court.  
Date: February 13, 2026  
**Mark S Ames**, Register of Probate  
02/27/2026

**Town of South Hadley  
Planning Board  
Notice of Public Hearing**  
The Planning Board will hold a public hearing on Monday, **March 9, 2026 at 6:30 PM** to

consider an application for Site Plan Review and Stormwater Management Permit filed by James Falcone c/o TJP Properties LLP to construct two (2) 3,500 square foot one-story office buildings and associated parking lot and stormwater management system on a parcel with an existing commercial building at 577 Granby Road, South Hadley, Massachusetts, Assessor's Map 32, Parcel 42, within the Business A-1 zoning district.

The application is filed pursuant to South Hadley Zoning Bylaw Chapter 255 Article XII Site Plan Review; Chapter 255 Use and Dimensional Regulation Schedules; and Chapter 200 Stormwater Management of the South Hadley General Bylaws.

The public hearing will be held in a hybrid format with in-person attendance at the South Hadley Council on Aging, Multipurpose Room, 45 Dayton Street, South Hadley. Virtual attendance is also welcome through the Zoom Webinar platform via the following login:

URL to join: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86301770371?pwd=s051CnIzUBBQGX1Zd7RRqgr2Ubdlx.1>

Join by phone: (646) 558 8656  
Webinar ID: 863 0177 0371;  
Passcode: 766965

The application is on file in the Planning and Conservation Department at Town Hall, Room U6, 116 Main Street, South Hadley, and is available to the public for review between the hours of 8:30AM and 4:00PM. Plans are also available online at [www.southhadley.org/1179/Site-Plan-Review](http://www.southhadley.org/1179/Site-Plan-Review) under "Granby Road (577) - Professional Office Space".

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

Brad Hutchison, Clerk  
South Hadley Planning Board  
02/20, 02/27/2026

**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.  
HS26P0087EA  
Estate of:  
Anne Julianna Szafranowicz  
Also known as:  
Anne J. Szafranowicz  
Date of Death: 01/14/2026  
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 **John Szafranowicz of South Hadley, 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 **John Szafranowicz of South Hadley, 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 03/18/2026. 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**  
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: February 17, 2026  
**Mark S Ames**, Register of Probate  
02/27/2026

**Town of South Hadley  
Planning Board  
Notice of Public Hearing**  
The Planning Board will hold a public hearing on **Monday, March 9, 2026 at 7:00 PM** to consider a repeal and replacement of the South Hadley Zoning Bylaw Chapter 255-91 Floodplain Regulations. The public hearing will be held in a hybrid format with in-person attendance at the South Hadley Council on Aging, Multipurpose Room, 45 Dayton Street, South Hadley. Virtual attendance is also welcome through the Zoom Webinar platform via the following login:

URL to join: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86301770371?pwd=s051CnIzUBBQGX1Zd7RRqgr2Ubdlx.1>

Join by phone: (646) 558 8656  
Webinar ID: 863 0177 0371;  
Passcode: 766965  
The proposed bylaw amendment is on file in the Planning and Conservation Department at Town Hall, Room U6, 116 Main Street, South Hadley, and is available to the public for review between the hours of 8:30AM and 4:00PM. Materials are also available online at <https://southhadley.org/1318/Proposed-Draft-Bylaws> under "Floodplain Regulations".

Any person interested in or wishing to be heard should appear/join the hearing at the date and time specified and in the manner designated. This notice is filed pursuant to MGL c40A,

sec. 5.  
Brad Hutchison, Clerk  
South Hadley Planning Board  
02/20, 02/27/2026

**GRANBY  
PLANNING BOARD  
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**  
In accordance with MGL Ch. 40A, Sec. 11, the Granby Planning Board will hold a public hearing on **March 9, 2026, at 5:50 PM**, at 1 Library Lane, Old Carnegie Library, Top Floor, Granby, MA. The nature of the hearing is to consider the petition of Smith - Merrill Inc dba Dressels Service Station (Applicant) / Merrill Holdings LLC (Owner), seeking a Special Permit with Site Plan Approval for a used auto sales in addition to current use of automotive repair, under Sections 6.2 and 6.3 of the Granby Zoning Bylaws and applicable of Section III - Use Regulations, 3.5.10 - Sale of used motor vehicles at 161 West State Street, and known as Assessors' Map 3-C-10-1, in the General Business Zoning District.

The complete applications and plans are available for public inspection during regular business hours (9:00AM - 3:00 PM, Monday-Thursday, and 9:00AM - 12:00 PM Fridays) at the Select Board's Office located in the Granby Senior Center Building, 2nd Floor, 10-B West State Street, Granby, MA 01033.

Anyone wishing information and/or to be heard on this matter should appear at the time and place designated.

James Trompke, Chair  
Granby Planning Board  
02/20, 2/27/2026

## Need help affording food? Call Project Bread's toll-free FoodSource hotline

**REGION** - When food costs compete with heating bills and rent, many Massachusetts families are facing impossible choices. The uncertainty around nutrition policy changes makes the situation even more challenging. If you or your family need help accessing food, call Project Bread's toll-free FoodSource Hotline today at 1-800-645-8333. The FoodSource Hotline connects residents to resources right now. Trained counselors help with applications for the Supplemental

Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), share resources on the Healthy Incentives Program (HIP), connect families to free meals for children, and locate emergency food programs like community meals and food pantries. The hotline also provides referrals to other federal nutrition programs, like Women, Infants, and Children (WIC). Whether you're a college student, a senior, or a family facing hardship, the FoodSource Hotline provides confidential, free support. The hotline is recommend-

ed by the Massachusetts Department of Transitional Assistance and the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. Call Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. or Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. for support, available in more than 180 languages. Get Help Now: If you are struggling with food insecurity, call 1-800-645-8333. Visit [projectbread.org](http://projectbread.org) for more information and resources in English, Spanish, Portuguese, Chinese, Vietnamese, and Haitian Creole.

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- CLUES ACROSS**
- 1. What travelers must do
  - 5. Calendar month
  - 8. Hopefully quickly
  - 12. Once more
  - 14. Bravo! Bravo!
  - 15. "Cheers" actress
  - 16. Astronomy unit
  - 18. Savings vehicle
  - 19. Get your ducks in this
  - 20. Right away
  - 21. Popular sports league
  - 22. Containers
  - 23. Entireties
  - 26. One who wassails
  - 30. Turned-up position
  - 31. Extreme modesty
  - 32. Writing utensil
  - 33. Rewards (archaic)
  - 34. Ancient capital
  - 39. S. American wood sorrel
  - 42. General discomfort
  - 44. Philippine island
  - 46. A witty saying
  - 47. One who summarizes
  - 49. Covered in
  - 50. Mimic
  - 51. Henry was a notable one
  - 56. Daughter of Hera and Zeus
  - 57. Retired NFLer
  - 58. Playground equipment
  - 59. Concept
  - 60. Satisfaction
  - 61. Fishing net
  - 62. Hammer end
  - 63. A father's male child
  - 64. Japanese drink
- CLUES DOWN**
- 1. Off-Broadway figure
  - 2. Gelatinous substance
  - 3. Concern
  - 4. "Lick It Up" rockers
  - 5. Serbian river
  - 6. Part of a hat
  - 7. Bowl-shaped drinking vessel
  - 8. Semitic language
  - 9. Utter a shrill cry
  - 10. Long times
  - 11. Animal parts
  - 13. Causing annoyance
  - 17. Amorous talker
  - 24. Attempt
  - 25. Harmonic effects
  - 26. Cost per mile
  - 27. They \_\_\_
  - 28. Bitterly regret
  - 29. Not even
  - 35. A way to drop
  - 36. Title of respect
  - 37. World leader
  - 38. Georgia rockers
  - 40. National capital
  - 41. Great Plains people
  - 42. Duck-sized dinosaur genus
  - 43. Architectural recesses
  - 44. Member of U.S. Navy
  - 45. Mountainous
  - 47. Kite bird
  - 48. Sweetheart (archaic)
  - 49. Popular snack made of potato
  - 52. 70s songsters The Bee \_\_\_
  - 53. SE China port \_\_\_ - men
  - 54. Something to fill up
  - 55. League of Legends character

Turley Publications is looking for an outgoing, energetic person interested in selling advertising for our community newspapers plus more! The right candidate will assume an established territory with a portfolio of customers.

**LET'S WORK TOGETHER**

You must be a self-starter with excellent communication and organizational skills. Basic computer skills are required. Previous print sales experience is preferred but we will train the right candidate.

**Join Our Team!**  
FAMILY OWNED & OPERATED

**Turley Publications**  
Send resume & cover letter to:  
Jamie Joslyn  
24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069  
Email: [jamie@turley.com](mailto:jamie@turley.com)

**NOW HIRING: Advertising Representative**

Offering a competitive commission structure, 401k, and health plan.

# SUMMER CAMP

Check Out These Great Camps!

## Registration open for HCC Summer Youth Programs

It's still winter, but it's not too early to start thinking about summer.

Registration is now open for 2026 Summer Youth Programs at Holyoke Community College.

Starting July 7 and running through August 8, HCC will offer 16 week-long, in-person summer programs for youth aged 8 to 16.

For more than 40 years, HCC has offered fun, challenging summer education activities for youth, providing early opportunities for students to experience a college environment guided and encouraged by experienced professionals.

HCC's 2026 on-campus

summer youth programs run Monday through Friday, some for a full day and others for a half day.

All in-person programs will be held on the main HCC campus, 303 Homestead Ave., except for cooking classes, which are held at the HCC MGM Culinary Arts Institute, 164 Race St., Holyoke:

**July 6-10:**

Cooking without Borders with Chef Marangelly Vargas-Gonzalez (ages 9-16): In this lively hands-on camp, young chefs will team up to chop, stir, and create tasty dishes from around the world. Each day brings a new theme and a chance to dis-



cover fresh ingredients, cool cooking techniques, and the joy of working together in the kitchen. By week's end,

they'll walk away with new cooking skills, delicious recipes to show off at home, and plenty of tasty memories. (9 a.m. – 3 p.m., \$425)

Fun Bites with Chef Diana Swanigan (ages 9-16): Join us for an exciting week of hands-on culinary fun, where young chefs will discover the joy of cooking delicious, easy-to-prepare meals to share with family and friends. Participants will work together to chop, season, cook, and taste a variety of recipes – all made from scratch. Each day introduces new menu themes, ingredients, and techniques designed to build confidence in the kitchen. (9 a.m. – 3 p.m., \$425)

**July 13-17:** Cooking without Borders with Chef Marangelly Vargas-Gonzalez (ages 9-16, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m., \$425)

Fun Bites with Chef Diana Swanigan (ages 9-16, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m., \$425)

ROBLOX Coders (ages 8-10; 11-14): Discover the Lua coding language while designing experiences in ROBLOX, an online universe where you can create anything you dream of. New developers will learn to use ROBLOX's Studio software to reimagine the popular game genres with their own custom code. Instructor Brittany Pietskowski. (9 a.m. to noon for ages 8-10; 1 to 4 p.m. for ages 11-14, \$199)

**July 20-24:** Around the World with Chef Diana Swanigan (ages 9-16): Cuisine around the world serves as a universal language that unites people across cultures through shared flavors, traditions, and stories. Learn to prepare full-course meals from Asia, Puerto Rico, Greece, Italy,

and New Orleans. (9 a.m. – 3 p.m., \$425)

Make Your First Video Game (ages 8-10; 11-14): Go beyond the limitations of traditional 2D game design classes and create an immersive 3D world. Students will learn the physics behind 3D games, explore beginner event scripting, level design, controlling the flow of gameplay, and storytelling. Instructor Brittany Pietskowski. (9 a.m. – noon for ages 8-10; 1 – 4 p.m. for ages 11-14, \$199)

Passport to Flavors with Chef Marangelly Vargas-Gonzalez (ages 9-16): This hands-on cooking camp takes kids on a delicious journey across global cuisines, exploring flavors, techniques, and ingredients that make each culture unique. Dive into fun daily themes like diner classics, Mexican favorites, Mediterranean feasts, Filipino street bites, and southern comfort food, all while building confidence one tasty dish at a time. (9 a.m. – 3 p.m., \$425)

July 27-31: Around the World with

Chef Diana Swanigan (ages 9-16, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m., \$425)

Minecraft Designers (ages 8-10; 11-14): Learn how to create a custom map, design structures to share between worlds, build with Redstone and Command blocks, and create custom textures for you to import at home or share with friends. Instructor Brittany Pietskowski. (9 a.m. – noon for ages 8-10; 1 – 4 p.m. for ages 11-14, \$199)

Passport to Flavors with Chef Marangelly Vargas-Gonzalez (ages 9-16, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m., \$425)

**August 3-7:** Python Programmers (ages 8-10; 11-14): Learn the world's fastest-growing programming language favored by Google, NASA, YouTube, and the CIA. Learn how to code with Python to create engaging apps and games. Instructor Brittany Pietskowski. (9 a.m. – noon for ages 8-10; 1 – 4 p.m. for ages 11-14, \$199)

For more details or to register for Summer Youth Program classes, please go to: [hcc.edu/summer-youth](http://hcc.edu/summer-youth).

# summer@HCC

## Holyoke Community College Summer Youth Programs for Ages 8-16

Save your spot and register today for summer fun!

**HOLYOKE COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

Check out our adult enrichment courses, too! [hcc.edu/bcs](http://hcc.edu/bcs)

**July 27-31, Minecraft Designers (ages 8-10, 11-14)**  
**August 3-7, Python Programmers (ages 8-10, 11-14)**  
**July 20-24, Make Your First Video Game (ages 8-10, 11-14)**  
**July 13-17, ROBLOX Coders (ages 8-10, 11-14)**  
**July 6-10 and 13-17, Fun Bites with Chef Swanigan (ages 9-16)**  
**July 20-24 and 27-31, Around the world with Chef Swanigan (ages 9-16)**  
**July 6-10 and 13-17, Cooking without Borders with Chef Vargas-Gonzalez (ages 9-16)**  
**July 20-24 and 27-31, Passport to Flavors with Chef Vargas-Gonzalez (ages 9-16)**

### Greene Acres Equestrian Center L.L.C.

**2026 Summer Riding Sessions**  
 June 29 - July 3 • July 20 - July 24  
 August 10 - August 14 • August 24-28

9AM - 3PM LUNCH NOT PROVIDED

Basic Horse Care, Daily Riding, English & Western, Ages 5 & up

Call to Register (413) 813-9291  
 53 Ware Road, Belchertown  
 Email: [Amanda.greeneacres@gmail.com](mailto:Amanda.greeneacres@gmail.com)

### Girl Scout Camp For All Girls!

DAY & OVERNIGHT

[www.gscwm.org](http://www.gscwm.org)

# Belchertown Kidz Club

TODDLER • PRESCHOOL • SCHOOL AGE  
 Offering Flexible Care Programs For Kids Ages 15 mo. - 12 yrs.  
 Open 7:00 a.m.-5:30\* p.m. / MONDAY - FRIDAY  
 Both Full Time & Sibling Discounts

**NOW ENROLLING FOR SPRING/SUMMER/FALL PROGRAMS**

**KIDZ SUMMER PROGRAM/K-6TH GRADE**  
 Ages 5 - 12 yrs. • JUNE 22ND-AUGUST 21ST  
 9 Weeks • Full & Part Time Options/Single Weeks or All Summer!  
 Swimming • Field Trips • Close walk to Playgrounds & CHCS Pool  
 Daily Creative & Educational Indoor/Outdoor Activities!  
 \*Start of camp based on Belchertown School Schedule

**BEFORE & AFTER SCHOOL CARE**  
 K-6th Grade • Full & Part-Time • Homework Support  
 School Bus Pick Up & Drop Off • Indoor & Outdoor Activities

**PRESCHOOL** Year round program for Ages 3-5 yrs.  
 Full & Part Time • Choose from Full Day or 3/4 Day Options  
 Creative Educational Kindergarten Readiness Curriculum

**TODDLER/YOUNG PRE-K** Year round program for Ages 15 mos.-3 yrs.  
 Choice of Full Day 7:00-5:00 or 3/4 day option 8:30-2:30  
 Come Grow, Learn, and Play!

**4 Stadler Street • (413) 323-5439** Follow Us   
[belchertownkidzclub@gmail.com](mailto:belchertownkidzclub@gmail.com) EEC LICENSED PROGRAM #177446

Join Our Toddler Room Waitlist

REGISTER FOR SIX WEEKS, GET THE SEVENTH FREE!

## BEMENT SUMMER CAMP

FOR CHILDREN ENTERING GRADES K-9  
 Campers participate in a wide variety of fun activities including arts & crafts, swimming, nature programs, hiking, and 18 enrichment themes! Lunch is included and before and after care is available!

DAY CAMP	ENRICHMENT CAMPS	Weekly Tuition	MOUNTAIN BIKING & ADVENTURE CAMPS
JR. DAY CAMP		\$350-\$500	

WEEK 1: JUNE 15-19	Studio Arts & Crafts	Cross Country Camp	Garner's Guild
WEEK 2: JUNE 22-26	Speech & Debate	Taylor Swift Camp	STEM Challenges!
WEEK 3: JULY 6-10	Broadway at Bement	Soccer Club	Mission Monadsnack
WEEK 4: JULY 13-17	Magic Behind the Music	D&D Camp	History Hunters
WEEK 5: JULY 20-24	Graphic Novel Camp	Counselor in Training	Flag Football & More
WEEK 6: JULY 27-31	Little Explorers Camp	Soccer Camp	PE Games & Sports
WEEK 7: AUGUST 3-7	Movie Magic Camp	Spanish Explorers	

The Bement School  
 134 Old Main Street  
 Deerfield, MA 01022

Registration Link  
[bement.org/summer](http://bement.org/summer)