

TOWN Reminder

FREE
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South Hadley Celebrates July Fourth

By Tessa Quinn
Correspondent

SOUTH HADLEY – The sky over the Michael E. Smith Middle school in South Hadley was bright last Wednesday night, all in honor of the United States' birthday.

To celebrate the Fourth of July, locals gathered at the school to watch the annual fireworks. It was a beautiful night full of rides, games, and fried dough.

Many locals were out in full force showing off their Ameri-

Please see **CELEBRATE**, page 16



Turley photos by Tessa Quinn
Shawn and Maizley Thebodo are all smiles while they wait for the South Hadley fireworks to begin.

Board of Health hears dog complaint

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

GRANBY – The Board of Health met virtually in mid-June to discuss and approve of various food licenses, and Title V reports from various properties around the town.

The June 18 meeting was held virtually by Chair William Shaheen, and members Richard Bombardier and Lee Lalonde. Also in attendance was Health Assistant Colleen Aberdale and Health Inspector Lynn Diniz.

Food license requests

The Thai Place requested Mobile Food License at Wine Haus in order to sell food at an upcoming event at the vineyard on June 23. The board moved to approve the license request.

The Friends of Granby Veterans requested a temporary food license for a spaghetti supper on June 29 at The Sacred Heart of Mary, and the board approved the request.

The new owner of Brusco's Liquors requested licenses for tobacco, retail food, and milk permits, the same ones the former owner had, and the board approved of these license requests as well.

Camp MacDuffie sent in a request for a Recreation Camp License, and the board approved of this request as well.

Concerns and complaints

Dog officer Kim Bernier-Goldsmith came to the board with a concern about

Please see **COMPLAINT**, page 3

SHELD Commission updates progress

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

SOUTH HADLEY – The SHELD Commissioners met a few weeks ago, and met with representatives from Meyers Brothers Kalicka, and others, to discuss financial reports, and more.

Chair John Hine held the June 21 meeting, and he was joined by Ron Coutu, Kurt Schenker, Paul Dobosh, and Tom Terry.

Also in attendance were Kim Mendoza, Michael Conchieri,

Sean Fitzgerald, Kelly Frazier, and Adam St. Martin, as well as representatives from Meyers Brothers Kalicka, P.C.

2023 audited financial statements report, presentation

The financial statements were given by members of Meyers Brothers Kalicka, P.C., ready by representatives Howard Cheney, Mia McDonald, and Karen Korpinen.

"We have recently spent some time going over the same information, perhaps in a little more detail," Cheney said, be-

ginning the presentation.

"Throughout our audit work, we do not end up changing the numbers given to us... if any, throughout the course of our audit," Cheney said. "The information presented is not significantly changed by us. You can feel comfortable relying on that information."

The presentation also included the positive comments on coordination between managers and SHELD, as well as a commendation from Cheney that

Please see **SHELD**, page 5

Health fair held at COA

Resources for the senior community brought together

By Samuel Gelinas
Correspondent

SOUTH HADLEY — This week the South Hadley Council on Aging hosted a health fair, bringing together organizations, who advertised access to various resources for the senior community, including transportation, health care, property

maintenance, and other locally based, quality of life-oriented programming.

The intent was to broadcast "tools that can allow you to stay in your home as you age," said COA Activities and Volunteer coordinator Kathy Florence. "You don't have to go into assisted living," she continued.

Personnel from various town departments were present, offering various resources, including the library and

Please see **HEALTH FAIR**, page 3

► South Hadley

Kids-on-track

On Aug. 3 and Aug. 4, the Amherst Railway Society, CTrail, and Springfield Union Station are jointly sponsoring Kids ON TRACK at Union Station in Springfield, Massachusetts.

Area model railroad clubs will have operating model railroads set up in the Union Station concourse, and children (of all ages) will have a chance to run trains. Model railroads are fascinating to watch. But, the real thrill is getting a chance to run your own train. And, that's what Kids ON TRACK is all about.

CTrail is offering \$5 round-trip train rides between Springfield and Hartford both mornings.

Maggie the Railroad Clown will be at the event both days performing magic tricks, juggling, and creating balloon wizardry. Maggie is a graduate of the prestigious Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Clown College. She spent four years traveling with the Greatest Show On Earth. Kids ON TRACK is an emerg-



Submitted Photo

Kids will be able to experience getting a chance to run a train at Kids-on-track.

ing national effort by the model railroad industry to encourage young modelers, and link model railroading to STEM education.

There is no charge for this event and the Union Station

parking garage, located on Main Street, will be offering a special \$2 event parking fee.

For more on Kids ON TRACK, visit: <https://amherstrail.org/kids-on-track/>.

Know Your Town meeting well attended

SOUTH HADLEY— The Know Your Town Annual Meeting was well attended and was an absolute success, Monday evening, June 17 at the Main Public Library.

Thank you to Linda Young for the beautiful, colorful tablecloths and flowers that adorned the dining tables and the buffet tables.

Thank you to Martha Terry for additional tablecloths and flowers to brighten the room.

Thank you to all KYT members and friends who brought delicious, sumptuous dishes for the buffet table. The dishes were abundant and so original. Thank you so much

The evening began with a social half hour, followed by the buffet. Linda Young gave a welcoming address.

The very brief business meeting began at 6 p.m.

Robert Judge, though not present, was introduced as the KYT Citizen of the Year. Linda Young gave an overview of the process of the selection of the Know Your Town Citizen of the Year, an award that formerly was given out by the South Hadley Lions' Club.

Sarah Cormier, a graduating Senior at South Hadley High School, was introduced as the

KYT recipient of the Anne Battersby Scholarship.

Linda Young read a very nice prepared statement about Sarah, her life at and outside of the high school, and her goals for the future.

Linda Young was recognized with a small gift for all her dedication to KYT over the past year.

Joan Rosner, though not present, was recognized for her attention to the scholarship and the awardee.

Lucia Foley, not present, was recognized for her work to keep the KYT website KnowYourTown.org up to the minute.

Ann Stockton was recognized with a small gift for her role as the moderator at the March KYT sponsored local Candidates' Night.

Martha Terry gave the required treasurer's report and a summary of the past year's activities which KYT sponsored.

Dr. Carrie Baker, JD, gave the keynote address on "The Status of Women's Health Care Since the Overturning of

Roe vs. Wade", and much discussion followed.

Thank you to all who lent a hand to make this event possible.

Real estate, personal property bills mailed July 1

SOUTH HADLEY – FY 2025 Quarter 1 Real Estate & Personal Property bills were mailed out to residents on July 1, 2024. The due date for Real Estate & Personal Property bills is August 1, 2024.

If you have not received your bill, please email our office at:

collector@southhadleyma.gov or call 413-538-5030 ext. 6189 and we can send you a new one. Bills can also be viewed/printed through Invoice Cloud which can be accessed from our website.

Payment can be made online through the Town of South Had-

ley's website, southhadleyma.gov, click on the online bill pay square to access the bill menu, by mail, dropped in our Dropbox conveniently located the Police Department on Bridge Street or you can pay in person Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.



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BOH discusses grant opportunity and new growth

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

SOUTH HADLEY – The Board of Health met earlier last month to discuss the organization of a grant of \$509,000 to the state, the Public Health Excellence Grant.

The grant, which was awarded to the town of South Hadley, as well as several others across Massachusetts, serves as a boost towards the public health services the town or city offers, and is awarded by the state.

Public Health Excellence Grant

The Public Health Excellence

Grant is awarded to the 351 other Health Departments across Massachusetts and are each funded by their municipalities.

“The Public Health Excellence Grants encourage municipalities to work together and share some services, as determined by their health directors,” Jenneke Reynolds said.

The funds are used primarily to fund a part time health inspector as well as a full time public health nurse. The members on this team are working in Chicopee, Holyoke, and Southampton, making up their PHE group, in order to equitably promote health.

“We aim to meet the requirements of inspecting all food es-

tablishments regularly so that all diners can expect a healthy experience when buying prepared food,” Reynolds said.

“Our nurse is working on health communication for chronic diseases most affecting our communities, and also is working on increasing vaccine confidence locally,” Reynolds said.

Health Departments are essential to the communities and help to provide many different services in order to ensure that the health and safety of the residents of these municipalities is kept at the highest importance.

“Health Departments are involved with so many aspects of our community’s health, and we are working to increase the ca-

capacity of our health departments to improve health outcomes,” Reynolds said.

The Public Health Excellence Grant, then, ensures that communities across Massachusetts have access to health services, and empowers towns to be able to provide this care to their residents.

Regular meeting business: Approval of the Payment

The June 21 meeting was short, and held virtually by Vice Chair Christine McKiernan, and she was joined by Clerk Karen Walsh Pio, and member Stephen Frantz.

“At our May 6 meeting, we had a conversation that the town

receives a \$509,000 grant for three years, potentially up to nine years if it gets renewed,” McKiernan explained.

The board reviewed the minutes from the meeting and agreed to pay Director of Public Health Sharon D. Hart \$2,500 per quarter from the Public Health Excellence Grant.

The grant, which is currently at the amount of \$509,000, is assigned to three communities: “one regional coordinator, two regional health inspectors, and one regional nurse have been hired,” McKiernan said.

“Now is a growth season,” Frantz said.

HEALTH FAIR from page 1

Veterans’ services. Town Clerk Sarah Gmeiner was available to register voters, and the newly appointed COA director, Julie Pearce, also sat down to discuss with participants of the health fair the various activities and resources available through the COA.

The South Hadley Fire Department advertised home safety checks, aimed at fire prevention, which can be requested by personnel of the fire dept.

Another perhaps overlooked detail the fire department stressed was the importance of detectable house numbers for responding to emergencies, which can be carried out “by using large visible numbers.”

“If your house is set back from the street, then you can post your number on your mailbox as well. You want at least four inch (numbers), and non-contrasting. Reflectiveness is always good. The important thing is you see it from the street.” said Captain Paramedic Jay Houle.

House numbers, which the fire department will come and install, are available for free through TRIAD, a town initiative for crime prevention and law enforcement cooperation with the senior community.

Joseph Rodio, adult services librarian at the South Hadley Public Library, shared the assets the library provides the community. “An active brain is a healthy brain,” he stated.

“Between the books we have,

and the programs which are free, we have a lot of ways to help keep you active and involved in the community,” he continued.

Daniele Bachand, assistant recreation director, shared information on local outlets to get in shape in exercise, or to cure boredom and fatigue.

“We have adult tennis lessons, an outdoor fitness program that’s going to be starting in the mornings,” she shared.

The South Hadley Summer Concert Series, will be taking place throughout the summer on Thursday nights from 6:30 to 8 p.m. around the gazebo of the Commons.

Ali Maggio represented Pioneer Valley United Way, an organization dedicated to “volunteerism” throughout Hampden County, Granby, and South Hadley.

“We connect nonprofits and volunteers. We have a platform that nonprofits can post their non-profit opportunities on. So anyone looking for volunteering can go and check it out.”

As health can be a determiner of whether a person is able to remain living independently, several organizations provided both advice and outlets for obtaining medical attention.

Holyoke Medical Center hosted a booth focused on heart health and stroke prevention. Nurse Mariah Peltier advised regular blood pressure checks, as well as seeking help in the case of chest pains or concerning aches. “It’s really as simple as that,” she stated.

Alzheimers, an increasingly prevalent disease among the elderly, is now treatable if detected early enough, and the first Alzheimer’s drug, Lequmbi. Released in 2023 as the first Alzheimer’s medication, Lequmbi “slows” the disease.

When asked whether persons are able to live independently with the disease, Shauna Dandy of the Alzheimer’s Association replied, “every person is different; every journey is different.”

She shared the ten warning signs of the disease, as well as drew attention to the 24/7 helpline run by the Alzheimer’s Association, as well as other no cost services.

“Dementia is the umbrella term of Alzheimer’s; Alzheimers is usually just the most common and the most talked about,” said Dandy. The association will be hosting a ‘Walk to End Alzheimer’s’ on Oct. 20 at Holyoke Community College. More information can be accessed via their website.

These, among other organizations were present, which together stressed the importance of maintaining health, the status of your property, and staying active while aging, while allowing seniors to be informed that even if they choose to live alone, they are not without resources and outlets for assistance, both within town and locally.

More information on local programming can be obtained from the South Hadley COA on 45 Dayton Street in South Hadley.

Local business grants available

SOUTH HADLEY – The South Hadley & Granby Chamber of Commerce has created a capacity building grant program for businesses in our municipalities. Under our grant program, funded by the Commonwealth of MA’s Workforce/Economic Development Initiative, the SHG Chamber will award eligible South Hadley and Granby businesses up

to \$5,000 each. Grants may be used in the following areas:

Website Design or Redesign, Marketing, Social Media, IT Infrastructure Enhancements, Professional Development, Resource Skill Development, Business Coaching, and Strategic Planning.

Applications now being accepted online: www.shgchamber.com.

COMPLAINT from page 1

a dog who has bitten several times, for the board to come up with a resolution for the issue of quarantining the dog.

When it comes to a dog that is repeatedly biting, some owners may no longer want to have the dog on their property because of risk of them biting again, as with this case.

The board discussed a way to make it fair to Bernier-Goldsmith, for having to board and quarantine the dog, to receive \$35 to keep the dog per night.

The board then addressed a complaint that they received for a septic system on 49 Barton Street, and the property, which is currently empty.

According to Title V, once a report of a failed septic system has been made, the owner of the property has six months to amend the issue and get it fixed.

Title V reports

51 Kendall Street, the first

of several properties to discuss, is a property that has not been occupied for two years, and the question was whether or not to approve of it or not.

“I think that the answer to this is to, in this case, send the letter to the owner, and the real estate agent, saying we’ve got a pass Title V, but that the board requires a reinspection,” Shaheen said.

The next property is at 111 Munsing Ridge for a 1500-gallon tank, and a four-foot separation, and he board approved of it as long as the tank is well-maintained.

The discussed other properties with various problems in need of fixing including septic tanks and checking that the paths are clear to these tanks.

The board recommended sending a letter to the owner of the property to remind them that, because of health concerns, the property cannot be inhabited until the fixes needed to be made to the tank are met.

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Opinion



Will IRA withdrawals affect my Medicare premiums?

Dear Rusty:

I am a member of AMAC and learn so much from the Ask Rusty column.

I hope you can give me some information about a question that has come up in my family. My husband is retired and has reached Full Retirement Age. He is considering withdrawing money from an IRA to pay off our mortgage. We are wondering what, if any, penalties may be incurred on Social Security, Medicare and income tax. Thank you for your help in this matter.

Signed: Concerned Taxpayer

Dear Concerned:

Thank you for contacting the AMAC Foundation Social Security Advisory Service.

Regarding your question on the impact of withdrawing IRA funds, there is no impact to your husband's gross Social Security benefit. The amount withdrawn, of course, is considered ordinary income for federal income tax purposes and will need to be included as such on your federal income tax return and will therefore affect your federal income tax liability when you file the return.

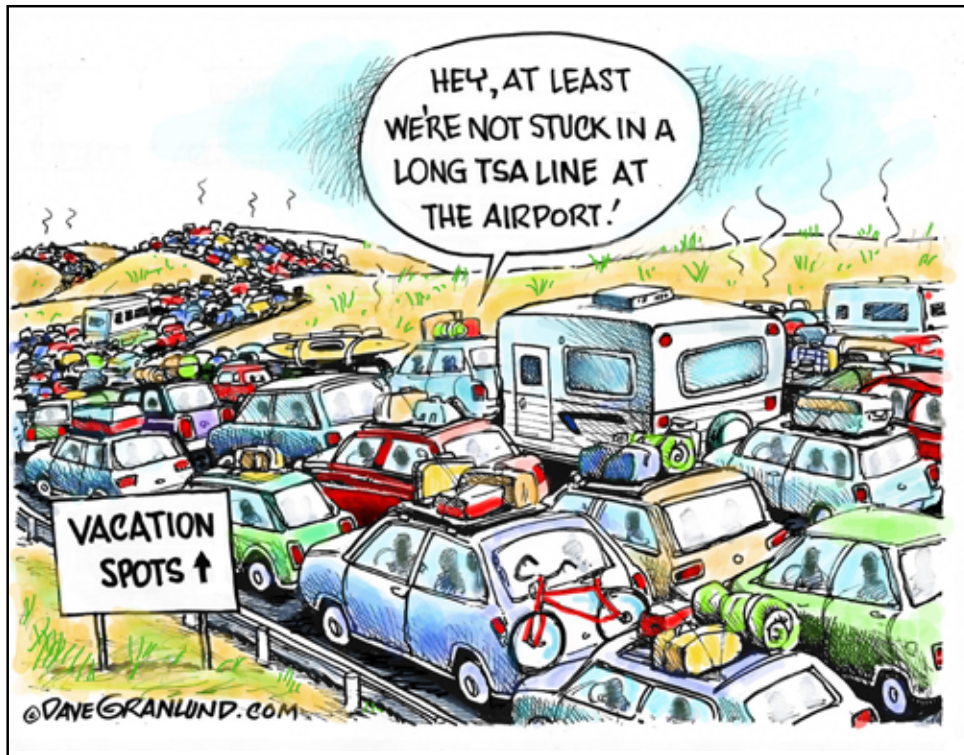
Depending on the amount withdrawn, there could be an impact to the Medicare premium due to the Income-Related Monthly Adjustment Amount provision. Assuming you file jointly, you will pay a higher Medicare Part B premium if your modified adjusted gross income is above certain thresholds, i.e., more than \$103,000 for an individual and \$206,000 for a married couple.

Please note that Medicare's procedures will not note this income change for two years, so if you make the withdrawal in 2024 it will not trigger the increases until your 2026 Medicare premiums. A change to your Medicare premium might also result in a change to your net Social Security payment at that time since Medicare is automatically deducted from your Social Security payment.

Also depending on the amount withdrawn, you may have to pay an additional amount on top of your Medicare Part D premium. The Part D adjustment amount is calculated based on a percentage of the Part D national base beneficiary premium, not on a percentage of the plan premium.

The Social Security Administration mails letters to beneficiaries, who currently pay a Part B Income-Related Monthly Adjustment Amount and, according to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, are in a Part D plan. The letter explains the additional Part D amount and how exactly Social Security will collect it. You can contact SSA at 1-800-772-1213 or your local SSA agency if you have any further questions about your Part D IRMAA premium.

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



The Garden Lady tackles the Rose of Sharon

Paul, who gardens in Palmer, wrote in with this timely question for the Garden Lady: "My question deals with the Rose of Sharon and the many seedlings that it disburses. I have a large bush/tree in my front yard, and it disburses many seedlings. I have weeded the seedlings going on three times this spring and summer. When is the best time to cut the dead blossoms off the tree so that I don't repeat this task? Please share any other hints/ideas about the Rose of Sharon shrub."

This is a perfect question, since bloom time for the Rose of Sharon (*Hibiscus syriacus*) is right around the corner.

Like you, I am familiar with the shrub's tendency to self-sow, a lot. The best way to halt all of the seedlings coming is to "dead-head" the flowers as they begin to fade, before they are given the opportunity to make and drop seed.

Some would argue that this is, in fact, as much or more work as weeding the seedlings away. I guess it all depends whether you prefer to work standing up or on your hands and knees.

One suggestion I have would be to weed by use of a scuffle hoe. It's a tool you use standing up whereby you drag the scuffle across the soil.

It cuts the weed away from its roots, stopping it dead in its tracks. If you do this every week, the weeds will be so small that they will just wither in the sun- you don't even have to pick them up.

That may be the easiest way out of your overabundance of seedlings.

You also asked for some information about the shrub. Here are some excerpts from a column I wrote a few years ago that you might find interesting, especially in regard to the appropriate time of year to prune.

The Rose of Sharon is also known as Shrub Althea. It is a member of the mallow family, a diverse bunch of plants that include hollyhocks, marsh mallows, cotton, okra and even tropical hibiscus as kin.

Although native to Asia, it had already found a home in North America by 1600. In the 19th century it was among the most popular shrubs in the nursery trade. It grows well in zones 5-8.

The Rose of Sharon has an upright growth habit that lends itself well to all types of combination plantings: in foundation plantings, as stand alone hedges, and as the backdrop for perennial borders. Likewise, a single shrub can be trained to be an outstanding specimen.

Because its flowers are borne on new growth rather than old, pruning can be accomplished in late winter or early spring without the risk of sacrificing blooms. As with most shrubs, concentrate first on removing any dead branches, then remove those that are crossing or rubbing on one another.

If growth needs to be checked, cut well into the shrub to decrease its height and girth.

Cutting back to a bud that points outward and in the direction of least competition will result in a bushy, less lanky shrub- one suitable for use as a specimen. Frequent pruning results in fewer but larger flowers, whereas no or little pruning gives way to many small flowers.

Plant the Rose of Sharon in full sun or part shade situations. Although it is tolerant of many types of soil, from seashore sandy to wet, this shrub prefers deep, well-drained soil to perform its best.

Fertilization is rarely necessary. Although Japanese beetles are said to favor the flowers, I haven't had much of a problem with them at home or at work.

To intentionally propagate this plant, simply take a softwood cutting four or five inches long in early summer. Remove lower foliage and insert into the ground in a shady location. Water as needed.

By the season end roots will have likely formed, but wait until spring to move your cutting to a nursery bed.

As mentioned, seeds of the Rose of Sharon have also been known to sprout under the mother plant, sometimes to the degree of being a nuisance. Grow these seedlings on and

Please see **GARDEN**, page 13

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Try your hand at a new game at Buttery Brook Park

To the editor:

After a morning of Pickleball, try a game of Kubb.

Buttery Brook Park on Saturday mornings at 11 a.m. is the place to be. Come play the best lawn game on the planet - known as Kubb. There will be instruction on how to play and for those of whom already know

the game jump right in and play a match. The game will be setup between the pickleball courts and the basketball court.

Bring the family and friends for a fun morning. I encourage the "Friends of Buttery Brook Park" committee to spread the word.

Sincerely

Bill Paul

OPINION PAGE/ LETTERS POLICY

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

Unsigned or anonymous letters will NOT be published.

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

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

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By Ellenor Downer

I received an email from a Belchertown resident, she said, "I have had a whip-poor-will in my yard for about a month."

She also said, "I hear the call every morning around 4 a.m. and in the evening around 9 p.m. I have not had one for the past 10 years and am quite lucky to have again."

She said she lives in a quiet neighborhood and she was wondering if any other folks have them. She is fortunate. It has been many years since I heard the call of

the whip-poor-will.

The whip-poor-will is ten inches long and are mostly heard calling in the evening. It is a brownish to dusk colored bird, which blends in well with its surroundings. In flight, the rounded wings and long tail are visible. They eat aerial insects and feed mostly at night on moths. They are nocturnal and rest during the day. They also eat beetles and grasshoppers.

The whip-poor-will nest on the woodland floor and lays two white eggs with gray or brown spots. Their call is "whip-poor-will," with emphasis on the last syllable. They inhabit open woods, canyons and dry, brushy areas.

Green heron and more

My daughter saw a green heron fly across Route 32 in Ware, near the power supply at the town line on Thursday, June 27. It landed in a small, swampy area. Green herons unlike the great blue and blue heron has a short neck and legs. They



Whip-poor-will

have a blue-green back, reddish brown neck and chest and a long, pointed bill.

The week before she saw a family of raccoons near the pond across from Church Street. The little ones frolicked in the grass; it was the cutest thing. She also saw a pileated woodpecker at the Lucy Stone Park in Warren on a new section of trail. She said, "It flew ahead and landed on a tree. I've never seen one so close before." On June 29, she saw a pair of cedar

waxwings at Hardwick Pond.

Loon facts

The Loon Preservation Committee provided this interesting information in one of their newsletters.

"Loons diving to deeper depths tend to spend more time underwater than those diving in more shallow areas. In a study of loons using Lake Michigan as a stopover site during fall migration, Kenow et al. (2018) found that loons diving to depths of 131 feet were spending, on average, 139 seconds, over two minutes, underwater per dive. In contrast, loons diving to depths of 65 feet in that study were spending less time under water per dive, 87 seconds, on average."

The article also said, "It can be difficult to quantify the absolute maximum amount of time that a loon can spend underwater, as loons likely have no need to

Please see **BACKYARD**, page 6

SHELD from page 1

they have been able to work very well with all involved.

The financial report itself, which details the operating results with a side-by-side comparison of spendings from the years of 2023, and 2022, which show a \$1,041,373 increase in newt position for 2023 overall.

For assets and deferred outflows, the board has seen an increase in income, and for 2022, the board saw \$42,606,089, and for 2023 \$46,099,574.

At the end of the final listing of reviews of the income and expenses for 2023, Cheney shared a draft of the final details of the presentation and the financial audits.

The members of the commission discussed the presentation and next steps on how to create an easy-to-access model for the financial records and more.

March 2024 financials and S&P rating update

The board moved forward to review the financials so far for 2024, and Michael Conchieri shared a slides presentation of the financials in March.

As the rates of electricity have increased progressively throughout 2022, the impacts of the rise of costs, has resulted in changes in numbers.

"Just to put it into perspective, we are still profitable, but not as profitable," Conchieri said.

Conchieri then moved into a report stating the strengths of SHELD, and what the organization has achieved.

He shared that SHELD, with its expenditures and organization, have achieved a high rating regarding the regulation and functioning of the way it has run business from S&P.

Manager's report

The manager, Sean Fitzgerald, came

to the meeting to provide updates regarding the electrical lights of the town, beginning with a discussion of outages across the town.

There has been a total of five outages across the town, and a total of fifty-two customers affected by the outages.

Fitzgerald brought up the need for MDU approval for multi-unit housing for River Crest Installation on various properties. The board moved to approve the River Crest Installation report given by Fitzgerald.

Fiberspring customer survey

Kelly Frazier shared her screen to share the results of a survey given out to customers that have services from Fiberspring, an internet service provider.

When asked if they have received the proper tools and training in order to adequately use and install the internet services, 97% of customers responded in the affirmative.

"That's great feedback, that we know that we're giving the right information, we're answering the right questions, we have the right marketing materials that are helping people be able to utilize our service in a positive way," Frazier said.

The survey also showed that very few had to use the technical support, but that it was a positive and efficient guide and help to any customers that had questions from installing a Roku remote to the internet services themselves.

Three hundred and seventy people responded to the survey, out of just over 2,000 customers within South Hadley itself.

Frazier reported that over 88% of responders voted positively that they would recommend Fiberspring, and 80% responded with a positive remark on Fiberspring as a whole.

"I personally went through all of the comments that went through.. and I personally reached out to those commenters

to resolve anything," Frazier said. "It was very positive, overall."

The board analyzed the performance, call counts, and the areas in which most of the issues were found from customers dealing with the routers or call volume issues.

"It's impressive... and our own internal engineers say it is very high performance," Fitzgerald said.

SHELD business hours

Frazier and Fitzgerald shared a proposal for a slight shift in the staffing hours of operation, to shift the hours by a half hour.

The shift to hours of 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. will allow the new members of SHELD operating technology and office to better service customers.

They took a survey recording the times that customers have called in on,

and noted that the majority of calls were made before 4:00 p.m.

The board moved to approve these new hours of operation.

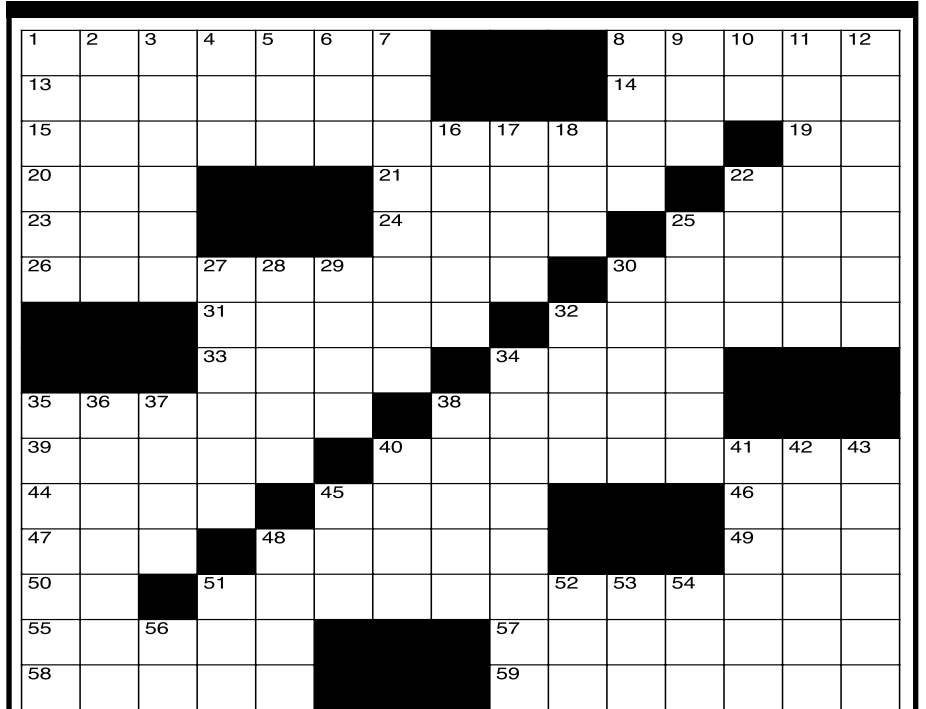
Regular board business

The board moved to approve the minutes from both the open and executive sessions from May 30, and made necessary changes and modifications.

The board also discussed holding hybrid meetings in the library in the smaller conference room for all future participation.

This is following the town's new meeting policies regarding virtual and in-person participation.

These hybrid meetings will begin, moving forward, that the light board will begin hybrid meetings at the library beginning July 25.



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Book size
- 8. Indonesian Island
- 13. "The Sopranos" character
- 14. Plants often found in stews
- 15. Stern
- 19. Atomic #52
- 20. Often seen after a company name
- 21. Silk garments
- 22. Inhibiting hormone (abbr.)
- 23. Type of beer
- 24. Margarine
- 25. Throw lightly
- 26. Explains again
- 30. Raccoon-like animal
- 31. Sneaker parts
- 32. Platforms
- 33. Scored perfectly
- 34. One's essence
- 35. Strikes with a firm blow
- 38. Makes tractors
- 39. Music term
- 40. Lack of energy
- 44. Vestments
- 45. ___ and feathers
- 46. Total
- 47. Gobbler
- 48. One with Japanese immigrant parents
- 49. Type of braking system (abbr.)
- 50. Home of Rudy Flyer
- 51. Manageable
- 55. Lugged
- 57. Irritated
- 58. Sea eagles
- 59. Warm seasons

CLUES DOWN

- 1. About visual sense
- 2. Part of a horse's saddle
- 3. In a way,

- 4. Rocker's accessory
- 5. Very important person
- 6. It precedes two
- 7. Flavored
- 8. Musical notes (slang)
- 10. Mister
- 11. Fine, light linen fabric
- 12. Absence of bacteria
- 16. Discounts
- 17. Area units
- 18. A description of one's life
- 22. Gazelles
- 25. Plumbing fixture
- 27. Makes especially happy
- 28. One side of something many-sided
- 29. Frosts
- 30. Defunct monetary unit of Guinea
- 32. Female animal species
- 34. School terms
- 35. Written law
- 36. Unpleasant aroma
- 37. Nuclear weapon
- 38. One who challenges
- 40. Opposite of first
- 41. Able to be utilized
- 42. Less interesting
- 43. Implants
- 45. Canister
- 48. Gestures
- 51. After B
- 52. Romanian monetary unit
- 53. Long-term memory
- 54. Cash machine
- 56. The Volunteer State

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News & Upcoming Events

SOUTH HADLEY— The 2024 summer library program is in full swing. With a theme of Read, Renew, Repeat so patrons are sure to find something of interest. Everyone from children to adults who register for the summer program can win great prizes just by reading. Stop by the library to register and learn more about the prizes, programs, and special events that are planned. For a full schedule or more information please visit shadleylib.org or call 413-538-5045

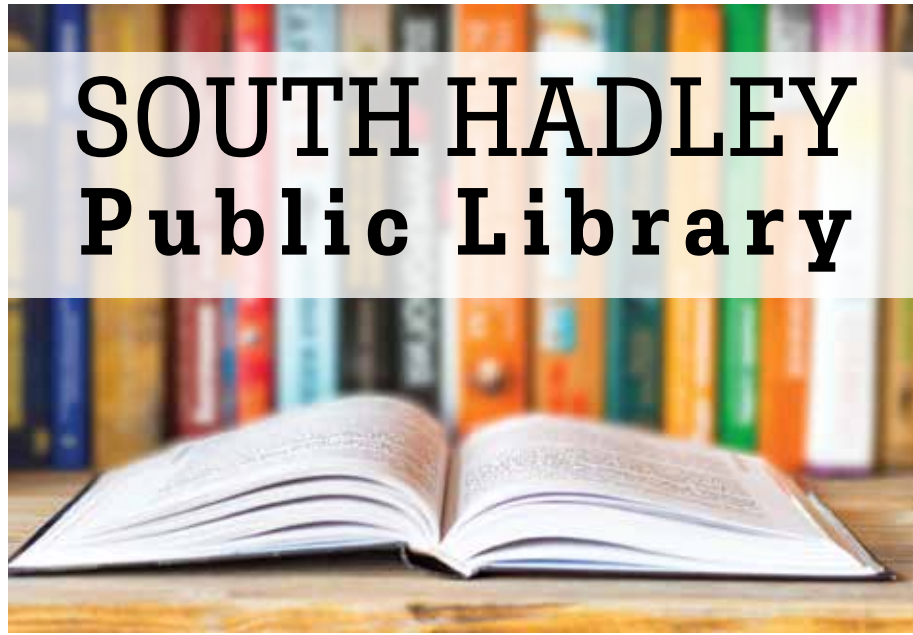
School Reading Lists

Both SHPL and Gaylord have summer reading displays highlighting required/recommended books for South Hadley High School, Michael E. Smith Middle School, and Pioneer Valley Performing Arts Charter School. Staff can point you in the right direction and possibly recommend a good match for each student. What we don't have on hand we can order for you, but don't let your students wait until the last minute.

Adult Programs at SHPL

Outdoor craft for those 12 and up: Up-cycle DIY Stencil T-shirts with Carla on Wednesday, July 17 from 5 to 7 p.m. Please sign up by calling 413-538-5045. Bring a single dark colored plain cotton or poly cotton T-shirt. Please note we are working with bleach.

The Conservation Commission's Rebekah Cornell will be here on Wednesday, July 24 at 6 p.m. for Growing Wild - Why it Makes a Difference. This initiative is quickly gaining momentum to in-



crease native pollinator species across the community. Small backyard efforts make a big difference across greenway connections. This talk will discuss the importance of Growing Wild in your yard, how you can get started, tips for success, and what changes you'll see in your yard by changing the habitat.

The Connecticut River Conservancy will talk about its Connecticut River Source to Sea Clean Up on Wednesday, July 31 at 6 p.m. The Source to Sea Cleanup, which will be in its 28th year in 2024, coordinates thousands of volunteers to remove trash from waterways and communities, resulting in not only cleaner water and healthier habitats, but also a greater sense of connection to our shared

environment. Learn more about the clean-up, trash tally data, current legislation to reduce plastic pollution, and how you can get involved in this important community effort.

Teen Programs at SHPL

Our Summer Reading Program is in full swing. Summer Reading Program specials include T-shirt Tote (Thursday, July 18 at 4 p.m.), Photo Collage (Monday, July 29 at 4 p.m.), and our Guest Presenter for Teen Yoga (Tuesdays, July 16 & 30 at 6:30 p.m.)

Teens are invited to learn about the power of poetry in an online author talk with Elizabeth Acevedo on Tuesday, July 23 at 2 p.m. In this exciting author

conversation and Q&A, Acevedo will provide a short reading from her National Book Award winning and New York Times bestselling novel-in-verse, *The Poet X* serving as the backdrop to this amazing chat! This program will be streamed in the Community Room.

Our Teen Takeaway craft this month is Clay Dragon Eyes. See Bethany for more details or to sign up. Finally, our Teen Advisory Board will be having a meeting this month. Ask Bethany for details.

Children's Programs at SHPL

Trevor the Games Man
Music with Michelle (for ages 6-10)
Wildlife on Wheels (from Forest Park Zoo)
Smokey the Bear and fire truck visit

Got a rising kindergartner or first grader? Join the first meeting of "My First Book Club" on Saturday, July 20; email Jenny (jarch@cwmar.org) if interested.

This summer, for the first time, we'll be screening author talks from some exciting children's authors: Max Brallier on Tuesday, July 16 at 2 p.m., author of *The Last Kids On Earth* series; and Dan Santat on Tuesday, July 30 at 2 p.m., author/illustrator of *A First Time for Everything*. Screenings will take place in the Community Room.

The regular weekly programs continue, including Rhyme Time, Story Time, and Playgroup for little ones, Comics & Crafts (Tuesdays), and Lego & Board Games (Mondays & Wednesdays) for ages 5-11.

Postcards mailed to 2024 census non-respondents

SOUTH HADLEY - Postcards have been mailed to all South Hadley voters who did not return their 2024 Annual Town Census (street listing) and therefore placed on the inactive voter list.

Census forms are mailed to all households every year in January. Voters who fail to respond by the first Monday in June are inactivated per Massachusetts General Law. Inactive voters are still registered voters and will remain registered voters until they fail to vote in two consecutive biennial state elections. Inactive voters at polling stations are required to

show ID and sign an Affirmation of Current and Continuous Residence before they can vote.

To be restored to the active voter list before the next election, residents must complete the postcard, sign where indicated, and return it to the South Hadley Town Clerk's Office at 116 Main St.

Postcards are postage prepaid and can be mailed, but voters may also return the postcards in person in the town clerk's office or the black "treasurer/collector" drop box located between the police station and town hall.

Voters who fail to respond to the postcard will remain on the inactive list unless they vote, respond to the census, or take other action to reinstate their active status.

Voters can check or update their voter registration online any time at <https://www.sec.state.ma.us/OVR/>.

Please contact Town Clerk Sarah Gmeiner's office with any questions, comments, or concerns at 413-538-5030 ext. 6183 or elections@southhadley.ma.gov.

Old Deerfield concert series

DEERFIELD — Beautiful chamber music is performed in the lovely Victorian setting of Memorial Hall Museum's air conditioned Music Room at 3 p.m. on Sundays, from now through Sept. 1. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$8 for seniors and students. Tickets are available at the door.

The entire 2024 season is underwritten by: Martha & Thomas Terry of South Hadley; Tim Neumann & Tom Mershon of Deerfield; and Arrivability Car Service, South Hadley. Generous sponsors for individual concerts appear on each concert program.

Weather permitting, a reception with nibbles, bites, and home baked delicacies is held after each concert in the courtyard and gardens outside the Music Room.

Patrons will have the wonderful opportunity to meet and greet the musicians at that time.

July 21: *Bella Voce*, Lisa Woods, Mezzo-Soprano, Jerry Noble, Piano

July 28: *The Fiske - Shilling Piano Duo*; Jane Fiske & Cynthia Schilling, Piano

Aug. 4: Carol Hutter, Viola; Larry Picard, Piano

Aug. 11: Liana Paniyeva, Piano

Aug. 18: David Kopp, Piano

Aug. 25: *Three of Cups*; Ann-Marie Messbauer, Vocals, Violin, Guitar, Recorder; Deborah Claar, Vocals, Tambourine

Sept. 1: *The Valtchev-Tchekorotova Duo*; Georgy Valtchev, Violin; Lora Tchekorotova, Piano

SEPTEMBER 2024 magazine

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Volunteers sought for tours

BELCHERTOWN— The Belchertown Historical Association is looking for volunteers to give tours of the museum. The Stone House Museum was built in 1827. The house portrays family life during the years 1840-1890. The furniture, textiles, ceramics and carriages all belonged to local residents. The museum committed is offering a workshop for anyone interested to training to become a docent (tour guide). The museum is a busy place and requires a lot of "people support." Contact the historical association if interested and a date for the workshop will be scheduled. Please consider helping in the effort to share the history and to protect the treasures for future generations.

Contact: sallyshattuck54@gmail.com.

BACKYARD from page 5

test their limits during normal bouts of foraging. While there have been anecdotal reports of loons spending up to five minutes at a time underwater, the maximum documented dive duration that we were able to find in the published literature for loons was 219 seconds or 3.65 minutes. However, given that the loon that was documented making this dive was doing so in the process of normal foraging, it

is possible (and likely) that under duress, loons may be able to stay under even longer, perhaps up to the fabled five minutes, or even more."

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

CPD Youth Police Academy learns about underwater response

Activities part of weeklong academy

By Kristin Rivers
krivers@turley.com

CHICOPEE - The CPD Youth Police Academy had the opportunity to learn about underwater response during a visit to Brunelle's Marina in South Hadley on June 27.

The class, now in its sixth year, is supported by the police department and the Boys and Girls Club of Chicopee's Charles E. Shannon Grant and serves residents and students from ages 13 to 16.

For this excursion--taking place on day four of the week-long academy--Cadet Liam Drost was selected as the class leader as everyone learned about water search and rescue and recovery from the police department's dive team, later taking a ride in the police department's water search and rescue boat, visiting the Lady Bea for a tour and ride on the river and enjoying K9 demonstrations.

This year's class, consisting of 30 cadets, graduated on June 28.

Capt. Holly Cote explained in addition to the dive team, the cadets learned how to process a crime scene, took part in a ropes course with the Amherst Police Department and UMass Police Department, did physical training and marching, learned CPR and Stop the Bleed training, checked out a Life Star helicopter and more throughout the week.

"Everything here we try to get interactive and get the kids hands-on with because we figure

the more they're moving around, the more they're going to remember and learn," Cote said. "So, we get them involved in everything."

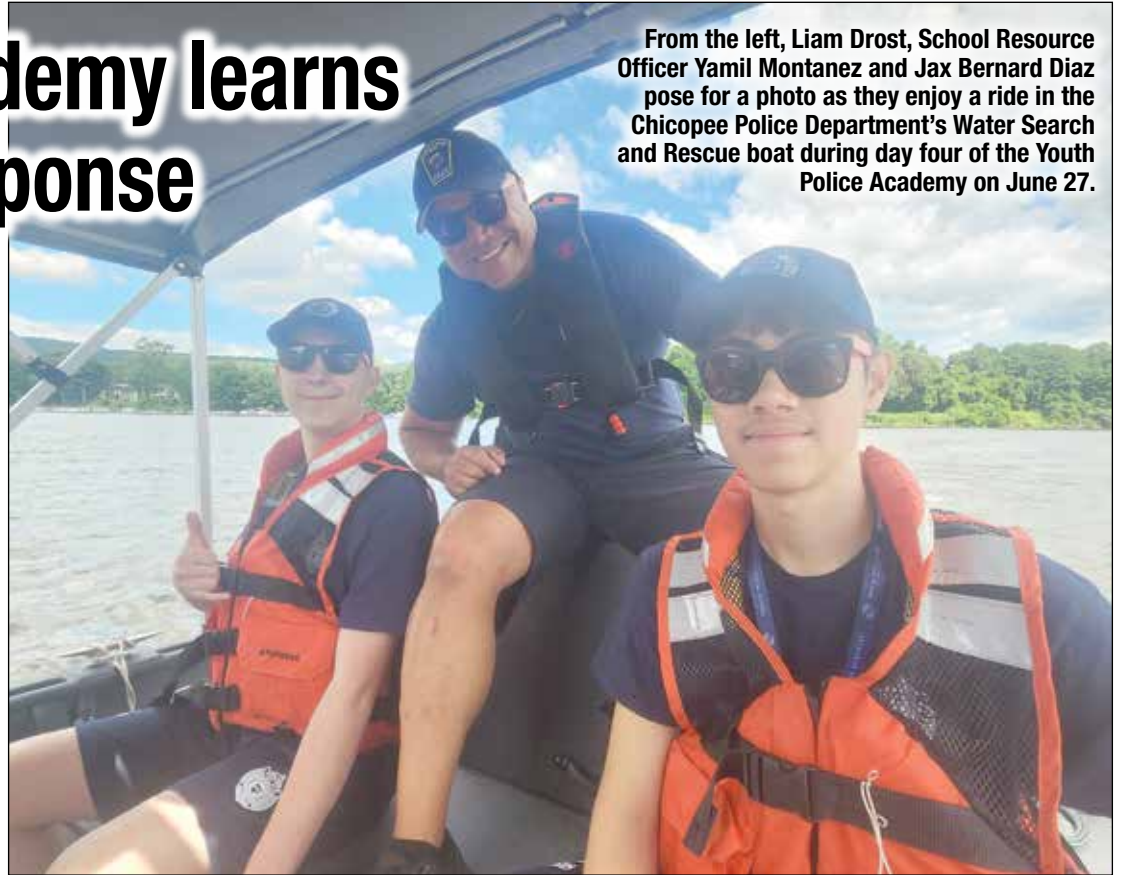
Cote said the police department enjoys doing the youth academy for the opportunity to give back to the community.

"Getting involved with the kids, to show them that we're just regular people in the community as well and they can come to us and they can ask questions and they can learn from us," Cote said. "Also, showing them some ideas of what jobs are out there in public safety. So, down the road if they want to consider being a police officer, entering the military or being a firefighter, they'll see that at the heart of it is public service and service over self."

Chicopee Comprehensive High School's School Resource Officer Mark Hammon served as this year's director, crediting the police department for the youth academy's success.

"It's the success of these kids having fun, getting to see what's going on. We have kids that are repeat participants here, so (that) there tells me that, yes, they want to come back, we provide them with a great program. So, the success isn't measured so much on the leadership I have," Hammon said. "There's a big responsibility, but being a leader is just not one person. It's a team and if you don't have the other instructors that we have out here, we couldn't be successful."

Hammon hopes the cadets take away what the police department is all about and get to know the people behind the uniforms and behind the cruisers, along with inspiring the next



From the left, Liam Drost, School Resource Officer Yamil Montanez and Jax Bernard Diaz pose for a photo as they enjoy a ride in the Chicopee Police Department's Water Search and Rescue boat during day four of the Youth Police Academy on June 27.

Turley photos by Kristin Rivers

generation of officers.

"We want the kids to know that we're there to support them. We're there to help them with their successes and, as I told them earlier, there's a bridge that they're building with the police officer that they're talking with this week and getting to build a relationship with those officers that they'll have for a lifetime," Hammon said.

Drost shared what he learned at the youth academy and how he looked forward to learning about how the dive team works and operates and why they do what they do.

He added he hopes to pursue a career as a police officer and possibly pursue the Special Response Team.

"I've been learning just basically working as a team better and seeing what I can do better

Please see **WATER**, page 8



Emalie Figueroa, Alexis Jusino and Daisy Santiago watch as K9 Chris Galindo explains the police department's dive team and how they conduct water search and rescues.



Leilanie Andular, Cooper Colcombe and Chris Bates give big smiles, peace signs and thumbs up during their ride in the Chicopee Police Department's Water Search and Rescue boat as the Youth Police Academy learned about the police department's underwater response.



A group shot of cadets from the Chicopee Police Department's Youth Police Academy and members of the Chicopee Police Department at Brunelle's Marina in South Hadley. This year's class graduated on June 28.



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Lindsay Beshara, Cadets Chris Bates, Jax Bernard Diaz, Ofc. Eric Brice, Cooper Colcombe, Leilanie Andular, Liam Drost and Capt. Holly Cote in a group photo at Brunelle's Marina in South Hadley during day four of the Chicopee Police Department's Youth Police Academy.



Turley photos by Kristin Rivers

Underwater Response Team Ofc. Stephanie Paquin shows off the equipment the team uses when responding to underwater search and rescue cases.



A shot of the layers for the diving suits worn by the Chicopee Police Department's Underwater Response Team.



Chicopee Police Department's Police Youth Academy Cadets watch as Underwater Response Team Ofc. Stephanie Paquin explains the different pieces of equipment worn by the team.

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Be sure to include a high resolution, clear photograph for printing.

WATER from page 7

as trying to be a leader, trying to get everyone an opportunity to do things and try to push people and push myself," Drost said.

Drost said taking part in the youth academy "is a big commitment."

"I'm happy that we all stayed together and worked as a team and stuck together as basically one big family," Drost said.

Drost encourages the community to join the CPD Youth Police Academy in the future.

"Just join. It's a big experience. You

do things you probably don't think you're going to do," Drost said. "It changes you. It makes you look out to others rather than yourself."

Hammon's message to this year's cadets was this as he expressed how proud he and the department were of them.

"We want the kids to know--what to get out of this--is that they have a voice. There are no barriers and continue to push yourself to the highest level you can," Hammon said.

To learn more and sign up for next year's youth academy, check the police department's website and Facebook page.

Hampshire County Survey on Opioid Settlement Funds

You can help determine how funds are spent in your city/town to address the opioid overdose crisis

Here's how it works:

Scan the QR code to take the survey on your smart phone, or type in bit.ly/hampshirefunds to begin.

This survey is voluntary, anonymous, & should take 10 min.

Please complete the survey by **August 10, 2024**.

Surveys completed by this date will be analyzed for a regional report shared with municipal leaders & community members.

Your response will help identify strategies to address the impacts of addiction and opioid overdoses in Hampshire County.

For more information:

www.HampshireHOPE.org/opioid-settlement



Hampshire HOPE is a county-wide coalition working with regional public health partners. It is a program of the City of Northampton's Dept. of Health & Human Services.

facebook.com/HampshireHOPE

We want to hear from you!

SCAN ME!



Introducing COA Director Julie Pearce

By Samuel Gelinaz
Correspondent

SOUTH HADLEY July marks Julie Pearce's first full month as Director of the South Hadley Council on Aging (COA). She recently sat down with the Town Reminder to share her story and passion for social work, and articulated ambitions for her time as director.

"Sometimes the best part of my job is that my chair swivels," reads a decorative wooden sign behind Pearce's desk, who's spirit animal is a pitbull.

Her father had once told her, "You've got to be a pitbull for people;" a spirit which in many ways has described her career in social work.

She remembers that, "When I first got back to school they asked everybody, 'how many of you here want to hang your own shingle, and do therapy?'"

Everybody in the class raised their hand except for me...that's not what social work is for me. I could do that, but it's not me. My job has always been about, 'how can I make people's lives better.'"

She continued, "Working for the relay for the deaf—that was making people's lives better. Being a police dispatcher—that was making people's lives better."

Pearce, a West Coast native from California, had her first job at Disneyland—"like the real one...I like to call it the real one." After starting college she got into a major car accident, "which derailed everything," and moved to Western Massachusetts in 1995. "I basically ended up doing waitressing and stuff like that."

She then got a job as police dispatcher with Smith College, until "2009 happened," and the Smith College department was laid off, to be combined with the staff at Mount Holyoke.

"I was unemployed. I went back to school after taking care of my dad."

At this point, her father's condition had become "very bad," and needed assistance being placed in hospice after being diagnosed with lung cancer, which spread quickly and disabled his lungs from efficiently pumping oxygen.

She simultaneously dealt with the existential dread of what to do with her life: "Since I was going back to school I was like, 'what am I gonna do.'"

Her dad's doctor was "doctory," as she remembered, with sales pitches, talking over others, and ultimately not prioritizing her dad's comfort. She insisted with the doctor that he be more understanding about her dad's comfort,



COA Director Julie Pearce

particularly when it came to food.

She told the doctor: "How can you tell this man, who's homebound, who has almost nothing he's able to do and his last joys are the New York Times crossword puzzles and eating, that he can't eat? We need to make an effort for him to eat, if that is at all possible."

"I almost got kicked out of the family one time for bringing just any old crossword puzzle book," she said, remembering her dad's fondness for the brand name, New York Times crosswords.

It is at this time that she figured out her life mission.

"They say there are these moments in your life, if you're aware of them, when you realize what you're meant to do."

"This woman walked in from hospice," said Pearce, intoning a heavenly chorus sound effect. "It was like there was a glow coming off the woman."

This woman from hospice was there to provide assistance to Pearce's dad. "The man was tied to oxygen," speaking of her dad, who would become stressed over the fact that Medicare wasn't paying for his oxygen on time.

"She told him, 'I'll take care of that for you,'" referring to the Medicare payments.

The relief she witnessed on her dad galvanized Pearce. "At that moment my reaction was, 'that's what I want to do,'" and decided on social work as her major. "Up until then I was like 'oh I want to be

an English teacher," she said, due to her fascination with grammar and creative writing, as well as being a logophile.

"When I first came out of school, I did elder protective services, which I always tell people you have to picture Superman. You have to be like, 'I don't care if there's poop or pee or vomit or bugs or animals'...I am going to go in there and take care of that person and figure out what needs they have."

She did her Master's while working as director of the program, which would go onto becoming a top tier in Massachusetts. It is during this time that she would also take on work for a money management program, focused on assisting those who could no longer make financial decisions independently.

Then covid happened.

After having done this work for seven years, Pearce decided to take a break. "It's a very intense emotional stress kind of job," and she recognized the need for her as a social worker to herself prioritize self care. "I was a social worker not doing self care."

Her last job immediately before taking on the role of Director in South Hadley was as volunteer and outreach coordinator for the Longmeadow Adult Center, where she also ran their Meals on Wheels program.

Her plan is to provide "stability" as she begins her new chapter with the South Hadley COA. "What they have going on here is fantastic."

Introducing practical administrative tools are among her projects; things such as the hoping to perhaps introduce online registration for programs and events. She cited this as an example of always keeping up with the geist of the aging population, which is a diverse and constantly shifting generational landscape.

"Right now we have some fix-it projects, but moving forward the question is how do we meet the right needs." She expressed her thanks to Lisa Wong and the Town for their assistance, and for understanding the needs of the COA.

Pearce shared her own struggles with a connective tissue disorder. "I'd be a police officer or firefighter if I didn't have a body that's falling apart." After a career being the pitbull—responding to calls while overdose attempts are happening, or having a person die in her arms, she says that in this job, "I get to save people from a chair."

Buttery Brook Park Happenings

Friday, July 12 - Cruise Night featuring the band Axis on the Buttery Brook Park stage, 5 p.m.- 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, July 17 - Free Children's Concert (center pavilion) featuring Annie and the Natural Wonders Band, 10 a.m.

Wednesday, July 17 - Farmer's Market, 2 - 6 p.m.

Thursday, July 18 - Big Rig Day, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

Friday, July 19 - Cruise Night, 5-7:30 p.m.

Pickleball Courts - Daily Open Play (Mon-Sun), 8:30-11a.m. / Weeknight Open Play (Mon-Fri), 4:30-10 p.m.

Spray Park - Open Daily, 10:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m.

St. Francis Giant Tag Sale set for Aug. 24

BELCHERTOWN— The annual St. Francis Giant Tag Sale returns to the Belchertown Town Common on Saturday, Aug. 24, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. The Tag Sale Team will accept donations for a two-week period from Aug. 4 to Aug. 18 only.

On Sunday, Aug. 4, at noon, the doors to the Pine Room on the lower level of the St. Francis Parish Hall on Park Street will open to accept donations. Donations will be accepted Monday to Saturday from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Sunday donations will be accepted noon to 5 p.m.

After volunteers spend hundreds of hours sorting and boxing, the many donated items become the treasured inventory of the well-organized and departmentalized St. Francis Parish Giant Tag Sale that will occupy nearly half of the Town Common on Aug. 24. The finished Tag Sale effort will resemble the large well thought out department stores of days gone-by.

The proceeds from this annual effort are earmarked for a new parish hall which will be built on the present grounds of the Jabish Street church.

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Rams fall to Tigers



McKenna Cudworth takes possession of the ball.

Turley photos by David Henry
www.sweetdogphotos.com



Eleanor Szlosek advances up the field.



Hannah Haesaert makes a quick pass.

SOUTH HADLEY – In its final game before the Fourth of July holiday, Granby and South Hadley B met on the turf at South Hadley High School. It was all Tigers in the matchup as they defeated the Rams 6-0. Granby headed into the break with a 1-4 record. The Tigers are 3-1-1 on the summer. Games resumed earlier this week.



Maya Legowski makes a throw-in.



Emily Durham fights a Tigers' player for the ball.



Ava-Elizabeth Loughman tries to avoid losing possession.



Simone Quinn starts up the field.



Kelcey Zraunig chases after the ball.



Olivia Athas heads up the field.



McKenna Zumbruski fights to take over the ball.

PeoplesBank takes down Tigers in Tri-County action

By **Tim Peterson**
Sports Correspondent

HOLYOKE—Since losing back-to-back games to Hilltown Tents at the beginning of the Tri-County League regular season, PeoplesBank has been on a roll.

PeoplesBank, who have won a total of 18 TCL championship titles since 1995, won their sixth consecutive game following a 6-2 victory over the Chicopee Falls Tigers at Cougar Field, which is located on the Holyoke Community College campus, last Tuesday night.

“We were able to score a couple of runs with some timely two out base hits in tonight’s game. Our pitchers also pitched well, said PeoplesBank player/coach Joe Ferry. “We now have a week off and we’ll finish the regular season with a bunch of home games.”

PeoplesBank, who posted an 11-1 win over the Tigers down the street at Mackenzie Stadium on June 18, entered their week off with a 7-2 overall record.

Lefthander James Flahive was scheduled to be the PeoplesBank starting pitcher in the second meeting of the regular season against the Tigers (6-4). He arrived to the field late and righty Mikey Rivera was the opener for the visiting team.

“Jimmy had a prior engagement, and he didn’t have his normal pregame routine,” said Ferry, who’s the PeoplesBank starting left fielder. “In my opinion, not only is he the best pitcher on our team during the past three years, but he’s probably the best pitcher in this league this year.

Rivera allowed a leadoff single to centerfielder Travis Kagan in the bottom of the first inning before retiring the next three Tigers batters.

“Mikey is a new player on our team, and he had the honor

of pitching the first inning,” Ferry said. “He’s fitting in very well with us.”

Flahive, who was the winning pitcher, took over on the mound at the start of the second inning. He pitched the next five innings allowing two runs (one earned) on six hits with 10 strikeouts and no walks. Veteran righty Danny Gaines allowed only a double in the seventh inning.

The Tigers also used three pitchers in the game.

Righty Brendan Fournier made his first start of the season for the Tigers.

“This was the first time that Brendan pitched in a game for us this season,” said Tigers player/coach Ryan Magni, who’s also the baseball coach at Holyoke Community College. “I thought he pitched well in the first three innings.”

After not allowing any runs in the first two innings, Fournier, who also pitched at Chicopee High School, got himself into a jam with two-outs in the top of the third inning.

Centerfielder Seth Allen began the two-out rally by blasting a double to deep centerfield. Then catcher Pete Hogan was hit-by-a pitch and right fielder Johnny Gegetskas drew a walk which loaded the bases. First baseman Dustin Brisson drove home two runs with a hard groundball single into right field.

Brisson, who played college baseball at Central Florida, was selected in the 15th round of the 2000 MLB draft by the Boston Red Sox. He played in 345 career minor league games without being called up by a major league team.

With two-outs in the following frame, PeoplesBank pinch-hitter Kyle Platner delivered a two-run single to right field off righty relief pitcher Evan Dougherty increasing the lead to 4-0.



Sam Allen slides into third base safely for PeoplesBank.



Turley photos by David Henry
www.sweetdogphotos.com
Austin LeClerc, of Palmer, catches an out at first base for the Tigers.



Johnny Gegetskas rounds third after hitting a home run out to right field.



Ryan Magni looks to field a grounder to short.

The Tigers broke the ice when first baseman Austin LeClerc, who played high school baseball at Pathfinder Tech, blasted a home run over the left field fence.

After Allen hit a double that bounced off the left field fence leading off the fifth inning, Gegetskas smashed a two-run homer over the right field fence, which increased the PeoplesBank lead to 6-1.

It was the first home run of the season for Gegetskas, who played college baseball at Westfield State University.

The Tigers scored an unearned run with two outs in the bottom of the sixth.

Righthander Race Drobiak pitched the final two final innings for the home team without allowing a run.

The third meeting of the regular season between the two squads is slated to take place at Mackenzie Stadium on July 16.

Rookie gets win in ‘Thursday Night Thunder’

THOMPSON, CT — Excitement returned to the high banks of Thompson Speedway for the second of three rounds of Thursday Night Thunder on June 27 in the quiet corner of Connecticut. In their first 50-lap, \$3,000-to-win showdown of the season, Danny Cates quickly took off to lead the start of the Thompson Sunoco Modified feature. Both the competition, and the patience, was fierce with the field running nose-to-tail, bidding their time for the right space to make a move.

Two-time winner Jon Puleo was the first, launching around Cates in turn three and powering through turn four to steal the early lead. Keith Rocco began stalking Puleo, making his move to lead lap 8 but Puleo held strong, jumping under the multi-time Thompson champ to take back the lead with the cross-over. The battle continued until mechanical issues forced Puleo out of the race, giving Rocco the lead all the way to the checkered flags. Rocco’s machine would be disqualified in post-race technical inspection giving rookie Isaiah Newcomb his first Thompson Sunoco Mod-

ified win followed by Cates and Josh Carey in the top-three.

The Late Model division went green to checkered with Kulwiczki Driver Development Program (KDDP) finalist Derek Gluchacki leading all 25 laps ahead of the pack. Ryan Morgan continued his consistent and competitive season to finish second with fellow former Thompson champion Brian Tagg taking third. Windham, Maine’s Cole Robie and Riverside, Rhode Island’s Connor Souza joined in to round out the top-five.

Sixteen strong, the Street Stocks began the evening’s racing action, running clean and green until the halfway point of their 20-lap main event when Scott Sundeen and Austin Flanagan made contact in turn two with both cars being towed off for the night. One final late caution for a spinning ‘Leadfoot’ Larry Barnett couldn’t slow the dogfight between Ryan Waterman and Corey Fanning in the final circuits. Post-race technical inspection removed Waterman, Fanning and Aaron Plemons from their top-five finishes giv-

ing Jason Chicolas the win with Brent Gleason and Tyler Cinamella rounding out the top-three.

After the AZ Roofing SK Light Modifieds were plagued by cautions early in their feature event, young point leader Tyler Chapman worked through the field to lead the final 21 circuits with Nick Hovey and Meghan Fuller rounding out the podium. Similarly, the Mini Stocks also had a rough start with defending champion Jared Roy quickly sifting things out to take the lead and the win with Ryan Pomposelli and Richard LaFlesh joining him in victory lane.

Thursday Night Thunder is back at Thompson Speedway for the third and final time in 2024 on Thursday, July 25 headlined by the \$3,000-to-win, Twisted Tea Midsummer 50 for the Thompson Sunoco Modifieds! Along with the Thompson Sunoco Modified 50-lapper, the Late Models, AZ Roofing SK Light Modifieds, Street Stocks and Mini Stocks are back in action on Thursday, July 25 with a 6:00pm Post Time!

Quabbin League seeking to start fall league

The Quabbin Valley Over-28 Baseball League is looking to start an eight-game fall program for the over-28 population. The league, which plays a spring/summer regular season with six teams for 15 games followed by playoffs, is hoping to continue the fun into the fall with a short eight-game schedule for interested players.

Preliminary details are still being worked on, but the league is looking to have four teams with six “regular season” games followed by a semifinal in the seventh week, and a final/consolation game in the eighth week.

The league will be a bit more informal than the regular spring/summer league with the goal being for players to have fun playing more baseball, work on field and batting skills through more innings in the field and extra at-bats, or potentially working on or trying

out pitching.

As has been traditional in other fall leagues, the Quabbin League will likely be wood-bat only for the fall.

There is an interest form and survey interested players can fill out at www.quabbin-valleybaseball.org. The league is open to all current Quabbin league players as well as players from other leagues who are age 28 and over during the calendar year of 2024.

The league will look to keep the cost very low for the league with preliminary indications having the league in the \$40-50 range to play eight games.

Games will likely be held in the West Springfield, Agawam, Southwick area and are likely to be held on Sunday mornings, though a few games may be held at alternate times. Games are scheduled to begin in September after Labor Day.

Sports

Pioneers holding steady, notch more wins



Gianluca Cersosimo socks a goal kick away.



Aidan Kelly makes his way up the field.

LUDLOW – During the past two weeks, the Western Mass. Pioneers picked up more wins, defeating Albany Rush 4-1, Black Rock FC 1-0, and last Saturday, defeated Boston City 5-0 to go to 10-1-1 on the season. Their only loss this season came against the Seacoast Phantoms. Their tie is against Vermont Green, who they will meet in their final regular season game this Saturday, July 13 at 7 p.m.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Scott Testori looks for a header.



Santiago Blasco Gomez looks to keep the ball away from an opponent.



Camilo Comi changes direction to avoid the opposing defense.

New player leads to Blue Sox to win

HOLYOKE– Blue Sox third baseman Kollin Ritchie joined Valley last Saturday for his first game of the season.

Ritchie led the way for Valley with a two-run 418-foot home run and an RBI double en route to a 11-2 victory against the Sanford Mainers.



Valley hitters walked three times in the first two innings, but they couldn't come around and score. Sanford walked twice in the first two and also failed to score. The first hit came in the third inning on a Caleb Shpur single.

In the third, Logan Hugo led off with a walk and scored on a Jay Bant single to make it 1-0 Valley.

Valley opened the game wide open in the bottom of the fifth. The first five batters of the inning all reached base and scored. Newcomer Connor Misch hit a two-RBI single. Valley tacked on three runs in the sixth, capitalized by Ritchie's two-run home run.

Jared Davis hit a home run to left field and made it 10-2. But that's all Sanford could muster up. Valley scored one more in the bottom of the eighth to make it 11-2.

Second baseman Mike O'Connor continues to see the ball well as he extended his hitting streak to 14 games.

Blue Sox starter Gregory Shaw earned the win after going five innings of one hit ball. He walked five and struck out just one. On the other side, Mainers starter Colton Trisch went three plus innings and gave up one run on two hits. The southpaw also walked five hitters but recorded zero strikeouts.

Blue Sox beat Mountaineers

The Vermont Mountaineers (16-6) walked into last Friday's game with a 10-2 record since June 15, and holding the best record in the NECBL. The Valley Blue Sox on the other hand, after finding a possible turnaround in their season, found themselves on a five-game losing streak. Holding a 2-0 season lead over Valley as well, Vermont looked to finish off the sweep and extend the Valley losing streak.

In the early going, the Mountaineers continued their narrative. Led by David Michael Jefferson, the Mountaineers jumped out to an early 4-0 lead, and the Blue Sox trends telegraphed how the game would result.

Yet this game was different than the few in recent memory. After David Case was pulled in the fourth inning, after starting the first four giving up four runs off six hits, Will Newell and Chris Torres stepped in and led the Blue Sox charge. Newell pitched three and Torres the final two, they gave up a combined 0 hits and 0 runs with six strikeouts each. An unbelievable display of relief pitching from the Blue Sox, when their strength was needed most in a season defining game, it showed true.

This spark was all the offense needed as well, with Michael Toth leading the charge in the top of the seventh inning, the Blue Sox scored

Please see **BLUE SOX**, page 13

Summer Eats feeds kids and teens

BOSTON — Summer Eats, the Massachusetts Summer Food Service Program, is kicking off across the state, providing free meals to all kids and teens, ages 18 and under. In July 2023, over 2.1 million meals were served across over 1,400 sites statewide through the Summer Eats program.

Throughout the school year, children in Massachusetts rely on free school meals to meet most of their daily nutrition needs. Summer Eats closes the gap when the school year ends, helping to ensure children and teens continue to grow, learn and thrive over school vacation.

Participating meal providers operate and staff meal sites, often in conjunction with activities and educational programming at schools, libraries, local park and recreation areas, and more. This year, summer meal sites are operating a communal model of feeding kids onsite. Grab & Go meals are available in select rural

communities. All are welcome. No registration or ID is required. Summer Eats can be accessed in conjunction with Summer EBT, additional funding for groceries while kids are out of school.

For more than 20 years, the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and statewide food security nonprofit Project Bread have partnered to support meal providers in offering Summer Eats meals to children in Massachusetts. Throughout the school year, the nonprofit and DESE also partner to expand access to and participation in school meal programs. This year, Project Bread has granted a total of \$226,000 to 51 Summer Eats sponsors for their program outreach and capacity-building. During Summer Eats Awareness Week, Project Bread is encouraging community members to help spread the news about this free program statewide.

"Last week a mom of two called Proj-

ect Bread worried about how she'd feed her kids when school lets out," says Erin McAleer, Project Bread CEO. "She's not alone. In the summer, many families are forced to stretch exhausted grocery budgets even further. Summer Eats is such an important program because it helps close that gap. Summer Eats meal providers bring the community together and take some of the pressure off of families' budgets. These local providers go above and beyond to make healthy meals accessible for all kids and teens. Children should spend their summer playing, growing, and enjoying time with family and friends, not worrying about their next meal."

For more information about Summer Eats, including meal site locations, visit www.projectbread.org/summer-eats, text FOOD or COMIDA to 304-304, or call 1-800-645-8333 for help in any language.

CAMPUS Notes

Elms College announces Dean's List for Spring 2024

The College of Our Lady of the Elms has named the following students to the dean's list for the spring 2024 semester. Congratulations to all the students who are named to the list.

- Simon Abbott of Granby
- Samuel Ackah-Yensu of South Hadley
- Camille Banas of South Hadley
- Alicia D'Amour of South Hadley
- Haley Dusseault of South Hadley
- W. Henry Fidler of South Hadley
- Dylan Holubowich of Granby
- Myah Houle of South Hadley
- Megan Lawson of Granby
- Kaitlyn Lynes of South Hadley
- Deirdre McDaniel of South Hadley
- Alexis Neill of South Hadley
- Gage Pfister of South Hadley
- Alexandra Plotniak of South Hadley
- Abbie Sierzego of South Hadley
- Alina Stefoglo of South Hadley

University of Hartford students named to Dean's and President's Lists

The University of Hartford is pleased to announce that 1,927 students have been named to the Dean's List and President's List for the spring 2024 semester.

The Dean's List recognizes students achieving superior academic standing. The requirement, with some exceptions based on school or college, is a grade point average of at least 3.0 and no grade below C.

The President's List recognizes a select group of students reaching the highest level of academic standing. To be placed on the President's List, students must maintain a GPA of at least a 3.75 and receive grades of C or better.

Among the students honored for their academic achievements are:

- Samantha Grabherr of Granby -- President's List
- Owen Strand of South Hadley -- Dean's List

We recognize all our students for their hard work and congratulate them on their achievements!

Earle of graduates from Plymouth State University

Isabella Earle of South Hadley, MA, graduated from Plymouth State University during its 153rd Anniversary Commencement Ceremony on May 11, 2024. Earle graduated Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing.

Earle was among more than 500 Class of 2024 undergraduate students who received degrees.

Roger Williams University announces Spring 2024 Dean's List

Select students have been named to the Spring 2024 Dean's List at Roger Williams University in Bristol, R.I. Full-time students who complete 12 or more credits per semester and earn a GPA of 3.4 or higher are placed on the Dean's List that semester. The following students are residents of your coverage area:

- Cole Hambley of South Hadley, MA
- Allie Sowers of South Hadley, MA

Spring 2024 Dean's List at Saint Michael's College

The following local students were named to the Dean's List at Saint Michael's College for the Spring 2024 semester. Students who complete at least 12 credits of classes and achieve a grade point average of at least 3.5 in a particular semester are cited on the Dean's List for that semester.

- Braden C. Dwinell of Granby
- Felicia R. Fil of Hadley

Spring 2024 President's List at Dean College

Hannah King of South Hadley has earned a place on the President's List for the Spring 2024 semester. Students named to the President's List have demonstrated a serious commitment to their studies while at Dean College.

Area hospital and senior service receive grant

NORTHAMPTON— Cooley Dickinson Hospital, through a collaboration with Highland Valley Elder Services, will benefit from a nearly \$200,000 grant that aims to expand the state's hospital to home program.

The funds, announced by the governor's office earlier this month, will be used to provide specialized expertise to Cooley Dickinson Hospital that will support discharges directly to a patient's home, rather than to a skilled nursing facility or other long-term care setting.

"These funds will be a huge benefit to our patients, hospital, and the community," said Susan Pierce, senior manager of case management at Cooley Dickinson. "Not only will more patients be able to return directly home, instead of being sent to a skilled facility, but we will also be able to discharge them faster, allowing greater access to other members of the community who need their beds."

The money is intended for Highland Valley Elder Services to hire personnel who work onsite with Cooley Dickinson, to connect patients and their families with resources and services that ensure appropriate supports are put into place in their homes upon discharge. The grant money was part of \$1.1 million in awards announced this month for acute care hospitals and Aging Services Access Points, like Highland Valley Elder Services, across Massachusetts.

"This grant provides community-based organizations, such as Highland Valley Elder Services, an opportunity to strengthen our relationships with hospital systems and assure patients receive a well-coordinated discharge plan that supports their needs in community-based settings", said Valerie D'Aquisto, associate director of programs and services at Highland Valley Elder Services.

There are 24 regional ASAPs throughout Massachusetts that provide programs and services designed specifically to support older adults in the community. The organizations provide support and assistance with home care options, food security, housing, financial wellness, transportation, and safety, among others.

"More patients should be able to recover and receive care within the comfort of their homes and communities," said Gov. Maura Healey "Through these partnerships, patients will have the support they need to return to their community and continue receiving care, improving health outcomes and alleviating pressure on hospital resources and staff."

Funding for the grant was provided by the American Rescue Plan Act.

BLUE SOX from page 12

four straight to tie the game. In the following inning, Chase Jans hit a double to bring Kyle Hennington home, giving the Blue Sox the lead they finished with.

In a gritty win to say the least, it's one that will be looked highly upon as the season progresses. After crossing the halfway mark of the season, the Valley Blue Sox find themselves just a half game back now on the Bristol Blues for the West division crown. It will be interesting as the two teams still have 4 head-to-head matchups yet to come, but for now the Valley spirits must be high as ever, with hope pumped back into their season.

GARDEN from page 4

see what color flower you get; there is no guarantee it will be the same as mother.

Single or double hibiscus shaped flowers come in shades of red, pink, purple and white, depending on the cultivar. Like those of their tropical cousin, individual Rose of Sharon flowers bloom for a single day, close at night, then eventually drop from the plant.

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In my opinion, single flowered cultivars are more desirable; they put on a better show and are more tolerant of rainy weather. Double types turn to mush after a rain-

storm - much like petunia flowers do. Not very attractive and oh so squishy!

"Diana" is my all time favorite cultivar. Four- six inch pure white single flowers bloom in abundance, even through the night, making it a perfect candidate for use in a moonlit garden.

"Woodbridge" is another popular variety. It is deep pink and darker at the base. "Blue Bird" is unique, sky blue with a red center.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 32 years she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to pouimette@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.

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South Hadley Celebrates July Fourth



Mark and Lylah Labrie enjoyed the slide at South Hadley July 4th celebration.



Hazel Martins and Abby Dudda donned U.S.A. and red, white and blue for the celebration.



Emma Rose Diaz was up to the challenge and climbed the rock wall.

CELEBRATE from page 1

can pride decked out in red, white, and blue. The festivities kicked off at 5 p.m. thanks to the town's recreation department and event sponsors.

Between archery with the Boy Scouts of America, face painting, carnival games and rides there was something for everyone to enjoy at the annual celebration.

Spectators were able to ooh and ah at about 15 minutes of fireworks starting at 9:30 p.m. as the sky was filled with the patriotic colors.

Ed and Elise Button of Hadley began camping out right at the start

of the event to secure their ideal viewing spot, front and center along the safety fence.

"We've already had the fried dough, we're heading for the fireworks next," said Elise Button.

While waiting for the annual firework show, attendees were able to enjoy local food trucks including Bruiser's Bar-B-Que, Batch Ice Cream, and Crazy Arepas. Lines for the food trucks wrapped around the parking lot of the school all night as people waited for their favorite bites to eat.

In addition to a DJ playing in the parking lot, the South Hadley

Community Band began their performance at 8 p.m., serenading those securing their firework viewing spots on the field.

Many people journeyed down to the middle school to watch the show, but some found themselves viewing the fireworks from surrounding neighborhoods and streets choosing not to brave the busy crowds.

The spirit of the Fourth of July was in full force in South Hadley as friends and families gathered with their neighbors and fellow Americans to celebrate the country's independence.



Elise and Ed Button grabbed there spot to wait for the fireworks to begin.



There were different food options for those who came out to enjoy the fireworks.



Turley photos by Tessa Quinn

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