

# TOWN Reminder

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## INDEX

Viewpoints	4
Sports	7
Public Safety	9
Classifieds	10
Education	12

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Serving the town of South Hadley

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## Town awarded funds for culvert replacement

By Kimberly Palmucci  
townreminder@turley.com

SOUTH HADLEY – As part of a state grant, the town has been awarded \$50,000 to fund the design and engineering for a culvert replacement project on Pearl Street to improve stream connectivity of Elmer Brook.

The funding comes as part of the more than \$6.4 million in grants recently announced by the Healey-Driscoll Administration that aims to “strengthen community preparedness for large storms, improve climate-ready infrastructure, restore flood storage capacities, and protect fisheries, wildlife, and river habitat.”

The Culvert Replacement Municipal Assistance (CRMA) Grant Program was described in a press statement as “one of the many resources the administration utilizes to help municipalities replace undersized and deteriorating culverts with crossings that meet improved design standards.”

The grants target culverts where replacement would bring “significant ecological and resilience benefits” and helps municipalities deal with the increasing aging road infrastructure costs.

“With extreme weather be-

“  
**UNDERSIZED  
CULVERTS ARE  
ONE OF THE  
BIGGEST  
STRESSORS ON  
MASSACHUSETTS  
STREAM  
ECOSYSTEMS.”**

**REBECCA TEPPER**  
ENERGY AND  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
AFFAIRS SECRETARY

coming more frequent, projects like these are a climate-smart investment to help cities and towns adapt to climate change,” said Governor Maura Healey. “It is important that we upgrade culverts and small bridges to prevent flooding and reduce public safety risks. We are proud to announce these awards that will support our communities and ecosystems for generations to come.”

“Many municipalities are eager to replace their failing cul-

Please see **CULVERT**, page 2



Leslie Hennessey in her office at the South Hadley COA.

## Community says *goodbye* to Council on Aging Director

By Samuel Gelinus  
Correspondent

SOUTH HADLEY – Council on Aging Director Leslie Hennessey has recently resigned from her position, and her work in town has not gone unnoticed.

On her last day in the office, members of the community celebrated her career in South Hadley with a cake and flowers; Hennessey had served as direc-

tor of the South Hadley Council on Aging (COA) since June of 2016.

“I’ve really enjoyed this position,” Hennessey said. “I have had a great seven years here.”

In her seven years with the COA, Hennessey experienced the transition into a new facility, the pandemic, and efforts to provide programming that reflects the ever-changing needs of the senior community.

“I’m ready to do something different now; I am going to miss our members, folks in different town departments who I have had a pleasure working with and collaborating with, and have formed partnerships with,” Hennessey said.

She commended the COA’s whole staff.

“It is an entire team of people

Please see **GOODBYE**, page 2

## Judge places South Hadley man on probation

*Incident involved unsecured weapon, loaded magazines*

By Kimberly Palmucci  
townreminder@turley.com

SOUTH HADLEY – A 34-year-old South Hadley man is on probation for two years in connection to an incident in which police found an unsecured firearm and loaded magazines in his Riverboat Village home four months ago.

Paul C. Traficante faced two firearm-related charges after fire department and police officials on April 16 discovered a propane tank and legal, but potentially dangerous, substances such as hydrogen peroxide, sulfuric acid, and potassium nitrate in his apartment, a press statement reads.

“Investigators also found the unsecured firearm, ammunition, and three loaded magazines,” the office of Northwestern District

Attorney David E. Sullivan released.

Traficante was licensed to carry a firearm at the time, and he was “cooperative with the police during the investigation.” Before Eastern Hampshire District Court Judge William Rooney Thursday, Traficante admitted to sufficient facts to the charge of improper storage of a firearm. Judge Rooney adopted the plea agreement jointly proposed by Northwestern Assistant District Attorney Andrew Covington and Northampton defense attorney Thomas Kokonowksi by continuing the case without a finding of guilt and placing Traficante on supervised probation for two years.

“That means if he stays out of trouble with the law, he will not have a guilty finding on his record,” the press statement reads. “A charge of possession of a large capacity feeding device was dismissed by the Commonwealth.”

ADA Covington noted that while the chemicals and propane

tank discovered in the apartment created a potential danger, there was no evidence that Traficante engaged in criminal conduct with the chemicals.

“We believe this disposition is in the interest of justice given the facts of the case, Mr. Traficante’s cooperation with the police, and his lack of record,” ADA Covington said.

Judge Rooney also set probation conditions that prohibit Traficante from being licensed to carry a firearm, possessing any type of firearms, ammunition, knives, and swords.

According to reports, this incident was investigated by the South Hadley Police Department, South Hadley’s Fire District 1, the State Fire Marshal’s Office, the State Police Bomb Squad, the Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Division, Crime Scene Services, Fire and Explosion Investigations Section, the Department of Environmental Protection, and State Police detectives assigned to the Northwestern District Attorney’s Office.

## Residents invited to upcoming housing forum

By Kimberly Palmucci  
townreminder@turley.com

SOUTH HADLEY – The town has been engaging in a public outreach process to update its Housing Production Plan, last updated in 2016, and a draft plan is now available for a 60-day comment period.

“South Hadley is experiencing a shortage of housing stock available and affordable to low- and moderate-income households, impacting individuals, families, and the community in a myriad of ways,” the town released. “This housing shortage and affordability gap is being experienced not only throughout Massachusetts but nationwide and has created a housing crisis.”

The Housing Production Plan (HPP) provides analysis and discussion on South Hadley’s population, housing

stock, and housing affordability using “current demographic and market data,” according to a press statement.

“These existing conditions, as well as public comment during two community forums and a survey, have informed the community’s goals for housing and strategies that can be implemented to achieve these goals over time,” the town released.

Towns and cities maintain current HPPs to comply with MGL Chapter 40B, the state’s Comprehensive Permit Law, to address the goal of 10 percent deed-restricted Affordable Housing in every community. The draft plan is an update to the 2016 HPP, the town released.

The draft Housing Production Plan and information

Please see **FORUM**, page 5

# McCray's Farm welcomes fall with 'kick-off' event

By Aimee M. Henderson  
Correspondent

SOUTH HADLEY – With autumn's approach, one local farm is hosting a new kick-off event that aims to welcome the upcoming season.

McCray's Farm in South Hadley will host its first-ever "Kick Off the Fall" event from 3-10 p.m. on Saturday, September 9.

Known for all-things-fall, McCray's will offer this family-friendly event that will feature live music, a beer trailer, mini golf, a petting zoo, wagon rides, face painting, and more.

Trysten McCray said she wanted to do something to start off the season; with summer coming to an end, and having been less-than-stellar weather, McCray said that a get-together seemed like a great idea.

"Fall is what we do best," she said about McCray's Farm. "I really wanted to do something to bring families together to enjoy good food and listen to good music and start off the season."

Performing live from 4-7 p.m. on the day of the event will be Midlife Crisis, a classic blues rock band. Food trucks scheduled to be on site are Say Cheese Food Truck, Chicken Mans Chicken Shack, and An Authentic Mexican Food Truck.

McCray said the creamery will be open and has a full menu; and, of course, there is always ice cream, she said.

There will also be a small amusements area that will include some rides and signature fair-type foods like cotton candy. McCray encourages visitors to bring a chair and said dogs are allowed, but must be leashed—and cleaned up after. No outside alcohol is allowed; however, the beer trailer will be offering several choices on tap, as well as hard cider.

And while the pumpkins are not quite ready for picking, McCray said wagon rides will be offered at a low price. Picking will begin in several weeks.

McCray added that fall is her favorite time of the year, and said she is lucky to have married into a family where "fall is life." Seeing people come together at the farm for family-friendly fun, she said, is one of her favorite parts of the season.

"I love watching people come together, making traditions," she said.

McCray hopes the "Kick Off the Fall" event will also become an annual tradition at the farm.

McCray's Farm is located at 55 Alvord Street in South Hadley. To learn more about the farm and its offerings, visit [mccrays-farm.com](http://mccrays-farm.com).



Photo by Aimee M. Henderson

Hayrides will be available during McCray's "Kick off the Fall" event on September 9.

## CULVERT from page 1

verts with larger, climate-ready structures, but they often lack the technical knowledge and financial resources to do so," said Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll. "This grant program fills the gap by providing both necessary funding and technical assistance to local communities."

The Division of Ecological Restoration (DER) is awarding \$811,000 in grants to 14 municipalities through the CRMA grant program, including South Hadley. Nearly half of an estimated 25,000 small bridges and culverts in Massachusetts act as barriers to fish and wildlife because they are undersized or poorly positioned, a press statement reads; installing culverts that meet the Massachusetts Stream Crossing Standards allows rivers to "flow unrestricted, improves access for fish and wildlife, and lowers the

risk of flood damage."

"Undersized culverts are one of the biggest stressors on Massachusetts stream ecosystems," said Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Rebecca Tepper. "Ecological restoration serves our communities and the environment by increasing climate resilience, improving habitat for wildlife, building outdoor recreational opportunities, and creating jobs."

DER also awarded \$609,825 to support three restoration partnerships through the Regional Restoration Partnerships Program and \$26,000 to two Priority Ecological Restoration Projects.

"We are excited to support such a wide array of ecological restoration projects to restore wetlands and rivers throughout the Commonwealth," said DER Director Beth Lambert. "We look forward to working with our partners to advance restoration statewide."

## GOODBYE from page 1

who are dedicated and responsible for being creative as they welcome so many different programs, educational resources, and outlets for the community," she said. "It is our mission and goal to meet the needs of almost three different generations... this is a really vibrant center, and I hope you can feel that as you walk through our doors."

Hennessey added that although she is moving on in her career, "it's going to be the same Senior Center."

"[It's] still a great place to come to meet people and discover the different interests people have," she said.

Kathy Luecking, who has worked at the front desk of the COA for almost one year, said that Hennessey is "an excellent person to work under."

"She was very supportive. If

you ever did something not up to par, she didn't chastise you, but helped you to work through it so you were a better person going forward," Luecking said.

Susan Canedy, an active member at the COA, added that Hennessey is "innovative in developing new programs that benefit the center."

"She was also willing to listen to new ideas for programs that would benefit the senior population, and was always willing to take new ideas," Canedy said, adding that Hennessey is "a good all-around executive."

"Our senior center is one of the most vibrant in the area, and I credit Leslie with that," said Huguette Supinski, another member of the COA.

Hennessey has spent her career in the world of nonprofits, and said she is thankful for that experience.

"I have been very fortunate to have a varied background,"

she said.

Her experience includes a job in mental health for the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill and a position for the VNA in hospice life care. Moving forward, her new position will be at UMass as assistant director for tours.

In a recent community update, Town Administrator Lisa Wong added that the town wishes Hennessey "the best in her next chapter."

"Leslie's many accomplishments include the construction of a new Senior Center, multiple grants including a recent one for a new minibus, and the designation of the Town as a Dementia Friendly Community," Wong released.

In the meantime, Lisa Napierkowski will be serving as interim director; applications for the director position will be accepted through Friday, September 8.

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# September is 'National Senior Center Month'

By Samuel Gelinis  
Correspondent

SOUTH HADLEY – Throughout the month of September, the town's Council on Aging will celebrate National Senior Center Month by offering a diverse catalog of new and special programming to residents and visitors.

Programming for the month, which boasts the 2023 theme "Discover Yours," will include a range of activities, including artwork, introductory lessons in Spanish, fitness classes, education on medical marijuana, and more.

Consistent with the month's theme, the Council on Aging (COA) invites guests to "discover unique interests, talents, and aspirations."

Sandy Farnsworth, activities coordinator for the South Hadley COA, said that the month is "an opportunity for the community to learn what a senior center does."

"The aging community is not a monolith, but rather a collection of people with different abilities, life experiences, political and social outlooks, and interests—and the South Hadley COA strives to offer something for everybody in this diverse community of people and viewpoints," Farnsworth said.

There are more than 20 scheduled programs and activities, including:

**Beginner/Intermediate Spanish:** Wednesdays at 1 p.m. and 3:30 p.m.

**Sustainable Fashion:** Beginning Tuesday, September 12, at 3:30 p.m.

**LGBTQ+ Coffee/Social hour:** Monthly group meeting on Thursday, September 21, at 10:30 a.m.

**Town Clerk Office Hours:** Friday, September 22, at 11 a.m.

**Uplifting Karaoke:** Wednesdays, September 6 and 20, at 1 p.m.

**Art Instructors Spotlight:** September 4-8, all day

**Top Apps for Seniors:** Thursday, September 7, at 1 p.m.

**Support Services and Shine Night:** Tuesday, September 12, at 4 p.m.

**Exercise Extravaganza!** Tuesday, September 19, at 10 a.m.

**Cornhole Competition with staff of the COA:** Friday, September 29, at 9:30 a.m.

**Trivia with the Staff of the COA:** Tuesday, September 26, at 3 p.m.

Special events to be presented in September include:

**Medical Cannabis for Seniors:** Tuesday, September 5, at 5 p.m.

**Tropical Escape Party:** Wednesday, September 13, from noon – 2 p.m.

**Breakfast by Billy:** Friday, September 15, at 8:30 a.m.

**Ice Cream Social and Movie with Boomer:** Monday, September 18, at 1 p.m.

**Beyond, Live Tour:** Tuesday, September 19, at 5 p.m.

**Core Estate Planning:** Tuesday, September 19, at 5:30 p.m.

**Sexuality and Aging:** Tuesday, September 26, at 5:30 p.m.

**Birthday/Anniversary Party with Tom and Steve:** Wednesday, September 27, at 2 p.m.

Throughout the month, the COA will also be parking their van at several locations in town and giving out munchkins and coffee on the days and times listed below; transportation offered through the COA is free of charge.

Wednesday, September 6, at 1:15 p.m., Newton Manor parking lot

Monday, September 11, at 1:15 p.m., Lathrop Village parking lot

Wednesday, September 20, at 1:15 p.m., Hubert Place; 2 p.m., Neighbors Helping Neighbors parking lot

Additionally, the COA will be collecting donations for those impacted by the wildfires in Hawaii; as of press time, a recipient charity had not yet been determined.

For more information, call the COA at 413-538-5030 or visit 45 Dayton Street.

## 'Birding for Everyone' talk, walk

SOUTH HADLEY - On Saturday, September 9, the town's Conservation Commission, in partnership with the Hampshire Bird Club, is inviting the public to investigate the birds living, flying, and feeding along and below South Hadley Falls.

No birding experience necessary, a press statement reads.

"First-timers and beginner birders are encouraged to attend. Many local residents made their way to see the Falls during the great July rains that brought very high waters thundering over the dam," event organizers shared. "Since then, the waters have returned to near normal depths and many of the usual birds who reside there are back in the waters."

The group will meet at 8 a.m. at the entrance to Texon Mill Park, adjacent to the South Hadley Public Library parking lot on Main Street. The concrete walkway is handicap accessible and leads to a viewing area of the dam and the waters be-

low, the press statement reads.

"Hampshire Bird Club (HBC) members will assist participants with guidance and viewing equipment [binoculars and scopes] in order to see birds flying, as well as resting on the water and rocks below the dam."

The walk will end at 10 a.m.; participants may register at the following link: [bit.ly/2023bfe](https://bit.ly/2023bfe)

Additionally, from 7-8 p.m. on Tuesday, September 5, the HBC will hold an "optional, yet informative" online talk and discussion on Zoom.

Attend at the following link: [bit.ly/sep5bfe](https://bit.ly/sep5bfe)

"The talk will acquaint those planning to attend the Saturday walk with some of the birds they might see, such as herons and bald eagles," event organizers added. "It will also review what other items they might bring, such as sturdy shoes and weather appropriate clothing. Participants will have a chance to ask any questions they might have."

## Kids invited to design a 'Library Anniversary Bookmark'

GRANBY – Children ages Pre-K-12yrs are invited to design and enter a bookmark in the 2023 10th Anniversary of the Granby Free Public Library's new building and the 40th birthday of the Friends of the Granby Library Bookmark Contest.

Stop by the library during open hours to pick up a bookmark template and entry form.

"Your bookmark should represent what the Granby Library means to you and to the community," a press statement reads. "One lucky winner will have their bookmark printed in time for library anniversary festivities this fall and will win a \$25 prize."

Bookmark entries are due back to the library by September 17.

## Adult Programming South Hadley Public Library

The South Hadley Public Library is delighted to once again host an Adult Summer Program starting on June 20, 2023 through August 14, 2023. The theme is "Find Your Voice" and the programs lined up will help you find your true voice. Scratch tickets will be available for adults to win prizes, such as t-shirts, water bottles and more when they check out at the Circulation Desk. Second chance drawings will also be available to win more prizes at the end of the Summer Program on Monday, August 14th. If noted per event: sign up start on June 20th by calling the library at 413-538-5045 or signing up on our website at [www.shadleylib.org](http://www.shadleylib.org) then click Events. The library looks forward to helping you find your voice this summer. And remember - It is summer! Why do the kids get all the fun?

### PROGRAMS AT THE LIBRARY AUGUST 2023

#### Tuesday Night Knitting Group

Tuesdays 6 pm – 8 pm • Trustees Room  
Join the library's Tuesday Night Knitters for some quality knitting and crocheting time. All skill levels are welcome.

#### Hello Sunshine Book Club

First Wednesday Evenings of the Month at 7:30 pm  
Trustees Room  
A book discussion group focusing on selections from Reese Witherspoon's Hello Sunshine book club.

#### Gatehouse Writer's Group (Online Writing Group)

Every Friday Online via Zoom from 10 am – Noon  
Contact Linda Rowland-Buckley at [rowbuc1998@gmail.com](mailto:rowbuc1998@gmail.com).  
Our library writing group, the Gatehouse Writing group, the Gatehouse Writers, is a supportive peer-led environment open to all levels and styles. The group philosophy is a simple one: every person is a writer, and every writer deserves a safe environment in which to experiment, learn and develop their craft. This group is led by Linda Rowland-Buckley and Richard Buckley.

#### Mahjong at the Library

First and Third Friday's of the Month from 1 pm – 4 pm  
For experienced Players

#### Spanish Conversation Circle

3rd Saturdays of the Month at 10:30 am  
An opportunity for Spanish speakers to practice their language skills. Participants should have some basic conversational skills to join the group. This is NOT a language class.

### IN-PERSON PROGRAMMING

#### Beginning Spanish for Adults

4 Week Class: Wednesdays, September 13, 20, 27 and October 4 from 4 – 5 pm • Trustees Room  
Adults!! Ever want to learn some basic Spanish? This is your chance! Come learn beginning Spanish for basic conversation presented by Jan Lamberg. Limited to 10 participants. Call 413-538-5045 or go to [tinyurl.com/mr4yxu86](https://tinyurl.com/mr4yxu86) to sign up!

#### International Genealogy Research Class Parts 1 & 2

Presented by Dave Robison of Old Bones Genealogy  
Wednesdays, September 13th and 20th at 6 - 7:30 pm  
Community Room  
Confused on where to start searching for your ancestors from another country? Maybe the language is not in English - How do you start searching for that material? What websites are helpful? Which websites can be troublesome? Come and learn how to work on international genealogy. Call 413-538-5045 or go to [tinyurl.com/mb9pvzfb](https://tinyurl.com/mb9pvzfb) to sign up!

#### Music Concert: Journey Through the Roots of American Popular Music with Jon Waterman

Wednesday, September 27th at 6 pm • Community Room  
Come enjoy a program of songs and stories about characters and events at the origins of the blues, rock and country music. Singer, songwriter and guitarist Jon Waterman creates and performs programs with a historical theme. Each show is comprised of songs that relate to historical happenings and obscure, legendary or infamous characters, stories and a slideshow.

### VIRTUAL LIBRARY PROGRAMMING

#### Virtual Author Talks: Life, Love, Family and Food: An Author Talk with Lidia Bastianich

Thursday, September 7th at 7 pm  
Sign Up Here: <https://library.org/shadleylib/31426>  
Via Zoom Born in Pula, on the Istrian peninsula, Lidia grew up surrounded by love and security, learning the art of Italian cooking from her beloved grandmother. But when a communist regime annexed Istria, Lidia's family fled to Trieste, where they spent two years in a refugee camp waiting for visas to enter the United States. When she finally arrived in New York, Lidia soon began working in restaurants, the first step leading to her becoming one of the most revered chefs and businesswomen in the country. Heartwarming, deeply personal, and powerfully inspiring, My American Dream is the story of Lidia's close-knit family and her dedication and endless passion for food.

#### How to Get Unstuck When It Matters Most with Adam Alter

Wednesday, September 20 at 2 pm  
Sign Up Here: <https://library.org/shadleylib/31748>  
Via Zoom almost everyone feels stuck in some way and the resulting emotion is usually a mix of anxiety, uncertainty, fear, anger, and numbness. Artfully weaving together scientific studies, anecdotes, and interviews, Alter teaches us with the right tweaks and corrections, we can reach even our loftiest targets.

#### On Writing Three International Bestsellers with Amor Towles

Wednesday, September 27th at 8 pm  
Sign Up Here: <https://library.org/shadleylib/32070>  
Via Zoom tune in and enjoy a conversation with New York Times bestselling author Amor Towles. Author of Rules of Civility, A Gentleman in Moscow, and The Lincoln Highway. Amor Towles' next book, Table for Two, is a collection of short stories to be published in April 2024.



SOUTH HADLEY  
HOUSING PRODUCTION PLAN

COMMUNITY FORUM #3  
Wednesday, September 13, 2023  
7-9 PM  
South Hadley Senior Center  
45 Dayton Street

Come explore strategies for creating new housing in your community for people of all incomes, ages, and abilities.

DRAFT Housing Production Plan -- [www.shhousingplan.org](http://www.shhousingplan.org)  
Hard copies -- South Hadley Public Library, Senior Center & Town Hall  
Comments & Questions: [acapra@southhadleyma.gov](mailto:acapra@southhadleyma.gov) | (413) 538-5030 x6128

# Opinion



*Editor's Note: The following information was acquired over the course of my career as a journalist, through my work as an animal advocate, and through common knowledge.*

## Ten ways to help adoptable pets

By Kimberly Palmucci  
townreminder@turley.com

**Volunteer** - There are many different ways one can volunteer with an animal rescue organization, and the experience is truly rewarding. Volunteering offers a way to personally get involved with adoptable pets while eschewing the responsibility of pet ownership itself.

Volunteering duties might include: walking dogs; cleaning; socializing cats; taking photos; office tasks; community outreach; fundraising; transporting animals; attending adoption events; and more.

**Donate** - Animal rescues and shelters need financial assistance, and monetary donations are a welcome way to aid the mission. Certain shelters and rescues don't even have an operating budget, funded solely through donations.

Donations can assist with daily operations, supplies, food, veterinary care, vaccinations, community outreach, and much more.

And if a financial donation is not possible, animal organizations are also in need of many items, such as: food; towels; blankets and pet beds; crates and carriers; pet toys; collars, leashes, or harnesses; cat litter; and more.

**Educate** - By educating others about the importance of adopting, as well as spaying and neutering our pets, we lay the groundwork needed for actual change. However, educating should not be confused with arguing; creating conflict and tension over these topics may feel befitting at times, but we can spend our time more wisely by having respectful, compassionate conversations with people who are willing to listen.

**Advocate** - Supporting legislation that improves the lives of animals is a pivotal step toward making change. There must be regulations in place for certain actions and behaviors—including legal consequences—to set a precedent. Also, many municipal animal shelters are relying on antiquated budgets to function. Contact your representatives by calling or writing a letter so that you can share your thoughts regarding local and state bills.

**Wishlists** - An animal group near you may already have a "wish list" on its website, go check it out! These lists, which highlight the current needs and donation requests of the organization, can be independent or linked directly to a website such as "Amazon" or "Chewy."

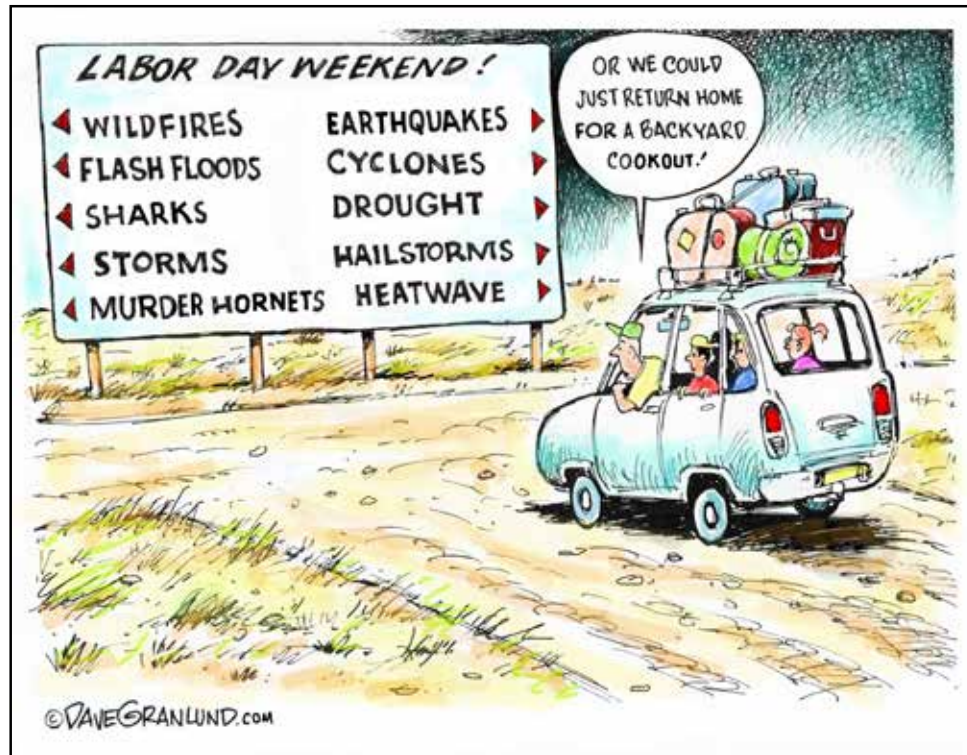
Additionally, when shopping online, consider choosing one of your local animal rescues as your "AmazonSmile Charity"—this is a separate entry from the main website that offers consumers the same items and prices while also contributing a certain percentage of qualified purchases to a charitable group.

**Spay/Neuter** - Spaying and neutering our pets is unbelievably important. Pet overpopulation can best be described as a crisis, both in the U.S. and around the world, and unconstrained cat and dog breeding creates lasting impacts. Spaying/neutering presents pet owners with a way to not only be part of the solution, but also to keep their pets healthy and safe.

Three benefits of spay/neuter include: diminishing the burden on animal groups; keeping stray/feral pet populations in check; and protecting pets from health concerns.

**Events** - Hosting a fundraising event for an animal group is a unique and valuable way to help. You can design your own event, or combine efforts with an existing or upcoming event, such as a birthday party, wedding, or school function, asking attendees to bring a gift or donation for the animals.

Please see **FUR-EVER**, page 6



## What about all the money Congress stole from Social Security?

Dear Rusty,

Is there any way that Congress will vote to pay back the Social Security funds they took for their stupid reasons, and left IOUs in place of the funds?

Because of the funds they took going back many years, we didn't have any decent Cost-of-Living Adjustments for a few years. In fact, there were I think three to five years that we didn't get any COLA. Please Rusty, can you find out if this is true or false? Help us seniors.

Signed: Resentful Senior

Dear Resentful Senior,

I can assure you that I've fully investigated the allegation that politicians have squandered Social Security's money and found that charge to be, simply speaking, a myth. I've gone back and looked at Social Security revenues and expenses since the government first started collecting FICA payroll taxes in 1937 and found that every dollar ever collected for Social Security has been used only for Social Security purposes. Over the years, various claims have been made that the money has been used for other things, but I've researched each of these charges and found them all to be false.

Where the misconception mostly originates is that any excess money collected from working Americans for Social Security is invested in "special issue government bonds," which pay interest, as mandated by President Roosevelt when Social Security began. As with any investment, a financial obligation instrument is given in return for dollars received.

Remember when we used to buy "U.S. Savings Bonds?" We'd use our money to buy those bonds, hold them and later redeem them for a higher amount than we paid. That's exactly how Social Security contributions have always worked - excess money collected from working Americans is used to purchase special issue government bonds, which are held in reserve, earning interest, for future Social Security needs.

These special bonds reside in a Social Security Trust Fund and, as of the end of 2022, were worth about \$2.8 trillion. Are these bonds "worthless IOUs" as some would claim? Hardly, since they are redeemable as needed to pay Social Security benefits.

Considering that, since 2010, Social Security's income from payroll taxes on American workers has been less than needed to cover benefits paid out, redemption of bonds held in the Trust Fund is the only reason that Social Security has been able to continue paying full benefits to every beneficiary. The Trust Fund is a financial safety net, which is now protecting all SS beneficiaries from having their benefits cut.

Problem is, unless Congress acts soon to reform Social Security's financial picture, the Trust Fund will be fully depleted in about 2033 resulting in about a 23% cut in everyone's monthly Social Security benefit. I'm optimistic that will not happen (it would be political suicide) and, hopefully, Congress will act soon to reform Social Security and restore it to financial solvency and avoid a future cut in everyone's benefits.

Regarding Cost-of-Living Adjustment and the lack thereof for several past years, COLA is determined by the government's standard inflation measure, the Consumer Price Index (CPI). There were several years (2010, 2011, and 2016) in which the CPI showed no inflation so, therefore, no COLA increase was given.

Last year, due to soaring inflation, everyone got an 8.7% increase in their Social Security benefit, but that doesn't happen every year. FYI, the average annual COLA increase over the last two decades has been about 2.6%, although COLA for each year can be wildly different depending on each year's inflation measure.

In any case, the lack of a COLA increase in past years was not a result of any political chicanery, it was the result of low inflation during those years.

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.

## 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.

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EDITORIAL  
[townreminder@turley.com](mailto:townreminder@turley.com)



ADVERTISING SALES  
Maureen McGarrett Hall  
[mmcgarrett@turley.com](mailto:mmcgarrett@turley.com)



SPORTS EDITOR  
Greg Scibelli  
[sports@turley.com](mailto:sports@turley.com)

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WEDDING ANNIVERSARY



Submitted Photo

Robert and Beatrice Ouimette celebrate 61 years of marriage

Happy 61st wedding anniversary to Robert and Beatrice Ouimette of South Hadley from their children: Denis (Janice) Ouimette of Ware; Willaim (Dana) Ouimette of Long Beach, California; Lisa (Frank) Campanelli of Avon, Connecticut; Robert (Debbie) Ouimette of Woolwich, Maine; and Peter (Kerry) Ouimette of Ludlow.

Senior Center offers caregiver support group, more

SOUTH HADLEY – The town’s Council on Aging has announced a Caregiver Support Group and more.

Caregiver Support Group – 10 a.m.

Are you a caregiver to a senior living with a chronic illness? “Caregivers come in all shapes and sizes,” the Council On Aging released. “No two caregivers are on the same journey.”

With the help of the COA Social Service Coordinator Ann Andras, this group will explore all facets of Caregiving.

National Senior Center Month - September

The 2023 theme “Discover Yours” encourages residents to come to their senior center, “whether you are a regular or if you have never visited,” South Hadley’s Council On Aging released.

“The theme also encourages you to discover your unique interests, talents, and aspirations.”

A list of special events will be on the Senior Center’s Facebook page, on Channel 15, and throughout the Senior Center in the coming weeks.

Residents named to Simmons University dean’s list

SOUTH HADLEY – Two residents have been named to the 2023 spring semester dean’s list at Simmons University in Boston. South Hadley’s Savannah Richard and Bella Yee have made the list. To qualify for dean’s list status,

undergraduate students must obtain a grade point average of 3.5 or higher, based on 12 or more credit hours of work in classes using the letter grade system, the school released.

Odyssey Bookshop announces upcoming September events

SOUTH HADLEY – The Odyssey Bookshop has announced several upcoming events this month.

Tuesday, September 12, at 7 p.m. – J. Vanessa Lyon

Lyon will talk about her new novel, “Lush Lives.” Lyon is the author of “The Groves” (an Audible Original) and “Meet Me in Madrid,” under the pseudonym Verity Lowell. She is an art historian, former appraiser, and occasional curator who teaches at a New England liberal arts college.

Wednesday, September 13, at 7 p.m. – Loretta Ross

Contributor Ross will present the new oral history, “Women Who Change the World.” Ross is a Professor at Smith College in Northampton, in the program for the Study of Women and Gender. She teaches

courses on white supremacy, human rights, and more. She has taught at Hampshire College and Arizona State University.

Thursday, September 14, at 7 p.m. – Poetry Reading

Holly Mitchell will read from her new collection, “Mare’s Nest.” She will be joined by poets Matt Donovan and Sara London, who will read from their latest work. Mitchell is a poet from Kentucky, now based in New York. Her debut collection, “Mare’s Nest,” was published by Sarabande Books in Spring 2023.

Tuesday, September 26, at 7 p.m. - Madeleine Blais

Blais will present her new book, “Queen of the Court: The Many Lives of Tennis Legend Alice Marble.” Blais was a reporter for the Miami Her-

ald for years and won a Pulitzer Prize before joining the faculty of the School of Journalism at the University of Massachusetts. She is the author of “To the New Owners,” “In These Girls,” “Hope is a Muscle,” “Uphill Walkers,” and “The Heart is an Instrument,” a collection of her journalism. She lives in Amherst.

Wednesday, September 27, at 7 p.m. - 50 Years of Ms.

Celebrate the new anthology “50 Years of Ms.,” the best of the “pathfinding magazine that ignited a revolution,” and engage in conversation with Ms. contributors Carrie Baker, Lenore Palladino, and Jackson Katz about what the future of feminism and movement journalism demands: vision that is bold, imaginative and collaborative.

Center Church Fall Tag Sale set for Sept. 9, 10

SOUTH HADLEY – The Center Church Fall Tag Sale, UCC, 1 Church Street in South Hadley, is being held from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. on Saturday, September 9, and from noon – 5 p.m. on Sunday, September 10.

This long-standing fall annual event, changed in 2022 from October to September, is a local favorite, according to a press statement.

“We fill our large Fellowship Hall, as well as the Music Room and the Chapel, with terrific bargains,” the church released.

Items for sale will include kitchen essentials, dishes, glassware, linens, handbags, jewelry, books, puzzles, toys, crafts, yarn, vases, frames, decor, candles, and “the list keeps on going.”

“Every year, it is an adventure and a surprise what can be found. Our church bakers will be making homemade goodies and treats. The Congo Cafe cooks will be serving lunch. Come to Center Church to enjoy shopping at the Tag Sale. You will most likely go home with some treasures.”

FORUM from page 1

on the planning process is available online: southhadley.org/1372/Housing-Production-Plan

Hard copies of the draft plan are available for review at the following locations: Town Hall, Planning and Conservation Department, 116 Main Street, Room U6; South Hadley Public Library, 1 Canal Street; Gaylord Library, 47 College Street; and the South Hadley Senior Center, 45 Dayton Street.

Comments are due by

Wednesday, October 25; comments may be submitted in a Google form online or via hard copy, a press statement adds. Other opportunities to learn more about the plan and share comments include a third community forum, to be held at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, September 13, at the South Hadley Senior Center, 45 Dayton Street.

“Your contribution is vital to the creation of a successful plan,” the town released in a previous statement.

A public hearing on the draft plan is scheduled for 7 p.m. via Zoom on Monday,

September 25, at the town’s Planning Board’s meeting. Login information will be included on the posted agenda, available at southhadley.org/agendacenter.

The HPP process is established by the State Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities, formerly the Department of Housing and Community Development, and seeks to “demonstrate strategies to increase opportunities for affordable housing,” according to a press statement.

For more information, visit shhousingplan.org.

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SLICED IN OUR DELI LAND O' LAKES SHARP CHEDDAR AMERICAN CHEESE ..... <b>\$3<sup>99</sup></b> lb	USDA INSP. STORE MADE FROZEN HAMBURGER PATTIES 80% LEAN 20 CT BOX <b>\$15<sup>69</sup></b> ea	USDA INSP. FROZEN BAR S HOT DOGS 1 LB PAK..... <b>\$1<sup>49</sup></b> ea
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# Community

## Growing Wild initiative presents 'Planting for Pollinators 3.0'

By Kimberly Palmucci  
townreminder@turley.com

SOUTH HADLEY – An event this month will offer attendees a discussion on planting for hummingbirds, talking with neighbors about pollinator habitats, and more.

The South Hadley Conservation Commission will host its third lecture of the "Growing Wild" initiative at 6 p.m. on Thursday, September 14, at the South Hadley Library.

Larri Cochran, co-president of the Western Massachusetts Master Gardener Association, will review "the basics of native plant/pollinator relationships" and the benefits of designing a garden with mostly native plants.

"Native plants and pollinator habitats go beyond supporting pollinators in both rural areas, such as the northern part of town, and urban settings like South Hadley Falls," event organizers released. "Larri will talk about how to use plants in a way that balances pollinator habitat with aesthetic appeal. She will discuss local sources for native plants where harmful neonicotinoids pesticides are not used in propagation and production."

Gardening with these "clean plants" goes very far, according to reports, in supporting insect and bird populations, both of which serve a crucial role in biodiversity.

"Do you want to learn which plants will attract hummingbirds to your yard? You will leave this lecture with ideas of

what to plant this fall to enjoy that experience next season," a press statement reads. "This event will also take the conversation to the next level: how do we explain the benefits of pollinator habitats and gardens to our neighbors? Our landlords? Homeowner associations or facilities managers? Some people see a mess when flowers are interspersed with grass in a yard. Others understand and appreciate the biodiversity that "growing wild" supports. Learn how to approach this topic with your friends and colleagues."

The event will feature a Q&A on these topics, as well as other related topics. Event organizers said the event aims to be informative, "whether you are a home gardener, property manager, urban landscape designer, or somewhere in between."

The first 20 attendees will receive a gift bag put together by the South Hadley Health Department with tick-protection supplies. Additionally, everyone attending will receive a packet of Showy Wildflower seeds sourced from New England Wetland Plants.

"Sow these seeds this fall to allow them to go through the process of stratification, a dormancy that occurs in cold weather to ensure germination when warm weather returns. You will be ready for a showy, biodiverse part of your yard or container garden for years to come."

No registration is required for this event.

## Old Firehouse Museum's new display

SOUTH HADLEY – Residents are invited to check out the Old Firehouse Museum's mini-display, titled "Aren't you fancy?"

The display is presented in the South Hadley Public Library, in the second-floor display cabinets.

"Enjoy different millinery hats from [circa] 1895, bone hairbrushes, beautiful hair combs, men's shaving accoutrements and divine soaps and face powder to help you have that perfect skin," a press statement reads. "As history changes, the want to look beautiful or handsome and well-kept never changes."

This display is available to peruse the same hours the South Hadley Public Library is open, which are: Monday – Wednesday, 9:30 a.m. – 8 p.m.; Thursday and Friday, 9:30 a.m. – 6 p.m.; and Saturday, 9:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. The Old Fire House Museum, located at 4 North Main Street, South Hadley, is open the fourth Sunday of the month from 1:30 p.m. – 4 p.m.



Submitted Photo

The Old Firehouse Museum's mini-display, "Aren't you fancy?"

## Granby Library hosts fall nature story times

GRANBY - Nature story times, crafts, and hands-on with Ranger Tasha will be held twice monthly at the Granby Library this fall.

Presented by Tasha Daniels, park ranger/visitor services specialist at the Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. Children ages three-five, siblings, and homeschoolers, are invited to drop in.

### Butterfly Migration

10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, September 5

Where do Monarchs go for the winter? Why? Hear a story and enjoy a butterfly craft.

### How Do Critters Prepare for Winter?

10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, September 19

Hear a story about how squirrels get ready for winter. Ranger Tasha will bring real bear, bobcat, and beaver pelts to show how these animals prepare for cooler

weather.

Future nature story time dates include October 3 & 17 and November 7 & 21. The Granby Free Public Library is located at 297 East State Street, Granby. Call the library at 413-467-3320 during open hours for more information.

### Granby Library hours:

Tuesdays, Wednesday, and Fridays: 10:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.  
Thursdays: 10:30 a.m. – 7 p.m.  
Saturdays: 10:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

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### A PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

Holy Spirit, You who made me see everything and showed me the way to reach my ideal. You, who gave me the divine gift to forgive and forget the wrong that is done to me and you, who are in all instances of my life with me. I, in this short dialogue want to thank you for everything and confirm once more that I never want to be separated from you no matter how great the material desire may be. I want to be with you and my loved ones in your perpetual glory. Amen. Thank you for your love towards me and my loved ones. Persons must pray the prayer three consecutive days without asking your wish. After third day wish will be granted no matter how difficult it may be. Then promise to publish this dialogue as soon as this favor is granted. I will never stop trusting God and His power. **D.D.**

### FUR-EVER from page 4

**Share** - Talk about your own stories of adoption, both on social media and in your day-to-day life. The more we talk about our stories of adoption, the more we can share the message that shelter pets are not less or broken because of their circumstance. They are resilient and capable of such a powerful love. Additionally, "sharing" can quite literally mean getting on social media and sharing posts or adoption profiles from animal groups, who are constantly posting their needs, adoptable pets, wishlists, and more. When you "like," "comment," or "share," those posts, you're boosting engagement and allowing more people to see and help.

**Adopt** - According to various reports and statistics, more than 6.3 million domestic animals enter into animal shelters and rescues across the U.S. each year. Adopting a pet is a tremendous decision that not only saves one animal, but also creates space in an already overburdened system for another, doubling the impact with every adoption.

When you adopt a pet, it's a lifelong promise (the pet's life, of course). This is not a decision that should be made lightly; before you adopt, consider whether you will be able to provide that animal with the following basic needs for the

pet's entire life: love and attention; food, water, and shelter; exercise and medical care.

**Foster** - Fostering a pet entails the temporary housing of an adoptable pet in one's home prior to adoption. Foster homes afford shelters and rescues the ability to save even more animals, and it helps animals that would otherwise be in a cage find comfort and support.

Fostering is not for everyone. The foster must be able to transport the pet to various places and provide the animal with care. It is also important to consider that fostering is intended to be temporary—many folks (like myself) have trouble saying goodbye, and that's okay, but if this is you, perhaps there's an alternative way to help.

Here are some questions you might ask yourself before fostering a pet:

Am I emotionally prepared to say goodbye?

Is everyone in my home equipped for this experience (other pets included)?

Am I able to transport this pet to vet visits and adoption events?

The best way to discover the needs of your local animal groups is by doing a search online, checking recent social media posts from the organization(s), or by contacting them directly and asking how you can help.

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# SPORTS

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## Tigers set to pounce on fall



Emma Levrault makes a throw-in.

**WILBRAHAM** – Last Sunday afternoon, one of the area best girls soccer teams was in their first preseason action as South Hadley was in pre-season scrimmage action at Minnechaug’s play day. The Tigers were able to face a few teams in short scrimmages as they get ready for the regular season. South Hadley, which has made the state tournament each of the past two years, are scheduled to open the regular season against Agawam on Wednesday, Sept. 6. The Tigers are also the reigning, defending Western Mass. champions and hope to repeat as such this year.



Cianna Gurek dribbles her way up the field.

## Kennedy looks for new additions to Tri-County next season

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

**CHICOPEE**—While Mike Kennedy was a three-sport athlete at Holyoke High School forty years ago, his favorite sport has always been baseball.

Kennedy was a member of Holyoke’s 1985 state championship baseball team.

“We defeated Boston College High School in the Division 1 baseball state finals,” said Kennedy, who played first base. “It was a fun experience, especially being a group of city kids. Baseball has always been my favorite sport.”

Holyoke, who defeated B.C. High, 4-2, in the state championship game, finished the 1985 season with a 24-1 record. They squeaked a 1-0 victory over Minnechaug Regional in the Western Mass. finals.

After graduating from High School, Kennedy was a member of the PeoplesBank baseball team in the Tri-County League for the twenty four years. During that time, PeoplesBank won eight Tri-County League championship titles.

Kennedy recently completed his first season as the President of the prestigious Tri-County League. He took over the reins from Don LaValley.

“This is my first year as the league President,” Kennedy said. “I think it was a very successful season.”

Kennedy has received a lot of support and his right hand man is Eric Emet

“Eric has been a very big help to me,” Kennedy said. “He has kept my head above water

in my first year as President.

In his role as the T.C.L. President, Kennedy presented the 2023 championship trophy to PeoplesBank player/manager Joe Ferry.

Top-seeded PeoplesBank didn’t have very much trouble sweeping second-seeded Chicopee Falls Tigers in the best of three championship series.

PeoplesBank captured the T.C.L. championship title for the tenth consecutive year, and for the 18th time since 1995.

While PeoplesBank has been the dominant team in the T.C.L. during the past 30 years, there were only five other teams in the league this summer.

Kennedy is looking to add a few more teams before the start of the 2024 season.

“My main goal is to add a few more teams,” Kennedy said. “I would like to have at least ten teams in our league during the next couple of years. I want this league to get back to where it used to be.”

The three teams that dropped out of the T.C.L. following the 2022 season were Pa’Lante, Easthampton and Teddy’s Bear Pool.

On a positive note, 413ATC was a first-year member of the T.C.L. this summer. They finished in third place behind PeoplesBank and the Chicopee Falls Tigers in the regular season standings. They were swept by the Tigers in the semifinals.

“The 413 team had a bunch of young players,” Kennedy said. “For being a first-year

Please see **TRI-COUNTY**, page 8



Maddy McArdle gets the quick pass away.



Rachel Yabra follows through on a pass.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com



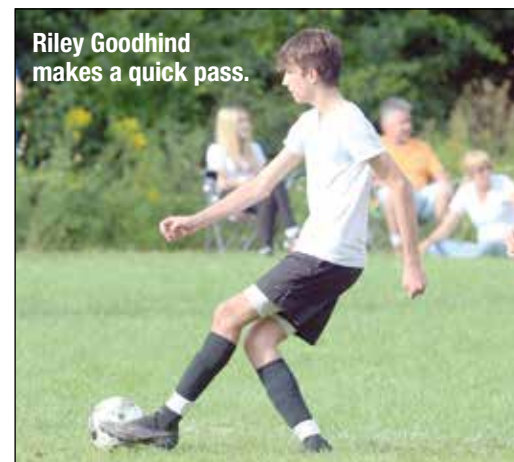
Ben Berger socks a ball away.



Colin Murdock makes his way up the field.



Gavin Moreno takes a shot on goal.



Riley Goodhind makes a quick pass.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com



Daniel Santiago picks up the low shot.

## Rams get ready for season opener

**PALMER** – On Monday afternoon, Granby boys soccer prepared for the regular season with their first scrimmage action of the fall at Pathfinder. The Rams have made the state tournament the previous two years and hope to do so again this fall. Granby also was a Western Mass. finalist last year.

# Fall VARSITY SPORTS SCHEDULE

## South Hadley High School

### FOOTBALL

Friday, Sept. 8	Home	Wahconah	7 p.m.
Friday, Sept. 15	Away	Greenfield	7 p.m.
Friday, Sept. 22	Away	Chicopee Comp	7 p.m.
Friday, Sept. 29	Away	Pittsfield	5:30 p.m.
Friday, Oct. 6	Home	Taconic	7 p.m.
Friday, Oct. 13	Home	Ludlow	7 p.m.
Friday, Oct. 20	Away	Chicopee	6 p.m.
Friday, Oct. 27	Home	Putnam	7 p.m.
Nov. 3/4	TBD	Week 9 - TBD	TBD
Nov. 10/11	TBD	Week 10 - TBD	TBD
Thursday, Nov. 23	Away	Holyoke	10 a.m.

### BOYS SOCCER

Tuesday, Sept. 5	Away	Amherst	4:15 p.m.
Friday, Sept. 8	Away	Easthampton	4 p.m.
Tuesday, Sept. 12	Home	Frontier	6 p.m.
Thursday, Sept. 14	Away	Hampshire	6:30 p.m.
Monday, Sept. 18	Away	Wahconah	7 p.m.
Thursday, Sept. 21	Away	Southwick	4 p.m.
Friday, Sept. 22	Away	Lenox	4:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Sept. 26	Home	Mahar	6 p.m.
Friday, Sept. 29	Home	Southwick	4 p.m.
Thursday, Oct. 5	Home	TBD	5 p.m.
Tuesday, Oct. 10	Home	Wahconah	5 p.m.
Thursday, Oct. 12	Away	Mahar	4 p.m.
Saturday, Oct. 14	Home	Northbridge	10 a.m.
Monday, Oct. 16	Away	Frontier	4 p.m.
Friday, Oct. 20	Home	Easthampton	6:15 p.m.
Saturday, Oct. 21	Away	Chicopee	12 p.m.

### GIRLS SOCCER

Wednesday, Sept. 6	Home	Agawam	6 p.m.
Friday, Sept. 8	Home	Hampshire	3:30 p.m.
Monday, Sept. 11	Away	Wahconah	7 p.m.
Wednesday, Sept. 13	Home	Pittsfield	4:30 p.m.
Monday, Sept. 18	Away	Belchertown	6 p.m.
Tuesday, Sept. 19	Away	Chicopee Comp	7 p.m.
Friday, Sept. 22	Away	Pope Francis	4 p.m.
Tuesday, Sept. 26	Away	Agawam	4 p.m.
Friday, Sept. 29	Away	Hampshire	6 p.m.
Monday, Oct. 2	Home	Wahconah	5 p.m.
Thursday, Oct. 5	Away	Pittsfield	4:30 p.m.
Thursday, Oct. 12	Home	Chicopee Comp	6:30 p.m.
Saturday, Oct. 14	Home	Ludlow	1 p.m.
Monday, Oct. 16	Home	Pope Francis	6:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Oct. 18	Home	Monument Mtn	4:30 p.m.
Monday, Oct. 23	Away	East Longmeadow	7 p.m.

### GOLF

Thursday, Aug. 31	Away	Belchertown	3:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Sept. 5	Away	Chicopee Comp	3 p.m.
Friday, Sept. 8	Away	Ludlow	3 p.m.
Monday, Sept. 11	Away	Northampton	3:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Sept. 12	Away	Hampshire	3 p.m.
Wednesday, Sept. 13	Home	Amherst	3 p.m.
Monday, Sept. 18	Home	Belchertown	3 p.m.
Wednesday, Sept. 20	Home	Chicopee Comp	3 p.m.
Thursday, Sept. 21	Home	Palmer	3 p.m.
Tuesday, Sept. 26	Away	Chicopee	3 p.m.
Wednesday, Sept. 27	Home	Northampton	3 p.m.
Monday, Oct. 2	Away	Amherst	3:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Oct. 3	Home	Ware	3 p.m.
Tuesday, Oct. 10	Home	Frontier	3 p.m.
Friday, Oct. 13	Home	Hopkins	3 p.m.
Monday, Oct. 16	Home	Southwick	4 p.m.

### GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

Tuesday, Sept. 5	Home	Southwick	5 p.m.
Thursday, Sept. 7	Away	Commerce	5:15 p.m.
Monday, Sept. 11	Away	Hampden Charter	5:15 p.m.
Wednesday, Sept. 13	Away	Smith Vocational	5:30 p.m.
Friday, Sept. 15	Away	Holyoke	5:30 p.m.
Monday, Sept. 18	Home	Granby	5 p.m.
Wednesday, Sept. 20	Home	Duggan	5 p.m.
Friday, Sept. 22	Home	Athol	5 p.m.
Tuesday, Sept. 26	Away	Renaissance	5:15 p.m.
Thursday, Sept. 28	Away	Southwick	5:15 p.m.
Tuesday, Oct. 3	Home	Commerce	5 p.m.
Thursday, Oct. 5	Home	Hampden Charter	5 p.m.
Tuesday, Oct. 10	Away	Granby	5:15 p.m.
Wednesday, Oct. 11	Home	Smith Vocational	5 p.m.
Friday, Oct. 13	Home	Baystate Academy	5 p.m.
Tuesday, Oct. 17	Away	Duggan	4 p.m.
Thursday, Oct. 19	Home	Renaissance	5:30 p.m.

## Granby High School

### BOYS SOCCER

Wednesday, Sept. 6	Home	Smith Academy	4 p.m.
Friday, Sept. 8	Away	Gateway	6 p.m.
Tuesday, Sept. 12	Home	Mt. Everett	4 p.m.
Thursday, Sept. 14	Home	Pioneer	4 p.m.
Saturday, Sept. 16	Away	Chicopee	11 a.m.
Monday, Sept. 18	Away	Hopkins	4 p.m.
Wednesday, Sept. 20	Home	Sci-Tech	4 p.m.
Friday, Sept. 22	Away	Greenfield	3:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Sept. 26	Away	Smith Academy	4 p.m.
Thursday, Sept. 28	Home	Gateway	4 p.m.
Monday, Oct. 2	Away	Mt. Everett	4 p.m.
Wednesday, Oct. 4	Away	Pioneer	4 p.m.
Friday, Oct. 6	Home	Hopkins	4 p.m.
Wednesday, Oct. 11	Away	Sci-Tech	3 p.m.
Monday, Oct. 16	Home	Greenfield	4 p.m.
Wednesday, Oct. 18	Home	Southwick	4 p.m.

### GIRLS SOCCER

Tuesday, Sept. 5	Home	Northampton	4 p.m.
Friday, Sept. 8	Away	Monson	4 p.m.
Tuesday, Sept. 12	Away	Palmer	4 p.m.
Thursday, Sept. 14	Away	Chicopee	6 p.m.
Friday, Sept. 22	Home	Southwick	4 p.m.
Monday, Sept. 25	Home	Amherst	4 p.m.
Wednesday, Sept. 27	Away	Ware	4 p.m.
Saturday, Sept. 30	Away	Northampton	3 p.m.
Monday, Oct. 2	Home	Monson	4 p.m.
Wednesday, Oct. 4	Home	Palmer	4 p.m.
Friday, Oct. 6	Away	Quaboag	4 p.m.
Tuesday, Oct. 10	Home	Chicopee	4 p.m.
Monday, Oct. 16	Away	Southwick	4 p.m.
Wednesday, Oct. 18	Away	Amherst	6 p.m.
Friday, Oct. 20	Home	SICS	4 p.m.
Monday, Oct. 23	Home	Easthampton	4 p.m.

### BOYS CROSS COUNTRY

Tuesday, Sept. 5	Away	Monson (tri meet)	3:45 p.m.
Tuesday, Sept. 12	Home	Quad Meet	4 p.m.
Tuesday, Sept. 19	Away	Hampshire (tri meet)	4 p.m.
Tuesday, Sept. 26	Away	Gateway	3:45 p.m.
Tuesday, Oct. 3	Home	Easthampton	4 p.m.
Thursday, Oct. 12	Away	Hampden Charter	4 p.m.
Tuesday, Oct. 17	Away	Holyoke	4 p.m.
Tuesday, Sept. 5	Away	Monson (tri meet)	3:45 p.m.
Tuesday, Sept. 12	Home	Quad Meet	4 p.m.
Tuesday, Sept. 19	Away	Hampshire (tri meet)	4 p.m.
Tuesday, Sept. 26	Away	Gateway	3:45 p.m.
Tuesday, Oct. 3	Home	Easthampton	4 p.m.
Thursday, Oct. 12	Away	Hampden Charter	4 p.m.
Tuesday, Oct. 17	Away	Holyoke	4 p.m.

### GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

Tuesday, Sept. 5	Away	Renaissance	5:15 p.m.
Thursday, Sept. 7	Away	Southwick	5:15 p.m.
Monday, Sept. 11	Home	Commerce	5:15 p.m.
Wednesday, Sept. 13	Away	Hampden Charter	5:15 p.m.
Friday, Sept. 15	Away	Ware	5:15 p.m.
Monday, Sept. 18	Away	South Hadley	5 p.m.
Wednesday, Sept. 20	Home	Smith Vocational	5:15 p.m.
Friday, Sept. 22	Away	PVCA	5:15 p.m.
Tuesday, Sept. 26	Away	Duggan	4 p.m.
Thursday, Sept. 28	Home	Renaissance	5:15 p.m.
Saturday, Sept. 30	Away	SICS	12 p.m.
Tuesday, Oct. 3	Home	Southwick	5:15 p.m.
Thursday, Oct. 5	Away	Commerce	5:15 p.m.
Tuesday, Oct. 10	Home	South Hadley	5:15 p.m.
Wednesday, Oct. 11	Home	Hampden Charter	5:15 p.m.
Friday, Oct. 13	Home	PVCA	5:15 p.m.
Tuesday, Oct. 17	Away	Smith Vocational	5:30 p.m.
Thursday, Oct. 19	Home	Duggan	5:15 p.m.

## Owls picked fifth in preseason poll

WESTFIELD – Westfield State University football has been picked to finish seventh in the Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference in the league’s annual preseason coaches’ poll.

Westfield finished with 19 points. Defending conference champion UMass Dartmouth headed the poll with 63 points and seven of the nine first place votes. Coaches may not vote for their own teams in the polling process.

The Corsairs were followed by Bridgewater State with 53 points, WestConn with 47 points and one first place vote, and Framingham State with 46 points and the other first-place vote. Plymouth State was fifth with 41 points, followed by Mass Maritime (29 points).

Westfield ranked ahead of Worcester State (19) and Fitchburg State (10).

The Owls return a solid nucleus of veterans, which includes leading rusher Jordan Smith (Conventry, Conn.), quarterbacks Gabriel Fernandez (Holyoke, Mass.) and Colby Pires (Milford, Mass.).

On the defensive side, top tackler Tyler Cooley (Randolph, Mass.) and defensive lineman Cade Nelson (Shrewsbury, Mass.) headline a large group of returnees in the front seven.

The Owls have been in preseason camp since Aug. 11. They will kick off the regular season with a non-conference game at Anna Maria on Saturday, Sept. 2 at 12 noon.

## Foursomes needed for charity golf tournament

AGAWAM – Registration and signups are currently open and underway for the Sixth Annual “Shoot Fore The Stars To Cure Cancer” Golf Tournament to benefit the Dana Farber Cancer Institute. In the first five years, the event has raised over \$15,000 for cancer research. The four-person scramble event will take place on Monday, Sept. 18 at Wintonbury Hills Golf Course in Bloomfield, CT. The event will be an 11 a.m. shotgun start. There will be prizes up for grabs (Closest to Pin/Long Drive) along with a putting contest. Entry fee covers golf, lunch and dinner. Please contact [ShootFOREtheStarstoCureCancer@gmail.com](mailto:ShootFOREtheStarstoCureCancer@gmail.com) more information. We hope you can join us.

### TRI-COUNTY from page 7

team in this league, I thought they had a very good season.”

Kennedy is hoping more of the high school and Legion baseball players will join the Tri-County League during the next couple of years.

“What we really need to do is to get the younger baseball players from the area to play in this league,” he said. “Most of our current players are older.”

The other three T.C.L. teams this summer were St. Joseph’s, DiFranco Realty, and the Longmeadow Cardinals.

The Tri-County League teams play their games on some of the best kept baseball fields in Western Massachusetts.

PeoplesBank homefield is MacKenzie Stadium in Holyoke.

The Chicopee Falls Tigers play their home games at historic Szot Park.

The 413ATC home field was at Westfield State University and St. Joseph’s has played their home games at St. Joe’s Ballpark in Thorndike for many years.

“All of our baseball fields are high quality,” Kennedy said. “Most of the fields have lights, which is always a bonus.”

While PeoplesBank will be looking to add another championship title to their collection in 2024, all the other Tri-County League teams will be looking to knock them off the top of the mountain.

This paper publishes birth, engagement, wedding and significant anniversary announcements free of charge. Simply log on to our web site, choose the paper you want the announcement to appear in, then use our SUBMISSION link to email your information.



www.turley.com





Submitted Photo

Several area firefighters were among those who recently graduated from Firefighting Academy.

## Area firefighters graduate from academy

By Kimberly Palmucci  
townreminder@turley.com

REGION – State Fire Marshal Jon M. Davine and Massachusetts Firefighting Academy Director Jeffrey P. Winn recently announced the graduation of 29 firefighters from the 50-day Career Recruit Firefighting Training Program.

The graduating firefighters of Class #S33 represent the fire departments of Auburn, Belchertown, Chicopee, Gardner, Holyoke, Longmeadow, Marblehead, Monson, Northampton, Norton, Pittsfield, Shrewsbury, Southbridge, Springfield, and West Springfield.

“Massachusetts firefighters are on the frontlines protecting their communities every day, and today’s graduates are needed now more than ever,” said State Fire Marshal Davine. “The hundreds of hours of foundational training they’ve received will provide them with the physical, mental, and technical skills to perform their jobs effectively and safely.”

The academy sees students receiving classroom training in all basic firefighter skills, according to a press statement. They practice first under non-fire conditions and then during controlled fire conditions. To graduate, students must

demonstrate proficiency in life safety, search and rescue, ladder operations, water supply, pump operation, and fire attack.

“Massachusetts Firefighting Academy instructors draw on decades of experience in the fire service to train new recruits,” said Director Winn. “Through consistent classroom instruction and practical exercises, today’s graduates have developed the tools they’ll need to work seamlessly with veteran firefighters in their home departments and in neighboring communities as mutual aid.”

Fire attack operations range from mailbox fires to multiple-floor or multiple-room structural fires. Upon successful completion of the Career Recruit Program, all students have met the national standards of NFPA 1001, Standard for Fire Fighter Professional Qualifications, and are certified to the levels of Firefighter I/II and Hazardous Materials First Responder Operations by the Massachusetts Fire Training Council, which is accredited by the National Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications, the press statement reads.

“Modern firefighters train for and respond to all types of hazards and emergencies. They are the first ones called to

respond to chemical and environmental emergencies, ranging from the suspected presence of carbon monoxide to gas leaks to industrial chemical spills,” the Department of Fire Services released. “They may be called to rescue a child who has fallen through the ice, an office worker stuck in an elevator, or a motorist trapped in a crashed vehicle. They test and maintain their equipment, including self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA), hydrants, hoses, power tools, and apparatus.”

At the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy, recruits learn all these skills and more, including the latest science of fire behavior and suppression tactics, from certified fire instructors. They also receive training in public fire education, hazardous material incident mitigation, flammable liquids, stress management, and self-rescue techniques. The intensive, 10-week program involves classroom instruction, physical fitness training, firefighter skills training, and live firefighting practice.

The MFA provides recruit and in-service training for career, call, and volunteer firefighters at every level of experience, from recruit to chief officer, at campuses in Stow, Springfield, and Bridgewater.

## Human remains discovered; investigation underway

GREENFIELD – Authorities are investigating the discovery of human skeletal remains last week on an island in the Connecticut River near Greenfield and Montague.

According to a press release, a group of children from a summer camp made the discovery around mid-day on Wednesday, August 23, and an adult

chaperone notified police.

Investigators collected what they could that day. The Office of the Chief Medical Examiner was on the scene the following day to ensure recovery of all remains. The matter remains under investigation by the Greenfield Police Department, Montague Police Department, State Police Crime Scene Services, the

Special Emergency Response Team, and the Massachusetts State Police Detective Unit attached to the Northwestern District Attorney’s Office.

The medical examiner will work to make an identification. No further details were available as of press time.

## Granby Police Log

*Editor’s Note: The Granby Police Department responded to 178 calls for the week of Aug. 18 through Aug. 24. Those arrested are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law. The Granby Police Department provides all information.*

### Friday, Aug. 18

11:11 a.m. – A resident came to the station to report a possible theft. An officer spoke with her and completed an incident report.

3:14 p.m. – A motorist reported a two-car accident. Granby Police and Fire responded. There were no injuries, and an accident report was completed.

### Saturday, Aug. 19

1:27 p.m. – A motorist reported finding a suspected abandoned dog on the side of the road. The Animal Control Officer was contacted and transported the dog to an area veterinarian. An incident report was completed.

### Sunday, Aug. 20

4:34 p.m. – While on patrol, an officer observed a motor vehicle traveling at a high rate of speed. Radar confirmed that the vehicle was traveling at 54MPH in 35MPH zone. The vehicle was stopped, and the operator was issued a civil citation for speeding.

### Monday, Aug. 21

8:03 a.m. – The owner reported that someone had stolen plants from the store two days in a row. An incident report was completed.

8:07 a.m. – The Building Maintenance Supervisor reported that a vehicle did donuts in the parking lot of Dufresne Park on the Taylor Street side. An incident report was completed.

7:32 p.m. – The manager of Cindy’s Drive-In reported that someone had stolen some of their plants. An incident report was completed.

### Wednesday, Aug. 23

6:18 p.m. – A motorist reported that a man riding a bicycle with his child had fallen on the side of the road. Granby Police and Fire responded. It was discovered that the cyclist had been side swiped by a tan or gold SUV that did not stop and continued traveling toward South Hadley. The cyclist and his passenger suffered minor injuries. An accident report was completed.

### Thursday, Aug. 24

1:05 a.m. – While on patrol, an officer observed a motor vehicle traveling at a high rate of speed. Radar confirmed that the vehicle was traveling at 57MPH in 35MPH zone. The vehicle was stopped, and the operator was issued a civil citation for speeding.

6:46 a.m. – The Building Maintenance Supervisor reported that a vehicle did donuts on both the Taylor Street and Kendall Street side of the park. An incident report was completed.

2:25 p.m. – A motorist reported a two-car accident. Granby Police and Fire responded. There were no injuries. An accident report was completed.

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VIN:1HD1KBW186Y658670  
Leo Hooben  
775 East Falmouth Hwy 325  
East Falmouth, MA 02536

2008 Mazda 3  
VIN: JM1BK324381860453  
Leah Wachtelhaus  
30 Saddle Road  
Wolcott, CT 06716

2003 Toyota Corolla  
VIN: 2T1BR32E03C165310  
Marinalva Ribeiro Silva  
55 Gilmore Street  
Chicopee, MA 01013

1997 Yamaha Bike  
VIN: JYA3ALE07VA061878  
Donald Pelkey  
24 Western Ave.  
Westfield, MA 01085

2007 Honda Accord  
VIN: 1HGCM56447A224743  
Greg Daviau  
36 Ashton Lane  
South Hadley, MA 01075

2005 Honda Accord  
VIN: 1HGCM56806A049540  
Olivia Nadile  
20 South View Street  
Meriden, CT 06451

2003 Dodge 2500  
VIN: 3D7KU28D53G837932  
Sarah Jayne Petrin  
519 East River St., Lot 37A  
Orange, MA 01364

1999 Ford F250  
VIN: 1FTNX21F8XEC69683  
Jordan Burnham  
28 Pinedale Road  
Athol, MA 01331

2010 Toyota Yarus  
VIN: JTDJT4K31A5321897  
Iribarne Gonzalo  
109 Grape St., Apt. H  
Chicopee, MA 01013

1998 Mitsubishi Eclipse  
VIN: 4A3AK44Y4WE106188  
Jorge Negron  
6 Berrinton Drive  
Springfield, MA 01129

1999 Honda Accord  
VIN: 1HGCG6652XA095617  
Miguel Fernze  
121 North Main St., Apt. D3  
Belchertown, MA 01007

1993 Chevy Van  
VIN:2GBEG25K2P4103350  
Reinaldo Cruze  
20 School St., Apt. 2  
Holyoke, MA 01040

2008 Mazda CX-9  
VIN: JM3TB38V480129628  
Betsaida Vargas-Garcia  
73 Eleanor Road  
Springfield, MA 01108  
08/18, 08/25, 09/01/2023

**GRANBY PLANNING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**

In accordance with MGL Ch. 40A, Sec. 11, the Granby Planning Board will hold a public hearing on **September 11, 2023, at 5:45 PM**, at 1 Library Lane, Old Carnegie Library, Top Floor, Granby, MA. The nature of the hearing is to consider the petition of Jon and Naomi Szymonik (Owner/Applicant), seeking a Special Permit under Sections 6.2 of the Granby Zoning Bylaws and applicable of Section III – Use Regulations, 3.2.10 and Section V – Special Use Regulations and Performance Standards 5.14 – Special Event Venue at 193 Amherst Street, and known as Assessors' Map 2-B-3 in the town of Granby, MA.

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 Selectmen'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  
08/25, 09/01/2025

**Town of Granby Massachusetts Conservation Commission**

The Granby Conservation Commission will hold Public Hearings pursuant to the Wetland Protection Act (MGL Chapter 131, Section 40) on **Tuesday, September 11, 2023** at \*1 Library Lane-Old Carnegie Library-Top Floor to consider the following:  
**1. At 7:30 "RDA"** filed by Steve Brunetti to see whether work depicted on plan(s) referenced are subject to the Wetlands Protection Act with regards to property located at 21 West Street, and known as Map 8A-A-8 in the Town of Granby.

Members of the public

can attend virtually by phone at +1 (312) 757-3121 using **Access Code: 282-289-421or** by visiting <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/282289421>.

Anyone wishing information and/or to be heard on this matter should appear at the time and place designated. The complete materials (including text and maps) relative to this "RDA" are available for inspection during regular business hours at the Selectmen's Office located in the Granby Senior Center Building, 2nd Floor, 10-B West State Street. Additionally, copies of the application may be inspected on the Conservation Commission's web page at [www.granby-ma.gov](http://www.granby-ma.gov).

William Shaheen, Chair  
Granby Conservation Commission  
09/01/2023

**Town of Granby Massachusetts Conservation Commission**

Protection Act (MGL Chapter 131, Section 40) on **Tuesday, September 11, 2023** at \*1 Library Lane-Old Carnegie Library-Top Floor to consider the following:

**1. At 7:30 "RDA"** filed by Gene Cassanelli to see whether work depicted on plan(s) referenced are subject to the Wetlands Protection Act with regards to property located at 183 West Street, and known as Map 3A-3 in the Town of Granby.

Members of the public can attend virtually by phone at +1 (312) 757-3121 using **Access Code: 282-289-421or** by visiting <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/282289421>.

Anyone wishing information and/or to be heard on this matter should appear at the time and place designated. The complete materials (including text and maps) relative to this "RDA" are available for inspection during regular business hours at the Selectmen's Office located in the Granby Senior Center Building, 2nd Floor, 10-B West State Street. Additionally, copies of the application may be inspected on the Conservation Commission's web page at [www.granby-ma.gov](http://www.granby-ma.gov).

William Shaheen, Chair  
Granby Conservation Commission  
09/01/2023



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

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

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**EARLY DEADLINES**

In observance of Labor Day,  
**PUBLIC NOTICES EARLY AD DEADLINE**  
Place your public notice  
no later than 2 pm  
**Friday, September 1**  
– Thank you!

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
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			58						59				
60	61						62	63			64		
65											67		
68											70		

- CLUES ACROSS**
1. Midway between east and southeast
  2. Spiritual essences
  3. Representative
  4. Entering
  5. Nobel Prize-winning physicist
  6. Midway between northeast and east
  7. Consumed
  8. Tablelands
  9. Kids' craft accessory
  10. Not known
  11. Sound directed through two or more speakers
  12. A major division of geological time
  13. Wild ox
  14. \_\_\_ de plume
  15. Accomplished soccer coach
  16. Bone cavities
  17. \_\_\_ juris: independent
  18. Popular Philly sandwich
  19. Shock treatment
  20. Northern Ireland county
  21. Turner and Lasso are two
  22. Performing artist
  23. S S S
  24. Lacks flavor
  25. Relating to ductless glands
  26. Stock certificate
  27. Satisfies
  28. Commercial
  29. Anno Domini (in the year of Our Lord)
  30. Qatar's capital
  31. Places to enjoy a rest
  32. Edward \_\_\_, author and writer
  33. Popular footwear
  34. "\_\_\_ but goodie"
  35. One hundredth of a liter
  36. Shabbiness
  37. Indicates position
  38. Anglican cathedral
  39. Aircraft part
  40. TV personality Roker
  41. Before
  42. Blood group
  43. Secretary organ
  44. Fencing swords
  45. Speed at which you move
  46. The small projection of a mammary gland
  47. Offend
  48. A reference point to shoot at
  49. Technological advancement
  50. Male parent
  51. Dissociable
  52. Forays
  53. Biblical city
  54. Blatted
  55. More cold
  56. Northern sea duck
  57. Shabby (slang)
  58. Cape Verde Islands capital
  59. Blood disorder
  60. Creative
  61. Whereabouts unknown
  62. Chinese philosophical principle
  63. Indicates equal
  64. Sun up in New York
  65. Made angry
  66. Relieves
  67. Brooklyn hoopster
  68. Seasonings
  69. Movable barriers
  70. Attempt
- CLUES DOWN**
1. Occur as a result of

**EARLY DEADLINES**

In observance of Labor Day,  
there will be an  
**EARLY AD DEADLINE**  
To advertise,  
place your ad no later than **NOON**  
**Friday, September 1**  
– Thank you!

A TURLEY PUBLICATION  
[www.turley.com](http://www.turley.com)

## Students welcome new school year

By Tina Lesniak  
Correspondent

SOUTH HADLEY – The leaves are once again turning, and as summer winds down, the students in town have made their return to South Hadley's four schools.

The school year officially began on Thursday this week for all students, with the exception of kindergarteners and preschoolers, who will return in the coming weeks. And according to the students, the new year brought a range of emotions, from excitement to nervousness and so much more.

For some students, the excitement of exploring new playgrounds brought great joy.

"I am going to a new school, and it's a new playground to me," said Aksel Gulbrandsen, a second-grader who is also looking forward to recess.

First-grader Ethan Budhram said he's looking forward to playing with friends.

"I'm excited to play outside," added Miles Sabbs, a preschooler.

For younger students, a return to school also meant a return to seeing their friends on a daily basis.

"I'm excited for school, and can't wait to start first grade," said Delaney Dion, who is also looking forward to seeing which of her friends are in her class.



Fourth-grader Carter Dame is most excited about "being with his two best friends in class," he said; his brother, fifth-grader Max Dame, is also excited to see his friends again.

"I'm looking forward to seeing my friends and seeing my new classroom," said third-grader Jaxon Dion.

For others, the excitement came from new experiences, such as meeting new friends and learning new things.

Fifth grader Gracie Dame said she is looking forward to a new classroom and meeting her teacher.

Some students expressed a few concerns about the coming year. Max and Gracie Dame both shared worries about being in the middle school, now that they're in fifth grade.

Fellow fifth-grader Camden Dion said he's excited to move to a new school, but he's a bit worried about switching classes with his new schedule; he's also not looking forward to I-Ready,

an online assessment tool.

For Ellie Wells, another fifth-grader, there will be some adjustment when it comes to a new class.

"I liked my class last year," she said.

Students who are switching schools will have even more adjustments to make, and with that comes some additional worries, they said. Zac LaPlante and Maddie Wells, who started in a new school this year, said that they're worried about getting lost in the new building, but also hope to make new friends and enjoy the school.

Seventh-graders Lily O'Connor, Liv Brill, Isabel Velasco, and Lilah Smith all described the return to school as "bittersweet." While they're looking forward to seeing more of their friends, they are not looking forward to homework or getting up early.

All of the students seemed to agree on one item—that they can't wait to meet their new teachers and make new friends.

### POLICE:

## Back-to-school safety tips

By Kimberly Palmucci  
townreminder@turley.com

SOUTH HADLEY – A new school year began this week, and police are reminding residents of several safety tips.

"We want everyone to get to and from school safely," the town's police department shared in a statement on social media. "Be sure to leave yourself some extra time each morning and be patient."

School days may bring what police described as "congestion around the schools."

"School buses are picking up their passengers, parents are trying to drop their kids off before work," police said. "It's important for drivers to slow down and pay attention when kids are present, especially before and after school."

For those dropping children off, police recommended knowing drop-off procedures for the school.

"Don't double park; it blocks visibility for other children and vehicles. Don't load or unload children across the street from the school, and please carpool, if possible, to reduce the number of vehicles at the schools," the statement reads. "Make sure to always stop for a crossing guard

holding up a stop sign. As a reminder, the bike lane on Newton St (Rte. 116) at Mosier Street is not a turn lane and should not be used as such."

Additionally, "obey the laws," police said.

"Yellow flashing lights are a signal that the bus is getting ready to stop to unload or load children; always slow down and be prepared to stop," South Hadley Police released. "You will know that the bus has stopped when the red lights flash and the extended stop arms are raised; by law, you are required to stop your vehicle and remain stopped until the red lights stop flashing, the extended arm is withdrawn, and the bus starts moving again."

Buses come in different shapes and sizes, police said.

"If you're driving behind a bus, allow a greater following distance than if you were driving behind a car. It will give you more time to stop once the yellow lights start flashing."

It is illegal to pass a school bus that is stopped to load or unload children.

"Never pass a bus from behind, or from either direction if you're on an undivided road if it is stopped to load or unload children," police added.

# Dementia 101

You've Got Questions, We've Got Answers

- Is Memory Loss a Normal Sign of Aging?
- Is It Depression or Dementia?
- How Do I know When to Start Thinking About Memory Care?
- When Should I Contact a Doctor?

Learn These Answers and More

Tuesday, September, 12th at 5 p.m.



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