

TOWN Reminder

FREE
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Draft HPP public comment period open

By Kimberly Palmucci
townreminder@turley.com

SOUTH HADLEY - The town's draft Housing Production Plan (HPP) is now available for a 60-day public comment period.

"South Hadley is experiencing a shortage of housing stock avail-

able 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 hous-

ing crisis."

The HPP provides analysis and discussion on South Hadley's population, housing stock, and housing affordability using current demographic and market data.

"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," a press statement reads. "Towns and cities maintain current HPPs to comply with MGL Chapter 40B, the State's Comprehensive Per-

mit 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 draft HPP and information on the planning process is

Please see **HPP**, page 3

Town seeks to improve veterans' services

By Tina Lesniak
Correspondent

SOUTH HADLEY - Town officials discussed during a recent Select Board meeting ways to ensure that all veterans are able to receive the services they need, whenever they need them.

During its Sept. 5 meeting, the Select Board heard discussion from Town Administrator Lisa Wong and Veterans' Services Agent Michael Slater about plans to form a veterans' district with nearby towns. This move would allow for towns to combine their resources and offer more complete services to veterans, as well as to ensure that no town is without an agent if one is away or steps down from the position.

Wong explained that the town is in the midst of conversations with other towns "about how to support each other," noting that veterans' agents deal with a complex set of issues.

"It's a team of people that are working together and increasing the support South Hadley provides its veterans," Wong said.

The proposal could take different forms and will depend on the communities that decide to join. According to Wong,

Please see **SERVICES** page 2

PRESCHOOL, KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS welcome new year

By Tina Lesniak
Correspondent

SOUTH HADLEY - The town's youngest students have recently welcomed the 2023-24 school year. Kindergarten and preschool classes have officially begun, and many students were all smiles on their first day.

Photos by Tina Lesniak



Bryson Riley is all set for the first day of preschool.



Madison and Lucas Kennedy pose before the first day of kindergarten.

SEE MORE
STUDENTS PHOTOS
ON PAGE 12.

Granby veteran, Purple Heart recipient to be honored

By Kimberly Palmucci
townreminder@turley.com

GRANBY - Resident James J. Bouchard, a Vietnam veteran and Purple Heart recipient, has been selected to receive "the experience of a lifetime" honoring his military service.

"The 2023 Purple Heart Patriot Project, part of the National Purple Heart Honor Mission, has named James Bouchard of Granby its honoree representing Mas-

sachusetts," a press statement reads.

A Vietnam veteran and former U.S. Navy combat corpsman assigned to the Marine Corps, Bouchard, a Purple Heart recipient, will join other awardees from every state for a weeklong tribute tour in New York to honor of their service and sacrifice.

The program, according to a press statement, will provide an all-expenses-paid trip to New York with tours of the U.S. Mil-

itary Academy at West Point, the historic Washington Headquarters, and a special tour of the National Purple Heart Hall of Honor. Bouchard and his wife, Susan, will also be given private tours in New York City of the Statue of Liberty, the Vietnam Veterans Plaza, and the National September 11 Memorial & Museum.

"Project organizers selected Bouchard, a Maine native, who enlisted in the service in the

Navy in 1967," a press statement reads. "Bouchard was deployed to Vietnam as a combat corpsman where he was wounded in August 1969. He was shot in the chest by enemy fire during a large ambush while assigned to Fox Company, 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment."

Following his U.S. Navy service, Bouchard became an emergency medical technician and instructor, according to the media release. He is an active member

of the Military Order of the Purple Heart and several other veteran service organizations in western Massachusetts, including the Disabled American Veterans.

Along with his Purple Heart and a Bronze Star, Bouchard was awarded the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, Navy Commendation Medal with Combat V, the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with

Please see **VETERAN**, page 6

Seniors

'Masquerade Murder Mystery' at COA

By Samuel Gelinas
Correspondent

SOUTH HADLEY - On Tuesday, Nov. 14, the South Hadley Travel Club will be hosting a "Masquerade Murder Mystery," which will take place from 3:30-7 p.m. at the South Hadley Council on Aging.

"If an acting bug has been a secret dream, this is your opportunity to express it. If you have never been able to travel with the travel club, here is your time to participate, right here in town," said event organizers Susan Canedy and Huguette Supinski.

Participants don't need to be members of the Council on Aging (COA) or South Hadley residents; the event is open to anyone 18 and older.

"The rustle of silks and feathers under muted conversation was probably the last thing heard by the tragically and unexpectedly deceased at the Billionaire's Club Annual Masquerade Ball... attend the Billionaire's Club Annual Masquerade Ball and help get this soiree back on track by trading clues with guests, gathering information, and solving the crime before the masked menace gets away," event details read.

Evening wear, ball gowns, venetian masks, suits, and tuxedos are optional but encouraged for participants.

Hamel's Creative Catering

will provide food for the night; entrees include baked scrod, yankee pot roast, or chicken francaise, with sides of roasted potatoes, butternut squash, garden tossed salad, dinner rolls, coffee, tea, and dessert.

South Hadley residents 60 years of age or older are eligible for free transportation, courtesy of the COA. The mini-bus is equipped with a wheel-chair lift, and rides must be scheduled in advance, event organizers said.

Organizers said this event is designed "not only to engage our elders, but also to help support our programs at the COA."

"We've got a great caterer and a great murder mystery company," Canedy said.

To sign up for the event, contact Susan Canedy at 413-536-2106. The cost is \$90 and may be paid incrementally, with final payments due on Saturday, Oct. 7.

Organizers added that a murder mystery train had been scheduled in 2022 but was canceled, and this event will take its place.

The South Hadley Travel Club works under the office of the COA Director and aims to make affordable monthly trips accessible to those interested in participating. Grandchildren and all interested are welcome to join; dues and repeated participation are not mandated.

COA announces upcoming events

SOUTH HADLEY - The following events have been announced for next week at the town's Council on Aging.

September 18

12:30 p.m. - Pet Therapy: Duchess will be in town.

1 p.m. - Ice Cream Social and a Movie. The movie is "Miracle." Additionally, Boomer, mascot for Springfield's ice hockey team the Thunderbirds, has been invited. Join Boomer, have some ice cream, and watch this inspiring story of the team that transcended its sport and united a nation with a new feeling of hope. The movie is based on the true story of one of the greatest moments in sports history; in 1980, the United States ice hockey team's coach, Herb Brooks, took a ragtag squad of college kids up against the legendary juggernaut from the Soviet Union at the Olympic Games. With the world watching, the team rose to the occasion, prompting broadcaster Al Michaels' now famous question to the millions viewing at home: "do you believe in miracles?"

2 p.m. - Supper Club prep with Maggie, a chili cook-off

September 19

10 a.m. - Exercise Extrava-

ganza with the COA Fitness Instructors: Come enjoy time with the fitness Instructors, "who keep us moving," the COA released.

11 a.m. - Brown Bag will be here for support of our community.

11:30 a.m. - Let the COA do the driving; "we'll take you to Big Y for groceries," the COA said.

2 p.m. - Supper club event with Maggie; chili crock crock-off

2 p.m. - Ann heads to Newton Village for her weekly off-campus visit

3:30 p.m. - Sustainable Fashion class with Petula

5:30 p.m. - Core Estate Planning with Atty Jackson; get questions answered on wills, health care proxies, advance directive, HIPPA releases, and more.

September 20

10 a.m. - Caregiver support group with Ann

10 a.m. - Tech time with Sandy, by appointment

1 p.m. - Ann's visit to Neighbors Helping Neighbors

1 p.m. - New program, "Uplifting Karaoke."

"Love to sing? Join us," the COA released.

1:15 p.m. - Community Companion Outing

September 21

10:30 p.m. - Inaugural meeting, LGBTQ+ coffee hour facilitated by Neil Broome.

11 a.m. - Pet therapy with Riley

1 p.m. - Memory Café: Join Naturalist Sandy O. for a discussion about the Power of Plants

1 p.m. - Maureen Couture, RN, from the town's Board of Health will be in. Stop by and say hello, the COA said. Visits or specific conversations are by appointment. Call the Welcome Desk to set that up.

1:30 p.m. - Farm share pickup. The COA thanked Dave's Natural Garden.

September 22

10:30 a.m. - Craft Club

11 a.m. - Katie Defoe-Raymond from WMEC will talk about Nutritional Myths.

11 a.m. - Welcome Sara Gmeiner, Town Clerk. "Lot's going on in the town," the COA released.

1:30 p.m. - "Let us do the driving, we'll take you to Big Y for groceries," the COA said.

Guided trek upcoming at conservation area

SOUTH HADLEY - The town's Bike-Walk Committee will host a guided trek at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Sept. 23. The trek is scheduled to last around an hour and will be 1.75 miles long, according to a press statement.

"There are some uphill portions to start the trek, as well as some raised roots along the way. Black Stevens is the conservation area between the High

School and Plains Schools, and is a very popular place to walk," event organizers released. "Bike-Walk Committee member Jim Buckley will be the trek host and anyone can attend."

The trek will start from the parking lot in front of South Hadley High School at 153 Newton St. near the Black Stevens Pond. Attendees should bring water, wear long sleeved

shirts/pants due to mosquitoes/ticks, and are encouraged to have some bug spray.

A decision to cancel because of inclement weather will be made by 3 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 22.

"If we cancel, it will be posted on the town website, the Recreation Department website, and the Recreation Department's Facebook page."

NOTICE

ERRORS: Each advertiser is requested to check their advertisement the first time it appears. This paper will not be responsible for more than one corrected insertion, nor will be liable for any error in an advertisement to a greater extent than the cost of the space occupied by the item in the advertisement.

JOB OPENING

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Turley Publications, based in Palmer, is seeking a storyteller who is curious about everything, and who understands how town government works to join our team of weekly reporters.

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Eileen Kennedy, Executive Editor
24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069
or email directly to
ekennedy@turley.com

SERVICES

from page 1

there is currently interest from Holyoke, Granby, Hadley, and Amherst. Slater added that the district would likely mean that he and the three agents from

Holyoke team up, while other employees might shift around, something that would ensure constant coverage.

"I can never step away," Slater said. "It's a unique job and skillset and we're deeply vetted in these people's lives."

Slater said that the job of the veterans' agents can involve anything from helping with financial issues and benefits to dealing with the emergency situation of a homeless veteran. Because of its unique and significant needs, the role can face challenges; Slater, who used to work with both Easthampton and South Hadley, noted that the person hired to replace him in Easthampton left after only five weeks.

Slater is hopeful that such a district could be something replicated throughout the state to ensure veterans get what they need statewide.

In other news, the

Board also agreed to move forward with accepting a nine-acre plot of land on New Ludlow Road near the Bynam Conservation Area. The next step will be to have a survey of the land done. Those funds will come from the Conservation Commission.

After approval at this meeting, the town will hold a Special Town Meeting on Nov. 15. Articles are still being worked out for the warrant. As that work continues, Board Member Nicole Casolari provided an update on the work of the Town Meeting Review Committee. The Committee is currently working on a survey to send out to town meeting members to get their feedback.

Additionally, the Board once again continued the license hearing for Hamid Habib, owner of 3 Corners Package Store on Granby Road. Abib explained that all the pieces to reopening are set, but he was just waiting for the final inspection to obtain his food license. He was hoping to open around Sept. 15 as long as that went well. The hearing was continued to the Oct. 3 meeting.

OPPORTUNITY

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Residents to participate in Boston Marathon Jimmy Fund Walk

By Kimberly Palmucci
townreminder@turley.com

SOUTH HADLEY – Three residents will participate in October’s Boston Marathon Jimmy Fund Walk.

South Hadley’s Barbara Tillman, Elena Tillman, and Allyson Ramondetta, along with thousands of other walkers, will be in Boston on Oct. 1 for this “iconic annual event that will unite the community to raise funds to support all forms of adult and pediatric care and cancer research at the nation’s premier cancer center, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute,” a press statement reads.

“The Jimmy Fund Walk has raised more than \$167 million

for Dana-Farber Cancer in its 34-year history, raising a record-breaking more than \$8.8 million in 2022,” according to the media release.

“Throughout the past 34 years, the Jimmy Fund Walk has continuously supported life-saving research and cancer care at Dana-Farber. The 2023 Walk will be held during the Jimmy Fund’s 75th anniversary year and will aim to raise \$9 million in the effort to prevent, treat, and defy cancer,” said Zack Blackburn, Director of the Jimmy Fund Walk. “This year also marks the 35th annual Jimmy Fund Walk. We are eager to get out on the course and see all our outstanding walkers and teams

come together to support this great cause.”

The Jimmy Fund Walk is the only organized walk “permitted on the famed Boston Marathon course,” and participants have the flexibility to choose from four distance options: a 5K walk (from Dana-Farber Cancer Institute’s Longwood Medical Campus), a 10K walk (from Newton), a Half-Marathon walk (from Wellesley), and a Marathon Walk (from Hopkinton).

“Whatever route walkers choose, participants will be treated to 10 refueling stations as well as poster-sized photographs of patients—Jimmy Fund Walk Heroes—displayed at each mile and half-mile marker as inspi-

ration,” a press statement reads. “All four routes of the Jimmy Fund Walk will culminate at the Jimmy Fund Walk Finish Line Powered by Schneider Electric.”

Due to construction in Copley Square, the Jimmy Fund Walk Finish Line location has been moved to the Fenway neighborhood for 2023, according to reports.

“Walkers should know that distances may be slightly shorter as we finish the walk in front of Fenway Park. The finish line will include a celebration complete with food, music, and a speaking program.”

Walkers my participate “a bit closer to home,” the press statement added, as the Jimmy Fund

Walk has “flexible opportunities.”

“Participants can also join the event virtually by ‘walking their way’ from wherever they are most comfortable—in their neighborhood, on a favorite hiking trail, or on a treadmill at home. Materials to support Virtual Walkers are available.”

To register or volunteer, or to support a walker, visit JimmyFundWalk.org or call 866-531-9255. Registrants can enter the promo code NEWS for \$5 off the registration fee. All registered walkers will receive a bib, medal, and a Jimmy Fund Walk T-shirt.

Climate change event upcoming

SOUTH HADLEY – The town’s Sustainability and Energy Commission is sponsoring an event on Wednesday, Sept. 27, titled “What Might Climate Change Mean for South Hadley?”

“The talk will include basics on how climate change works, what we can expect for our town and our region, what South Hadley can do to adapt and to help prevent the worst impacts of climate change, and how those ef-

forts can benefit us,” event organizers released. “Our presenter Sue Donaldson is a retired M.D. who now takes the planet as her patient and is a full-time climate activist.”

The talk is scheduled from 6:30 -7:45 p.m. at the South Hadley Public Library on Canal Street in the Trustees Room by the main entrance. Those attending are encouraged to “bring questions and ideas.”

September is ‘Library Card Sign-up Month’

SOUTH HADLEY - During the month of September, residents are invited to sign-up for a new library card at the town’s public library and Gaylord Memorial Library to be entered into a raffle with a chance to win a \$50 Odyssey Bookshop gift card.

“Children can get a library card at the age of five or older, so bring in your littles and meet Jenny Arch, our new Children’s

Librarian, at the main library on 2 Canal St.,” the library released. “Are you a new student at Mt. Holyoke College? Pop across the street to the Gaylord Memorial Library to check out our collection and programs.”

Current patrons may replace their lost or damaged cards for free this month.

“We love visitors,” the library added.

HPP from page 1

online at: southhadley.org/1372/Housing-Production-Plan

Additionally, hard copies of the draft plan are available for review at:

Town Hall – Planning and Conservation Department, 116 Main Street, Room U6

South Hadley Public Library, 1 Canal Street

Gaylord Library, 47 College Street

South Hadley Senior Center, 45 Dayton Street

Comments are due by Oct.

25. Comments may be submitted via Google form online or by hard copy, Town of South Hadley Planning and Conservation Department, 116 Main Street, South Hadley, MA 01075.

Other opportunities to learn more about the plan and share comments include:

Public Hearing on the Draft Plan - Monday, Sept. 25, at 7 p.m. (via Zoom) during the South Hadley Planning Board’s meeting. Login information will be included on the posted agenda, available here: southhadley.org/agendacenter

COA introduces monthly LGBTQ+ group

By Samuel Gelinias
Correspondent

SOUTH HADLEY – Later this month, the town’s Council on Aging will host its first coffee and donuts group meeting for senior members of the LGBTQ+ community.

The event, scheduled for Thursday, Sept. 21, will be the first of what aims to be monthly meetings that will provide support and community for an increasingly diverse senior population.

Neil Broome will preside

over the meetings, according to information from the Council on Aging (COA), opening discussions and sharing his expertise on LGBTQ+ issues.

“People become more apprehensive as they get older,” Broome said, adding that he would like to provide the opportunity for a neutral, judgment-free setting “where people can feel comfortable being themselves.”

Broome is a retired licensed social worker, born in New York City. He now spends his time volunteering in town, both

at the South Hadley Public Library and facilitates trivia night at the COA, as he says he “enjoys staying busy.”

Broome added that the elderly LGBTQ+ community is underserved, and that “there is a need for social spaces.”

These meetings at the COA intend to serve those who do not have a home or a voice in other institutions or communities, according to meeting details. An invitation is extended to allies and friends of the cause, who are welcome to participate, meeting details add.

Members needed for town boards, committees

SOUTH HADLEY - Volunteer opportunities are available on town boards and committees.

“Consider serving South Hadley by joining one,” a press statement reads.

A total of 11 boards and committees have vacancies needing to be filled, including:

Capital Planning Committee; Commission on Disabilities; Council on Aging; Cultural Council; Historical Commission; Human Rights Commission; Master Plan Implementation Committee; Sustainability & Energy Commission; Town

Meeting Review Committee; Zoning Board of Appeals; and Veterans Council

“The Selectboard is seeking citizens with diverse interests and abilities to apply for these available positions. There are no special requirements for any of the boards and committees (except for the veteran status requirement for the Veterans Council) other than a willingness to serve. However, applicants must be registered to vote in the Town of South Hadley,” a press statement reads.

Those wishing to apply to

serve on a board or committee must do so online. See the full list of vacancies and term expirations on the town website under the “I want to” tab, then “apply for,” “Boards & Commissions.” Applicants will be contacted with instructions for how to attend an interview by the Selectboard. The board will interview and make appointments in October.

Questions may be directed to Kristin Maher, executive assistant to administration, at kmaher@southhadleyma.gov.



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.

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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.

Types of animal shelters

Did you know there are different types of animal shelters? Years ago, when I first started volunteering in the world of animal rescue, I learned the difference between open admission shelters, limited admission shelters, and local animal rescues.

All three serve a vital role, requiring equal amounts of care and support from us.

Municipal Shelters

Municipal animal shelters are run by a government, operating on a budget just like police departments, public health departments, and more. These shelters work as part of a city or county's animal control division, and are most often funded with taxpayer monies, aiming to assist animals within the shelter's authority while also protecting humans from the potential hazards posed by animals. As per certain regulations, municipal shelters are often contractually required to take in any animal, regardless of health, disposition, or age—including every single dog that's surrendered, every stray cat, animals that are sick, kittens too young for adoption, animals taken from hoarding situations, and so much more. Because of this, municipal shelters are considered "open admission" and risk becoming overstrained. As part of a governmental body, the requirement that falls on these shelters is to serve the public as a whole.

Private Shelters

While some privately-run shelters do contract with one or more municipalities, most are independently-operated nonprofit facilities—not run by a government. Private shelters often have a Board of Directors establishing policies, procedures, operations, and bylaws within the shelter, and while private shelters can be open admission (if they're contracted with a municipality) they're most often considered "limited admission." This means that private shelters can choose which animals they take in, and they are able to turn animals away. Private shelters are typically funded through donations, as opposed to an operating budget.

Rescue Organizations

Nonprofit rescue groups are another alternative to consider when adopting a pet; these groups can have a physical location, but often do not and are "foster-based," relying on a network of foster homes instead. These organizations often take in animals from overburdened open admission shelters, and many function exclusively on donations and the efforts of volunteers.

Limited Admission vs. Open Admission Shelters

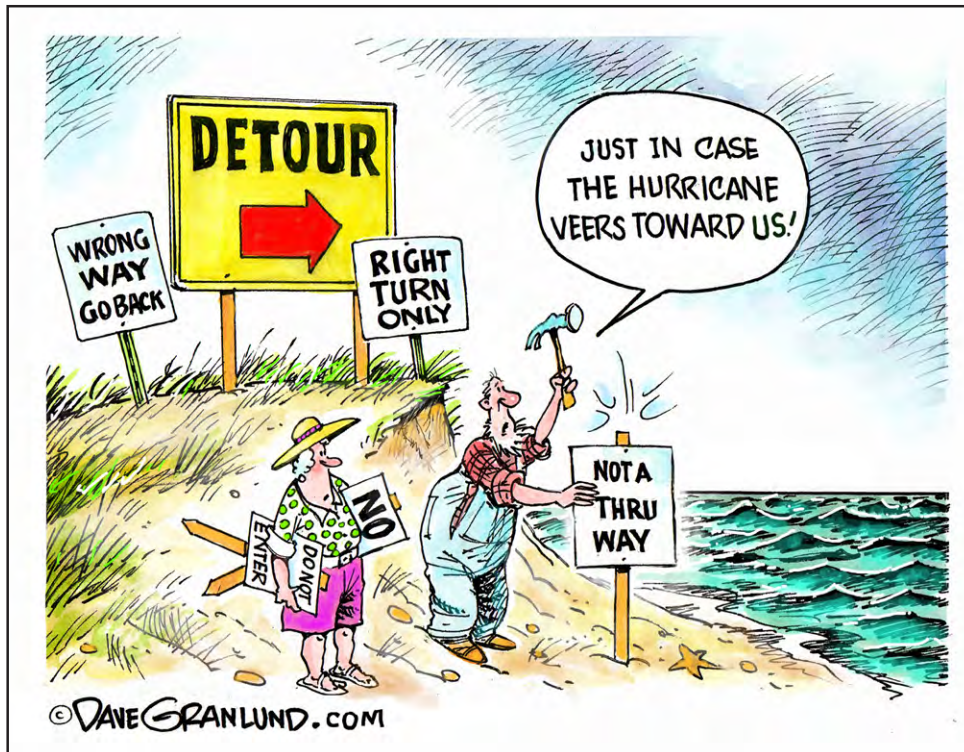
Open admission shelters will not, or cannot as per certain regulations, turn away an animal. This creates a problem when intake rates are high and resources are strained.

Limited admission shelters, on the other hand, are not obligated to accept every animal; they can say, "we're at capacity," or they can also accept only a specific group of animals, such as special needs pets or very young kittens, concentrating their resources and offering services that otherwise may not be available. These facilities are often considered "no-kill" as they will not euthanize animals regarded as healthy or adoptable.

Opinion: The Writer's Take

It's our duty to look beyond these labels to become part of the solution. I believe it's a mistake to criticize or vilify the open admission shelters that so urgently need our support.

Please see **FUR-EVER**, page 5



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Virtual vs. hybrid meetings

Dear Editor,

South Hadley needs to offer virtual public meetings for all of its meetings, regardless of the inconvenience to some Board or staff members. While it is true some of the public cannot or do not wish to attend meetings in public settings, for others, this is their preferred choice. This could be because

they don't have a computer on which to join in a virtual meeting or because in-person meetings are more real to them. I applaud the Selectboard for taking this approach and urge all of our municipal Boards and Commissions to follow their lead.

Linda Warner Young



Things to consider when overwintering your favorite herbs

It's getting to be "that time," where we must concede that summer is winding down.

What comes next? Frost and then a season of rest!

But there is much to do before then, especially if you have herbs that you'd like to dig up and overwinter inside.

At Old Sturbridge Village we dig up Rosemary, Bay, Lemon Verbena and many more tender plants. At home I am getting my own collection of plants that I too must dig up if I want to save my investment.

Over time, I have ended up with some very good-sized specimens. Overwintering these biggies can prove to be challenging space-wise, but they make such a statement in the garden I look forward to the hassle of digging them up and keeping them alive during the offseason.

Before the interpreters dig up the plants, I always ask that they give the plants a good bath to cut down on the number of insects that will be brought into the greenhouse. For the home gardener this is equally important.

I say "bath" because my pesticide of choice is a natural and fairly benign one - made of potassium salts of fatty acids (soap) that weaken the insect's outer shell and cause dehydration. It is sprayed on leaves and stems until they are soaked, and can be reapplied every 7-10 days as needed.

This product is especially effective on insects that make their home on herbs and houseplants: whitefly, aphids and mealy bugs.

Once the insects have been eradicated, it is time to get out the shovel and get to work digging up and repotting the plants. As mentioned, it's amazing at how large some of them can become after only a few months in the ground.

It is important to salvage as much of the root ball as possible to minimize the shock of being potted up. To do this, position your shovel along the "drip line" of the plant and dig straight down, completely around its circumference.

After you've made your way around, get your shovel underneath and lift. Have a pot ready - one that is an inch or two bigger than the root ball is sufficient, and will allow for minimal winter growth.

My container of choice is always plastic, but glazed pottery is fine, although it is heavy. I steer clear of clay; it dries out too quickly.

I usually put a couple of inches of moist potting soil into the container, set the plant and then fill in with more as needed before watering well. Oftentimes I leave the plants outside until a frost threatens, then I bring them in and back out until the weather turns decidedly cold.

Perhaps the most cherished of all tender herbs is Rosemary (*Rosemarinus officinalis*), the herb of remembrance. The key to growing it successfully indoors is "cool but sunny."

My new old house affords me many such microclimates. If you aren't as lucky, try for a sunny window away from dry heat, in other words far from heat vents, etc.

My mudroom runs at about 50 degrees but has decent sunlight. Win-win!

Bay tree (*Laurus nobilis*) is another favorite and can be grown right through the winter with little or no coddling provided it is given medium to bright light and consistent watering. Do be on guard for the waxy-looking scale insect; one giveaway is leaves covered in a sticky, shiny sap called honey dew.

Try to "Q-tip" individual insects with rubbing alcohol or use insecticidal soap or horticultural oil to smother larger infestations. If the bugs have been active for a

Please see **GARDEN**, page 5

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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Why is my age 70 benefit not higher than my January amount?

Dear Rusty,

I plan to retire in 2025, the year I turn 70. Given that I'm still working, I'm delaying my Social Security until that year. I noticed on my Social Security statement that my payment in January of 2025 will not be much different than my age 70 amount in October of 2025.

If that is truly the case, would it not be better for me to start taking Social Security payments starting in January of 2025. Am I missing anything here?

Signed: Uncertain Senior

Dear Uncertain Senior,

Your benefit in October 2025 at age 70 will be about six percent more than it will be in January 2025. If that isn't shown on your Statement of Estimated Benefits, it may be due to a particular nuance in Social Security's rules relating to Delayed Retirement Credits.

When benefits are claimed mid-year after full retirement age, the DRCs earned in that year aren't applied until the following January. Thus, someone who claims benefits to start mid-year will initially get the DRCs they've earned through the end of the previous year, but not immediately get credit for the additional DRCs earned during the claim-year. Those extra DRCs earned between January and the month benefits started will be applied the following January.

By way of example, if someone beyond FRA claims benefits to start in October 2024, their initial SS retirement benefit will be what they were entitled to at the end of 2023 and would not include DRCs earned between January 2024 and September 2024. They will collect that initial January 2024 benefit until January 2025 when the DRCs earned in 2024 are applied, at which point their benefit would increase by six percent.

There is, however, one exception to this rule, which is that all DRCs are immediately credited when benefits are claimed to start in the month age 70 is reached, so despite what your Statement of Estimated Benefits might reflect,

if you claim for benefits to start in the month you turn 70 (October 2025) you will get your maximum age 70 benefit immediately and won't need to wait until January 2026 for those extra DRCs to be applied.

Unfortunately, Social Security's benefit estimator doesn't explain how this nuance works and may show someone claiming mid-year receiving the same benefit as for the preceding January, without further explanation.

That is, in my opinion, a flaw in the estimator which may result in people making a wrong decision on when to claim their Social Security benefit. Nevertheless, rest assured that your benefit in October 2025, the month you turn 70, will be your maximum amount - 6% more than it would be if you claimed benefits to start in January 2025 and you won't need to wait until the following January to get the DRCs earned earlier in 2025.

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 big birthday plunge



The woman who went over Niagara Falls in a Barre

You're turning 63. How should you celebrate?

With a cake with candles? A family get-together? Maybe a party?

How about crawling into a wooden barrel, having it screwed shut, then plunging 60-feet over one of the world's great natural wonders? Which, by the way, nobody else has ever lived to tell about.

A woman did that nearly 120 years ago, the crowning achievement in her quirky life. Here's what happened.

Annie Edson Taylor was a tomboy growing up. One of 11 children raised on a farm in upstate New York, she preferred outdoors and sports to dolls and dresses.

She was a dreamer whose imagination constantly sprouted new ideas.

She married at the age of 18. Annie quickly regretted it, but not for long.

Their only child died in infancy and her husband passed away soon afterward.

It was hard for a woman to support herself in the 19th Century. Annie bounced around the country from one job to another, with interesting experiences woven in between.

She survived a house fire in Chattanooga, a small earthquake in South Carolina, and even a stagecoach robbery out west. (Refusing to hand over the \$800 hidden in her dress - all the money she had - Annie

told the robbers, "Blow away!")

She eventually settled in Bay City, Michigan and scratched out a living by operating a charm school where she taught kids table manners and dance basics. But soon pupils dwindled, along with her bank account.

Annie began worrying how she would support herself in old age.

Then, as she later wrote, "the idea came to me like a flash of lightning. Go over Niagara Falls in a barrel." At an age when most people are contemplating retirement, she began contemplating a stunt the bravest daredevils wouldn't attempt.

Her rationale wasn't as crazy as it sounds.

The Pan-American Exposition (a kind of World's Fair) was being held next door in Buffalo, New York. A large contingent of reporters was there.

If she survived, the news coverage would make Annie an instant celebrity. That could mean a book deal and lecture tours and enough money for her final years.

But there was a huge qualifier. "If."

If she survived the plunge. If she didn't, she wouldn't have to worry about anything ever again.

So, Annie headed to Niagara Falls. She designed a special white oak barrel and had it built by a company that made beer kegs.

Three feet at its widest part with tapered ends and metal hoops to secure it, plus a small anvil to keep it weighted down. An old mattress was the only padding.

Word of what she was attempting spread. A crowd gathered as she crawled into the barrel late on Thursday afternoon - her 63rd birthday (although she adamantly insisted to reporters later she was in her 40s).

Please see **HOLY COW**, page 8

GARDEN from page 4

while, sooty mold may have formed.

This thick, black coating will likely need to be scrubbed off leaf by leaf to allow the plant to photosynthesize properly.

To have success overwintering scented geraniums (*Pelargonium* spp.) indoors, situate them in bright light where daytime temperatures are 65-70 degrees, and night temps are in the 50s. Fertilize every other month during the fall and winter.

Smaller leaved varieties will be easier to manage; large leaved cultivars will get top-heavy quickly- take terminal or "tip" cuttings of these instead.

Lemon Verbena (*Aloysia triphylla*) may start out looking great, but a month or so into indoor culture will likely begin

to lose its leaves. Fear not, leaf drop is completely normal and to be expected!

You may be tempted to throw it out; instead, position in a sunny spot, water as needed and await new growth in the spring.

I hope this has provided you with the necessary information to extend the lifespan of your tender herbs.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 31 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.

FUR-EVER from page 4

Without these facilities, the animals would have no place to go—these shelters must exist, and it's our job to help them, not decry them.

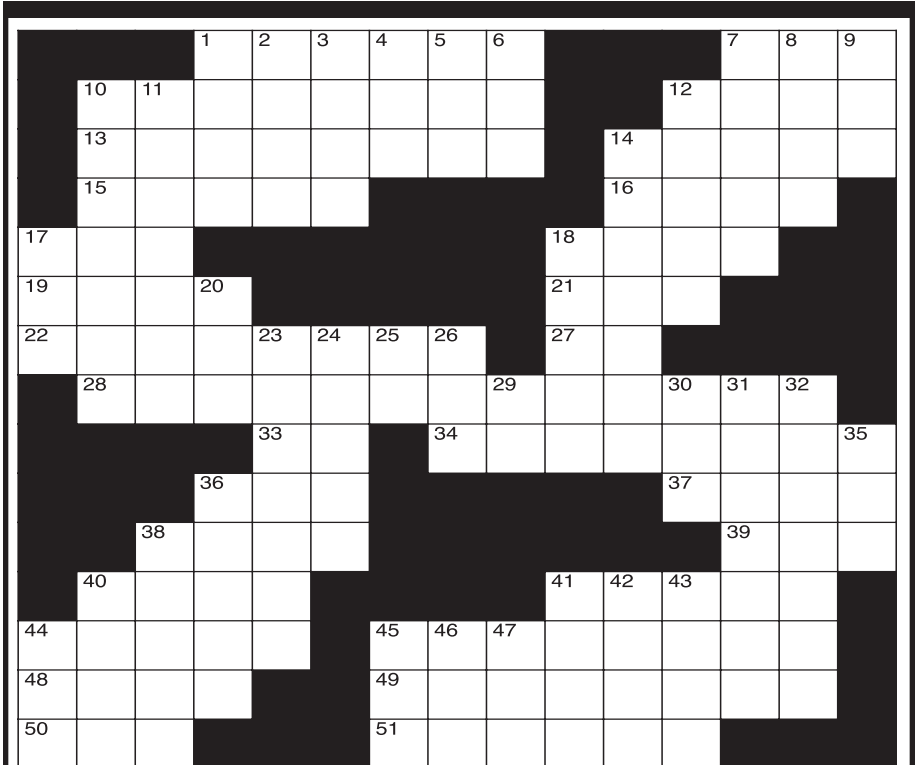
To be considered "no-kill," an organization must reach a 90 percent placement rate for the animals in their care, which can include adoption, rescue transfers, and more. This is simply a more achievable standard for the limited admission shelters that can turn animals away, but the good news is that open admission shelters can also reach that "no-kill" status, although it requires a tremendous level of support from us, the community.

To help every open admission shelter get to this status, we must get involved.

We must use our voices to spread truth and light, and we must contribute to the programming offered by these facilities. The goal of every animal shelter reaching this benchmark requires us to dig deep within ourselves, to identify where our help is needed, and to contribute our skills and efforts.

The employees and volunteers working in the world of animal rescue are some of the most compassionate and courageous souls I've met; they choose to do what they do because they love animals, and they often put every aspect of their own health on the line. Together, we can help.

It's important that we focus our efforts not on labels but rather on what matters—the animals and the people working to help them.



- | | | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| CLUES ACROSS | 36. Medical man | offensive | 29. Atomic #37 |
| 1. Type of crayon | 37. Mother of Hermes | 5. Midway between east and southeast | 30. Unit of electrical resistance |
| 7. Fashion accessory | 38. One who saves the day | 6. Confined (abbr.) | 31. Jeweled crowns |
| 10. Most cerebral | 39. Tooth caregiver | 7. Book of Esther | 32. Nastiest |
| 12. Incline from vertical | 40. Not clothed | antagonist | 35. Traditional cars need it |
| 13. Dependent on | 41. Slope covered with loose stones | 8. Port in Yemen | 36. Bowler hat |
| 14. Broken in | 44. Used to cook | 9. CNN's founder | 38. Robust |
| 15. Strongly desires | 45. Praises enthusiastically | 10. Type of bulb | 40. Not straight |
| 16. Mounted soldier | 48. Rooney is a famous one | 11. Prepare | 41. Stony waste matter |
| 17. Ad __: when necessary | 49. Beekeeper | 12. Promoted | 42. Have an interest in |
| 18. Cattle | 50. Pigpen | 14. Dinner jackets | 43. Jacob __, journalist |
| 19. Ottoman military commanders | 51. Potato chip brand | 17. Partner to cheese | 44. Maintains possession of |
| 21. __ student, learns healing | | 18. Nebraska city | 45. Swiss river |
| 22. Composed in poetic meter | | 20. Human gene | 46. Average cost of market goods |
| 27. Promotional material | CLUES DOWN | 23. Pays no attention to | 47. Spanish soldier: El __ |
| 28. Where people live | 1. Living quarters | 24. Lowland South American plain | |
| 33. Sodium | 2. Horizontal passage | 25. Blood group | |
| 34. Embarrassing | 3. Attacks | 26. Mauna __, Hawaiian volcano | |
| | 4. Vietnamese | | |

▶ Granby

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY



Wilfred and Lorilee Robert

Roberts' celebrate 70th wedding anniversary

GRANBY - Wilfred and Lorilee Robert of Granby recently celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary at Alina's Restaurant in Hadley with their family, Tom and Cathy Robert, John and Theresa Robert, and Mark and

Marilee Trompke. The Roberts were married on September 12, 1953, at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Granby. They are the proud grandparents to six grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

Library to host nature story time next week

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.

How Do Critters Prepare for Winter?
10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 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 Oct. 3 and 17 and Nov. 7 and 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.

Granby library offers monthlong book sale

GRANBY - Throughout the month of September, a fall book sale is ongoing at the Granby Free Public Library.

Through Sept. 30, book lovers can choose from a large assortment of used and like-new books in fiction and non-fiction, according to a press statement. Used DVDs, video games, audiobooks, and CDs will also be on sale. Stop

in during the library's regular operating hours, which are: Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Thursdays from 10:30 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Saturdays from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

The Granby Free Public Library is located at 297 E State Street, Granby. All proceeds benefit the Friends of the Granby Library.

'Library Anniversary Bookmark' designs due this weekend

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 Sept. 17.



VETERAN from page 1

Palm, and the Vietnam Service Medal with Marine Corps Combat Insignia with 1 Star Combat Action Ribbon.

According to a release from the national Purple Heart Mission, Bouchard is a member of the project's 2023 class of veterans who served in World War II, the Vietnam War, Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom, and other conflicts.

Members of the group repre-

sent all branches of the service and range from 37- to 100-years-old.

"Our Purple Heart recipients have made enormous sacrifices for America, and this is our opportunity to say, 'thank you' on behalf of a grateful nation," said Col. Russ Vernon (NYARNG Ret.), the executive director for the National Purple Heart Honor Mission. "For some, this will be like the homecoming they never had. We received hundreds of nominations from across the

country, and we look forward to honoring James for his courage and service, both during combat operations and in the years since returning home."

Nearly 54 years after his service in Vietnam, Bouchard said it's gratifying to be honored in such a way.

"Vietnam veterans didn't get the best welcome when we returned home," he said, further crediting his family—his wife Sue, daughter Irene, and son Joshua, also a combat-wounded

veteran and Purple Heart recipient from service in Afghanistan—for their "many years of support and love."

"I am so honored to represent Massachusetts and to be in New York with my fellow veterans," he said. "I look forward to hearing about their experiences, to make new friends and comrades, and to learn more ways to help educate our citizens about what the Purple Heart means and its significance. We must never forget the sacrifices of those who

have served our country."

The Purple Heart Medal is the oldest award still given to U.S. Armed Forces veterans who were killed or wounded in combat, according to reports.

"The purpose of the Patriot Mission is to give these medal recipients proper thanks," a press statement reads.

For information on the National Purple Heart Honor Mission, purpleheartmission.org.

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Tigers jump out to 2-0 start



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Raquel Losty squares up a bump.



Destiny Patterson gets a set from the back line.

CHICOPEE – Last Monday afternoon, it was a dominant matchup for South Hadley girls volleyball, which swept host Hampden Charter 3-0. The Wolves were not able to get into the 20's in any game, keeping the matchup out of reach. South Hadley won sets 25-11, 25-18, and 25-10. The Tigers are now 2-0.



Grace Matyszewski attempts a spike.



Emily Piligian tips the ball over the net.



Yari Santiago bumps to start a play after a serve.

Tigers shut out Wahconah

SOUTH HADLEY – After heat cancelled their first game, South Hadley girls soccer's powerful offense went on the road to Wahconah Regional and hit the Warriors with a 4-0 win. Lauren Marjanski had a pair of goals for the Tigers while Allison Fleury and Maddie Soderbaum each had a goal and an assist. In goal, Margo Watkins had two saves and Cara Dean had two saves for the combined shutout. The Tigers were scheduled to face Pittsfield on Wednesday afternoon.

Railers return to the DCU Center on Oct. 21

WORCESTER – The Worcester Railers Hockey Club (@RailersHC), proud ECHL (@ECHL) affiliate of the New York Islanders (@NYIslanders) welcome back fans to the DCU Center on Sat., Oct. 21st for the team's sixth season of ECHL hockey. The 2023-24 season will launch with two back-to-back games in Worcester against Adirondack Thunder on Saturday, and the Trois-Rivières Lions on Sunday.

The Railers look forward to showcasing the \$7 mil. DCU Center seat upgrade on Opening Weekend, live entertainment, pre-game festivities, and an action-packed weekend of hockey. "This is great home schedule for fans," said Chief Operating Officer Michael G. Myers. "It's stacked with weekend dates, allowing us to provide fans with even more premium theme nights and giveaways." The Railers will unveil their season promotional schedule in June.

This will be the first time in franchise history the team will play the Kansas City Mavericks, slated to come to Worcester on Wed., Nov. 29th. The Railers will also make the team's first trip to Hertz Arena in Estero, FL in February to battle the Florida Everblades.

Railers season tickets and mini plans are now on sale. Secure your seats online at RailersHC.com/tickets or call 508-365-1750.



Autumn Sicard controls the ball.



Rhea Gagnon passes ahead of pressure from Monson.



Sophia Gagnon sends a pass away.

Tough first half sinks Rams

MONSON – Last Friday afternoon, Monson scored seven goals to put the game out of reach in Granby's first game of the regular season. Granby got one goal in the second half as Kalli White tallied for the visitors. Granby is 0-2 to start the season.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com



Lydia Kicza attempts to clear the ball.



Olyvia Redmond sends a pass up the field.

Sports

Doug Coby, Tommy Baldwin Racing earn Granite crown

WINCHESTER, N.H. – Doug Coby and Tommy Baldwin Racing returned to NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour competition on Saturday night at Monadnock Speedway and they were celebrating after 150 laps in New Hampshire.

Coby finished fifth in the Winchester Fair 150 in the Mayhew Tools 7NY, but the finish was enough for the team to capture the second annual Whelen Granite State Short Track Cup championship crown.

The Cup, which included three races at Monadnock Speed-

way, Lee USA Speedway and back at Monadnock on Saturday night, saw Coby grab three finishes inside the top-six, including a win at Monadnock in May. By winning the Whelen Granite State Short Track Cup, the team collected at least \$5,000 in bonus awards.

Coby returned to action Saturday for the first time since Thompson Speedway in August. Team owner Tommy Baldwin Jr. announced a cancer diagnosis and the team stepped back from full-time competition and missed the last two races. They couldn't pass

up returning to chase the Granite State Short Track Cup crown.

"Just to be here with our family and Tommy battling cancer, I mean, he's a warrior," Coby said. "He told us from the beginning that he was going to fight through this and he's been courageous enough to share his battle and everything on social media, which is uncommon. To be here as the Whelen Granite State Short Track Cup champions, it just means a lot. We've got a great group of guys and Tommy really wanted to be here to do this. This one is for Tommy Baldwin."

Community Caravan postponed by weather

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Thunderbirds announced last Friday that the third installment of the T-Birds Community Caravan presented by Dunkin' has been postponed due to potential inclement weather this weekend. A rescheduled date will be announced in the future.

The previous two events featured an appearance from Thunderbirds mascot Boom-



er and team staff, as well as a wide variety of activities and vendors, including a Dunkin' Taste Truck, street hockey activities, and various food options.

Fans can reserve their seats to be part of the Thunderbirds' hockey action for the 2023-24 season by calling (413) 739-GOAL (4625) or visiting www.SpringfieldThunderbirds.com.

Public Safety

Granby Police Log

Editor's Note: The Granby Police Department responded to 161 calls for the week of Sept. 1 through Sept. 7. Those arrested are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law. The Granby Police Department provides all information.

Friday, Sept. 1

9:46 p.m. – A motorist reported that they struck a deer. The operator was not injured. An accident report was completed.

Monday, Sept. 4

6:54 p.m. – Johnathan Raffa, 35, of Granby, was placed under arrest for an active arrest warrant.

10:29 p.m. – While on patrol, an officer performed a random plate query and discovered that the vehicle did not have a valid inspection sticker. After stopping

the vehicle, it was discovered that the operator did not have a MA driver's license. The operator was issued a criminal citation for failure to inspect motor vehicle and operating without a driver's license.

Tuesday, Sept. 5

6:58 a.m. – A motorist reported a single car accident. There were no injuries and responding officers completed an accident report.

Thursday, Sept. 7

4:38 a.m. – A motorist reported striking a utility pole. Granby Police and Fire responded. The operator was transported to the hospital with non-life-threatening injuries. An accident report was completed.

1:44 p.m. – A motorist reported a two-car accident. Granby Police and Fire responded. There were no injuries and an accident report was completed.

HOLY COW from page 5

At 4:30 p.m. the barrel was screwed shut and dropped into the water. Inside, Annie clung to her lucky heart-shaped pillow; and probably prayed.

In about 15 minutes, it was all over. The barrel went over the Falls, briefly submerged, then bobbed to the surface. Boatmen hauled it onto their vessel and unscrewed the lid.

A rescuer peered inside and then shouted, "Good God! She's alive!"

Annie had indeed survived the 167-foot fall. Her only injury was a cut on her forehead as she was removed from the barrel.

She then told reporters, "I would rather face a cannon than go over the Falls again."

Annie got the fame she desired. Her photo and story were in newspapers from coast to coast.

One admirer even wrote a poem called "Goddess of Water".

"This great heroine of our nation has won both fortune and fame.

Now people all over creation will praise this illustrious dame."

(Ok, Shakespeare it's not. But how many poems have been written about you?)

Then, as quickly as celebrity status arrived, the public forgot Annie. Her fifteen minutes of fame didn't even last fifteen minutes.

There was no fortune as she'd hoped. In a final insult, someone even stole her most prized possession: her special barrel.

Annie spent her last years selling a booklet she wrote about her adventure for a dime. She was impoverished when she died in 1921 at age 82.

So, when it comes time to turn 63, go with a birthday cake instead of a stunt. Trust me on this.

Holy Cow! History is written by novelist, former TV journalist and diehard history buff J. Mark Powell.

Great Falls Discovery Center announce upcoming September events

REGION – Here are the September events at the Great Falls Discovery Center, located at 2 Avenue A, Turners Falls.

All programs are free and open to the public; an adult must accompany children, according to a press statement, and inclement weather cancels outdoor programs.

"Explore the natural, cultural, and industrial history of the Connecticut River Watershed in our dynamic exhibit dioramas," the Center released. "Adjacent to the Canalside Rail Trail, the center also includes the Great Hall exhibit gallery, restrooms, and drinking water."

Great Hall Exhibit: Intervals

Ongoing through Oct. 2

Karen Axtell presents "Intervals," mixed-media prints about time on handmade paper, layered with oil and water-based materials. The prints reference the rings of trees, the depth of rivers, the shape of leaves, ebb of tides, phases of the moon, and more.

StoryWalk: Agua, Agüita

Ongoing through Sept. 26

Enjoy a story, fresh air, and exercise. Join on the center's grounds for a free self-guided StoryWalk featuring a children's bilingual picture book, "Agua, Agüita / Water, Little Water" by Jorge Argueta, for readers ages four and up. Follow the path to book pages posted along the route.

Nice & Easy Walks

Fridays, Sept. 15, 22, and 29, 1-2 p.m.

An easy-paced, one- to two-mile guided walk along the Canalside Rail Trail or downtown Turners Falls, geared for seniors, but open to all ages. Join others seeking fresh air and exercise. A DCR Park Interpreter highlights natural and local history along the way. Wear appro-

prate clothing for the weather and sturdy footwear and bring water. Meet outside the main entrance.

Kiddleoscope Story Hour

Fridays, Sept. 29, Raptors; 10:30-11:30 a.m.

For ages three-six, accompanied by an adult. Learn more about wildlife neighbors who share our home. Program includes a story, activities, and a craft. Activities are indoors and outdoors, weather permitting. Siblings and friends welcome. Meet in the Great Hall.

Art Naturally Series

Saturday, Sept. 16, 10:30 a.m. - noon

Discover nature through story, poetry, and art in this series of free Art Naturally programs. Using words and images, instruction, and techniques one can create an art piece inspired by the natural world to take home. For adults, teens, and children ages six and up (accompanied by an adult). All art materials provided. Meet in the Great Hall.

Adventures in the Microcosmos: Foldsopes

Sunday, Sept. 17, 10:30 a.m. - noon

Learn how to use an origami microscope. Join ornithologist Ezekiel "Zeke" Jakub, co-founder of the non-profit Conservacion Panama, for "adventures in the microcosmos," an opportunity to observe tiny parts of the world up close and get an introduction to scientific methods and conservation—all while using a Foldscope. Free. Registration required. Please call 413-863-3221 to sign-up. For children and families ages nine and up. Meet in the Great Hall.

Artist Reception: Intervals

Sunday, Sept. 17, 2-4 p.m.

Join Karen Axtell for a reception celebrating her work, "Intervals," a series of mixed-media prints about time. Meet in the Great Hall.

Source To Sea Cleanup: Canalside Rail Trail

Saturday, Sept. 23, 10 a.m. - noon

Hard work, real fun, true impact: the annual fall trash cleanup of the Connecticut River and its tributaries. Join DCR staff to clean-up the Canalside Rail Trail. To register, visit bit.ly/canalside2023 or contact DCR staff at 413-863-3221 for more information. Meet at the main entrance.

At Sword's Point: A History of Trade Unions in the Machine Tool Industry in Franklin County

Saturday, Sept. 30, 2-3:30 p.m.

Public historian Tom Goldscheider discusses Franklin County precision steel tool manufacturing, where it was a world leader for generations. Workers organized with a democratic trade union that was targeted in a national political campaign aimed against it. This led to a peaceful confrontation in Greenfield and surrounding towns that surprised onlookers near and far. Meet in the Great Hall.

At Sword's Point: Oral History project

Saturday, Sept. 30

"Did you or someone you know work in the local machine tool industry? Your stories can help enrich this research," the Center released.

Those interested in sharing their memories may introduce themselves at the At Sword's Point event or contact the presenter at tom.goldscheider@gmail.com.

Follow Turley Sports on Instagram

Turley Publications sports department has recently joined Instagram. You can find our account by searching "turleysports." We will regularly feature samples of

photos that you will see in our publications on a weekly basis. Please follow and share with your friends and loved ones. We will be featuring photos from all

11 of our sports sections, but as always, you can see all the photos that appear by subscribing to your local paper or picking up a copy in your community.



Miles of Smiles award presented

EASTHAMPTON – A Miles of Smiles award has been presented to Rosanna Mercado, an Easthampton resident and the receptionist at the registration desk of the Holyoke YMCA.

“It is once again that time to honor and give a huge ‘thank you’ to the person who best demonstrated the ability to be welcoming and knowledgeable of all the workings of the Holyoke YMCA,” a press statement reads. “A small but very enthusiastic crowd gathered to honor Rosanna, the second recipient of the Y Members’ Miles of Smiles award.”

Rosanna was born and raised in the Bronx, New York, according to the press statement, attending schools there and graduating from St. Raymond’s Academy in 1995. Shortly thereafter, her family moved to Holyoke and she is now a resident of Easthampton.

Upon arriving in Massachusetts, she first worked in the Holyoke Mall’s Kids ‘R’ Us outlet store.

“There could be those that recall her parading around the mall dressed as Baby GiGi. Subsequently, she attended Holyoke Community College and graduated with a B.A in Liberal Arts from Westfield State University, after a semester in London, England, in 2010,” the press statement reads. “Rosanna has worked at the YMCA for the past 22 years since 2001.

Being a person who really involves herself in what she does, Rosanna has been involved with various YMCA offerings such as the Theater Program with kids, she taught in the Safesitters program to certify young people who desired to earn some money babysitting, and assisted with the E-Bike program among other programs.”

She has volunteered at community events such as the Extreme Makeover in Springfield.

“She timidly stated that she ‘likes to do



From left to right: Emily Lopez, YMCA welcome receptionist; Charles Kulig of Chicopee, Chairman of the Miles of Smiles Committee; Rosanna Mercado; and Roger Farnsworth of South Hadley.

new and different things in order that life doesn’t feel so repeated’ when not working daily shifts at the Holyoke YMCA,” the press statement continues. “A few of those things include biking, hiking and taking photographic landscape art shots, some of which have been exhibited in the past.”

Mercado has one adventure on her bucket list to complete down the road—a cross-country trip to view and photograph the multitude of varying landscapes and natural wonders she encounters, the press

statement adds.

“She also enjoys reading cozy mystery novels in what little after-hours time that exists for her. Upon entering the Holyoke Y, one immediately is able to recognize that Rosanna looks forward to working there each day as she heartily greets the members and being a positive role model for the youth at the Y. We are all so fortunate to have Rosanna greeting us each time we enter the portals of the Holyoke YMCA.”

Odyssey Bookshop re-launches ‘Poetry Book Club’

SOUTH HADLEY - After a short hiatus, the Odyssey Bookshop’s “Poetry Book Club” will return at 5:30 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 17, with special guest Lucas de Lima, visiting lecturer in English at Mount Holyoke and author of “Tropical Sacrifice,” who will be leading the meeting and discussing that book.

“Copies available at the Odyssey with a 20 percent discount if you will be coming to the book club,” the bookshop released in a press statement.

“Tropical Sacrifice” is a “wish-bone against a fascist heart/a prophetic, dream-filled narrative based on the spiritual journey of a chicken.”

“Used for sacrificial ritual in Afro-Brazilian religion, the chicken becomes a re-enchantment of the poet’s ancestry. Her superior vision gives access to histories of genocide and ecocide, opening a portal to Indigenous, Afro-diasporic, queer, and nonhuman worlds. From the favela to the Amazon to the astral plane, it is the half-winged bird who escapes the factory farm, inviting voices to bleed out of the sky.”

Lucas de Lima is a Brazilian-born poet, artist, scholar, and educator.

‘Talk like a Pirate’ day at local library upcoming

GRANBY – The library will hold “Talk like a Pirate” day next Tuesday, Sept. 19.

“Ahoy All Ye Pirates Young and Old. Dress up in pirate garb or just put on yer pirate eyepatch to earn some pirate booty,” the Granby Public Library released. “Learn some cool pirate lingo and take part in a treasure hunt.”

The event has been described as “fun for all ages.”

Fort River clean-up, RiverFest upcoming as part of Source to Sea Cleanup

By Kimberly Palmucci
townreminder@turley.com

REGION - The Fort River Watershed Association is hosting a free community event this month to clean-up and celebrate the Fort River.

“We’d be grateful to have you join us,” a press statement reads. “To celebrate the amazing Fort River, we are going to clean it up.”

The Fort River Cleanup, part of the Connecticut River Conservancy’s 27th Annual Source

to Sea Cleanup, will take place at Groff Park in Amherst from 10 a.m. – noon on Saturday, Sept 23.; coffee and snacks will be available at 9:30 a.m., and all ages and abilities are welcome.

“Bring your boots, long pants, and a water bottle. Everything else will be provided,” the press statement reads.

Register online at fortriver.org/cleanup by selecting Fort River from the drop-down menu.

“We are eager to partner with the Connecticut River Conservancy and thousands of vol-

unteers across Massachusetts, Vermont, New Hampshire, and Connecticut to remove trash from our neighborhoods and enhance the health of the rivers and streams that sustain us—cleaning the Connecticut River and its tributaries from beginning in New Hampshire to joining the Long Island Sound in Connecticut,” the Association released.

“Source to Sea Cleanup volunteers have worked hard to combat litter and illegally dumped trash,” said Kelsey Wentling, CRC’s Massachusetts River Steward.

“In the past 26 years, volunteers have removed over 1,100 tons of trash from the Connecticut River and its tributaries, preventing it from reaching our oceans and becoming a global trash problem. Many areas are cleaner thanks to the efforts of volunteers.”

The Fort River watershed runs through parts of Amherst, Shutesbury, Pelham, Belchertown, and Hadley and the river is the longest tributary of the Connecticut River with free passage for fish and other species, a press statement reads.

“The Fort River is home to several species of freshwater mussel, including one species federally listed as being endangered—the dwarf wedge mussel, and the watershed feeds the drinking water supply for both Amherst and Hadley. Please consider joining us in contributing to this impressive and impactful regional effort.”

Those interested in volunteering as a clean-up site leader, festival logistics wrangler, or being an event sponsor may email fortriverwatershed@gmail.com.

SERVICE DIRECTORY

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

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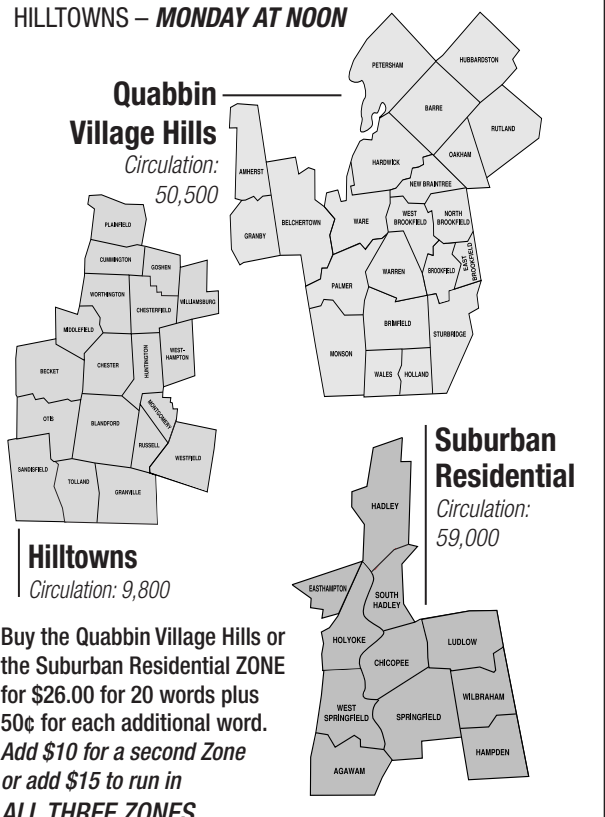
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Education

Local National Guard soldier receives new rank, new responsibilities

SOUTH HADLEY - Major General Ray Shields, the adjutant general for the state of New York, has announced the recent promotion of members of the New York Army National Guard in recognition of their capability for additional responsibility and leadership.

Gregory Antunes, of South Hadley, is assigned to the Company A, 3rd Battalion, 142nd Aviation Regiment, according to a press statement, and received a promotion on July 24 to the rank of staff sergeant.

Army National Guard promotions are based on a soldier's overall performance, demonstrated leadership abilities, professionalism, and future development potential, the press statement reads.

These promotions recognize the "best qualified Soldiers for a career in the New York Army National Guard."

"Army National Guard Citizen soldiers who serve our state and nation are eligible for monthly pay, educational benefits (from the state and federal government), travel across the globe, technical and leadership training, health and dental insurance and contributions towards retirement programs similar to a 401(k)," the press statement reads.

For more information about the New York Army National Guard, visit dmna.ny.gov or www.1800goguard.com.



Submitted Photo

Holyoke Community College's Campus Center

High school senior announced as semifinalist for National Merit Scholarship Program

SOUTH HADLEY - High school student Caleb Cox has been announced as a semifinalist for a national scholarship opportunity.

Officials of the National Merit Scholarship Corporation have announced the names of more than 16,000 semifinalists in the 69th annual National Merit Scholarship Program.

These "academically talented high school seniors" have an opportunity to continue in the competition for some

7,140 National Merit Scholarships worth nearly \$28 million that will be offered next spring, according to a press statement. To be considered for a Merit Scholarship award, semifinalists must fulfill several requirements to advance to the finalist level of the competition.

About 95 percent of the semifinalists are expected to attain finalist standing, and approximately half of the finalists will win a National Merit Scholarship, earning the Merit Scholar title.

HCC announces dean's list for summer 2023

REGION - Several local students have been announced to Holyoke Community College's dean's list for summer 2023.

Each semester, Holyoke Community College (HCC) recognizes "superior scholarship" through the dean's list, the school released. A student is placed on

the dean's list if their GPA is 3.2 or higher. The students listed below have earned dean's list honors:

- Granby:** Olivia Lauren Hinkley
- South Hadley:** Della Froeberg, Nicole Marie Theroux, Dominick Michael Valentine.

Community Newspaper EDITOR WANTED

Turley Publications is looking for a "hands on" energetic candidate who loves telling stories to be the editor for two weekly publications. This position will include managing and coaching a small news staff that will provide the community with a great local newspaper.

The editor will need to cover local government and events while representing the newspaper at public venues.

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Please send resume and writing examples to:

Eileen Kennedy, Executive Editor
24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069
or email directly to ekennedy@turley.com

TOWN OF SOUTH HADLEY PLANNING BOARD NOTICE OF VIRTUAL PUBLIC HEARING Housing Production Plan (HPP) Update

The South Hadley Planning Board will hold a virtual public hearing on **Monday, September 25, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.** to discuss the draft Housing Production Plan update.

The public hearing will be conducted online using the Zoom Webinar platform and persons may join the meeting by either joining Zoom Webinar or by phone. The log-in information is as follows:

URL to join: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84479765864?pwd=SGpYORpWSs0a0FIa1NrK0g3aFIBdz09>

Or join by phone: +1 (646) 558 8656

Webinar ID: 844 7976 5864
Passcode: 616858

The draft plan and related documents can be found online here: <https://southhadley.org/1372/Housing-Production-Plan>.

Alternatively, hard copies of the documents may be viewed at the South Hadley Senior Center, the South Hadley Public Library, the Gaylord Memorial Library or the South Hadley Planning

and Conservation Department office.

Any person interested in, or wishing to be heard, should join the hearing at the time and in the manner designated. This meeting is being conducted remotely consistent with Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2023 which extends the March 2020 Governor's Order suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law MGL Ch. 30A Sec. 20 until March 31, 2025.

Joanna Brown, Clerk
South Hadley Planning Board

09/08, 09/15, 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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Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.

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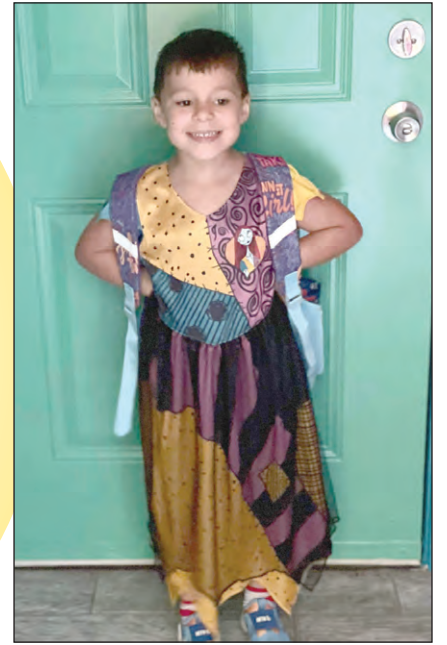


Seamus Flood proudly wears his first day of kindergarten shirt.



New kindergartener Milena Perron is all smiles on the Plains School playground.

PRESCHOOL, KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS
welcome new year
 Photos by Tina Lesniak



Maya Freeman prepares for the first day of kindergarten.



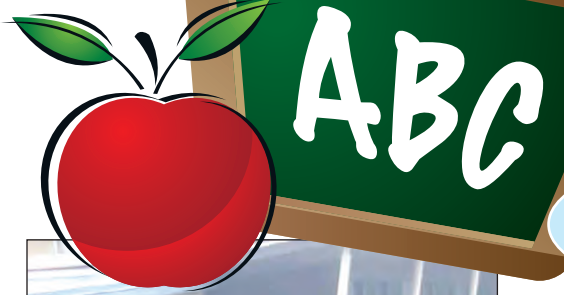
Brynn Adams poses with her first day of kindergarten board.



A big balloon bouquet for Raelyn Carroll's first day of kindergarten.



Adalyn Bartlett is ready for the first day of kindergarten.



Hadleigh Sorbi poses outside Plains School on her first day of preschool.



Georgie Ramondetta was excited for the first day of kindergarten.



Jaxon Cloutier was "thumbs-up ready" for the first day of preschool.



Marcus Duplisea sports his best shark shirt for the first day of preschool.

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