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Schools look forward to the new year

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

SOUTH HADLEY – With school kicking off into full swing, the teachers, principals, and staff are welcoming returning, and new students for the new school year.

“We are committed to fostering a supportive and safe learning environment for all. As we start this new school year, let’s work together to ensure that each student is set up for success,” Principal Elizabeth Wood from the high school said.

Whether your student is starting their first year of preschool, kindergarten, fourth grade, or heading into their first or last year of high school, the South Hadley Public Schools are ready to help them achieve anything.

But it’s not just the dedicated principals ready to start this new school year, but also the teachers, opening their arms to new classes, and excited to see where past students are moving forward and into.

“This is going to be a spectacular year, and we look forward to being with you every day,” Assistant Principal David Gallagher at Mosier said.

“It is an honor and privilege to be the Plains Elementary School Principal,” Carla Lussier said. “I enjoy helping create a positive, effective and safe learning environment for all students, teachers, staff and parents. Go Tiger Cubs.”

South Hadley High School

Richard Meigs, a science teacher, has been teaching for

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Select Board announces updates for SHOWCASE

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

SOUTH HADLEY – The Select Board met last week to put together several new meetings to bring new events like SHOWCASE, and practices to make South Hadley a better town for its people.

The Sept. 10 meeting was

held by Chair Andrea Miles, and she was accompanied by Vice Chair Jeff Cyr, Clerk Carol Constant, and members Renee Sweeney and Nicole Casolari and Town Administrator Lisa Wong.

South Hadley SHOWCASE Updates

The board welcomed John Anz and Liz Wood of the South

Hadley SHOWCASE committee to present the updates regarding SHOWCASE, and more.

“We would be remiss not to thank this body for the support they gave us back in 2023 to pull off the inaugural SHOWCASE South Hadley,” Anz said.

Anz shared the goals of the committee to share and spread the word about the talents found within South Hadley.

The upcoming SHOWCASE South Hadley events will be held in the coming spring, from April 25 to the 27, the weekend at the end of spring break for the public schools.

“It’s such a great cultural infusion for the town, and it really brings together so many public

Please see **SHOWCASE**, page 2

Proposed Historic District for Falls area

By Tina Lesniak
Correspondent

SOUTH HADLEY - The board working to create the Old Firehouse Museum Local Historic District will hold a required public hearing this Saturday, Sept. 21 at 10 a.m. at the Old Firehouse Museum to discuss the value of and plans for the district and answer any questions from the community.

“The proposed Old Firehouse Museum Local Historic District is in the Falls which is vitally important in South Hadley’s history,” explained Melissa Taylor, chair of the study committee. “In the 18th and 19th centuries, this part of town was a busy commercial and industrial area known as Canal Village, home to the country’s first commercially successful navigable canal. Today the Old Firehouse Museum is a gem of the Falls, housing South Hadley’s important historical records and artifacts. This district is across the street from the remnants of the 1795 canal, which is on the National Register of Historic Places.”

After receiving feedback at the public hearing, and working with feedback from the planning board and Massachusetts Historical Commission, the group will

Please see **DISTRICT**, page 6

'THE ISLAND BEFORE NO'



Children’s author shares the story of a walrus’ yes and no

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

SOUTH HADLEY – The Public Library has hosted a special story time hour for the children to enjoy listening to some books, singing songs, and doing crafts.

This week, children’s author Christina Uss came to the library to read the kids her book, “The Island Before No”, which tells the story of an island of walruses and their custom to always say “yes”, and what happens when someone arrives with a “no”.

“I thought it would be fun to have a big animal be able to say no and set that boundary,” Uss said. “This book is dedicated to all the people who have a hard time saying ‘no’, even when that can be hard.”

The story, which Uss read, also had a special crocheted walrus named Russ Wal, who was made for her by a friend to look like one of the walruses in her book, and she takes him everywhere she goes to read the book.

The theme of saying “yes” and “no”, accompanied by the ASL signs for each word, was a humorous story to help kids learn about the benefits of saying “yes” to some things, and “no” to others.

“I have twins, and you have to say ‘no’ as a parent, and with twins, I had to say no twice, which I didn’t like”, Uss said.

Every birthday, the twins get to celebrate with a “Yes Day”, where whatever they ask to do, whether its birthday cake for breakfast, the answer is “yes”.

“I took that yes day we have, and wondered then what it would be like to have an entire island that always says ‘yes’, and what it would look like to have someone come in and say ‘no’,” Uss said.

Please see **AUTHOR**, page 5

Turley Photo by Emily-Rose Pappas
Pointing out the pictures and counting out the ice cream scoops with the kids.

South Hadley to host community forum

SOUTH HADLEY— The Town of South Hadley is exploring new zoning options along Routes 202 and 33 to support appropriate growth and development along the 1-mile corridor. Potential rezoning under consideration is based on recommendations from a Corridor Study adopted in January 2022. This section of roadway links South Hadley to Granby in the north and Chicopee in the south and is the most heavily traveled route in town. The corridor contains a broad mix of residential, commercial, and open space and recreation uses.

The intersection of Routes 202 and 33 at the heart of the corridor is centered between the Plains Elementary School and the Big Y shopping Plaza. Zoning recommendations will be informed by public input at a series of four community forums, the first of which is on Monday Sept. 16 at 6 p.m. at the South Hadley Council on Aging at 45 Dayton St.

If individuals can't make the community forum, they can share their thoughts on the future development of the corridor on the interactive project website through the online mapping exercise: <https://community.innesassocltd.com/south-hadley>.

Funding for this project is provided by a Community Planning Grant from the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities. The Town has hired Innes Associates Ltd. as the project consultant. A five-member project advisory committee was appointed by the Selectboard in April. Additional community forums will be held Wednesday, Oct. 16, 6 to 8 p.m., virtual, <https://bit.ly/4fPZM9P> Or Telephone: +1 646 558 8656 Webinar ID: 883 0895 6522 Passcode: 713870

Thursday, Nov. 14 at 6 to 8 p.m. South Hadley Public Library, 2 Canal St. and Thursday, Jan. 16 at 6 p.m. at South Hadley Public Library, 2 Canal St.

Growing wild potluck

SOUTH HADLEY—Celebrate the end of the growing season with friends on Thursday, Oct. 10, from 6 to 8 p.m. at the South Hadley Library Community Room.

Join community members at a fall potluck to talk about successes, failures, and share ideas about native plants. Please arrive by 6:30 p.m. if bringing food. All are welcome, no gardening experience required.

Special Guests will be from Ben and Meg's Farm and Garden Center, Dave's Natural Garden. There will be giveaways of Perennial Plugs from New England wetland plants and raffle prizes.

Sign up for the Pot Luck at the link <https://tinyurl.com/54t8wx9u> or email rcornell@southhadleyma.gov with the dish.

Fall Festival at St. Paul's Episcopal Church

HOLYOKE— St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 485 Appleton St., will hold their Fall Festival on Saturday, Sept. 28, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Parish Hall and on the Church grounds.

There will be something for everyone: Gift Basket Raffles, \$5 Fun Raising Raffle, Vendors, Plants, Bake Sale, a Cafe', and Outdoor Activities for Families. Free ample parking is located

behind the Church and all are welcome.

For more information, please call the Church Office at 413-532-5060.

SHOWCASE from page 1

and private entities within the town and gives opportunity for participants to be great," Wood said.

The three-day event will be able to showcase the talents of every age in South Hadley, from the smallest of kindergarteners to the wisest of seniors.

"I was at the last planning meeting, and I have to say I was really excited because Mount Holyoke really is fully in on this project, from finding space for us to use for the event, and I just think that's a really exciting thing for the community," Constant said.

Anz and Wood came to the board with a request for financial assistance for the SHOWCASE, with a total of \$15,000 requested.

On Sept. 24, the board will be meeting together to discuss and plan out the use of their ARPA funds, as well as to see what room they have in the budget to give towards the SHOWCASE planning and project.

While the SHOWCASE committee will be doing fundraising and organizing, they also sought help from the town, and the Selectboard agreed to assess the ARPA funds, and look to give more than the \$15,000 requested.

"I think that the board is

committing to giving more than \$25k, so I know your request was for fifteen, but you'll have two weeks to see if that's enough," Cyr said.

A Special Request to Honor Veterans

Brian Willette from the American Legion Post 266 came to the selectboard with a special request to install a special veteran's chair memorial at the South Hadley Sports Stadium Complex.

The chair will commemorate and honor the veterans who became Prisoners of War, and those who were Missing in Action.

Of the thousands of service men and women that have been taken prisoner or became MIA, just over two-thousand were from Massachusetts, and eight from South Hadley.

Willette and the American Legion Post dug up the stories of these brave individuals and are working towards getting their names and histories put together for the families and the public.

"Fur us as organized veterans, we never forget our missing," Willette said. "The chair program is a way to express our desire to never forget."

The chair has been approved, and will be installed at the South Hadley Sports Stadium Complex on September 27 on first responders and military night.

the hearing for the 654 New Ludlow Road Land Donation to be held at their next meeting as they wait to gather the rest of the needed information.

Two private land owners came in to the selectboard with a Right of First Refusal Land Swap request at 0 Lithia Springs Road and 12 Lithia Springs Road and the board approved the request for the Land Swap.

Community Impact Grant- Best Practices

The community impact grant, which is detailed in more depth on the town website, is a grant that works to provide specific services for towns.

Towns can choose from a variety of topics, from mental and physical health care, special training, and more. This year, the selectboard chose to move funds into DEI training as well as a wage and compensation study.

"The question is, what is South Hadley interested in doing right now?" Wong said, sharing a list of options to choose from.

"This is a rolling application, so it opened up Aug. 19. They do have limited funds... and I'd like to see us apply sooner than later so that we can get in that queue and get those funds together," Wong said.

The selectboard, after hearing their choices for projects to do for the community, opted to put the larger sum, \$50,000, towards Age and Dementia-Friendly Best Practices, and the lower sum, \$15,000, towards Ecological Development Best Practices.

Land Donations and Right of First Refusal Land Swap

The board is moving to postpone

Adventure tours of Warren
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Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks - May 14-23, 2025
American Heritage - May 23-30, 2025
The Colorado Rockies - July 18-26, 2024
Montana: Exploring Big Sky Country - August 25-September 5, 2025
Portugal and Its Islands - September 12-26, 2025
Peaks of Europe - September 12-24, 2025
Christmas in London - December 5-11, 2025

Share the Adventure with us soon!
For further information call Randall at (413) 436-5357 or email adventuretours@att.net or go to www.adventuretoursofwarren.com

Tuesday Night 6:30pm
Pitch Night

Wednesday Night 5-6:30pm
Smoked BBQ
\$10 per person

Saturday & Sunday 11-1pm
Corned Beef & Chicken Salad Sandwiches

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Learn about running for local office in South Hadley

SOUTH HADLEY— South Hadley voters are invited to attend an information session at 6 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 23, 2024 in the Community Room at South Hadley Public Library at 2 Canal Street to learn about running for local office. Now is the time to think about the April 8, 2025 Annual Town Election. Having information now can be helpful for those considering running for an office as the timeline for running typically starts just as the busy holiday season is coming to an end and the new year begins.

Running for election as a Town Meeting Member can be a good starting point for residents who would like to be more involved in and better understand Town affairs. As Town Meeting is the legislative session that votes on our

policies and budget, members learn a great deal about how our town works and its finances. Each of South Hadley's five precincts has 24 Town Meeting Members, for a total of 120 elected members. Members serve staggered 3-year terms, with eight seats on the ballot each year for every precinct. Town Moderator, John Hine, will join the meeting to provide some more insight on Town Meeting.

Participants will learn about being a precinct-based Town Meeting member, as well as the Town-Wide elected offices outlined in our By-Laws. The requirements to be a candidate, how to run for local office, and the timelines for running will also be covered. The event is hosted by the South Hadley Town Clerk's office and Board of Registrars.

Drive-thru vaccine clinic

SOUTH HADLEY— On Oct. 16 from 2 to 6 p.m. there will be a drive-thru vaccine clinic at Beers and Story. The vaccines that will be available

are SHINGRIX, TDAP, RSV, COVID, PEMOCOCCAL. For more information, please visit www.southhadley.org.

South Hadley Chorale to begin rehearsals

SOUTH HADLEY— The South Hadley Chorale will begin rehearsals for its 40th season on Wednesday, Oct. 9. The program will feature Randall Thompson's Frostiana, Giovanni Battista Pergolesi's Magnificat, and Johann Sebastian Bach's Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring. Rehearsals will be held on Wednesday evenings from 7 to 9 p.m. at All Saints' Episcopal Church, 7 Woodbridge St. They

will continue through Nov. 20 and will resume on Jan. 8, 2025 until the concert on March 16, 2025.

The Chorale is pleased to welcome back Anita Anderson Cooper as conductor and music director. Ms. Anderson Cooper is a member of the faculty of the Paul Baird Middle School in Ludlow and directs the Smith College Handbell Choir. She is also a composer and a frequent soloist and guest con-

ductor both locally and throughout the East Coast.

The South Hadley Chorale is made up of approximately 60 singers from 17 communities. All interested singers are invited to attend. There are no auditions. Most singers, however, have had some choral experience. For more information, please visit www.southhadleychorale.org or call 413-533-3833.

Photo group to hold meeting

BELCHERTOWN — The Quabbin Photo Group will hold its monthly meeting on Sept. 23 at 7 p.m. at the Hope United Methodist Church, 31 Main St.

Join Evan Terbush as he takes you through some of his photography trips from the past few years, the planning, challenges, and how gear considerations change from one trip to the next. He share what he has learned from his solo trips, and how he takes his camera gear, and himself, into challenging environments while sharing some of his work captured in the process.

Terbush has worked directly with organizations such as National Park institutes, eco-tourism agencies, tour guides,

hotels, and others, to capture content for them on his trips. He shares his photography, as well as informational insight and background to each photo, to his thousands of followers on his Instagram account, posting new photos and narrative every Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 8 a.m. Follow him @EventPhotog on Instagram, or Instagram.com/EventPhotog.

All meetings are free and open to the public but voluntary donations are encouraged to help defray expenses. If individuals would like to join a meeting contact Gail Platz at gspqpg@gmail.com and/or Elaine Darr-Morton at darmor-ton@charter.net.

Small appliance swap this Saturday

SOUTH HADLEY – Do you have a kitchen item sitting on your counter that is clean, and still works- but you no longer use it? Bring it down to the South Hadley library and swap it for something new to you! For example: a rice cooker, coffee maker, or air fryer- bring it in. It must be in working condition and clean. If it is not clean it will be refused. Drop off is until Friday, Sept. 20. Individuals will receive a ticket for each item they bring. Then come on Sat., Sept. 21. The library doors open at 9:30 a.m. You can begin to line up at the Community Room Door then. Doors don't open until 10 a.m.

SCHOOLS from page 1

eight years, and has been at South Hadley High School for the past three, teaching different levels of physics, engineering, and astronomy.

"By far, my favorite part of teaching is working with our amazing students in our community," Meigs said. "Teaching our students, challenging them on a daily basis in a fun, engaging manner, and seeing them succeed always brings me so much joy."

Mr. Meigs' classroom theme can be summed up by him in one word: collaboration. From any topic, project, experiment, or class assignment.

The science classroom is always filled with chatter, and "I always have students sit in groups so they can constantly facilitate conversations and help one another," Meigs said.

"I love getting to form amazing student-teacher relationships with the students and seeing them grow throughout high school. I truly feel like I have the best job because of this," Meigs said.

Mr. Meigs proudly received the Michael E. Smith Endowment for Excellence in Education at the end of the last school year, one for physics and one for engineering.

"Due to the money awarded by the grants... my classroom will be using new motion tracking carts, robots for engineering to learn coding, a van der Graaff generator, and so many new lab supplies," Meigs said.

The school's English teacher, Amy Foley, has been teaching for 29 years, and is also looking forward to welcoming in her new students to her classroom, and to the school.

"My favorite part of teaching is the community that is created in each of my classes every year.



Learning about each other and respecting and celebrating individuals increases engagement and learning in my classroom," Foley said.

Foley's classroom theme is more in line with exploring the world through learning, reading, and travel, and is excited for many new additions to come to her classroom.

"This year, my favorite part of my classroom is the developing studio I am creating for my Visual Media class - this is a brand-new class to me and the school this year," Foley said.

"Each year, I am presented with something new to learn about, whether it is learning to help a student overcome their individual learning challenges or learning a new strategy from a colleague that makes learning fun and increases engagement," Foley said.

But it isn't just the teachers excited to have students back in the classrooms, but the principals, ready to help guide teachers, staff, students, and their families through the school year.

"Being the principal of South Hadley High School encompasses so much. It's an honor to be



able to guide such a dedicated group of educators and staff while helping shape the future of our students," Principal Liz Wood said.

Mosier Elementary School

Like the high schoolers, the little elementary school kids are getting ready to start their new year with new teachers, and new friends.

Assistant Principal David Gallagher at Mosier is ready to welcome students and is looking forward to what this new year will bring.

"At the beginning of the year I love seeing our returning students and hearing what they did during vacation. It is also exciting to welcome a whole new

grade to Mosier School and begin getting to know them," Gallagher said.

Sarah Overgaard, the school's third grade teacher, has been teaching for ten years, and loves spending time getting to know her students, and her fellow staff and coworkers.

"My classroom theme this year is 'cozy like home'. Our students' second home is our classroom that they spend 6+ hours a day in. I take pride in making it comfortable for all in various ways with decor and

Plains Elementary School

"This year, I am looking forward to a great school year. In particular, I am looking forward to our two new programs: 1. New social emotional, and academic well-being program and 2. new math program," Principal Carla Lussier said.

First grade teacher Ashley Macey has been teaching for twelve years, and currently teaches first grade. She began working in Springfield and moved to Plains after three years.

"This is my ninth year in first grade at Plains. This is my home. My favorite part of teaching is seeing the growth and development in my students each day. They are what makes my job so fun and rewarding," Macey said.

Her classroom is filled with bright colors while keeping it simple and organized for her students to enjoy, with her favorite spot being the rainbow rug.

"This is where all our learning, read-alouds, and discussions take place," Macey said. "The students are always participating and wanting to say what they know. This is also where they share anything and everything... and I mean everything."

But the year isn't complete without acknowledging the hard work of all the teachers and staff who work hard to put together the classrooms and more for their students.

"It is an entire team effort when it comes to supporting our youngest learners in South Hadley and I am looking forward to another amazing year at Plains," Macey said.

"We are beginning the educational journey in this building with your children. The growth that happens here is amazing - we create readers, mathematicians, good citizens - a huge and wonderful responsibility," Lussier said.

Opinion



A blueberry question from Ed

"My name is Ed and I have a question that I hope you can answer: I have a small part of my back yard where three tomato plants used to grow. This year I bought a blueberry plant which I never have grown before. I planted it in May of this year and as of mid August I still have not had any blueberries yet. The plant actually looks the same as it did in May. I water the plant every day and just wondering why nothing has grown yet. I actually am considering just letting the blueberry plant stay as is through the winter and maybe by early 2025 there might be some blueberries. Any comment is much appreciated. Thanks!"

Thank you for your question, Ed. I am thinking that your blueberry plant might need a bit more time adjusting to its surroundings, and maybe a correction on soil pH.

Read on to learn about that.

Blueberries, more than tomatoes, are picky about pH. They are ericaceous, or "acid-loving," just like rhododendrons and azaleas. In this part of the country our soil tends to be acidic, but blueberries like an even lower pH than most soils have, to the tune of 4.8.

To find out the pH of your soil, have it tested by the University of Massachusetts Cooperative Extension service. If you specify at testing time that you wish to grow blueberries, they will give you advice on how to amend the soil for that crop.

Some amendments used to lower pH include sulfur, peat moss and leaf humus among others.

I would also recommend that you apply mulch around the blueberry bush to a depth of four inches. As you know, mulch will conserve soil moisture as well as continue to add organic matter and nutrients to the soil as it breaks down.

For blueberries the best choice is well rotted sawdust. Grass clippings and straw are also suitable but need to be replaced more quickly than sawdust.

A word of caution: make sure the sawdust is well rotted or it could potentially burn tender stems as well as rob nitrogen from the plant it is intending to help.

Blueberries can self-pollinate, but for the best berry production plant at least two different blueberry varieties within 10 feet of one another. If, for example, the variety you have ripens mid season, purchase another mid season bush, so that the flowers will be blooming and therefore pollinated at the same time.

You will be delighted with larger fruit and more of it!

There would be some crossover with early and later varieties, but with only two plants I'd err on the side of caution and just purchase another of the same season whatever that is. If you don't know, don't worry about it, just plant another bush regardless.

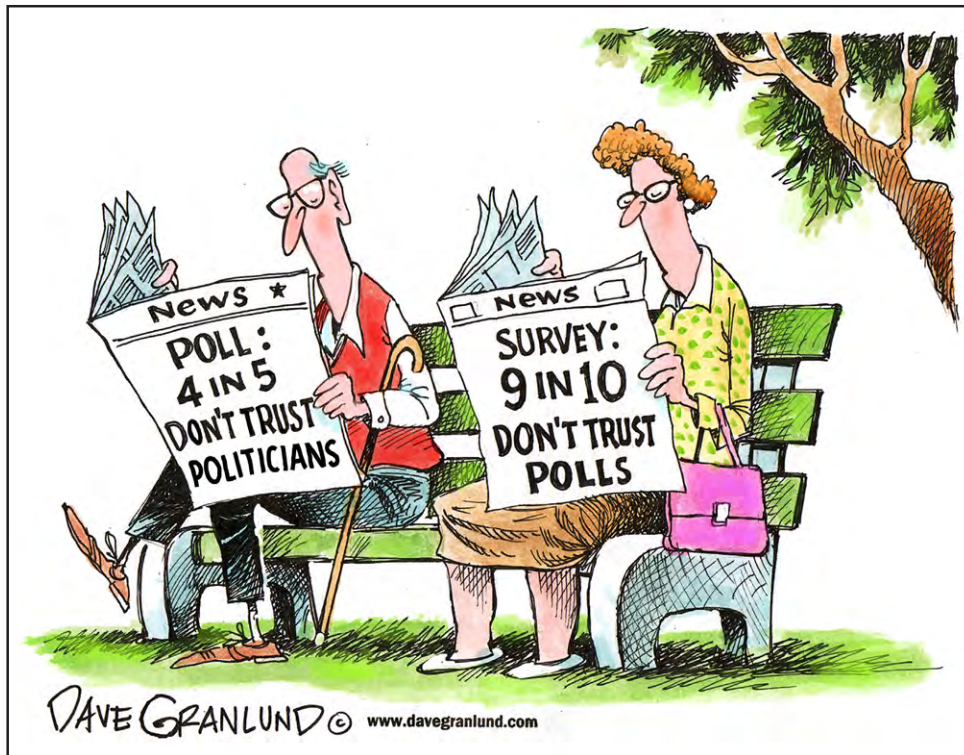
The last thing I'd like to mention is that it usually takes two-three years for blueberries to produce fruit even if all of their needs are being met. It has to do with the maturity of the branches and whether they are productive.

The most productive branches tend to be around three years old. I'm not sure how old your plant was upon installation, but maybe it just needs a little more time.

Well, we covered a lot of material here, but I can sense how badly you'd like to see your bushes bare fruit. By making a few minor changes and providing the one plant you have with a friend you will hopefully see berries in a couple of years at the most.

Thanks for the question, Ed!

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



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Don't miss virtual Planning Board meeting, Sept. 23

I am writing to alert the citizens of South Hadley, including all Town Meeting Members, to a very important meeting of the Planning Board on Monday, September 23, 2024 at 6:30 PM, virtually: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82308718165?pwd=uaLExK-ab83LE4sv6eKf6esRJa0SObe.1>

Or Telephone: +1 646 558 8656, Webinar ID: 823 0871 8165, Passcode: 901841

This virtual meeting is a continuation of a Public Hearing on proposed amendments to the Town of South Hadley's Zoning By-law on Flexible Development and associated bylaw amendments, which will be included on the Special Town Meeting warrant in November.

Anne Capra, Director of Planning and Conservation in South Hadley, has written the following regarding these proposed zoning by-law amendments: "The Planning Board has been working on amendments to the 1995 Subdivision Regulations since July 2023 to bring them up to date with revisions to the state's Subdivision Control Law. The

goals of these amendments are to improve functionality and safety for multimodal transportation, improve stormwater management requirements in relation to climate change impacts, integrate considerations for community character and quality of life in plan evaluation, and improve administrative processes for more effective permit compliance and enforcement."

Here is the link to the draft of the proposed by laws for you to read and study. You can type this into your website browser:

Proposed/Draft Bylaws | South Hadley, MA - Official Website

Please plan to attend this virtual meeting and voice your opinion.

If you cannot attend, please submit your comments to the Planning Board as follows: Planning Board, Town Hall, 116 Main Street, South Hadley, MA 01075

or via email to acapra@southhadleyma.gov

Martha Terry,
South Hadley



About widow's benefits vs. benefits from my ex-spouse

Dear Rusty:

In November I will be 60 and eligible for widow's benefits. My late husband's Social Security was approximately \$2,300 when he passed around 7 years ago.

FYI, my ex-husband is still working and will probably receive the highest SS when he retires in about five years, we were married for more than 10 years. Either of these is more than my own Social Security will be, so how does this work? Will this turn into my Social Security? Can I start on one and switch to the other later?

Signed: Wondering Widow

Dear Wondering Widow:

Provided you have not remarried before age 60, you have a choice which benefit to receive - either your deceased husband's benefit as his surviving spouse or your ex-spouse benefit from your ex-husband while he is still living. Taking your survivor benefit from your deceased husband will likely be best because it is based on 100% of his

SS amount when he died, whereas your ex-spouse benefit from your living ex-husband is based on 50% of his Full Retirement Age entitlement. To get an ex-spouse benefit from your ex-husband, which you can't get until you are 62, your own SS retirement benefit would need to be less than 50% of your ex's FRA entitlement.

As you know, you will be eligible for survivor widow's benefits from your deceased husband when you are 60, but be aware that by taking your survivor benefit at 60, it will be reduced for early claiming. Rather than 100% of your husband's SS benefit, at age 60 you will get about 71.5%. Your surviving spouse benefit reaches maximum at your Full Retirement Age of 67 and will grow to that point, but will be reduced if taken prior to that.

Also, if you are working, Social Security's "earnings test" will apply until you reach your full retirement age, so your plans for working may influence your decision on when to claim your widow's benefit. If you exceed the earnings limit (\$22,320 for 2024; it changes annually), Social Security will take away \$1 in benefits for every \$2 you are over the limit.

They "take away" by withholding future benefits until the penalty is satisfied, which means you would go some number of months without benefits. And, if you substantially exceed the earnings limit you may even be temporarily ineligible for any SS benefits until you earn less or reach your FRA - the earnings test goes away at your FRA.

Please see **BENEFITS**, page 8

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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mmcgarrett@turley.com



SPORTS EDITOR

Greg Scibelli
sports@turley.com



STAFF WRITER

Emily-Rose Pappas
epappas@turley.com

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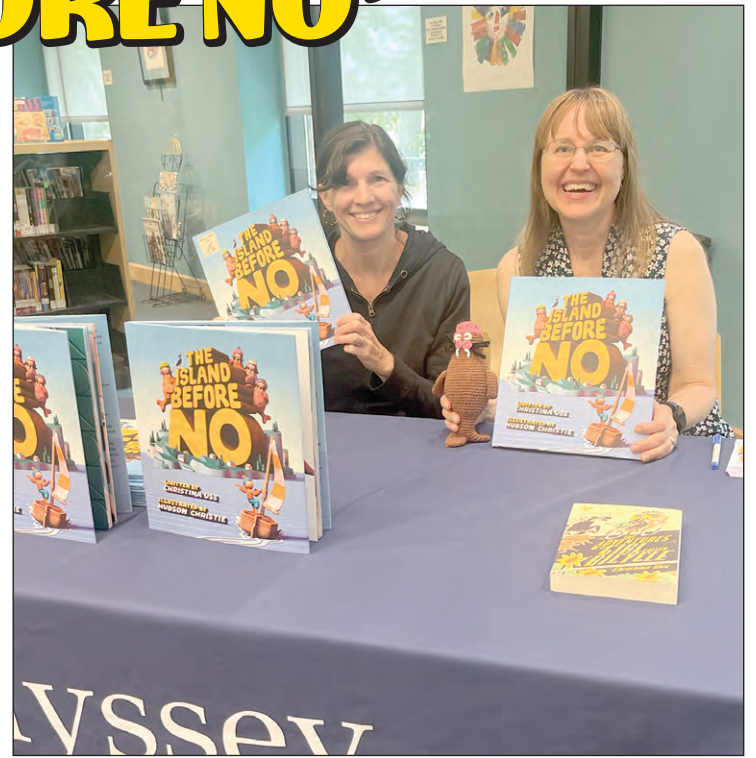
DEANNA SLOAT
Graphics Manager

Turley
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'THE ISLAND BEFORE NO'



Turley Photos by Emily-Rose Pappas

Raising hands together to sing some songs with author Christina Uss and Miss Jenny.

(Left) Laure Colodner from the Odyssey Bookshop and author Christina Uss (right) with her book, "The Island Before No" and little Russ Wal the Walrus.

AUTHOR from page 1

The story hour began with the kids singing the "Hello Friends" song to begin, and moved into listening to Christina Uss' book, followed by more songs and two more books with Miss Jenny, the director of the children's library.

Uss has always loved children's books, and led a special book club in Longmeadow

called "Bananas for Books", where kids had to search the shelves for a hidden banana at each meeting.

"When I talked to my illustrator, I asked him to hide a banana in the book like we hid bananas in the book shelves," Uss said. "The Island Before No" has a hidden banana in the illustrations for readers to find.

Uss' first book that she published in 2018, "The Adventures

of a Girl Called Bicycle" tells the story of a twelve-year-old little girl who decided to ride her bike across the country to meet her first friend.

The story reflects Uss's own journey on a bike across country she took right after college, where she grabbed her bike and rode across the country with the encouragement of her parents and new friends.

"I saw real kindness on that

trip," Uss said. "People would check on me, complete strangers. It was amazing."

It was through experiencing that kindness from strangers that inspired to write her experience into a book, and so came "The Adventures of a Girl Called Bicycle."

Uss finds her inspiration to write through finding titles, or through groups of words put together, and always thinks of a

story for a title.

"The only thing that you need to be an author is love to read," Uss said. "If you love to read, you'll love to write."

Uss shows her love for the written word through the ways she engages with the children, and wants everyone to know that there is never any shame in saying "no."

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Military members gather in front of the old firehouse.



The old firehouse in the 1950s

DISTRICT from page 1

revise the proposal as necessary. It will continue to hold information sessions up to the May 2025 town meeting when it hopes to have the bylaw passed by the town.



In 1902, Fred M. Green was a member of the state legislature.

“We’re very excited to establish South Hadley’s first local historic district. This will highlight the Firehouse Museum, the Memorial Green, and bring positive attention to the Falls and the Canal District,” noted Taylor. “Most of the cities and towns surrounding South Hadley already have local historic districts, so this will add us to the map and demonstrate that South Hadley cares deeply about preserving and protecting its historical heritage. This is a gift to future generations.”

Local historic districts are created to preserve and protect the distinctive characteristics of buildings and places signifi-

cant in the history of the Commonwealth and its cities and towns, as well as maintaining those buildings and encouraging new designs that are compatible with them. This plan has already been endorsed by the South Hadley Planning Board, Massachusetts Historical Commission, South Hadley Selectboard, South Hadley Redevelopment Authority, South Hadley Falls Neighborhood Association and the Trustees of the Old Firehouse Museum.

According to Taylor, the firehouse was built in 1889 and housed the first volunteer firefighting company in town. Its hand-pumper engine, a star of its time, is now on display in the museum. Throughout its 85 years, the firehouse was also used for civic and public functions like graduation, meetings and elections. In 1976, two years after the new firehouse was built on Newton Street, the historical society reopened the original firehouse as a museum.

The memorial green next to the old firehouse stands in memory of Fred Merwin Smith, who was a much-loved and active member of the South Hadley community throughout his life from 1862 to 1928. He served as leader of the town’s Republican Party, school committee member, town treasurer, water commis-

sioner and town moderator among many other roles.

“He was considered to be the epitome of a loyal and tireless public servant. Someone on our committee likes to say he was ‘Mr. South Hadley,’” said Taylor.

“He also headed the local draft board in World War I; his letter collection with draftees is now housed at the Firehouse Museum. The Memorial Green was dedicated in his name in 1930, two years after his death.”

The response to the proposed district has been overwhelmingly positive. Taylor and the rest of the group behind the proposal are optimistic about bringing the proposal to life.

“It is bringing positive attention to all historic work in South Hadley, and is a boost for the Falls,” noted Taylor. “I am personally blown away by the excitement this has generated - so many people have come together to make this happen.”

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Artist fall exhibition

MONSON—The Monson Arts Council is pleased to present its 4th annual Artist’s Fall Exhibition. This show features a variety of art works in multiple genres by MAC artist members. This year’s presentation brings together more than thirty-five artists showing a multitude of original works of art. The two-day show is open to the public at the House of Art at 200

Main St., on Saturday, Nov. 2 and Sunday, Nov. 3 from 11a.m. to 4 p.m. both days.

A reception featuring food and beverages will be available to all friends, family, patrons, artists and art lovers on both days. Look us up at www.monsonartscouncil.org. Enjoy all of the beauty this tremendous organization has to offer.

IHOF Craft fair set for Nov. 2

GRANBY— Please join in at Immaculate Heart of Mary on Sunday, Nov. 2, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. for the annual Craft Fair/Holiday Bazaar. Many vendors, basket raffles, lottery raffles, food and more.

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Gavin Losty gets the header.



Carlos David makes his way up the field.

Busy start to season for Tigers boys soccer

SOUTH HADLEY – It has been just two weeks, but South Hadley High School boys soccer has already played six games, a third of their schedule. The Tigers are out to a 3-2-1 with some mixed results. After going 2-0-1 to start the season, the Tigers suffered a pair of 2-0 setbacks against Frontier and Hampshire Regional. But the Tigers would rebound against Wahconah earlier this week, shutting out the Warriors 6-0 to get back above .500. The Tigers next travel to Lenox on Tuesday, Sept. 24 at 6:30 p.m.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com



Ethan Markham makes a long throw-in.



Jack Chagnon sends a pass away.



Ari Alatalo goes after the ball.

Tigers rebound from first loss with pair of wins

SOUTH HADLEY – After suffering a rare regular season loss to Hampshire Regional on Sept. 6, South Hadley girls soccer rebounded with a pair of dominant wins out in the Berkshires. Last Monday, the Tigers defeated Wahconah 5-0 and then took out Pittsfield 4-0 last Wednesday. In the win over Pittsfield, four different players scored for South Hadley. Hannah Haesaert, Taylor Bullough, Maddie Soderbaum, and Katherine McArdle all scored goals while Allison Fleury added two assists. Olivia Athas got the shutout with four saves.

The Tigers continue with a tough matchup on Friday afternoon against Pope Francis High School at 3:30 p.m. They rematch with Agawam at home on Tuesday, Sept. 24 at 6 p.m.



Trevor Sullivan crosses the finish line second for Granby.

Granby girls sweep meet



Nathan Hutchinson was the boys top finisher for Granby.

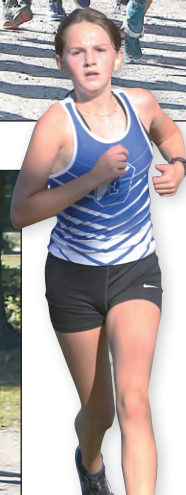


The Granby boys cross country team faces Monson and Southwick.



The girls cross country team get its race started.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com



Addison Hill was Granby's top finisher.

GRANBY – Last Tuesday afternoon at Dufresne Park, Granby hosted Monson and Southwick in a tri-meet. The girls captured wins over both opponents, beating Southwick 18-37, and Monson 19-37. The boys split the meet, beating Monson 18-37, but falling to Southwick 23-33. Nathan Hutchinson set a Dufresne Park course record with an 18:42 finish. Addison Hill won the girls race at 23:47.



Grace Cooney was Granby's second finisher.

Sports

Owls win first football game

WESTFIELD – Westfield State senior QB Gabe Fernandez (Holyoke, Mass.) tossed a 22-yard touchdown pass to senior WR Conor Schlittler (Walpole, Mass.) to lift the Owls to a 24-17 win over Bridgewater State in the Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference opener for both schools.



Westfield improves to 1-1 overall and 1-0 in the MASCAC, while Bridgewater Starts 0-2 and 0-1 in the MASCAC.

Westfield trailed 17-10 at the half, then got a series of clutch plays.

A muffed punt return by the Bears set the Owls 1st and 10 at the Bridgewater 40, and four plays later Westfield's Jacob Swinehart (Holyoke, Mass.) darted 24 yards down the right sideline on a pitchout play to cut the lead to 17-16 after the Owls could not convert the extra point.

The Bears offense stalled late. Another muffed on the ensuing kick return buried the Bears' drive start inside their own 10 yard line on the next series. A series later Zach Allen (Chelmsford, Mass.) intercepted a deep sideline pass by Bridgewater QB SP Pragano (Northford, Conn./Lyman Hall) to stall that series, and then the Owls marched 58 yards in 6 plays to set up Schlittler's TD.

Fernandez found running back Curtis Dion (Seymour, Conn.) in the flat for the two point version with 6:53 left in the game.

Westfield's defense held the Bears to -5 yards and a punt on the next series. The Owls worked almost four minutes off the clock before turning the ball over on downs, with 2:19 left in the game, and while the Bears drove to the Westfield 24, on fourth down the Owls flushed Pragano out of the pocket and Owls DT Dylan Zuerblis (Wethersfield, Conn.) knocked Pragano out of bounds for a sack to give the ball back to the Owls.

Sean Willis (Schenectady, NY/ Mohonasen) hammered the ball seven yards on first down, and battled for a first down a few plays later and Westfield was able to run out the clock for Westfield's first win over the Bears since 2011.

Westfield was led by an efficient 6-10 passing performance for Fernandez for 96 yards and a pair of touchdowns, as he tossed a 7-yard TD to Jordan Lanoue (Belchertown, Mass.) in the first half. Willis finished with 67 yards on 18 carries.

Blake Simpson (Bellingham, Mass.) and Cade Nelson (Shrewsbury, Mass.) each made seven tackles to lead the Owls.

The win gave Westfield

State head coach Lou Conte, Jr. his first win as an Owl, after taking over the reins of the Owls' program this summer.

Pragano finished 11-26 passing for 122 yards. Trevor Nunes (E. Falmouth, Mass./Falmouth) carried 13 times for 42 yards and a TD. Jack McCarthy (Braintree, Mass./Archbishop Williams) was the Bears leading receiver with two catches for 47 yards.

Bridgewater's defense was led by Mark DeGirolamo (Mansfield, Mass.) with 13 stips and Nicolas Canales (Lake Ronkonkoma, NY/Sachem) made 12 tackles. Jorge Aquino (Bergenfield, NJ) finished with eight tackles and 1.5 sacks.

The Bears got out to leads of 7-0 and 14-3, sandwiching a 1 yard run from Nunes on the first drive, and a 14-yard Dallas Murphy keeper TD out of a wildcat set early in the third quarter around a 25-yard field goal from Westfield's Andrew Currier (Attleboro, Mass.).

Westfield ran more offensive plays than their opponent for the second straight week, getting 69 snaps to the bears 55. Westfield held the ball for 40 of the 60 minutes in the game.

Westfield will be back in action at home with a 2 p.m. kickoff against Western Connecticut State University on Saturday, Sept. 21, while the Bears will stay on the road with a matchup at Plymouth State that same day at noon. Both games are MASCAC Conference tilts.

HoopHall announces Class of 2024 induction presenters

SPRINGFIELD – The Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame has announced the list of Hall of Famers who will present the Class of 2024 at the Enshrinement Ceremony on Sunday, October 13, at Symphony Hall in Springfield, Massachusetts, the "Birthplace of Basketball." Over 50 Hall of Famers, including all presenters, are expected to be in attendance for the ceremony.

Members of the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame Class of 2024 were asked to select previous inductees to accompany and present them during the ceremony. The choice is solely up to the incoming Hall of Famers or, in the case of posthumous recognition, their family members.

The 2024 Hall of Fame Inductees and Presenters:

Seimone Augustus - Lindsay Whalen (Class of 2022)

Dick Barnett - Bill Bradley ('83), Earl Monroe ('90)

Chauncey Billups - Larry Brown ('02), Tina Thompson ('18), Ben Wallace ('21)

Vince Carter - Julius Erving ('93), Tracy McGrady ('17)

Doug Collins - Billy Cunningham ('86), Jerry Reinsdorf ('16), Grant Hill ('18)

Michael Cooper - Kareem Abdul-Jabbar ('95), Magic Johnson ('02), James Worthy ('03), Pat Riley ('08), Lisa Leslie ('15)

Walter Davis - David Thompson ('96), Bob McAdoo ('00), Jerry Colangelo ('04), Roy Williams ('07), Charlie Scott ('18), Bobby Jones ('19)

Harley Redin - Alice "Cookie" Barron ('19), Cherri Rapp ('19)

Bo Ryan - Roy Williams ('07), Gene Keady ('23)

Herb Simon - Larry Bird ('98), Reggie Miller ('12), Tamika Catchings ('20)

Charles Smith - Joe Dumars ('06)

Michele Timms - Teresa Edwards ('11), Katie Smith ('18)

Jerry West - Kareem Abdul-Jabbar ('95), Bob McAdoo ('00), Magic Johnson ('02), James Worthy ('03), Pat Riley ('08), Jamaal Wilkes ('12), Shaquille O'Neal ('16), Vlade Divac ('19), Del Harris ('22), Pau Gasol ('23), Michael Cooper ('24)

MIAA looks to honor officials

The Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association is looking to collectively recognize the efforts of our Game Officials. The fall National Officials Appreciation Week will be held Oct. 6 to 12. Once again, MIAA staff members will travel around the state to personally

thank officials and support their efforts on the local level. We hope that you will consider recognizing them in some manner. The Winter Officials Appreciation Week will be Jan. 13-18, 2025 and the Spring Officials Appreciation Week will be April 6-12, 2025.

Thunderbirds pick up Meireles on AHL contract

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Thunderbirds announced today that they have signed forward Greg Meireles to a one-year AHL contract.

Meireles, 25, skated in 47 games last season with the Iowa Wild, tallying four goals and ten assists for 14 points to go along

with 12 penalty minutes.

In 161 career AHL games with Syracuse, Manitoba, and Iowa, the Ottawa, Ont. native has accumulated 60 points (18g, 42a) and 55 penalty minutes.

The 5-foot-11, 195-pound forward was originally a sixth-round selection of the Florida Panthers

(168th overall) in the 2019 NHL Draft. Before turning pro, Meireles spent parts of five seasons in the Ontario Hockey League with the Kitchener Rangers, where he put up 239 points (99g, 140a) in 244 games.

BENEFITS from page 4

If you claim your surviving spouse benefits from your deceased husband first, and your ex-husband later dies, you do have the option to switch to the higher survivor benefit from your ex-husband. In effect, if both husbands are deceased, you have a choice

which benefit to take and, obviously, you'd chose the higher of the two.

None of this, however, happens automatically. To claim your surviving spouse benefit you will need to contact Social Security directly at 1-800-772-1213 or call your local SS office to make an appointment to apply for widow's

benefits.

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.

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Large advertisement for SERVICE DIRECTORY with contact information for Electrician (Gagnon Electric), Tree Services (Edge Tree Service, Inc. and Lucchesi Tree Service), and a logo for SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESS.

Public Notices

Sale Of Motor Vehicles Under G.I. C.255 Sec. 39A

Notice is hereby given by Hampshire Towing, 650 New Ludlow Rd., South Hadley, MA 01075, pursuant to the provisions of G.L. C. 255, Section 39A, that a SEALED BID auction with bids due **Monday, September 23, 2024 at 8 a.m.** Vehicles can be viewed **BY APPOINTMENT ONLY** by calling 413-534-5373.

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2006 Audi A6
VIN: WAUKH94F96N086194
Paola Rodriguez Vazquez

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2006 BMW x3
VIN: WBXPA93426WG76038
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VIN: 1Y1SK5261VZ449722
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VIN: 2G4WB14L6N1499294
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Springfield MA 01105

Bayliner Boat
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Webster MA 01570

2001 Jeep Grand Cherokee

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Juan Ortiz
163 Artisan St
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464 Maple St., Apt 4B
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Larson Boat
VIN: LAR05795K586
Sean Santucci
256 Colemore St
Feeding Hills MA 01030

2003 Volkswagen Passat
VIN: WVWVD63B23E072707
Xavier Colon
265 College St., Apt E
Chicopee MA 01020

2001 Lexus RX 300
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Lori Pinsonneault
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Bennington VT 05201

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2001 Ford Ranger
VIN: 1FTZR15E21PA96603
Owner Unknown
Address Unknown
09/06, 09/13, 09/20/2024

Town of Granby Board of Appeals

The Granby Board of Appeals will hold public hearing on **Tuesday, October 1, 2024, commencing at 5:30 p.m.** at 1 Library Lane, Old Carnegie Library, top floor, to consider the following petition:

1.) Appellant Wendy Watson, 161 Harris Street, an abutter, appealing Special Permit given to Heather Reynolds Labonte (Owner/Applicant), under Sections 6.2 of the Granby Zoning Bylaws and applicable of Section III - Use Regulations, 3.2.10 Special Event Venue and Section V - Special Use Regulations and Performance Standards 5.14 -- at 145 Harris Street and known as Assessors' Map 12-A-1 in the town of Granby, MA.2.

In addition to the above hearings, the Board of Appeals may conduct other agenda items following said hearings as time permits. This notice is given pursuant to Chapter 40A and Chapter 39, Section 23B of the Massachusetts General Laws.

Kathleen Bronner, Chairman
Granby Board of Appeals
09/13, 09/20/2024

Town of Granby Board of Appeals

The Granby Board of Appeals will hold public hearing on **Tuesday, October 8, 2024, commencing at 5:30 p.m.** at 1 Library Lane, Old Carnegie Library, top floor, to consider the following petition:

1.) Appellant Naomi & Jon Szymonik, 193 Amherst Street, are appealing a letter from the Granby Building Commissioner/Zoning Officer under SECTION IV - OVERLAY DISTRICT REGULATIONS of the Granby Zoning Bylaws and applicable of Section 4.2 - Agricultural Preservation District and Granby General By-Laws Chapter XXIII-Right to Farm By-law and M.G.L. Chapter 40A, Section 3 at 193 Amherst Street and known as Assessors' Map 2-B-3 in the town of Granby, MA.

In addition to the above hearings, the Board of Appeals may conduct other agenda items following said hearings as time permits. This notice is given pursuant to Chapter 40A and Chapter 39, Section 23B of the Massachusetts General Laws.

Kathleen Bronner, Chairman
Granby Board of Appeals
09/20, 09/27/2024

Town of Granby Board of Appeals

The Granby Board of Appeals will hold Public Hearings pursuant to the Wetland Protection Act (MGL Chapter 131, Section 40) on **Tuesday, October 08, 2024 at *1 Library Lane-Carnegie Building-Top Floor** to consider the following:

1. **7:30 p.m.:** "RDA" filed by Curtis Mailloux to see whether the activities depicted on the plan referenced are subject to the Wetlands Protection Act and its regulations with regards to property located at 35 Baggs Hill Road and known as 16-B.3, in the Town of Granby.

Members of the public can attend virtually by phone at +1 (312) 757-3121 using **Access Code:** 282-289-421 or 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

William Shaheen, Chair
Granby Conservation Commission
09/20/2024

Town of Granby Conservation Commission

The Granby Conservation Commission will hold Public Hearings pursuant to the Wetland Protection Act (MGL Chapter 131, Section 40) on **Tuesday, October 08, 2024 at *1 Library Lane-Carnegie Building-Top Floor** to consider the following:

1. **7:30 p.m.:** "RDA" filed by Bruce-Deanna Veinotte to see whether the activities depicted on the plan referenced are subject to the Wetlands Protection Act and its regulations with regards to property located at 201 Amherst Street and known as 2-B-3-4, in the Town of Granby.

Members of the public can attend virtually by phone at +1 (312) 757-3121 using **Access Code:** 282-289-421 or 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.

William Shaheen, Chair
Granby Conservation Commission
09/20/2024

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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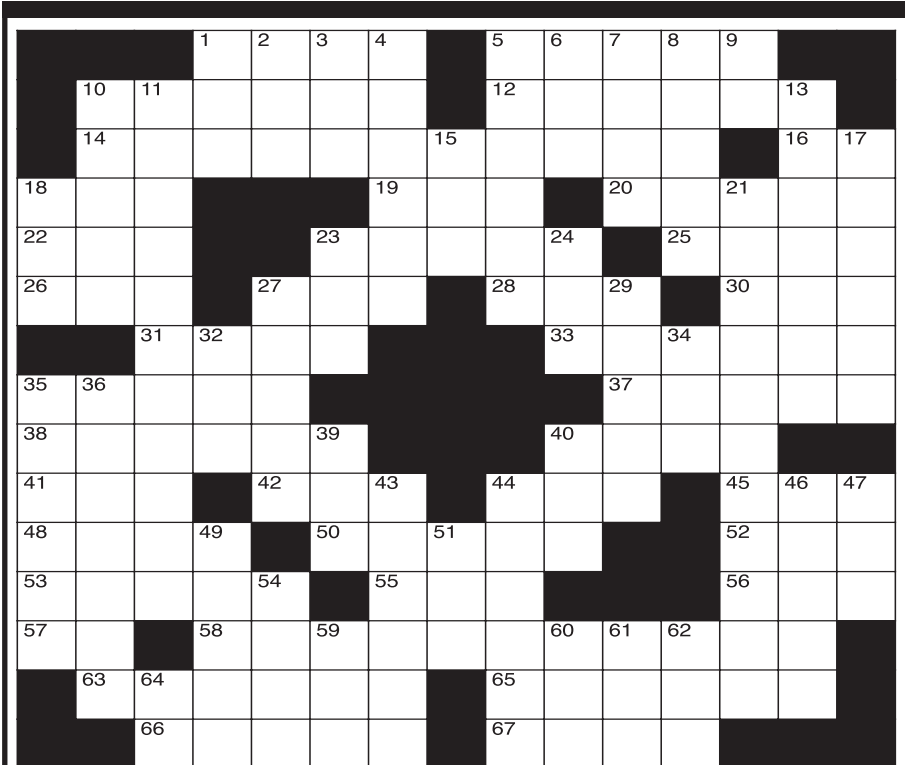


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23. Surrendered
25. Notable Dallas Cowboy Leon
26. Dash
27. Man who behaves dishonorably
28. British Air Aces
30. Data executive

31. Spiritual leader
33. Flower cluster
35. Of the cheek
37. Tears down
38. Uncoordinated
40. Touches lightly
41. Soak
42. Founder of Babism
44. Not good
45. Inches per minute (abbr.)
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50. Skills assessments for adults
52. Check
53. Gives a job
55. Fifth note of a major scale
56. Small, faint constellation
57. Thou
58. Reduce
63. Another recording
65. Removes for good
66. Jill and Catherine

- are two
67. Cruise

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1. Greenwich Time
2. Metropolis
3. Complete
4. Scheduled
5. One who obeys
6. Resinlike substance secreted by certain lac insects
7. Days (Spanish)
8. Unsaturated hydrocarbon radical
9. Region of the U.S. (abbr.)
10. Tributary of the Alabama River
11. One who eliminates
13. Ballroom music
15. Officer in the Book of Mormon
17. Denies
18. Barrels per day (abbr.)

21. Make vital
23. Former NFLer Newton
24. Kashmiri tribe
27. Indigenous S. American person
29. Capacitance unit
32. MLB great Scherzer
34. Taxi
35. Boggy
36. Artist's workroom
39. Feline
40. Prosecutors
43. Freshwater perches
44. Young ladies
46. Whittles
47. Licensed for Wall Street
49. Type of gene
51. Express displeasure
54. Fly high
59. Norwegian krone
60. Investment account
61. Chinese surname
62. Language
64. By the way (abbr.)

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GRANBY—The vaccine clinic will be for flu and COVID vaccines for any interested individuals ages 6 months and older at East Meadow School gym, 393 E State St., on Saturday, Oct. 5 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Individuals should bring their insurance card, but no one will be turned away due to lack of insurance. Preregistration is highly encouraged and recommended. If individuals need help registering, please call 413-587-4903 or email nurses@northhampton.gov.



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