

# TOWN Reminder

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## HOMESCHOOLERS

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

SOUTH HADLEY – When it comes to the idea of community service, there are many different projects that can be done in order to benefit our neighbors, and beyond that.

Since the pandemic, there has been an influx of families making the switch to homeschooling, finding joy in making learning accessible and fun in their own ways, unique to their kids.

A group of homeschool families decided to come together and find a way to help the community in some way.

A group of parents and their kids got together at Buttery Brook Park last week to plan out various community service projects, and the kids came up with visiting the elderly, planning their own food drive, helping with yard work, or helping at an animal shelter.



You can't have community service projects without having some fun.

Turley Photos by Emily-Rose Pappas

Please see **HOMESCHOOL**, page 2



Kids enjoying snacks together, enjoying their morning at the center.

## Family Center closes after 25 years

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

SOUTH HADLEY – The local Family Center recently an-

nounced its closing, and the loss of a staple to the community has hit many hard.

One of the largest family centers at the time, the South Hadley Family Center remained open

through the COVID-19 pandemic, providing children with zoom activities and meet-ups.

“My favorite part was bringing families together,” said Molly

Please see **CENTER**, page 6

## Renovations planned for Buttery Brook

By Tina Lesniak  
Correspondent

SOUTH HADLEY - Extensive renovations and upgrades are on tap for Buttery Brook Park from the fall through next spring. Improvements will include an upgraded playground, new pickleball courts, accessible trails and a new performance stage.

The town has received a grant from the state for \$500,000, which will be funded upfront by the town and reimbursed once work has been completed. The project is expected to cost an additional \$500,000, bringing the total for the project to just over \$1 million.

At the Sept. 11 planning committee meeting, Recreation Director Andy Rogers said that the design is about 90 percent complete and he expects work

to begin this fall with the removal of some work buildings and other upgrades.

“We’ve been working hard,” said Rogers, referencing the work of the nine-person committee that has been planning and working on the renovations.

In addition to the funds provided by the town, volunteers led by Kim Prough have fundraised roughly \$145,000 from personal and business donations. Rogers said that they’re hoping to raise at least another \$50,000 and have fundraising plans being planned. He added that they’ve really cut everything they could out of the original plans to bring the project under budget.

Rogers asked the committee to recommend that money

Please see **RENOVATIONS**, page 3

## Bylaw review committee discusses proposals

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

SOUTH HADLEY – In preparation for the upcoming 2024 Special Town Meeting, members of the Bylaw Review Committee met with Town Ad-

ministrator Lisa Wong in order to address several new bylaws, as well as amendments to existing ones.

The Sept. 30 meeting was held by Chair David King, and he was joined by members Ira Brezinsky, Jim Bosman, Chevy MP Chevrette, and Steven Lau-

risden. Also in attendance were Town Administrator Lisa Wong and Police Chief Jennifer Gunderson.

New Dog Bylaw

“This is a new one that I asked town council to prioritize,” Wong said, sharing with the committee a new bylaw regard-

ing the impoundment of dogs in town.

The current town bylaws do not contain anything detailing impoundment, and Wong found that they needed something that will state the reasons for impoundment of a dog, and how to get that dog released from the

impoundment.

Massachusetts state law says that a town cannot move an animal to a different municipality, and South Hadley does not have its own pound, creating limits and challenges for what the Se-

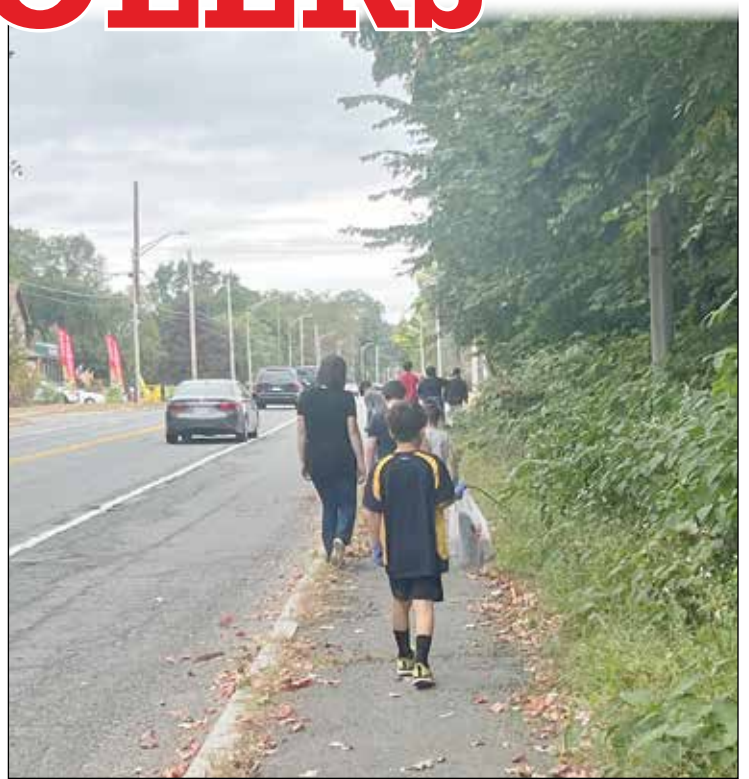
Please see **BYLAW**, page 14



# HOMESCHOOLERS



The kids eager to go, holding up their bags.



There they go, back to their cars, to take the trash to be disposed of safely.

## HOMESCHOOL from page 1

By far, the kids were most excited about doing a trash clean-up along route 33, expressing their excitement to get out on the sidewalks to pick up the trash.

"I want to make sure the earth is healthy with no trash," one little girl named Violet said.

"No one should be throwing trash out their windows," Paige, another little girl said.

"You can see how happy they are to do these things," said Sarah Hull, the homeschool mom who helped organize the group. "It makes me happy to see them excited."

The kids put on gloves, and grabbed their grocery bags, and ran off to start finding anything from wrappers to cans to bottles to papers littering the sides of the road.

Hull, who began homeschooling her children in 2015, fell in love with the flexibility of it, one of the biggest factors in allowing the kids and their friends to come together to help their neighbors with these community service projects.

"One of my favorite things about our homeschooling journey has been the relationships that have been built, not just with the kids, but between the parents as well," Hull said.



Some of the moms getting in on the cleanup, too, even finding damaged car parts.



Home school kids get ready to collect some trash, getting gloved up and their bags ready.

"Some of my closest friends are ones I've met through meet-ups, classes, and community offerings," Hull said, detailing all of the ways they get out of the house and into the world.

Despite what most public opinion or belief of homeschooling, there is more opportunity than one would expect for kids to get out and "get socialized", a common concern outsiders tend to have.

"I think there is a common misconception that homeschooling equals social isolation, and that couldn't be further from the truth," Hull said. "It's quite overwhelming sometimes what we have offered to us, and the amount of families we interact with every day."

From having the flexibility

and freedom to take studies on the go, to being able to set times to do work at friends' houses, and beyond, homeschooling does not mean staying at home.

"Volunteering and giving back is extremely important to me. I want my children to always feel gratitude for the life we have, and to do their part to make the world a better place," Hull said.

The group of homeschool families is eager to get into their next community service projects, and is asking the community to reach out to ask for help.

From the senior center, food pantries, animal shelters, and beyond, you can find willing and ready helpers by contacting Sarah Hull at sarahcdw2003@yahoo.com.



Don't forget the pieces stuck in the plants.



One girl finding an old, broken disk on the road.

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# Lopez named Commended Student in Scholarship Program

GRANBY—The principal, Steve Griffin, of The MacDuffie School announced today that Mateo Lopez '25 of Granby, MA has been named a Commended Student in the 2025 National Merit Scholarship Program. A Letter of Commendation from the School and National Merit Scholarship Corporation, which conducts the program, was presented by the principal; to this scholastically talented senior.

About 34,000 Commended Students throughout the nation are being recognized for their exceptional academic promise. Although they will not continue in the 2025 competition for National Merit Scholarship awards, Commended Students placed among the top 50,000 students who entered the 2025 competition by taking the 2023 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test.

“Those being named Commended Students have demonstrated outstanding potential for academic success,” commented a spokesperson for NMSC. “These students represent a valuable national resource; recognizing their accomplishments, as well as the key role their schools play in the academic development, is vital to the advancement of educational excellence in our nation. We hope that this recognition will help broaden the educational opportunities and encourage them as they continue their pursuit of academic success.”



# Associate Member vacancy on Planning Board needs filling

SOUTH HADLEY —Applicants are sought to fill an associate member vacancy on the Planning Board for a term ending in June 2026.

Due to a recent resignation on the South Hadley Planning Board, the elected body has a vacancy which needs filling. The position is generally a non-voting member.

All parties interested in applying for the position are asked to apply online here: <https://www.southhadley.org/FormCenter/Selectboard-4/Application-for-Appointment-to-Board-Com-44> Applicants may submit a resume but it is not required.

Applications and any additional documents must be received by 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 24. Once received by

Selectboard administration, a complete packet for each candidate's submission will be made publicly available.

The chairs of the Planning Board and Selectboard will decide on a suitable date to have a joint meeting of remaining Planning Board members and members of the Selectboard to conduct interviews. Board members will make an appointment at the public meeting scheduled for the interviews or a subsequent public joint meeting.

The joint committee, by way of nomination and subsequent vote to appoint, will fill the associate member vacancy on the South Hadley Planning Board for a term from the date of appointment to June 2026.

# Town bills have been mailed out

SOUTH HADLEY—FY 2025 Qtr. 2 Real Estate, Personal Property and first half of FY 2025 Sewer bills were mailed out to residents on Oct. 1. The due date for Real Estate and Personal Property bills is Nov. 1. Sewer bills are due Nov. 15. If you have not received your bills, please email our office at: [collector@southhadley.ma.gov](mailto:collector@southhadley.ma.gov) or call 413-538-5030, ext. 6189 and we can send you a new bill.

Bills can also be viewed/printed through Invoice Cloud which can be accessed from the website.

Payment can be made online through the Town of South Hadley's website, [southhadley.ma.gov](http://southhadley.ma.gov), by mail, dropped in our Dropbox located behind the Police Department on Bridge Street or you can pay in person Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

# Public invited to review SHPD staffing study

SOUTH HADLEY— The public is invited to a forum to review and discuss the South Hadley Police Department Staffing Report produced by MRI, Inc of New Hampshire who was hired this year to conduct a staffing study of the department. The forum will be

held Wednesday, Oct. 23 at 6 p.m. at the South Hadley Senior Center at 45 Dayton St.

MRI performed a multi-year look-back at various aspects of the organization including calls for service, staffing levels, budget and projected data into a reasonable future view to assist

with identifying what the town should anticipate for staffing now and in the future.

Learn more and read the study here: <https://www.southhadley.org/1427/Police-Department-Staffing-Study>. Send comments and questions to [Selectboard@southhadley.ma.gov](mailto:Selectboard@southhadley.ma.gov).

# All Saint's Church tag sale and soup event set for Oct. 14

SOUTH HADLEY— It's Fall and once again the famous All Saints' Church tag sale and delicious soups event will be on Monday, Oct. 14, open at 8 a.m. until 3 p.m. Safe off-street parking, a handicapped accessible building, great place for late brunch or an early lunch right inside the Church, and holiday shopping in the Parish Hall. Kidder Hall will be filled with books, plants, holiday de-

cor, housewares and lots more to meet your shopping needs. This is a great opportunity for area college students to add to their dorm decor and all others to find items for their homes, and special toys and games for the younger set. All Saints' Church is conveniently located at 7 Woodbridge St. (Rt. 116) just a few steps across from the east side of the South Hadley Post Office.

## RENOVATIONS from page 1

be moved from various town accounts to help finish out the project's funding. Part of that would be \$62,000 from the FY 24 budget that had been set aside for fencing and netting at Beachgrounds Park. However, the quotes for that project came back significantly higher than expected so the project was put on hold and the money is still there. Rogers also requested that the committee recommend moving \$120,000 from free

cash to help fund the renovations. The committee did okay recommending the transfer of funds and expects those motions to be on the special town meeting warrant in November.

The committee praised Rogers and his committee for doing renovations that promise to bring more people to the park, such as the new performance stage and new pickleball courts. Several members of the planning committee noted that the current pickleball courts are almost always filled and it seems to be a sport that appeals

to those of all ages.

Rogers noted that the high school has recently started a pickleball team which is playing in an inaugural league with four other area schools.

“We hope that this will generate more revenue,” said Rogers. “The money goes back into the park.”

Rogers explained that he hopes to get the ball moving relatively quickly as the project must be done by June 1, 2025 to get the \$500,000 grant reimbursement.

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# Opinion

## in the Garden

by Roberta McQuaid



### Seeds among the weeds

If there is a consolation from having a garden gone wild, there was one today.

You see, I went out for a walk to assess the garden and decided it was time to clean up my overgrown perennial beds. Lo and behold, there were seed pods galore, just waiting for taking!

I gathered up a bunch of envelopes and got busy. There were some really interesting native plants that had dry but intact seed heads, including Cardinal Flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*), Blue Cardinal's Flower (*Lobelia siphilitica*), and Native Columbine (*Aquilegia canadensis*).

I also had classic cottage garden specimens, including beautiful but poisonous Wild Foxglove (*Digitalis pupurea*), Rusty Foxglove (*Digitalis ferruginea*) and then the oh so fragrant Clove Pink (*Digitalis caryophyllus*). A walk in the backyard yielded seed for the biennial Honesty, better known as Money Plant (*Lunaria annual*).

Saving the seeds of this species is way more fun than just tapping a "pepper shaker" like I did with the others. *Lunaria* references the moon. Once you rub off the outer part of the seed head you are left with a silvery-white papery orb.

Some call it Money Plant because the orbs resemble silver coins. As I clipped branches and began rubbing off the sides between my fingers, they fell to the ground, each containing two-four seeds.

It was so much fun to gather all of these different seeds, and economical too, when you think about the cost of seed packs. You can extend seed saving beyond perennial or biennial flowers.

In fact, I got my start way back in the 1970s, learning the tricks of the trade from my mom, when we grew annual flowers together each summer.

Sure, I loved all the flowers that we exhibited in local fairs and cut for arrangements throughout the house, but what I'm thinking about right now are the seeds saved from all of the flowers that had gone by. Every May we would take the shoe box out of the "cellar way" and open up plastic film vials that she re-purposed as seed storage containers.

Cleome, marigold, zinnia, bachelor button, calendula, balsam were stored there – the names of the flowers in our garden keep coming back to me! She would write these names on a little piece of paper and use scotch tape to mark each vial.

How I wish I could go back there for a minute as we began our garden planning. Maybe next weekend I'll venture out to my patch of flowering annuals and see if any seed heads have browned and dried, and save a few of these seeds too, just for old time's sake.

Of course, you have to be certain that the plants you save the seeds from are open-pollinated and not F1 hybrids. Saving seeds of hybrids could give you something with the trait of each parent but not exactly what you originally grew.

You may also get a cross from an open pollinated and another open pollinated of the same type of flower. For example, one year I grew two different, large flowered zinnias side by side. "Grandmother's Garden" and "Berry Basket" come to mind as the name of the varieties.

They were beautiful and I saved the seeds from them. Well, let's just say I call them "Large Flowered Zinnia" going forward, because who knows what they are anymore.

If you are interested in saving seeds of heirlooms for the purpose of continuing and preserving a specific variety, do your homework first and learn how you might isolate your

Please see **GARDEN**, page 7



## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### Flexible Development zoning law

Your September 27 article "Planning board holds public hearing for zoning bylaw amendments" only scratched the surface of residents' reasons for being alarmed by the South Hadley Planning Board's proposed amendments to the Flexible Development zoning law.

The Planning Board expresses concern for quality of life and climate change, but actions speak louder than words.

The Planning Board wants to allow dense, multi-family housing developments, including small apartment buildings, on up to 326 parcels of land in our beautiful town. This is a drastic increase from the 197 parcels in the current zoning.

Many of the 326 parcels are forested and are accessed by small residential streets, like Woodbridge, Pearl, areas near Brainerd, the neighborhoods to the west and east of College Street, along the Connecticut River, north of Silver, west of North Main and many others.

These new dense developments in South Hadley will increase traffic hazards on streets used by walkers and bikers, where children play and people walk with their baby carriages.

In exchange for letting a developer build dense housing, a percentage of the land would remain "open space." That sounds good, but there is no requirement that the land stay green, that it actually be "nature." A developer could clear cut a forested parcel. The amendments tell a developer to note "significant" trees on the property, but there's no requirement to let them live! Yet the more trees in South Hadley, the cooler and cleaner the air, and the more resilient the community will be.

Horribly, the Planning Board's proposes to give up the requirement that a developer apply for a Special Permit, thus giving up the Board's power to reject a development. All a developer would need to build dense housing and completely change a neighborhood is something called Site Plan Review. Their application could not be rejected as long as they met a few basic criteria.

I urge the South Hadley Selectboard to send these flawed zoning amendments back to the Planning Board for crucial improvements.

**Linda Sachs**  
Town Meeting Member  
South Hadley



### Veteran asks about special credits for military service

**Dear Rusty:**

I just learned that if I served in the military during an active-duty period, I could get extra earnings for Social Security and that these benefits would be automatically added to my record, but I was never asked by the SS employee, who calculated my benefits if I was in the military. I took benefits at age 62 (2013) due to health reasons. Should I ask for a recalculation or is it too late?

*Signed: Proud Veteran*

**Dear Proud Veteran:**

Thank you for your service to our country, for which you have every right to be proud. You likely heard about "Special Extra Credits for military service," which applies to those who served in the military during certain periods earlier than the year 2001. This rule can add up to \$1,200 per year to your Social Security earnings record for the years you served and, since your SS benefit is based on your lifetime earnings record,

your military earnings may have been included when calculating your Social Security benefit.

But the rules for getting that "extra earnings credit" are a bit complex, and how much extra earnings credit you receive depends entirely on which years you served. Here's a quick summary:

SS taxes have been withheld from military pay since 1957, so your actual military earnings are already included as part of your lifetime SS earnings record.

If you served between 1957 and 1977, an extra \$300 for each quarter of active-duty service would be added to your military pay, up to \$1,200 per year maximum.

If you served between 1978 and 2001, an extra \$100 would be added to your military pay for each \$300 of active duty pay received, up to a maximum of \$1,200 per year. FYI, no additional earnings are added to your military pay for service years after 2001.

Those who served on active duty before 1967 should inform SS when applying for benefits about their military service (e.g., provide a copy of DD-214). For those who served after 1967, the "special extra credits" were automatically added to their military earnings record when they applied for SS benefits.

Please see **SOCIAL SECURITY**, page 7

## 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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## EVENTS

**SOUTH HADLEY**— The South Hadley Public Library will be hosting many events throughout October, for a full schedule or to register please visit [www.shadleylib.org](http://www.shadleylib.org).

Genealogy Program #2: The Dangers of Online Family Trees by Dave Robison on Wednesday, Oct. 9 at 6 p.m.

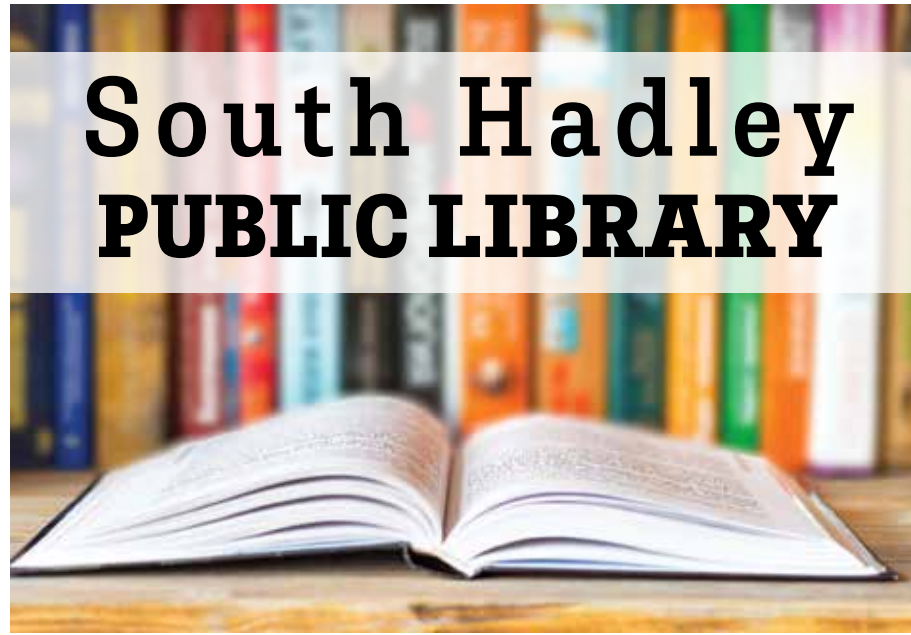
Between the Covers Book Club will be meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 8 at 3 p.m. to discuss *The Guest Cottage* by Nancy Thayer.

Local Folklore: Cryptids, History and Storytelling by Jordan J. Hall on Wednesday, Oct. 16 at 6 p.m.

Halloween Costume Swap (For All Ages) on Saturday, Oct. 19 at 10 a.m. Drop off gently used Halloween costumes for babies through adults. The library will accept items beginning Monday, Sept. 30 through Friday, Oct. 18. Donors will receive a ticket for each costume they donate. Then come to SHPL on Saturday, Oct. 19 to pick up the same number of costumes they donated.

SHPL: Celebrating the Past Decade. Can you believe the “new” library is ten years old? Join us on Saturday, Oct. 19 from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. or a combination of reflection and celebration. We’re marking the first decade of the new South Hadley Public Library building with a look back over the past 10 years: where we were, where we’ve been, and where we’re going. Light refreshments will be provided by the Friends of the Library.

Dreams: Introduction to Symbolism



and Interpretation with Winnifred of AwenTree on Wednesday, Oct. 23 at 6 p.m. What are your dreams telling you? Our soul speaks to us through our dreams, but how do we interpret those messages in a way that makes any sense to our waking self? Join Winnifred to learn techniques to help you get started unpacking the insight and wisdom held within your dreams. Winnifred is a professional, intuitive tarot reader and teacher for 20+ years. As a teacher, she is engaging, knowledgeable and candid; empowering her students to step into their own agency when it comes exploring the intangible world of dreams.

### Children’s Programs at SHPL

This month we celebrate the return of Chess Club for Kids with Andy, starting on Wednesday, Oct. 9 at 4 p.m. and continuing for the next four Wednesdays.

Please sign the kiddo up for each week they plan to attend.

Book club double-header. Graphic Novel Book Club is discussing *Witches of Brooklyn* by Sophie Escabasse on Thursday, Oct. 10 at 3:45 p.m. All kids ages 8-11 are welcome.

My First Book Club for kindergarteners and first graders with their adults is meeting on Friday, Oct. 11 at 3:45 p.m. No need to read anything in advance. We’ll read, talk, and craft at the program.

The one-year anniversary of Pajama Storytime is Monday, October 7, at 6:30; we will also have a special guest at Pajama Storytime on October 21, Britt Crow-Miller, author of *World of Rot* as well as a spooky Pajama Storytime on October 28!

Kids in kindergarten and up can sign up to read aloud to a Bright Spot therapy dog: Duchess the terrier will be here Oct. 8, and Gwen the greyhound will be here Oct. 23. Call the library to reserve a spot.

All our weekly programs continue this month: Story Time, Rhyme Time, Playgroup, Lego & Games, and Comics & Crafts. Learn more on the children’s page of our website or email Jenny ([jarch@cw-mars.org](mailto:jarch@cw-mars.org)) with any questions.

### Teen Programs at SHPL

The Crafternoon on Thursday, Oct. 17 at 4 p.m. will feature Clay Seed Mosaics and Snackternoon on Thursday, Oct. 24 at 4 p.m., will feature Fluffy Caramel Apple Dip. Thank you to the Friends of the South Hadley Public Library for sponsoring our Teen Snackternoon. We have a different game selection for this month’s Xbox1 sessions on Tuesdays, Oct. 8 & 22 at 3:30. Reach out with any questions through email or call the library 413-538-5045 and ask for Bethany.

YA Book Tasting Program on Monday, Oct. 7 from 3:30 to 5 p.m. Come and check out all the brand new, not even circulated YA books, graphic novels and manga that we’ve gotten in for the month. This month features our brand-new Nintendo Switch on Monday, Oct. 28 at 3:30 p.m. A new selection of games is available. Also, the new YA Book Club Booktroverts, this book club doesn’t have any monthly meetings. Read and enjoy the book on your own time.

Teen Takeaway craft this month is Monster Jolly Rancher Lollipops. See Bethany for more details or to sign up.

## South Hadley Police Chief announces office hours

**SOUTH HADLEY**—South Hadley Police Chief Jennifer Gundersen will hold office hours out in the community. The Chief will be holding office hours at the following locations:

Tailgate Picnic, 7 College St, South Hadley, Oct. 9, from 10 a.m. to noon

The South Hadley Council on Aging, 45 Dayton St. on Oct. 24, from 10 a.m. to noon.

The South Hadley Council on Aging, 45 Dayton St. on Nov. 6, from 10 a.m. to noon.

## Trail of Screams begins Oct. 11

**SOUTH HADLEY** —South Hadley Scout Troop 303 will hold its annual Trail of Screams for children on the following weekends: Friday and Saturday, Oct. 11 and 12, Oct. 18 and 19, and Oct. 25 and 26.

The trick or treat trail is open from 6 to 7 p.m., with a scarier version open from 7 to 9 p.m.

Admission is \$10 or with a canned good it is \$5. The event is located adjacent to 502 Amherst Road (Route 116) in South Hadley.

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rsvp: [www.wma.us/openhouse](http://www.wma.us/openhouse)

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Dancing, singing and moving to some music together with smiles all around.

**CENTER** from page 1

LePage, the director of the center for nine years. "It was bringing people together and giving them a space."

The center served over ten different towns and provided a special "pre-preschool" playgroup for ages birth through five, giving these kids an opportunity to meet others their age, play with toys, have a snack, and do a craft.

"When many families can't afford preschool, it became a way for kids to see other kids," LePage said, sharing how the Center operated in majority through donations by the parents.

"I never wanted anyone to feel like they couldn't come in," LePage said. "So, especially after the pandemic when things got hard, I didn't ask for much."

The Center also organized several field trips to the police and fire departments, as well as McCray's Farm to pick pumpkins. The Center also hosted someone from the Berkshire Academy who read to them with braille books, and hosted concerts.

"You got to meet other people with kids, and it was a place you could just go to have fun, and for your kids to have fun," said Kim Griswold, a caretaker who took kids to the center for twenty years.

"It was a place for moms and dads to come together, and just being able to hang

out with other people while kids played was a great way to start the morning," Griswold said.

The Center provided a space for not only the kids to get that necessary early interactions and learning, but also provided parents with a source of community and support from other parents.

Unfortunately, as time went on, the Center lost its consistent source of income, and though they had money in their savings account, it wasn't enough to support the year.

The budget, which includes a small salary for LePage as the sole staff for the group, the rent for the space at the church, telephone bill, and other expenses like materials for the snacks, crafts, and other things totaled \$25,000 for the full year of operation.

"We just did not have enough money to open again this year," LePage said. "We don't have a lot of expenses, and I am mostly looking for something long-term to help keep us afloat."

While most of the money was acquired through donations and fundraising, the bulk was needed to come from the generosity of a consistent source.

"The closing has impacted a lot of families, and I feel like there's a loss here. The library has really stepped up and offers weekly story times, but it is just not



LePage and a little girl, wearing their fire hats from the fire department.



Kids getting the chance to meet one of the police officers that protects their community.

the same as the consistency of the Center," LePage said.

Many members of the community have felt deeply impacted by the loss of the Family Center, and many have reached out already, willing to do anything to get the center back into running full time.

LePage is looking into fundraising for the Center, but needs help from the community, and asks that anyone willing and able to help, to reach out.

"I'd be more than happy to go back to working for the community," LePage said.

"I loved it, and I refer to those nine years as the best nine in my life."

"I'm happy to partner with the town," LePage said, mentioning her talks with Town Administrator Lisa Wong and desires to work with the public schools, so that the early intervention offered by the center can then in turn support the elementary teachers.

"I just want to thank everyone who has been so supportive of the center," LePage said. "It's touched so many peoples' lives, and to be a part of that has been a blessing."



One of their special field trips, getting the chance to see a giant tractor, some kids even fitting in a wheel.



Kids and their families gathered around to listen to some music together.

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**SOUTH HADLEY** **2024**

**Fall**

**YARD WASTE CURBSIDE COLLECTION**

**NOVEMBER 4TH – NOVEMBER 30TH**

Paper Bags or Open Top Containers Only;  
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 Each Route Will Have Two Collections.  
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Questions? Please contact The DPW at 538-5030 ext. 6500  
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<https://www.southhadley.org/405/Curbside-Regulations>  
 What is Recyclable?  
<http://springfieldmrf.org/whats-recyclable-at-the-mrf>



# South Hadley COA

45 Dayton Street, South Hadley • 413-538-5030  
www.southhadley.org/324/Council-on-Aging

## October 2024

**SOUTH HADLEY**– Update on sand for seniors program. Distribution of sand will take place on Oct. 3 and then again on Oct. 29. If individuals have an empty bucket, feel free to leave it to be picked up. Any questions about this program feel free to call the South Hadley Council on Aging at 413-538-5030.

Details for the programs listed can be found in the October newsletter or by calling the Welcome Desk

Thursday, Oct. 3 5:30 p.m. – Sound Bath Meditation

Friday, Oct. 4 at 10:30 a.m. and each following Friday until Nov. 22.

Ethnographic Research Design with Professor Roth and Mount Holyoke College students

Office Hours: Senator Oliviera, Tuesday Oct. 8 at 11 a.m.

Chief of Police Gundersen, Thursday, Oct. 24 at 10 a.m.

Wednesday, Oct. 9 at 2 p.m. - Birthday/Anniversary celebration with Matt York and MacDuffie School students.

Thursday, Oct. 10, 4:30-6:30 p.m.

SHCOA Art Gala.

Tuesday, Oct. 15 at 12:30 p.m. Ice Cream Social with Mont Marie Rehab and Healthcare Center.

Wednesday, Oct. 16 at 10 a.m. New Senior Center Music Group.

Thursday, Oct. 17 at 5:30 p.m. Medicare Made Easy: SHINE Office Hours with Sue.

Thursday, Oct. 17 at 5:30 p.m. Continue the Conversation from Rebekah Cornell's August talk. Learn about the town's conservation area and the flora and fauna you will see on trails.

Wednesday, Oct. 23 at 1:30 p.m. – Women's Network with Odyssey Bookshop owner Joan Grenier.

Refreshments supplied by Nic-Nat's, sponsored by the Friends of the South Hadley Seniors.

Thursday, Oct. 24 at 5:30 p.m. Staying Safe Online. Maria will give a safety presentation. She'll assist you in creating strong passwords, shop safely online and protect your personal information.

Thursday, Oct. 29 1- 3 p.m. Halloween Bingo. Bingo Prizes and refreshments sponsored by the Friends of the South Hadley Seniors. Costumes optional.

## New senior nutrition program

HOLYOKE — WestMass ElderCare is thrilled to announce an exciting new partnership with Delaney's Market, a local business known for quality and convenient ready-made meals.

Starting Oct. 1, Delaney's Market will begin providing meals for WMEC's Senior Nutrition Program, which includes both our home-delivered meals and our Community Table sites.

Every day, WMEC's Senior Nutrition Program serves an average of 1,200 meals to older adults and individuals with disabilities across our service area, which includes Holyoke, Chicopee, South Hadley, Granby, Ware, and Ludlow. This new partnership with Delaney's Market will enhance our ability to provide nutritious, delicious meals that align with our mission to support the health, independence, and quality of life of those we serve. Importantly, all meals provided through this partnership will continue to adhere to the nutrition and portion guidelines set forth by the Executive Office of Elder Affairs, ensuring that our consumers receive well-balanced, healthy meals tailored to their needs.

WMEC's home-delivered meals offer more than just nourishment; they bring vital social interaction, safety, and peace of mind for caregivers who are

unable to be with their loved ones. The drivers perform daily wellness checks, ensuring that no meal is delivered without meaningful interaction. For those who live alone, the driver may be the only person the consumer sees throughout the day, providing a critical lifeline of support and connection - as well as tremendous peace of mind for caregivers.

WMEC's Community Table sites, located at Granby and South Hadley Senior Centers as well as housing locations in Chicopee, Holyoke, South Hadley and Ludlow, offer a welcoming environment where older adults and residents can enjoy a meal together, fostering social connections and community engagement.

"We are incredibly excited to contract with Delaney's Market," said Sarah Aasheim, director of Community Programs at WMEC. "Partnering with such a well-known and respected local business means our consumers will benefit from high-quality, locally-sourced meals, while we continue to support their health and well-being."

Peter Rosskothien, owner of Delaney's Market is well-known in the Pioneer Valley having successfully co-owned and managed the Log Cabin and Delaney House Restaurant until 2023.

### SOCIAL SECURITY from page 4

It's important to note that the "extra credits" are additional earnings added to your military pay record – not an additional benefit amount added to your Social Security payment because of your military service. If, however, your military pay was included in the 35 years used to compute your Social Security benefit when you claimed, then your military pay affected your SS payment amount.

In any case, if you served in the military after 1967, the special extra earnings credits were automatically included in your military pay record and, thus, were automatically included when calculating your Social Security benefit when you applied. If your non-military working career consisted of over 35 years during which you earned more than you did while serving, your years in the military wouldn't be included when computing your Social Security benefit anyway (only your highest earning 35 years of earnings are included when calculating your SS benefit).

Although it's never "too late" to re-

quest a recalculation, if you served after 1967 your military pay during your service years was automatically increased by SS to account for your military service. If you served before 1967, you could contact Social Security to ensure that the extra credits were included when calculating your SS benefit. FYI, here's a copy of the Social Security rules on this topic: [www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10017.pdf](http://www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10017.pdf).

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

### GARDEN from page 4

plants from one another. I think it is a bit easier to manage growing flowers that result in seeds that are true to type by planting one named variety of each flower type each year.

Most seeds are viable for a couple years, so technically you could swap them out by growing one set one year and another set of favorites a year later. I encourage you to try seed saving;

it's one positive outcome of an unmanicured garden, that's for certain.

*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](mailto:pouimette@turley.com) with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.*

## 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.

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## SNOWPLOW CONTRACTORS WANTED:

The Town of South Hadley, through its Department of Public Works and Chief Procurement officer (CPO), is seeking applications from plowing and heavy equipment contractors for plowing snow, snow removal, and/or sanding/salting/de-icing for the Department of Public Works for this coming winter. An application form and a copy of the "Snow Plowing Contractual Agreement" for the 2024-2025 winter season may be picked up at the Department of Public Works office at 10 Industrial Drive, South Hadley, MA between the hours of 8:30 AM and 3:30 PM, Monday through Thursday, or by email if preferred to [klempe@southhadleyma.gov](mailto:klempe@southhadleyma.gov).

Submissions will be received at the Department of Public Works up to the **deadline on Friday, October 18, 2024 at 11:00 a.m.**, when they will then be publicly opened and read at that place and time.

Note the requirement for payment of prevailing wage rates no longer applies to snow and ice removal operations, as it is considered a safety function, and is therefore exempt. The Town of South Hadley is an equal opportunity employer. Minority business enterprises that are certified and qualified are encouraged to submit applications.

The Town reserves the right to accept or reject any and all proposals, as in the Town's judgement, the best interest of the Town of South Hadley would be served by so doing, all in accordance with the applicable General Laws.



# Flashback FRIDAY

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## Aaliyah inspires

Ten-year-old South Hadley resident Aaliyah Hall spent the pandemic operating "Dreamland with Aaliyah," an online show that resulted in her being named one of the Top 50 Kids of the Year by Time Magazine and Nickelodeon.



# ▶ Granby

## Important election announcements

GRANBY— The State election will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 5, from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the Granby Jr. Sr. High school in the gymnasium.

If citizens are not registered to vote, the last day to register to vote and change Party enrollment for the State Election is Saturday Oct. 26.

Last day for In-Person Voter Registration is Saturday, Oct. 26, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Carnegie Building AKA "Old Public Library" located at 1 Library Lane (Route 202), and from

3 to 5 p.m. in the Town Clerk's office, 215 B West State St.

Citizens may also register anytime during regular office hours in the Town Clerk's office, and can pick up mail in voter registration forms at the Granby Post Office, or the Granby Public Library.

With a valid Massachusetts Drivers' License, or Massachusetts ID you can register on-line at [www.sec.state.ma.us](http://www.sec.state.ma.us) under elections, or on our town website [www.granby-ma.gov](http://www.granby-ma.gov) under the Town Clerk Department, you can register on-line until 11:59 p.m. on Oct. 26.

Mail in forms must be postmarked by the Oct. 26 to be eligible to participate in this

Early Voting by Mail Election Advisory #22-01, State Election, Nov. 05.

Early voting by mail requires no excuse this is "voting by will" the last day to file a "Vote By Mail" and an Absentee by Mail application for the Nov. 05. Presidential Election is 5 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 29.

If you did not receive an application from the Secretary of the Commonwealth, Elections Division, you may download an application by going on-line to our Town Website under the Town Clerk Department, or at [www.sec.state.ma.us](http://www.sec.state.ma.us), or call the town clerk office at 413-467-7178.

Emailing the completed application with your signature on it to: [townclerk@granby-ma.gov](mailto:townclerk@granby-ma.gov) would be the quickest way for your application to be received.

If you wish to track your ballot, go to [sec.state.ma.us](http://sec.state.ma.us) voting status and click on Track My Ballot, or you can call the town clerk's office, 413-467-7178.

Early Voting In Person Ch 54 Elections, Sec 25B - State Election, Nov. 05.

Early Voting In Person will be held in the Carnegie Building" AKA "Old Public Library" located at One Library Lane. You can vote Early In-Person on the following days:

### Carnegie Building Hours for Early Voting In-Person

- Saturday, Oct. 19 - 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- Monday, Oct. 21 through Thursday, Oct. 24 - 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- Friday, Oct. 25 9 a.m. to noon
- Saturday, Oct. 26 - 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Monday, Oct. 28 through Thursday, Oct. 31 -9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Friday, Nov. 1st 9 a.m. to noon  
ABSENTEE VOTING You must have one of the following reasons to apply for an Absentee Ballot:

A registered voter who is absent from the voter's city or town during normal polling hours; A registered voter with a physical disability; COVID-19 reasons; Religious belief; OR A non-registered voter who is absent from the state; or An active member of the armed forces or merchant marines, their spouse or dependent, or A person confined in a correctional facility, or a jail, except if by reason of felon conviction.

Mail-In Absentee Applications must be received no later than 5 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 29, and the last day to vote Absentee In-Person in the Town Clerk's office is noon on Monday, Nov. 4.

Please consider using the Election drop box instead of the regular mail, the election drop box is located at the Town Hall Annex, 215 B West State St., the Election Ballot Box is only for Ballots, and Elections Applications.

The drop box is blue, red, and white and clearly state "Elections Ballot Box." any other town business please use the black box label Town Drop Box. Questions or concerns can be directed to Kathy Kelly-Regan, Town Clerk at 413-467-7178.

## Granby town clerk notices

GRANBY—Last Day Voter Registration will be held in the Town Clerks office located in the Town Hall Annex, at 215 B West State St. on Friday, Oct. 11, from 9 a.m. to noon and from noon to 5 p.m. at the Granby Public Library.

Other ways to register to vote: register by stopping by the Town Clerk's Office before the deadline, or you can pick up mail in voter registration forms at the Granby Post Office, or the Granby Public Library, you can also download a voter registration form or register to vote on-line by going to either [www.sec.state.ma.us](http://www.sec.state.ma.us), or [www.granby-ma.gov](http://www.granby-ma.gov) and search for voter registration.

To note: Mail in forms must be post-marked by Oct. 11th to be eligible to participate in this Special Town Meeting.

Special Town Meeting on Monday, Oct. 21 at the East Meadow School in the gymnasium at 7 p.m.

All residents participating must be registered voters. Eligible voters will receive a card you may check in at any station. The doors will open at 6:15 p.m. for check-in. Please park in between the two schools near the softball fields.

You may view the warrant for this meeting at the following public buildings: Town Hall Annex, at 215 B West State St, Select Board's office at the COA Building at 10 West State St, Granby Post Office, Public Library, Public Safety Complex, Florence Bank, and Polish National Credit Union.

You may also view this warrant on our website at [www.granby-ma.gov](http://www.granby-ma.gov)

Do you know what precinct you are? Not sure call the town clerk's office or look on the web site [www.granby-ma.gov](http://www.granby-ma.gov) under department of town clerk.

Yard Waste Days at Granby Highway Department on Saturday, Oct. 26 and Saturday, Nov. 23, 9 a.m. to Noon. Please Approach the collection facility from the West Street. Lawn clippings and leaves are to be placed in biodegradable bags or loaded directly into dumpsters. Small branches and brush will also be collected but must be separated from lawn waste. No stumps are allowed. Please have proof of residency. Any questions or concerns can be directed to Kathy Kelly-Regan at the Granby Town Hall Annex, 413-467-7178.

## Community vaccine clinic

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](mailto:nurses@northhampton.gov).

## GPL October and November events

GRANBY— The Granby Public Library, 297 E. State St., will be holding events throughout October and November. For more information, please visit <http://granbylibrary.com>.

### Majesty and Mystery of Crop Circles Saturday, Oct. 19 at 10:30 a.m.

Join us for a power point presentation featuring designs that have been appearing with increasing sophistication during the past three decades in farmers' fields and other locations all over the world. Layered weaving of plants in the fields as well as anatomical changes observed in these plants are presented as evidence of powerful and mysterious energies at work. Effects on electronic equipment, soils, animals, and human visitors are also described. Interpretations of these intricate and exquisite formations, many of which occur near sacred sites and refer to mystical traditions, are discussed as well. This project is supported in part from a grant from the Granby Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

### Burial Grounds of Granby and South Hadley throughout their History Thursday, Oct. 24

from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Join us in the Community Room for a presentation of Burial Grounds of Granby and South Hadley Throughout History presented by Robert Comeau of [holyokeycanaltour.org](http://holyokeycanaltour.org). This project is supported in part from a grant from the Granby Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

### Pastel Workshop with Greg Maichack Saturday, Nov. 16 at 11 a.m.

Join us and pastel paint your own Seascapes in Pastel Inspired by Winslow Homer. All levels of experience are welcome. Space is limited, so please call the library to reserve your space to join us for pastel painting!

On Saturday, Nov. 16 at 11 a.m., award-winning artist Gregory Maichack

Please see **EVENTS**, page 9

## Send Us Your Community Dazzler Events

**Turley Publications will print your holiday calendar events FREE OF CHARGE in our Dazzler Supplement which will be published November 20, 2024.**

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Contact name & phone number for more information \_\_\_\_\_

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\*Be sure to indicate "Dazzler"  
in the subject line of your email.

Deadline for Calendar submissions is October 14.



# Major Alzheimer's legislation passes through House

WASHINGTON— Sen. Edward J. Markey (D-Mass.), chair of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Subcommittee on Primary Health and Retirement Security and founder and co-chair of the Congressional Task Force on Alzheimer's, applauded passage by the House of Representatives of the National Alzheimer's Project Act and the Alzheimer's Accountability and Investment Act, legislation that would cement and build on the important progress that has been made to prevent and effectively treat Alzheimer's disease. The National Alzheimer's Project Act Reauthorization and the Alzheimer's Accountability and Investment Act now head to President Joe Biden's desk to be signed into law.

"Since my mother was diagnosed with Alzheimer's in 1985, I have fought to ensure the federal government has the funding, resources, and coordination necessary to find a cure for this disease," said Markey. "The National Alzheimer's Plan Act and the Alzheimer's Accountability Act have transformed our understanding of the disease and its risk factors for more than a decade. But our work is not yet done. Today's extension of these bills until 2035 is a commitment from Congress that we will not stop fighting until Alzheimer's is a disease only found in history books. I thank Senator Collins and my colleagues for their support in delivering hope to millions of families just like mine

across the country as these two bills head to the President's desk."

The NAPA Reauthorization Act would reauthorize NAPA through 2035 and modernize the legislation to reflect strides that have been made to understand the disease, such as including a new focus on promoting healthy aging and reducing risk factors. The bill also includes updated language to reduce health disparities for under-served communities, including black, brown and disabled communities, who are at increased risk for Alzheimer's as they age.

The NAPA Reauthorization Act is endorsed by the Alzheimer's Association, UsAgainstAlzheimer's, National Down Syndrome Society, National Down Syndrome Congress, and LuMind IDSC Foundation.

The Alzheimer's Accountability and Investment Act would continue through 2035 a requirement that the Director of the National Institutes of Health submit an annual budget to Congress estimating the funding necessary to fully implement NAPA's research goals. Only two other areas of biomedical research, cancer and HIV/AIDS, have been the subject of special budget development aimed at speeding discovery.

The Alzheimer's Accountability and Investment Act is endorsed by the Alzheimer's Association and UsAgainstAlzheimer's.

# Help end food insecurity locally

SOUTH HADLEY— Neighbors Helping Neighbors is a client-choice food pantry located in South Hadley Falls providing 1200 service visits per month. Families or individuals fill out a menu and choose the food they want. On the menu is fresh produce, meats, eggs, cheese, milk, and a large variety of canned goods. During school vacations they offer kid bags, easy meals for kids to have while parents are working. Last year, NHN distributed 248,000 pounds of food to families in South Hadley and Granby. That was 50,000 pounds more than in 2022. This year we are on track to surpass those numbers.

NHN are a member of the Food Bank of Western Mass and can purchase so much more through the Food Bank at an outstandingly low cost. One dollar leverages three meals. A gift of \$100 buys 300 meals. Everyone's gift makes a difference.

As NHN prepare for the winter season, and holidays support is needed more than ever. An easy way to get a

tax break while helping NHN is to make a direct donation to an IRA Required Minimum Distribution to Neighbors Helping Neighbors. When donors take funds from their IRA, they count as taxable income. Sometimes this extra income bumps people into a higher tax bracket and that is not so desirable. People do have the option to transfer RMD directly to a charity. By doing so, they reduce income while satisfying the required minimum distribution. It's a very easy way to reduce taxable income while helping others. Neighbors in the community will greatly benefit from gifts such as these.

Please consider making a charitable donation to Neighbors Helping Neighbors Tax ID:

45-4923566. No gift is too small. To learn more about NHN Food Pantry visit the booth at the Oct. 14, Baptist Church Craft Fair on Route 202 or to donate on-line visit the website at [www.nhnfoodpantry.org](http://www.nhnfoodpantry.org).

# 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.innesassoc.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.

### EVENTS from page 8

will present "Seascapes: How to Pastel Paint" at the Granby Free Public Library.

This workshop offers both beginner and advanced participants an opportunity to creatively explore pastel painting inspired by the work of Winslow Homer. Participants will receive instruction

on expressive pastel strokes, blending, slurring, layering and creating the wave effect of spray by embedding pigment particles into the painting. Please call (413) 467-3320.

This project is supported in part from a grant from the Granby Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

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Brenden and Amanda with their kids, Eleanor and Miles enjoying the day.



Members of the Providence Ministries (left to right) Derek Cyr, Heather Merrill, Wes Pullen, Brian Goguen, Jennie Adamczyk, and Michael Clark.

# McCray's Farm celebrates fall with fun and pumpkins

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

SOUTH HADLEY – With fall finally here, farms all over the state are celebrating with their end-of-the season harvests, and the finally-ripened fall vegetables.

From hay bales to corn to pumpkins, McCray's Farm is host to all kinds of vegetables to pick yourself, surrounded by beautiful mountain scenery and fun to be had.

For over forty years, the farm has served its community with love and care, providing delicious food and plenty of fun to be had at a low cost for all to enjoy.

You can enjoy a round of mini golf on their course, and eat some of the farm's fresh and delicious ice cream after visiting some of the animals in their petting zoo, where you can give them treats.

"I like the petting zoo," Barb Cote, the farm's manager said. "I also like seeing the big school groups come to enjoy the farm."

Animals you can find in the petting zoo include a llama, two alpacas, goats, cows, ducks, geese, chickens, a peacock, and a visiting heron at their pond.

The farm is open daily from 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., and often hosts groups from the South Hadley Public schools, as well as from surrounding towns, to come and tour the farm and pet and feed the animals.

"Mostly everything is free, and it's got a great atmosphere," Cote said. "I like seeing people happy here."

The farm is currently having their annual fall events, where you can find live music, wagon rides through the farm, and on Saturdays and Sundays until October 27, Manuel Amusements will be there with fun rides and arcade games.

You can find the pumpkins there priced by size, and there are also hay bales and corn stalks available for purchase, whether you use them as festive fall décor, or for your own animals to enjoy.

Being a non-profit, the farm strives to welcome its community, and provide for it, and in return, the community adores the farm and all it has to offer.

The farm also partnered with Providence Ministries over the weekend by allowing them the use of their golf course in order to host a special fundraiser for the services provided by the organization.

Jennie Adamczyk, the executive director of Providence Ministries, has been holding fundraisers for the organization at McCray's for four years now.

"We appreciate the partnership of McCray's and allowing us to use the space," Adamczyk said. "My favorite part about the farm is their community spirit and their willingness to help us raise money that in turn helps the community."

The organization is a nonprofit from Holyoke, and their "mission is to feed and clothe those in our surrounding community", which is done through Kate's Kitchen and Margaret's Pantry, both part of the organization.

Providence Ministries also has a thrift store, three sober living homes for men in recovery, and culinary training programs for people with barriers to employment.

They serve about three hundred people daily, and all money raised from mini golf, and their basket raffle of donated items goes towards making these services possible.

The farm is truly dedicated to its community, from providing family fun that is accessible to all, to beneficial and delicious farm-raised milk and more to be enjoyed.



Valerie Joaquin, owner of Designs by Valerie, with her cute keychains and Crocs charms from her business.



Stephany and Julian Rodriguez having fun petting the cow and feeding him treats.



A visiting heron in the pond with the ducks, waiting for fish and insects.



The llama, alpacas, and goats enjoying being spoiled by the guests.





A little goat coming to say hello.



Countless pumpkins of different shapes and sizes ready for their new homes.



People ready and lined up for the wagon ride around the farm.

Turley Photos by Emily-Rose Pappas



All of the ducks and geese hanging out at the pond.



Families enjoying the rides from Manuel Amusements.



Arcade games, candy apples, popcorn, and giant stuffies galore.



Trina Perreault, owner of TK Designs, posing with her beautiful handmade jewelry.



Angela, Charlotte, and Moses enjoying the farm's delicious ice cream together.



The Midlife Crisis Band who came to provide classic music hits for all to enjoy.



# SPORTS

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Noah Hambley looks to work away from the traffic.

Griffin Soderbaum scrambles looking to make a pass.

Jayden McManis tries to make a block.

## Emerling takes modifieds event at Monadnock

WINCHESTER, N.H. – Empire State Modified star Patrick Emerling had a huge day Saturday at Monadnock Speedway, topping the 200-lap second annual Winchester Fair main event and, with that win, securing the 2024 Granite State Short Track Cup championship while also moving just shy of the top of the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour points parade.

The quarter-mile oval's last event of the 2024 season ended with a large fireworks display lighting up the crisp autumn air with all the oomph and pizzazz that JDV Productions shows have been known for this summer, but not before Emerling had basked in the glory of victory lane, as had Chris Riendeau, twice, Randy Cabral, and Rob Richardi Jr...

No fewer than seven drivers turned in blistering sub-12 second laps in pre-event qualifying for the USNE Power presents the second annual Winchester Fair main event. Youthful rocketman Austin Beers was quickest, setting fast time at 11.723 seconds around the high-banked quarter-mile.

A top-four redraw would switch Beers and Craig Lutz spots on row one, with Lutz taking over the inside groove

Please see **RACE**, page 15

## TIGERS FALL TO COMP



Julius Hebenth attempts to make a tackle.

SOUTH HADLEY – Last Friday night, former Thanksgiving rivals Chicopee Comprehensive and South Hadley faced off on South Hadley's turf with the Colts grabbing a 22-8 win thanks to a pair of touchdowns in the second half. Comp had an 8-0 lead at halftime and both teams scored in the third quarter making the score 14-8. Comp would put the game away with a score in the final frame. Matthew Perez and Joziah Feliz each scored touchdowns. Feliz had 121 rushing yards for the Colts. Both teams are 1-2 heading into their conference schedules.



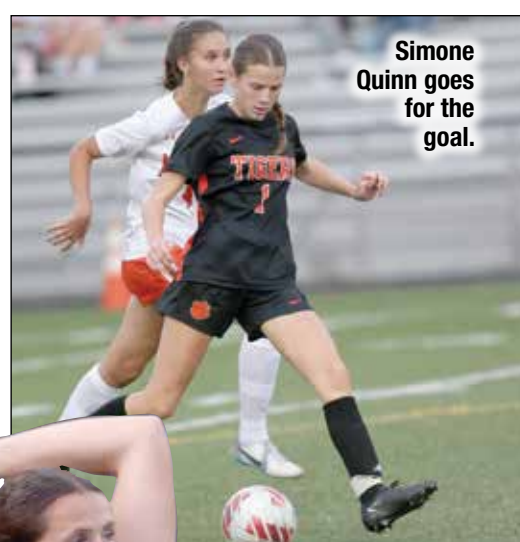
Lincoln Belsky takes the handoff.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com



Katherine McArdle fields a pass.

Maggie Evans makes throw-in.



Simone Quinn goes for the goal.

Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com



Allison Fluery clears the ball away.



Emma Levrault tries to work out of traffic.

## Three straight wins for South Hadley

SOUTH HADLEY – After a setback against Pope Francis, South Hadley girls soccer has won three straight, defeating Agawam, Hampshire Regional, and Wahconah. The Agawam

and Wahconah wins were both for the second time this season. In the 4-1 win over Agawam last Tuesday evening, Allison Fluery, Cianna Gurek, Emma Levrault, and Maggie Evans scored for the Tigers while

Olivia Athas, a freshman, continued her excellent first season in goal with 13 saves. The Tigers are 7-2-1 and need just one more win to guarantee its spot in the Division 4 State Tournament.





Stephen Szlosek takes a shot on goal during recent action at Southwick.

## Rams get fifth win of the season

GRANBY – The Granby High School boys soccer team has now won four straight games after a rough start to the regular season.

In the past two weeks, the Rams have defeated Hopkins Academy, Southwick, Sci-Tech, and last Thursday, a 3-0 shutout at home

of Greenfield to cap its current winning streak. The Rams are now 5-2-1 and next face Gateway on the road Oct. 4 at 4:30 p.m.



Gavin Moreno tries to pass his way out of pressure.



Jake Chagnon chases after a loose ball.



Riley Goodhind makes his way up the middle of the field.



Goalie Jaxton Roy sends a free kick away.

## 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 open up training camp

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Thunderbirds opened their 2024-25 training camp on Monday morning ahead of their trio of exhibition games on Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday.

The initial training camp roster can be seen below. Please note this list will change as the St. Louis Blues reduce their roster ahead of NHL opening night on Oct. 8.

### Springfield Thunderbirds Initial Training Camp Roster (as of Sept. 30)

Forwards: #15 Dalibor Dvorsky, #20 Oliver Chau, #22 Dylan Peterson, #24 Tanner Dickinson, #28 Colin Theisen, #34 Sam Bitten, #37 Reece Newkirk, #38 Tarun Fizer, #41 Aleksanteri Kaskimaki, #43 Greg Meireles, #46 Anthony Callin, #63 Matthew Peca, #77 Drew Callin, #81 Marcus Sylvegard

Defensemen: #7 Leo Loof, #9 Michael Buchinger, #13 Jeremie Biakabutuka, #25 Gianni Fairbrother, #33 Anton Malmstrom, #44 Scott Harrington, #49 Sean Allen

### Goaltenders: #31 Colten Ellis, #35 Cam Johnson, #40 Will Cranley

The Thunderbirds begin their exhibition slate on Wednesday, Oct. 2 when they host the Hartford Wolf Pack at 7:05 p.m. at the MassMutual Center. They will also play a preseason tuneup on Friday at 7:05 p.m. on home ice against the Providence Bruins before traveling to Rhode Island for a rematch on Saturday at 7:05 p.m. at Amica Mutual Pavilion.

The regular season opens on Saturday, Oct. 12 against the Laval Rocket at 7:05 p.m. for Opening Night presented by MGM Springfield.

## Owls football defeats Worcester State

WESTFIELD – Westfield State got a pair of touchdowns each from Dylan Disabella and Curtis Dion, and the Owls held on late to beat Worcester State, 35-27 and spoil the Lancers' homecoming at Coughlin Field on Saturday.

Westfield improves to 2-2 overall and 2-1 in the Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference, while Worcester is also 2-2 and 2-1 in the league.

Westfield ground out the win with the rushing game, carrying the ball 61 times in their 76 plays. The Owls held the ball for 44 minutes, limiting the Lancers' opportunities.

Sean Willis led the Owls with 131 yards rushing on 32 carries, with Dion adding 49 yards and two td's on 10 carries, Gabe Fernandez carried five times for 39 yards, and Disabella scored a pair of TD and gained 36 yards on just five carries.

After trailing 7-0 less than two minutes into the game, Westfield built a 28-14 lead by the half on runs of 8 and 18 yards from Disabella, and 3 and 2 yards from Dion.

Worcester pulled within a

point at 28-27 late in third quarter, but missed the extra point to give the Owls the advantage.

Westfield nearly ran out the clock with a 14-play, 61-yard drive that was capped by a 1-yard TD plunge from Willis to go ahead 35-27 after Cooper Harvey's point-after kick with 1:47 left in regulation time.

Worcester wasn't done, marching the ball all the way to the Westfield 12-yard line, but a chop block on an apparent scoring play backed the Lancers up to the 25, and Westfield's Corey Henderson picked off a pass at the 1-yard line as time expired.

Westfield registered 30 first downs to the Lancers 11, and outgained Worcester State 415-197. Turnovers plagued the Owls, with two lost fumbles and two interceptions on the day. Westfield's defense held the lancers to negative-12 yards on 15 attempts.

Westfield will be on the road next weekend, traveling to Castleton, Vermont to play Vermont State-Castleton, which will be the first-ever meeting between the Owls and the Spartans. VSU joined the MASCAC for the 2024 season.

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# Region

## Sheriff asks for the communities help

I am asking the residents of Hampshire County to join together to help stop the crime of phone scamming.

In late July, I issued to our local media and posted to the Hampshire Sheriff's Office website a statement alerting Hampshire County residents to the prevalence of phone scammers posing as employees of the HSO in an effort to extract personal information or extort money.

It distresses me to report that scammers using this same technique are at it again.

Since last Thursday, Sept. 19, we have received reports of at least six scam calls, not including the five reported just this morning. The callers claim to be employees from our main facility and Civil Process Division.

The calls typically begin with the caller making a vague threat that the receiver has missed a court appearance, or some appointment at the jail, and ends with attempts to extract personal information like e-mail addresses and Social Security

numbers, while others blatantly demand money. Now the scammers are also delving into bitcoin. These calls are not just annoying and unnerving. They are criminal.

I have posted to the HSO Facebook page four scam alerts this year, along with other information about phone scams and how to avoid falling prey to them. In each statement I have declared forcefully and unequivocally that the Hampshire Sheriff's Office does not make calls like these.

If a caller claims to be an employee of the HSO or our Civil Process Division and issues a vague threat, it's a scam. It's a crime.

If a caller claims to be an employee of the HSO or our Civil Process Division and asks for personal information, it's a scam. It's a crime.

If a caller claims to be an employee of the HSO or our Civil Process Division and demands money, it's a scam. It's a crime.

If you receive a call from a number you don't recognize, don't answer it. Friends

and family will leave you a message.

If you answer a call that seems suspicious, please hang up immediately and call our main office at 413-584-5911 and let us know about it. You need not disclose your name, or any other information. Just let us know that you helped stop a crime. Let your friends and neighbors know about it too. If enough of us simply hang up on these criminals, maybe they will stop. But it's going to take us working together as a community to make them go away.

It is the duty of the Hampshire Sheriff's Office to protect public safety. We want everyone to stay safe and to remember, please, please remember, that my office will never make, or be a party to these kinds of phone calls.

Thank you for joining me in this effort.

**Patrick J. Cahillane**  
*Sheriff, Hampshire County*

## 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](http://www.monsonartscouncil.org). Enjoy all of the beauty this tremendous organization has to offer.

### BYLAW from page 1

lectboard can do in the event of a dangerous dog hearing.

Wong put together a new section to add to the town bylaws regarding dogs and found it to be much more comprehensive.

"There are some cases where the Selectboard can petition the court... for the impoundment of a dog," Wong said, explaining the tense legal issues surround-

ing impoundment.

Wong shared an addition to the section, which will read, "Violations of this bylaw may also be enforced by an order of impoundment, as provided in section 194-5, in the discretion of the enforcing officers."

In the details of the new bylaw, it reveals a dog can be impounded for being found with no license, if found unleashed, or for having physically injured someone or another domestic animal.

Other reasons include restoring peace in the event the owner is not available after the dog is causing a disturbance, for the safety and well-being of the dog, or any violations of the bylaw itself.

In order to get the dog back, the owner or owners must provide proof of a license and a vaccine for rabies, provide the name and address of the owners of the dog, payment of all fees and boarding, and proof of payment for license and rabies vaccine if not had.

Bosman asked about the event of a dog attacking and harming a non-domestic animal, like a deer or rabbit, and what would be done and if the dog could be impounded for that.

"I believe if there was a case that if they were biting or injuring, the Selectboard would hold a dangerous dog hearing," Wong said. "And that's already in the books, including up to ordering that the dog be put down."

The committee moved to accept the appointed and presented bylaw amendments, to be presented at the 2024 special town meeting.

### Nuisance Bylaw Amendments

"Both the Selectboard proposed an amendment, and the Board of Health proposed an amendment [for the nuisance bylaw]," Wong said.

For the Board of Health and the Conservation Commission, they agreed on eliminating 179-4 on property maintenance within the nuisance bylaw.

"They wanted to encourage pollinator yards or areas," Wong said. "This doesn't prevent the Board of Health from determining that there are issues with properties... but in terms of grass height, grass clippings, and branches and such, this has been determined to be unenforceable."

The committee voted in favor of removing the property maintenance section and agreed to discuss and bring it to the special town meeting.

The committee moved to approve of the amendment, and Brezinsky posed a comment and question regarding the next section, 179-44, about discarded furniture.

"We are a buy-nothing community, and people leave furniture out for people to take all the time," Brezinsky said. He also asked the committee if it were possible for the section to be altered to provide a time limit for the furniture to be kept out on properties.

The board agreed to hold on a decision for the special town meeting, bringing it to the council to see where they want to go with it.

### Tax Title Custodian Position Needed

Wong went over the various new bylaw articles with the board and began with

a briefing of a recent auction on Pearl Street where a tax title custodian was needed, but the town did not have one.

Wong shared the town's treasurer/collector went to the auction to serve as a tax title custodian, and she requested the board discuss an official position for a tax title custodian.

However, because changes to the tax title provisions will start on November 1, that will make auctions in town "fewer and far between".

Because of the installment of a new law that requires a municipality to engage the services of a real estate broker for a minimum of twelve months before holding an auction, the town will not expect to have an in the near future.

Wong explained that because of this, the position is not a top priority, however wanted to announce it to the committee to begin thinking about it before the annual town meeting next year.

### Comprehensive Review

Wong brought to the attention of the committee the matter of the town's comprehensive review, and how to handle it in terms of how it relates to the town.

"I think it would be a good idea, as part of what the Bylaw Review Committee does, to begin to standardize how often there's a comprehensive review," Brezinsky said.

Wong brought up various ideas in how to look at bylaws "as a piece of a larger effort to improve the quality of life, and over governance, within the community," she said.

Bosman pointed out that looking at all of the bylaws as a whole is "overwhelming", and that it would be more beneficial to look at the bylaws one by one.

### New Bylaw Requested

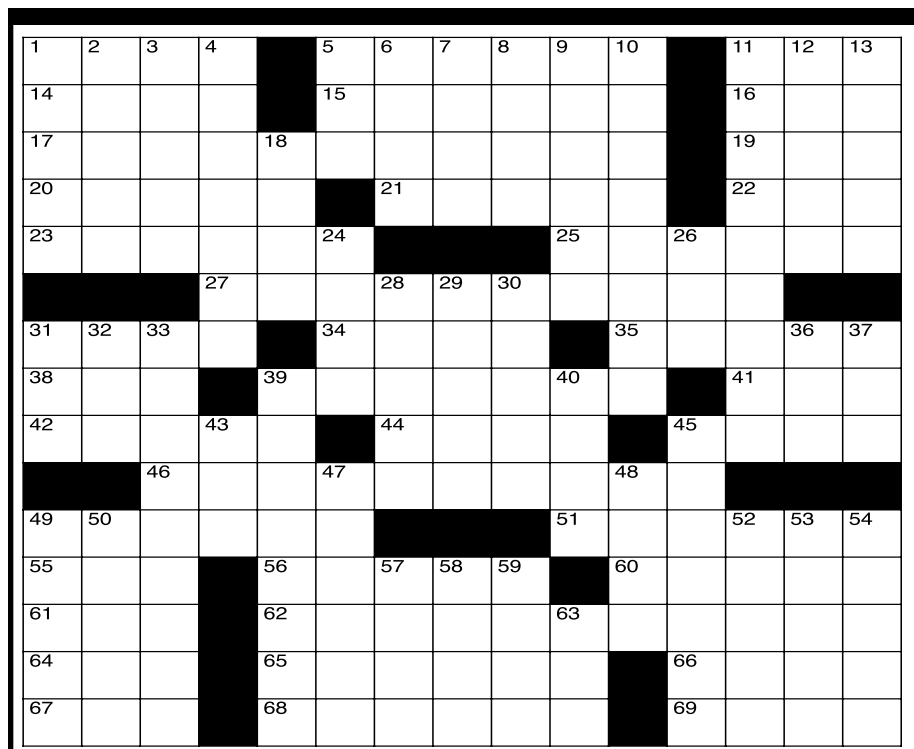
"I'm proposing the town adopt a bylaw for unhitched trailers," Gunderson said, sharing her surprise that a bylaw did not already exist for unhitched trailers.

"We receive complains and we are generally able to get compliance from most of our community members requesting that they move the trailer," Gunderson said. "It is a public safety issue while not a violation."

The public safety threat of these unhitched trailers are directly affecting pedestrians and bicyclists, and she expressed her desire to have this bylaw passed in order to minimize these safety concerns.

"We're looking for just one more tool to be able to make the roads a little bit safer," Gunderson said.

The board moved to approve of the new bylaw to bring it to the upcoming Special Town Meeting.



### CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Separate with an instrument
- 5. State clearly
- 11. One-time MLB speedster Gordon
- 14. Broad in scope
- 15. Lacking social polish
- 16. Amount of time
- 17. Frame
- 19. Automobile
- 20. Caps
- 21. High school dances
- 22. Utilize
- 23. Checked
- 25. One-sided
- 27. Having an extreme greed for wealth
- 31. Potted plants
- 34. We all have one
- 35. Lake north of the Kalahari
- 38. Unidentified flying object
- 39. Aging persons
- 41. Small amount
- 42. Mother of Perseus
- 44. Ornamental waist box
- 45. Officials
- 46. Uncertain
- 49. A cotton fabric with a satiny finish
- 51. Extensive, treeless plains
- 55. Your consciousness of your own identity
- 56. Consumer advocate Ralph
- 60. Notable Spanish sports club
- 61. Body part
- 62. One's responsiveness
- 64. Woman (French)
- 65. Ready and willing to be taught
- 66. Muslim ruler title
- 67. Unhappy
- 68. Gradually disappeared
- 69. Able to think clearly

### CLUES DOWN

- 1. Brushed
- 2. Water sprite
- 3. Ones to look up to
- 4. Monetary units
- 5. We all have one
- 6. Marine invertebrate
- 7. One who institutes a legal proceeding
- 8. Outer
- 9. Parallelograms
- 10. Uncomfortable feelings
- 11. Cross to form an X
- 12. Remove
- 13. Some pages are dog-\_\_
- 18. Capital of Ukraine
- 24. A citizen of Denmark
- 26. Eighth month (abbr.)
- 28. Hindu queens
- 29. Acids structurally related to amino acids
- 30. Rider of Rohan in Tolkien
- 31. Wet dirt
- 32. Russian city
- 33. Observed
- 36. Irrate
- 37. Travelers need them
- 39. Musical composition
- 40. Auction
- 43. Form of "to be"
- 45. Women
- 47. Inspire with love
- 48. Think Japanese ankle sock
- 49. Appears
- 50. Old World lizard
- 52. The lead dancer: \_\_ ballerina
- 53. Protein involved in motion
- 54. Rosalind Franklin biographer
- 57. Popular 1920s style art \_\_
- 58. \_\_ Blyton, children's author
- 59. Abnormal breathing
- 63. A place to rest



# HCC to host annual 'Trunk or Treat' event Oct. 25

HOLYOKE - Visitors to Holyoke Community College on Friday, Oct. 25, can expect to see ghosts, witches, and ghouls, along with an assortment of characters from their favorite children's movies, games, and TV shows as the college celebrates Halloween with its annual Trunk or Treat event.

Dozens of HCC departments, programs, and student clubs, as well as community groups and area businesses decorate vehicles every year for this event.

Trunk or Treat runs from 5 to 7 p.m. in Parking Lot M by the Bartley Center for Athletics and Recreation on the main HCC campus, 303 Homestead Ave.

In the past, trunk sponsors from HCC have included the Early Education program, Student Engagement, Veterinary and Animal Science, Dance Club, ASL Club, Japanese Anime Club, C.A.M.O. (military club), Radiologic Technology, El Centro, Student Records, Early Childhood Grants Initiative, Culinary Club, Business department, President's Cabinet, Disney Club, Nursing program, Student Senate, STEM Club, Latinx Empowerment Association, Psychology Club, Radio Club, Animation Club, and Dungeons & Dragons Club.

And from the community: Dean Technical High School, Holyoke Police Dept., Berkshire Hathaway, Valley Opportunity Council, YWCA, Mass. Dept. for Children and Families Holyoke, Positive Regard Network/Center School, NexGen Roofing, Elms College: The Teachers' Lounge, Holyoke Credit Union, Y Kids Learning Center, Girls Inc. of the Valley,

and Holyoke Public Schools-Early Childhood program.

Past year's trunk themes have included crayons, rubber ducks, happy clowns, a witch's house, a haunted house, Jurassic Park, The Nightmare Before Christmas, Hungry Hungry Hippos, construction, Hocus Pocus, Paw Patrol, bones, Encanto, Star Wars, spooky fun prom, M&M's, Frozen, Ratatouille, Disney villains, Muppets, Mary Poppins, Spiderman and other Marvel superheroes, outer space, a pumpkin patch, Alice in Wonderland, the Multiverse, and Ghostbusters.

Prizes are awarded to vehicle sponsors in various categories including best executed theme, scariest trunk, best costumes, and most original.

Each vehicle will be handing out free Halloween treats and also have non-food items for children with dietary restrictions.

Trunk or Treat at HCC started in 2017 as a safe, fun, and early alternative to traditional trick-or-treating on Halloween night. Rather than going door to door seeking Halloween treats, children go "trunk to trunk" to collect their candy, visiting cars decorated with seasonal themes and familiar stories and characters.

The event is free and open to the public and will be held outdoors, rain or shine. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

To sponsor a vehicle, please contact organizers Lindsey Pare at lpare@hcc.edu. The deadline is Monday, Oct. 21.

# Wealth Transition Collective is hosting its annual food drive

HOLYOKE — The Wealth Transition Collective, a financial planning firm out of Holyoke, recently announced it will host their 4th annual weeklong food drive, beginning Monday, Nov. 11 through Friday, Nov. 15, to benefit Margaret's Pantry in Holyoke in honor of National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week.

Since the start of this event, they have raised over 4,000 pounds of food and monetary donations of over \$7,500. Individuals can drop off non-perishable and canned foods during business hours (Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.) at their office at 1632 Northampton St., Holyoke.

Weather permitting, there will be a drop-off table outside the front door for easy accessibility.

Some of the most-needed items at the

pantry during this time of year are: stuffing mixes, canned good like gravy, soups, stews, baking mixes, frosting, syrup, salad dressing, condiments, Jello, and kids snack items.

Margaret's Pantry, a division of Providence Ministries for the Needy, is a full-service food pantry that has provided food to residents of Greater Holyoke for more than 30 years.

Presently, the pantry provides food to more than 180 families each month, and approximately 72,000 meals a year are distributed to the needy in the community.

"We feel very fortunate to be in a position to make a difference in the community by supporting the efforts of organizations like The Providence Ministries for the Needy" said Greg Sheehan, CEO of the Wealth Transition Collective.

# 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 SHIN-

GRIX, TDAP, RSV, COVID, PEMO-COCCAL. For more information, please visit [www.southhadley.org](http://www.southhadley.org).

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# Obituary

## Wilfred E. Brunelle

Wilfred E. Brunelle (Willie) passed away on Sept. 27, 2024 at Holyoke Medical Center. Willie was born on Oct. 18, 1942 the son of Wilfred O. and Anita (Desroches) Brunelle. Willie is the husband of the late Donna (Gagnon) Brunelle. He is survived by his children Joseph Brunelle of Boston and Michelle Brunelle of Springfield, brother Ronald Brunelle, and sister Linda Duffy.

Raised in Chicopee, he and Donna moved to South Hadley in 1970 where they would raise their children. After a working at New England Container, later Weyerhaeuser, in Chicopee he became a long-time custodian for the South Hadley School System before retiring in 2005. Willie was known for his woodworking skills building cabinets, decorations, and other crafts. He loved the companionship of his rescue dogs over the years.

He will be missed by friends and family.

Visitation was held on Oct. 3, 2024, from 4-6 p.m. at the Beers and Story Funeral Home in South Hadley. A Funeral Mass was held on Oct. 4, 2024 at 9:30 a.m. at St. Patrick's Church in South Hadley. A burial after at St. Rose de Lima Cemetery in Chicopee.

In Lieu of flowers please make donations to Shriners Hospital.

### DEATH NOTICE

**Wilfred E. Brunelle**  
Died Sept. 27, 2024  
Services Oct. 3, 2024  
Beers & Story Funeral Home

### NOTICE

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# SH 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 conduc-

tor 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 conductor 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](http://www.southhadleychorale.org) or call 413-533-3833.

### RACE from page 12

pole. From there, he was all over the lap-one lead, setting a fast pace that would keep him at the head of the 21-car pack for 76 laps.

Matt Hirschman, Big Money Matt, firing from row three, took second from Beers on lap 18, then grabbed Lutz in a high-speed bear hug before low-lining to the point on the 77th circuit. He held the lead until lap 191 when Emerling sped by.

But while Lutz, then Hirschman, was putting on a show up front, much of the huge crowd's eyes were on superstar Ron Silk. Involved in a lap-three tangle that dropped him to 19th on the grid, the Norwalk, Connecticut star was gobbling up positions like there was no tomorrow. But, somehow, he and five-time Monadnock winner Justin Bonsignore couldn't get along.

When the potent pair tangled out of turn four to draw the event's third and final caution on lap 183, changes aplenty took place. Along with both Silk and Bonsignore now refiring deeper in the field, Big Money Matt now seemed almost mortal.

Restarting lap 191 in second, Emerling quickly had the lead and never looked back. Anthony Nocella got up for second with six to go, and Hirschman held on for third. Lutz and Woody Pitkat, from way back in row nine, rounded out the top five, with former Monadnock regular Matt Kimball coming home sixth.

Emerling's Sunday victory, coupled with earlier strong runs in both the Granite State Derby and Duel At The Dog events, earned him the \$3,000 winner's bonus atop the Whelen Granite State Short Track Cup series conceived for the series by JDV Productions.

## PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

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- 2 Access archives and digital tear sheets by newspaper title.
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Public notice deadlines are Mondays at noon, Fridays noon for Monday holidays.

visit [www.publicnotices.turley.com](http://www.publicnotices.turley.com)

## Town Reminder OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$225, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: [obits@turley.com](mailto:obits@turley.com).

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



# Fall CAR CARE & DRIVING



## How to identify a vehicle that fits you

Buying a vehicle is a significant financial investment. It is not a decision to take lightly, especially given the historically high prices of new cars in recent years.

Finding a vehicle that is the perfect fit requires consideration of a host of variables, including personal preference. What is perfect for one individual may not work for another. When the time comes to shop for a new car, people can ask themselves a few questions in an effort to find a vehicle that best suits their needs.

• **What are your needs?** Are you looking to carpool the kids to and from school or do you want a car for commuting that will not cost you an arm and a leg in fuel? Identifying the main purpose of the vehicle will eliminate certain cars or trucks right off the bat.

• **What is your budget?** It is a good idea to get a pre-ap-



People can ask themselves a few questions in an effort to find a vehicle that best suits their needs.

proval loan statement from a financial provider to figure out what you can afford to pay for a vehicle. The popular automotive resource Edmunds says the general rule is the monthly new-car payment should not exceed 15 percent of your monthly take-home pay. Lease payments should be less than 10 percent of monthly take-

home pay. Calculate these numbers and potential interest rates prior to shopping for a vehicle.

• **What size is best for you?** Even though it may seem that SUVs and pickups reign supreme on the road, some drivers prefer smaller vehicles. Figure out how much interior space and cargo room you

need. Take the time to sit in different vehicle classes to determine which size fits you best.

• **What are your fuel preferences?** Today's vehicles come in electric, unleaded gasoline, diesel, and hybrid options. How the car or truck is powered may be important to you and will help identify the best vehicle for you.

• **What is the cost of ownership?** Certain vehicle brands may be more expensive to maintain than others. According to Motor1.com, luxury and premium brands are typically the most expensive to maintain, with European brands like BMW, Porsche and Mercedes-Benz typically carrying high maintenance costs. This can be prohibitive when parts or service is needed.

Buying a vehicle requires careful consideration of drivers' needs, budget and desired features.



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# Fall CAR CARE & DRIVING

## What is a vehicle history report?

The value of a new vehicle depreciates considerably the moment it is driven off a dealership lot. Bankrate reports that a car loses between 9 and 11 percent of its value the moment it leaves the dealership, and over the first five years a vehicle loses roughly 40 percent of its value.

The fact that vehicles are expensive and lose value so quickly compels some consumers to consider preowned cars and trucks as more affordable and financially savvy options. However, preowned vehicles come with their own risks, such as the potential for hidden problems. A vehicle history report is something every prospective pre-owned vehicle buyer should ask to see before buying a car or truck. Sometimes these reports are a free service offered by a seller, particularly an established dealership. But buyers may have to pay to get a vehicle history report, which typically cost between \$25 and \$40.

Kelley Blue Book says a vehi-



cle history report is a collection of records that provide information on a used vehicle that are pulled from thousands of sources. A report may be referred to as a "Carfax®," which is the name of a firm that offers these types of reports. A typical vehicle history report will indicate, among other things, how many people owned the car; whether or not the vehicle has been in a collision; the mileage on the vehicle; if the car is current on inspections; and if the vehicle is branded a lemon.

Consumers should know what to look for when reading a report. While some of the data will be obvious, there are some

less apparent points to consider.

- **Title:** Make sure the vehicle never had a salvage title or other title problems. A salvage title, for example, is a vehicle that has been declared a total loss from collision, flood, theft, fire, or vandalism. Issues may arise when the seller's name is not on the title. A rebuilt title means the vehicle was once salvaged but then refurbished.
- **Ownership:** The vehicle history report will indicate how many owners have had the vehicle. A car that has changed hands many times may not be the best investment.
- **VIN:** It's important to make sure the vehicle identification

number (VIN) for the vehicle matches what is on the vehicle history report.

- **Location of sales:** The locations where the vehicle was used and stored also is important. For example, some may be hesitant if a vehicle was kept by the coast due to moisture and salty conditions that could cause premature wear and tear on components.

- **Fleet vehicle:** The history report will indicate if the vehicle spent time in a fleet. This includes rental vehicles, government vehicles, company vehicles, and dealer vehicles. A fleet vehicle may have had many different drivers over a short period of time.

If there have been multiple changes in ownership or increased service records for certain parts, that may indicate there is something seriously wrong with the car. Vehicle history reports are another tool buyers can use when vetting preowned cars or trucks.

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# Fall CAR CARE & DRIVING

## 4 signs it's time to replace your tires

Inflation has been a hot topic for several years, as the cost of everything from groceries to gas to housing has increased considerably since 2019. Cars are no exception to that phenomenon, and anyone who has purchased a new car over the last half decade likely experienced some sticker shock when they started their search for a new vehicle. Data from Kelley Blue Book indicates the average cost of a new car was \$37,590 in 2019. By 2023, the average cost had risen to \$47,899. That marks an increase of more than 27 percent in a four-year period.

Cars are indeed a significant investment, which underscores the importance of vehicle maintenance. Maintenance is more than just tending to what's under the hood. Tires also require drivers' attention, as aging, damaged tires pose a safety risk that also compromise vehicle performance. Tires are easily overlooked, but the following



are four signs tires need to be replaced.

**1. Worn tread:** The automotive experts at AutoZone® note that tread depth is the most prevalent indicator that a tire needs to be replaced. AutoZone® notes that tread depth should always be at least 2/32 of an inch throughout the tire. Depth should be measured across the tread and around the circumference. If the tread is at or below 2/32 of an inch, the tire should be replaced.

**2. Bulges, gouges or cracks:** Geico® notes that a deflated tire bulges at the sides, and that can compromise the safety

of everyone in the vehicle. AutoZone® says bulges occur when air gets between the inner liner and outer rubber layers, which can happen after hitting a curb or driving over a sizable pothole. A gouge or cut that is deeper than the outer layer of the tire also necessitates replacement.

**3. Poor grip:** Drivers may be able to feel certain tire problems, including poor grip, while driving. In such instances, tires may feel as though they are slipping. The tire experts at Firestone note that low tread can reduce tire traction and cause wheels to slip, which

may be more noticeable when accelerating from a stop or driving on wet roads. Drivers who feel their tires are slipping can test the tread and replace tires that are low.

**4. Vibration:** Vibration is another issue drivers may feel rather than see. And identifying the cause requires noting where the vibrations are felt. Geico® notes that a feeling of vibration or thumping that feels like it's coming from under the seats may indicate the tires are not balanced. A suspension issue could be to blame if the steering wheel feels like it's vibrating. Either feeling should be brought to the attention of a mechanic immediately.

Tire issues affect vehicle performance and compromise the safety of drivers, their passengers and fellow motorists. When vehicles are not performing at peak capacity, drivers should not overlook various tire issues as a potential cause of such troubles.

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**THE TOWN OF PALMER DPW** is seeking contractors for snow removal for the upcoming winter season. If interested, contracts are available on the town website or at the DPW office. Completed contracts with a copy of the necessary insurance forms can be delivered to the DPW office located at 1015 Bridge St. Palmer. Rates have been increased for fiscal year 2025. Please call our office at **(413) 283-2615, M-F, 7a-330p,** with any questions.

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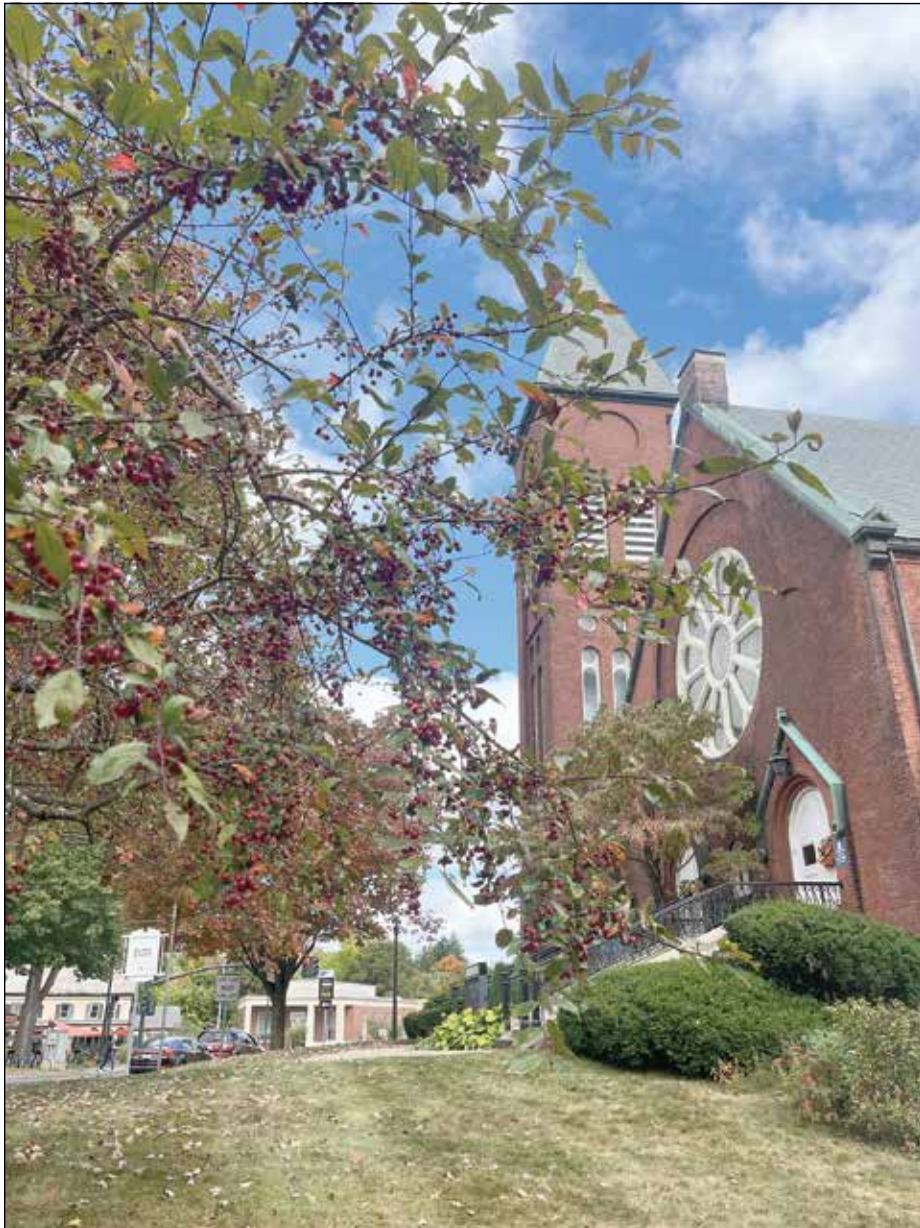
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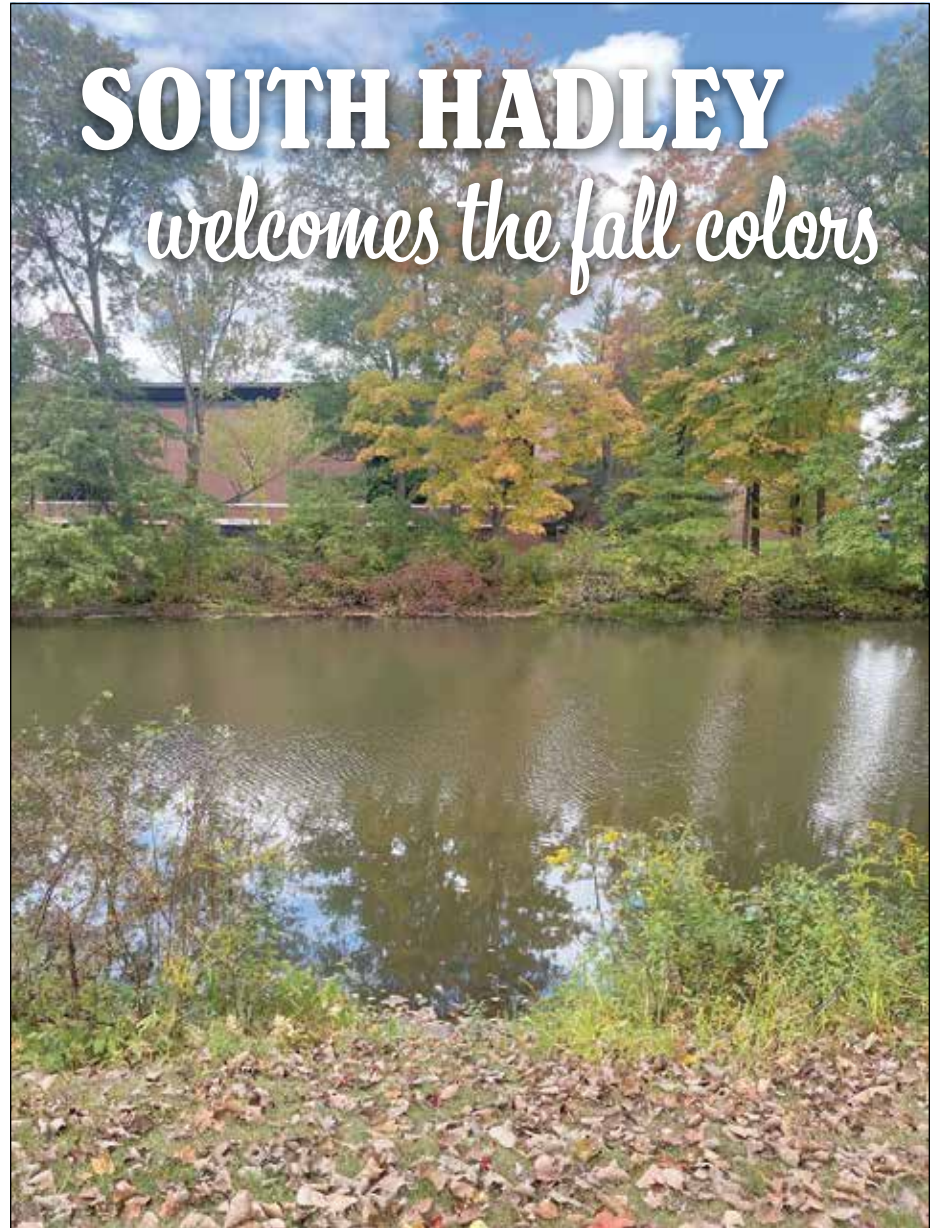
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Beautiful trees making way for fall colors outside of Center Church.



# SOUTH HADLEY

*welcomes the fall colors*

The pond on Mount Holyoke College's campus, with trees shining golden yellow.



Just through the trees and over the bridge, Buttery Brook Park can be seen making its transition into fall.



The tiger outside the town hall standing over fallen leaves.

Turley Photos by Emily-Rose Pappas



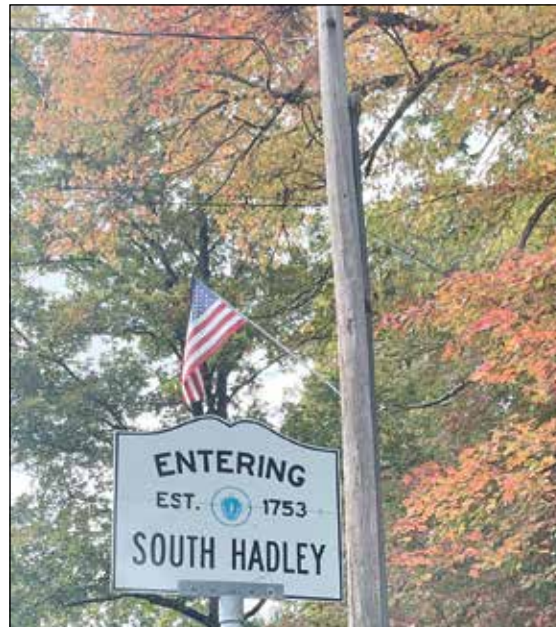
Big leaves, many already fading away into a rich red.



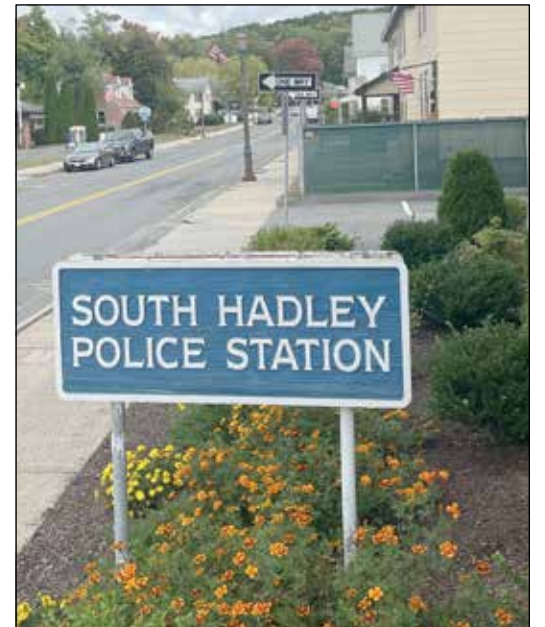
Yellows, reds, oranges, and greens... this tree has all of the colors.



Mosier Elementary School and Michael E. Smith Middle School have their own special fall display.



Beautiful red leaves welcoming all to the town of South Hadley.



Just down the road from the police station, the trees begin to flourish with reds.