

# TOWN Reminder

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## Dancers perform for a Victorian holiday celebration

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

SOUTH HADLEY – The South Hadley Public Library was filled with people gathered to watch a ballroom dance performance straight from Victorian England.

The Small Planet Dancers group was founded in 1986 by Josephine (Jo) Sarnelli, who has a passion for dancing and also runs her own adult dance studio.

The dance troupe’s mission is to allow people who come to their performances to learn that “learning throughout life is crucial for personal growth, and international exchange is imperative for the future of our world. Small Planet Dancers offers people of all ages an oppor-

tunity to learn through dance about historical events and world cultures. Through educational performances, we share these experiences with our audiences and encourage all to appreciate the richness of both our history and our differences.”

The dance troupe was born in Western Massachusetts and has grown from its original days, when it was called Maple Run, to its current focus on historical and global dance, including dances from the Civil War era, ballroom, and those of the World Wars.

Other stage dances include historical moves and motions from around the world and across dozens of cultures and ethnic back-

Please see **DANCERS**, page 12



The dancing troupe the Small Planet Dancers dressed in their Victorian costumes for the dance.

Submitted photo

## Community spreads holiday cheer to seniors

By Kim Prough  
Correspondent

SOUTH HADLEY – Twenty-five different organizations and nearly 40 volunteers participated in this year’s “Stockings for Seniors”. “It was an incredible collective effort,” commented Janet Stawasz, vice president of the Friends of the South Hadley Seniors and organizer of this year’s stocking coordination. Stockings for Seniors is a collaboration between the Friends of the South Hadley Seniors and TRIAD. TRIAD, a community initiative that provides programs that support the safety of our seniors, is comprised of seniors, the Council on Aging, the police and fire departments, the Sheriff’s Office, and the town’s Health Department.

This year’s efforts included contributions from sever-



Submitted photo

Assembly completed by TRIAD volunteers.

al businesses, in addition to the Friends and TRIAD. The Friends of the South Hadley Seniors purchased stamps, magnifiers, and notepads. The Fire Departments contributed night lights, pill boxes, first aid kits, and puzzles. The Health Department

supplied Chapstick and hand sanitizer. Some businesses gave monetary donations to help with the purchasing of items such as lotion, planners and socks, while other businesses donated chip clips, tissues, toothbrushes, toothpaste, pens, notepads,

playing cards and candy. Over 6,000 items were sorted into beautiful holiday bags. Stawasz decided to use holiday themed bags instead of holiday stockings this year, which proved much easier

Please see **CHEER**, page 11

## Snowy Holiday Fun Run showcases strong community support

By Tina Lesniak  
Correspondent

SOUTH HADLEY - Despite heavy snowfall and frigid temperatures, nearly 100 runners bundled up and laced their sneakers for the annual South Hadley Holiday Fun Run on Dec. 14, turning a wintry morning into a strong show of community support for residents in need.

The 5K event, organized by longtime educator and South Hadley resident Melissa Leydon, raises money and awareness for the South Hadley food pantry Neighbors Helping Neighbors. While the race is typically held in challenging winter conditions, this year’s snowfall made the turnout especially impressive.

Please see **FUN RUN**, page 9



Turley photos by Tina Lesniak

Here come the runners, not letting snow stop them.

## Santa’s Land fills with kids ready to meet Santa



Submitted photo

Santa with Elias Colon. See more photos on page 12.

## German Christmas traditions celebrated by many

By Ellenor Downer  
edowner@turley.com

One did not have to look beyond the Christmas tree to realize the influence of German Christmas traditions.

As Germans migrated to other countries, they brought the tradition of the Tannenbaum or Christmas tree with them with its display of lights and ornaments. When supplies of evergreen trees diminished due to over cutting, artificial trees made of goose feathers took hold in the 1890s. In the 1930s, a toilet brush company, manufactured artificial trees from brush bristle inventory. Today, these “fake” trees resemble the real thing without the fir tree fragrance.

### Christmas tree

The Christmas tree takes center stage during holiday celebrations in Germany,



Submitted photos

The Christmas tree is a long standing Christmas tradition.

evoking a profound sense of nostalgia and festivity. Within this cultural practice, families come together to partake in the ritual of embellishing the tree with ornaments, garlands and more. This act not

only beautifies the tree, but strengthens familial bonds. Children as well as adult family members love to decorate the Christmas tree. In my family, my father always put on the lights and the angel for

the top of the tree. My mother then placed her favorite ornament on the tree, followed by me and my brother.

### Advent calendars

For young children, the days in December leading up to Christmas seem to take forever. For adults, the shortening days of the year make long nights that never end. Advent calendars, another German Christmas tradition, help make the time pass from the first day of the month to Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Advent, the arrival of a notable person, thing or event, in the Christian tradition noted the four Sundays leading to Christmas.

Advent calendars display the dates, Dec. 1 to Dec. 25 and often have pockets or tiny doors to hold a piece of candy or other small treat. There are advent calendar made of wood or some other durable

Please see **GERMAN**, page 3

## Granby Lions celebrate Christmas together



Members of the Granby Lions Club gathered to celebrate Christmas and the holiday season together with fun sweaters and laughter.

## Town warns residents of fraud scam

**SOUTH HADLEY** – The Town of South Hadley is among many towns across the country affected by FAKE requests for planning application fee payments. These emails and invoices are NOT from the Town of South Hadley. All application fees are handled in person at Town Hall. Do not pay any invoices or respond to these fraudulent emails. Contact the Planning Department/Town directly.

## Tips offered for navigating the holidays while grieving

By Rev. Peter-Michael Preble

The holiday season is often described as a time of joy, celebration, and togetherness. But for many people, this time of year also brings an immense sense of grief, loneliness, and longing. When someone we love is missing from the table, the lights seem a little dimmer, and the familiar traditions feel different. If you are grieving this year, you are not alone. There are ways to move gently through the season and even find moments of peace amid sorrow.

### Permit Yourself to Feel What You Feel

The pressure to be “festive” can be overwhelming, especially when you are grieving. It is okay, more than okay, to feel sad, tired, or disconnected. You have endured a loss. Grief doesn’t follow a schedule, and it cannot be pushed aside for the sake of holiday cheer. Let go of the expectations you

place on yourself and the expectations others may have of you. Allow your emotions to come and go as they need to.

### Adjust Traditions Instead of Erasing Them

Traditions can bring comfort, but they can also stir deep pain. You are allowed to decide which ones you want to keep, which ones you want to set aside, and which ones you might choose to reinvent. You might find meaning in continuing a loved one’s favorite ritual. Or it may feel right to pause it for a year. You may even begin something new that honors their memory. Remember: if you do something twice, it becomes a tradition.

### Set Boundaries with Events and People

Boundaries are essential when grieving. You do not have to attend every gathering or celebration. Give yourself permission to say no without guilt. If you do choose to go, you may leave early or step outside for

a moment of quiet if needed. Your wellbeing matters, and it is okay to protect your energy.

### Plan for the Hard Moments

Difficult moments will come, but planning for them can help. Identify the days or events that may feel especially heavy and create a gentle plan for how to navigate them. Have someone you trust available to check in with you. Step outside for a walk. Find a quiet place to pray or meditate. Often, the anticipation of the day is harder than the day itself, so prepare, but don’t overprepare.

### Accept Help—Practical and Emotional

Many grieving people struggle to ask for help, especially if they are used to being the helper. But you do not need to carry everything by yourself. If you usually host a holiday gathering, ask someone else to take the lead this year. Let others support you with meals, rides, company, or simply their presence. Isolation can inten-

sify grief; staying connected, even in small ways, can ease the burden.

### Create Space to Remember

Remembering your loved one can be healing. Share stories, look through photos, prepare their favorite dish, or set a place at the table in their honor. Some find comfort in lighting a candle or displaying a picture. But if remembering feels too painful right now, you can set it aside. There is no right or wrong way to honor memory.

### Care for Your Body and Nervous System

Grief is exhausting, emotionally and physically. Pay attention to your body’s needs: drink water, eat nourishing food, rest when you can. Gentle movement, like stretching or walking, can help calm your nervous system. Listen to what your body is telling you; it often knows what you need before your mind does.

### Seek Moments of Comfort, Not Joy

This season is often labeled as “joyful,” but joy can feel out

of reach when your heart is heavy. Instead of forcing joy, look for pockets of comfort: a warm cup of tea, soft music, a quiet corner, a pet curled beside you. These small moments of peace are enough. Joy will return in its own time.

### Name Your Needs to Someone You Trust

People often want to help but don’t know how. Tell someone you trust what you need, whether it’s a phone call, company at an event, help with meals, or space to talk. Be honest about your struggles. Sharing your needs allows others to show up for you in meaningful ways.

### Consider Simple Ritual or Spiritual Practices

Ritual can be grounding in seasons of grief. Lighting a candle, journaling, praying, reading Scripture, or attending a simple service can offer a sense of presence and connection. Rituals do not need to be elaborate; sometimes the

smallest act can be the most comforting.

### Seek Support When You Feel Overwhelmed

You do not have to walk this path alone. Counselors, chaplains, and grief groups can offer guidance, tools, and companionship. Don’t wait until you feel overwhelmed, reach out early. Sharing your experience with others who understand can be deeply healing.

Grief does not disappear for the holidays, and it does not need to. But with tenderness, boundaries, and support, you can move through this season with compassion for yourself. May you find moments of comfort, rest, and light as you navigate the days ahead.

Rev. Peter-Michael Preble is the Chaplain for the Hull Fire Department and a Hospice Chaplain with Croi Health (Formerly Norwell VNA) in Norwell, Massachusetts. Follow him at [www.peterpreble.net](http://www.peterpreble.net)

# EARLY DEADLINES FOR ADS & LEGAL NOTICES

New Year’s will bring early deadlines for all ads & legal notices to run in TURLEY PUBLICATIONS the week of Dec. 29, 2025 - Jan. 2, 2026:

- Friday, December 26 at 2 PM for January 1 issue**
  - Country Journal • The Register • Wilbraham-Hampden Times • Agawam Advertiser News
- Monday, December 29 at 2 PM for January 1 issue**
  - Sentinel • The Journal Register • Ware River News • Barre Gazette
- Tuesday, December 30 at 2 PM for January 2 issue**
  - Quaboag Current • Town Reminder • The Holyoke Sun • Chicopee Register

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**GERMAN** from page 1

material other than paper, which can be used year after year.

Embodying the spirit of German precision, the Advent calendars stand as a testament to Germany's cultural dedication to celebrating the holiday season.

**Advent wreath**

The Advent wreath is another German tradition adopted by many other countries. Many Christmas churches throughout the world observe Advent with the lighting of a different calendar for the four Sundays leading up to Christmas.

The candle for the first week of Advent is the Hope or Prophet's Candle. The second week is the Love or Bethlehem candle. The third week is the Joy or Shepherd's Candle and is the final week is the

Peace Candle. The candle in the center of the wreath is lighted on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day.

Some wreaths have purple candles for the first, second and fourth Sundays and pink or rose colored for the third Sunday. The center candle is usually white. Although some wreaths have candles of a single color such as red, blue or white.

The circular shape of the wreath represents the eternal nature of God. The evergreen branches represents the everlasting life found in Christ.

**Christmas Eve candlelight service**

Candlelit church services for Christians on Christmas is a cherished tradition for Germans over time. Worshipers gather as the night deepens and hold a lighted candle. Many churches for safety sake use battery powered candles. On church in Central

Massachusetts has a crystal candle lite chandelier, which they light on Christmas Eve.

**Christmas Eve**

Christmas Eve or Heiligabend is known as the "Night of Wonder." For Germans and Scandinavian countries Christmas Eve, Dec. 24 holds a special place in the hearts of its people, as it marks the cherished tradition of the Holy Evening. This is the big gift-giving day. The eve also includes a feast.

**Christmas Carols**

Singing Christmas Carols is another German tradition. During the festive holiday season, cherished carols such as "Stille Nacht" (Silent Night) and "O Tannenbaum" (O Christmas Tree) evoke a profound sense of nostalgia and camaraderie among celebrants. Singing is an important part of the holiday season.

**Christmas pyramids**

Christmas pyramids or Weihnachtspyramiden are wooden structures adorned with intricately crafted figurines. As the candles placed at their base flicker, an age-old mechanism sets these pyramids into gentle motion, creating a mesmerizing dance.

**Lebkuchen and Stollen**

German Lebkuchen and Stollen are two baked items that are part of their Christmas tradition. Lebkuchen is a soft, nut filled ginger cookie. Stollen is a rum soaked spice cake.

**Traditional Christmas drink**

Feuerzangenbowle is another German tradition. This drink concoction involves a theatrical presentation that starts with a sugarloaf, drenched in rum, being set ablaze. The sugarloaf melts and drips into a steaming bowl of spiced wine, resulting in the popular holiday drink. T

**Christmas Pickle**

Incorporating a whimsical touch into the age-old tradition of adorning Christmas trees, some German households infuse a delightful element of surprise by discreetly concealing a pickle ornament amidst the lush evergreen boughs. This quaint custom, known as the "Christmas Pickle," has been a cherished holiday practice for generations. Children delight in the hunt to find the "Christmas Pickle."

**Nativity Play**

During the Christmas season, children eagerly participate in Krippenspiel, a Nativity play that reenacts the timeless story of Jesus's birth. They are complete with shepherds, angels and a humble manger. Many Christian churches hold Christmas pageants during the holiday season.

**Other Christmas traditions**

On St. Nicholas Day (Nikolaustag), Dec. 6 shoes are filled with surprises. St. Nicholas comes bearing small, but cherished gifts and delectable sweets. The day before, Dec. 5 marks the beginning of Krampusnacht in certain regions of Germany, where the ominous Krampus, the dreaded counterpart of the adored St. Nicholas is unleashed. Krampus roams the streets, punishing misbehaving children who end up on their lists of naughtiness.

**Christmas Markets**

In the realm of German Christmas traditions, one cannot omit the enchanting Christmas markets, affectionately referred to as "Weihnachtsmärkte." They offer an array of holiday foods ranging from sizzling bratwurst to sugary roasted almonds as well as handcrafted gifts, carved wooden toys and ornaments



Submitted photos

No church Christmas is complete without a nativity play also known as a pageant, put on by children.



The Advent wreath is made with evergreen boughs shaped in a circular. It has four candles often three purple and one pink candle with a white candle in the middle. Many wreaths use the same color candle such as blue, red or white.



Christmas pyramids or Weihnachtspyramiden are wooden structures adorned with intricately crafted figurines. The heat from the candles at their base cause them to spin.



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## Opinion

### SOCIAL SECURITY

#### Matters

By Russell Gloor

## Why won't Social Security give me my benefits?

### Dear Rusty:

I called the Social Security office, as well as went with my husband when he went to collect his Social Security. Because I work full-time at about \$800/week, they said I could not file for my Social Security. Yet I seem to read articles all the time about people doing so.

My husband just filed for his benefits and is now collecting them. Out of the two of us, his Social Security will be larger. Please advise me.

### Signed: Wanting my Benefits

### Dear Wanting my Benefits:

If you have not yet reached your SS Full Retirement Age and you are working full time, you are likely being affected by Social Security's Annual Earnings Test, which limits how much you can earn while collecting Social Security prior to your FRA. Your FRA is somewhere between 66 and 67, depending on when you were born. The annual earnings limit for those collecting SS benefits prior to FRA in 2025 is \$23,400 (changes yearly) and, if that is exceeded, Social Security will take away benefits equal to \$1 for every \$2 you are over the limit. If you applied for your benefits and are still working, and were denied, it's likely because Social Security determined that your current annual earnings considerably exceed the earnings limit and, thus, you cannot collect benefits. That's because the penalty for exceeding the limit would be more than your benefit amount.

FYI, the earnings limit will go away when you reach your full retirement age so, after FRA, you can claim your benefits even if you are still working. Or if you stop working before your FRA you can collect your SS benefits at that time.

None of this means you are losing money, because your monthly SS payment will continue to grow until you later claim (e.g., after

you stop working, or only work part-time), or until you reach 70 years of age. When you later claim, your monthly benefit will be higher and, depending on your longevity, you may recover what you didn't get now because you are working. And that includes both your own SS retirement benefit and any spousal boost you may be entitled to from your husband.

So, my suggestion is this: as long as you are working full time and exceeding Social Security's annual earnings limit, continue to wait to claim your Social Security. Then, when you reach your full retirement age – again, between 66 and 67, depending on the year you were born or if you stop working before that, go ahead and apply for Social Security again.

At that time, your application will be approved, and you will be awarded your own earned SS retirement amount plus any additional amount you may be due as your husband's spouse. To be entitled to a spousal boost from your husband, your own FRA entitlement must be less than 50% of your husband's FRA entitlement. But the amount you get will be reduced if you claim before your full retirement age.

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.

## An update on Connie's poinsettia

Connie, who wrote in this time last year about her mom's poinsettia, reached out with a follow up question and sent a picture to show her progress.

First, let me get you all up to speed with her first question: "We read your article about poinsettias in the Country Journal. I have been caring for my mother's poinsettia she purchased three Christmases ago. She is hoping you can help us as I never cut it back because I didn't know to do that. Now it is a small tree. There is bark on it. I had one red bract last Christmas but no yellow center. I did try to put it in a dark room but as you can see, it is too big now to do that. Any suggestions?"

Many years ago when I joined my brother on a trip to St. Thomas, I became fully aware of the poinsettia and its true, tree-like form. It looks like you are well on your way to replicating that in your house!

First, congratulations, from the picture you provided you are clearly growing a healthy specimen. The leaves are a beautiful shade of green. I would recommend that, if you want to make it more manageable in size, you do try to cut it back.

It looks as if there is a lower "tier" of leaves. If you can cut it back to those stems, I think that is a good place to start. Do that in April when it will be in active growth.

At that time I would also transplant it into a container one size bigger. So if it's in a

six inch pot now, try one that is seven or eight inches, but not any bigger.

Fertilize with an all purpose houseplant fertilizer once a month. New growth should appear by the end of May.

our poinsettia. I did what you suggested. The only thing I couldn't do is move it into a totally dark room. It's too big to go through the door. You can see the trunk is getting bigger. More bark. It has certainly regrown to its size before I clipped it. I've fertilized it regularly, but no flowers. Any other thoughts? It is going into its fourth year soon."

Connie, the picture you sent of your poinsettia indicates it continues to be very healthy. Great job!

Again, the color of your leaves is bar none! I do understand that it is a large plant and it would be difficult to move. So, why don't we create darkness?

I think if you purchased a contractor's size trash bag you could easily drape it over the plant next year and try to get the bracts to turn color. Any light at all will foil this process, so be sure to tuck it around the bottom of the plant.

Your plant looks so good, I am not certain I would cut it back this year, but you can repeat the process I shared last year; it's up to you. Keep up the good work!

*Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 33 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.*

Good luck; I bet you will be successful this year!  
Now, for her update: "I emailed you last year about



by Roberta McQuaid



## Editorial

# Yes, Virginia, There is a Santa Claus

By Francis P. Church  
in 1897

### Dear Editor,

I am 8 years old. Some of my little friends say that there is no Santa Claus. Papa says "If you see it in the Sun, it is so." Please tell me the truth, is there a Santa Claus?

### Virginia,

Your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age. They do not believe except what they see. They think that nothing can be which is not comprehensible by their little minds.

All minds, Virginia, whether they be men's or children's, are little. In this great universe of ours, man is a mere insect, an ant, in his intellect, as compared with the boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole of truth and knowl-

edge.

Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to our life its highest beauty and joy.

Alas! How dreary would be the world if there were no Virginias. There would be no childlike faith then, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable this existence. We should have no enjoyment, except in sense and sight. The eternal light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished.

Not believe in Santa Claus? You might as well not believe in fairies! You might get your Papa to hire men to watch all the chimneys on Christmas Eve to catch Santa Claus, but even if they did not see Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove?



Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is no sign that there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can see.

Did you ever see fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not, but that's no proof that they are not there. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders that are unseen and unseeable in the

world.

You tear apart the baby's rattle and see what makes the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world which not the strongest man, or even the united strength of all the strongest men that ever lived, could tear apart. Only faith, fancy, poetry, love, romance, can push aside that curtain and view and picture the supernatural beauty and

glory beyond.

Is it all real? Ah, Virginia, in all this world there is nothing else as real and abiding.

No Santa Claus? Thank God he lives and he lives forever. A thousand years from now, maybe 10 times 10,000 years from now, he will continue to make glad the hearts of children.

## 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](mailto:townreminder@turley.com). Mailed letters can be sent to Town Reminder, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069.

## Turley Election Policy

This newspaper will print free self-submitted statements of candidacy only four weeks or more out from the election. All candidates running in both contested and uncontested races are asked to submit their statements to the editor to include only biographical and campaign platform details. Total word count for statements is limited to between 300-500 words maximum. Please include a photo. We will not publish any statements of candidacy inside the four weeks from election threshold. To publish any other campaign publicity during the race, please contact our advertising representatives. We also do not allow personal attacks against other candidates or political parties in statements of candidacy, nor do we publish for free any information about key endorsements or political fundraisers.

Letters to the editor of no more than 250 words from supporters endorsing specific candidates or discussing campaign issues are limited to three total per author during the election season. No election letters will appear in the final edition before the election. We reserve the right to edit all statements of candidacy and letters to the editor to meet our guidelines.

## TOWN Reminder TEAM

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The Town Reminder is published every Friday by Turley Publications, Inc., 24 Water St., Palmer, Mass. 01069. Telephone (413) 283-8393, Fax (413) 289-1977.

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### Neighbors Helping Neighbors announces new leadership role for Executive Director Marylou Guarnera

SOUTH HADLEY – Neighbors Helping Neighbors is proud to announce that longtime Executive Director Mary Lou Guarnera has been appointed Community Relations Coordinator and Executive Director Emeritus, a newly created dual role that reflects both her enduring impact and her continued involvement in the organization.

During her tenure as Executive Director, Guarnera guided Neighbors Helping Neighbors through transformative growth, expanded community partnerships, and strengthened the organization’s mission of providing compassionate support and essential services to individuals and families in need. Her leadership has been central to establishing the organization as a trusted community resource.

In her new capacity as Community Relations Coordinator, Guarnera will focus on cultivating and sustaining relationships with community leaders, partner organizations, and supporters. She will also serve as Executive Director Emeritus, offering

guidance to the leadership team and ensuring continuity of the values and vision she helped shape.

“Mary Lou’s commitment, heart, and leadership have been the backbone of Neighbors Helping Neighbors for so many years,” said John Hine, Board Chair of Neighbors Helping Neighbors. “This new role allows her to continue doing what she does best—connecting people, building partnerships, and inspiring others—while also honoring her extraordinary service.”

Guarnera expressed enthusiasm for this next chapter. “It has been one of the greatest privileges of my life to serve this organization and our community. I am excited to continue supporting our mission in a role that allows me to deepen our community connections and help guide our future.”

Neighbors Helping Neighbors will announce additional leadership transitions in the coming weeks.

#### About Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Neighbors Helping Neighbors is a nonprofit orga-

nization dedicated to supporting individuals and families who are experiencing food insecurity by providing resources, advocacy, and community connections. Through

collaborative partnerships and volunteer-driven services, the organization works to strengthen the community and uplift those facing economic or personal challenges.

### DPW announces sidewalk clearing announcement

SOUTH HADLEY – The Town of South Hadley is reminding residents of snow removal responsibilities, described in Bylaw 315-2.3, involving sidewalks adjacent to Town roads and private property:

#### Town Bylaw: 315-2.3

All property owners are responsible for snow removal on all public sidewalks that abut their property. The Selectboard approves a list of sidewalks where snow is removed by the DPW. However, these sidewalks are typically done after the Town roads are plowed. Property owners that abut sidewalks that are on the DPW sidewalk list are not absolved of their responsibility for sidewalk maintenance. The

Town’s snow and ice policies are shown in Appendix B. Recently, the South Hadley Police Department began issuing Bylaw Violations to residents who failed to properly maintain the sidewalk adjacent to their property, that they are responsible for maintaining. The Department of Public Works has a Selectboard-approved list of sidewalks that they must plow, starting “within 24 hours AFTER the end of snowfall”. The DPW responsibilities during winter weather events, by priority are: (1) Roads, (2) municipal lots, (3) school lots, (4) sidewalks.

Your attention to sidewalk maintenance is appreciated by the walking public.

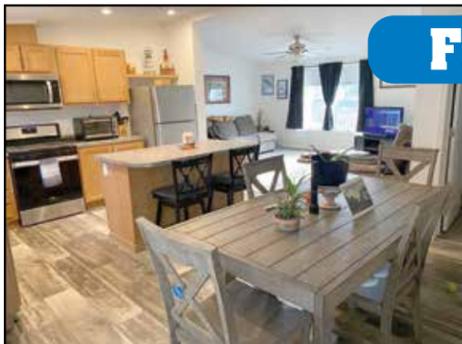
### SHFD1 hosts successful Giving Tree program



Submitted photo

#### The Giving Tree filled with presents for community families in need.

SOUTH HADLEY – The South Hadley Fire Department District 1 hosted a special Giving Tree program where they collected donations of toys from the community in order to help families in need of presents this Christmas season. Community members took a tag off the Giving Tree with Wishlist items and went shopping for the family member on the list.



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- Close to Reid State Park



\$1200/week

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South Hadley Fire District No. 1  
**SPECIAL DISTRICT MEETING**  
**January 6, 2026, 6:00 p.m.**  
 to be held at  
 South Hadley Public Library  
 2 Canal Street  
 South Hadley, MA 01075

**TUESDAY  
DECEMBER 30TH  
9:30A - 11A**

**COZY UP TO ASSISTED LIVING!**

**OPEN HOUSE EVENT**

**RSVP TO RESERVE YOUR MUG!  
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Cozy up to the idea of assisted living at The Arbors! Learn more about assisted living options and get a taste of The Arbors lifestyle with a hot chocolate bar and treats!

**THE Arbors**  
Assisted Living Residential Communities  
At Chicopee

929 Memorial Dr Chicopee MA 02020

*Baby's First Christmas*  
**2025**



**Fia Angelina Ferrentino**

October 23, 2025  
**Parents:** Frankie and Marissa Ferrentino, Longmeadow  
**Grandparents:** Joao and Maria Dos Santos, Ludlow  
 Angelina Ferrentino, Longmeadow  
**Great Grandmother:** Noemia Tereso, Ludlow



**Jaden Matthew Jagnarine**

October 1, 2025  
**Parents:** Jason and Sarah Jagnarine  
**Siblings:** Justin, Juliette, and Jace Jagnarine  
**Grandparents:** Paul and Sally Samlall



**Luke Matthew Sabourin**

March 18, 2025  
**Parents:** Matthew and Amanda Sabourin, Belchertown  
**Grandparents:** Allan and Joanne Beauregard, Belchertown  
 Diane Sabourin, Chicopee  
 Trish Sabourin and the late Dave Sabourin, Holyoke  
**Great Grandmother:** GiGi, Holyoke



**Samuel Moreno**

January 16, 2025  
**Parents:** Christopher and Elizabeth Moreno, Chicopee  
**Grandparents:** John and Marianne Moreno, Ludlow  
 James and Christine O'Donnell, Ludlow



**Wesley George LaPlante**

December 21, 2024  
**Parents:** Krysta and Giles LaPlante, Belchertown  
**Sibling:** Hayden Theresa LaPlante  
**Grandparents:** Karin and George Howard, Belchertown  
 Judy and David LaPlante, Granby  
 Carol and Joseph Remillard, Belchertown



**HAPPY HOLIDAYS**  
*From Our Family to Yours*  
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 (413) 253-9528

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*Please designate a driver if you are celebrating*

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**MERRY CHRISTMAS!**  
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**323-5987**

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# SPORTS

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## Tigers top Pacers boys basketball

CHICOPEE – Last Wednesday night, the South Hadley High School boys basketball team picked up a 20-point win over Chicopee, defeating the Pacers 67-47 at Chicopee High School. The Tigers led

from the outset with a strong first half, building a 16-point lead before the break.

The scoring was a little more even in the second half, and the Pacers were unable to stop South Had-

ley from keeping the large deficit. Tim Loughrey had a big game for the Tigers with 29 points and Noah Hambley added 18 points. Isiah James sank 15 points for the Tigers. Chicopee's double-digit scorer was

Dominic Garcia, who had 23 points. Jabari Flowers chipped in seven points. South Hadley improved to 2-1 while Chicopee dropped to 1-2.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com  
Noah Hambley gets low before taking a shot.



Tim Loughrey eyes the hoop as he shoots.



Matthew Butler slings a pass inside the paint.



Isiah James drives for the hoop.

## Rams fall to Monson

MONSON – Last Monday night, it was a tough time for the Granby offense as the Rams fell to Monson 46-32. Monson got a huge game

from Austin Meacham, who scored more than half the points for the Mustangs with 31. Granby was led by Zavier Fernandez with 12 points.

Anthony Santiago added eight points. Granby would fall to 0-2 on the season while Monson improved to 1-1.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com  
Raymond Colon sends a pass away.



Armare Fernandez fakes to his right on a play.



Anthony Santiago goes after a loose ball under the hoop.



Samuel Moure sends a shot away.



Liam Everson takes a free throw.



Zavier Fernandez surveys the court.

## T-Birds inch closer to .500 with win at Lehigh

ALLENTOWN, PA – The Springfield Thunderbirds (8-11-3-2) rode yet another phenomenal night of goaltending and special teams to a 3-1 win over the Lehigh Valley Phantoms (13-10-1-2) last Wednesday night inside PPL Center.

In a first period devoid of scoring on 13 combined shots, Vadim Zherenko carried over momentum from his phenomenal outing 10 nights earlier in Providence with eight first-period denials, including two on a Phantoms power play.

Newest T-Bird Troy Murray quickly warmed himself up to his teammates and fans, as the 28-year-old dropped the gloves with Sawyer Boulton on the first shift of his AHL career following more than 200 professional games across three leagues before his T-Birds debut on Wednesday.

Springfield's penalty kill, which has operated better than any other road PK in the AHL, continued its remarkable run with a second-period clinic. The T-Birds killed off three disadvantages, and on the third of those, Chris Wagner added his second shorthanded goal of the season, as he circled Aleksei Kolosov's net and stuffed a wraparound home at 15:57 of the middle period, making it a 1-0 game heading into the final frame.

Zherenko kept up his end of the bargain with nine more stops in the second to make it a two-period total of 17 denials against the Phantom attack.

The Phantoms did not stay quiet forever, though, as Alex Bump ripped a perfectly placed shot over Zherenko's glove hand at 3:19 of the third, tying the score, 1-1.

However, the Thunderbirds once again proved they were not ruffled, and just 1:58 later, moments after Garrett Wilson committed a delay of game minor for clearing the puck over the glass, Alek Kaskimaki shuffled a rebound past Kolosov following an initial try by Calle Rosen. The second-year Finn's fifth goal of the season restored the Springfield lead, 2-1.

The penalty killers stiffened one more time, completing a perfect 5-for-5 night with a man down, and with the Phantoms' net empty in the final minute, Michael Buchinger lobbed a clear all the way down and into the yawning cage to put the nail in the coffin.

Zherenko completed another magnificent performance with 23 stops to secure the victory. Springfield has now earned points in nine of the last 10 games, and the club has begun this five-game road trip with three consecutive triumphs.

## Rogers recognized by MIAA

FRANKLIN – The MIAA recognized 21 game officials from across the state as the 2024-2025 Game Officials of the Year during a celebratory banquet held Monday, Dec. 15 at the Doubletree Milford.

The MIAA annually recognizes the best game officials from the over 5,000 officials in Massachusetts as nominated by their peers.

The following individuals were nominated and ultimately selected as the best in their craft:

Among those recognized was longtime umpire Andrew Rogers from South Hadley. Rogers is also the umpire assignor for Western Mass. high school baseball and multiple adult leagues as well as American Legion summer baseball.

# Swim teams swept by Comp

CHICOPEE – Last Tuesday at Chicopee Comprehensive High School, Holyoke High School swimming, which co-ops with South Hadley and Granby, was swept by the home team. The girls were defeated 90-32 while the boys fell 124-34. In

the girls meet, Maeve Healy did get a win in the 200 freestyle. Kiersten St. Lawrence won both the 100 freestyle and 50 freestyle. In the boys meet, Holyoke's only winner was Steven Plotniak in the 200 freestyle.



Ibrahim Salloum goes for the win in the individual medley.



Adrian Gutierrez-Martin races in the freestyle event.



Turley photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com  
Michael Goudreault goes for the win in the 100 fly.



Steven Plotniak competes in the 200 freestyle.



Maeve Healy races in the 200 freestyle.

## Residents: Take the Budget Task Force Survey

SOUTH HADLEY – You are invited to participate in a research study for the Town of South Hadley. This project is being conducted under the direction of Dr. Melinda Tarsi-Goldfien, Department of Political Science, Bridgewater State University, in collaboration with the South

Hadley Budget Task Force. The purpose of this study is to collect feedback from residents on the town's finances. The study is voluntary and confidential. The survey responses are collected and compiled by Bridgewater State University under the direction of Dr. Tarsi-

Goldfien. The survey results will be reported to the Budget Task Force and residents upon completion. Take the survey at [https://bridgew.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_3UleV5odmoqmw4K](https://bridgew.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3UleV5odmoqmw4K).

## Heart Health During the Winter Holidays

### South Hadley Public Health Department Heart Health During the Winter Holidays Prevent

#### Include low-sodium foods in your holiday meals.

Alcohol and foods high in sodium increase blood pressure and make your heart work harder.

#### Take breaks from stressful environments and situations.

Step outside or go for a short walk. Find a quiet place to take ten long, deep breaths or drink a glass of water.

#### Wear warm clothing when you go outside.

Keep your body warm by wearing extra layers, a hat, gloves, and thick socks. Cold weather makes your blood vessels narrow and your heart work harder.

#### Set reminders to take your medication.

Use alarms and digital calendar notifications to remind yourself to take regular medications - especially blood pressure and heart drugs. If you're travelling, pack enough medicine for your entire trip in your carry-on bag.

#### Recognize the Signs

**Heart Attack**  
Uncomfortable pressure, squeezing, fullness or pain in the center of your chest  
Pain or discomfort in the jaw, neck, or back

Pain or discomfort in the arms or shoulders  
Shortness of breath  
Feeling very tired, lightheaded, or faint  
Nausea or vomiting  
Women may experience:  
Anxiety  
Shortness of breath  
Upset stomach  
Nausea and vomiting  
Pain in the shoulder, back or arm  
Unusual tiredness and weakness

#### Stroke

When you suspect a stroke, act F.A.S.T.:

**Face** drooping  
Arm weakness  
Speech difficulty  
Time to call 911  
Other symptoms include:  
Difficulty seeing out of one or both eyes  
Balance or coordination problems  
Women may experience:  
General weakness  
Disorientation and confusion  
Fatigue, nausea or vomiting  
Respond  
Do not wait to get care or call for help.  
Call 911.

The South Hadley Public Health Department wishes you a healthy winter holiday season.

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
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60					61					62		63		
64					65						66			
67					68						69			

<p><b>CLUES ACROSS</b></p> <p>1. Light cavalry</p> <p>5. Coconut palms</p> <p>10. Rounded knob</p> <p>14. Central Japan city</p> <p>15. Sandwiches</p> <p>16. Shape produced by a curve</p> <p>17. Ancient region in modern-day Syria</p> <p>18. French modernist painter</p> <p>19. Grandmother</p> <p>20. Mammary gland of cattle</p> <p>22. Rocky peak</p> <p>23. Secret plan</p> <p>24. Songs to one's lover</p> <p>27. More (Spanish)</p> <p>30. Father</p> <p>31. Chinese principle underlying the universe</p> <p>32. Ballplayer's accessory</p> <p>35. Together</p> <p>37. A person's brother or sister</p>	<p>38. Evil spirit</p> <p>39. Monetary units</p> <p>40. Partner to cheese</p> <p>41. About Sun</p> <p>42. Group of like-minded people</p> <p>43. After B</p> <p>44. Seaside room</p> <p>45. Recipe measurement</p> <p>46. Partly digested food</p> <p>47. Flat-faced dog</p> <p>48. People of southern Africa</p> <p>49. Salts</p> <p>52. Beard lichens</p> <p>55. Sanders is one</p> <p>56. Fencing sword</p> <p>65. Extremely angry</p> <p>66. Miami mascot</p> <p>67. Mid-month day</p> <p>68. Marked for omission</p> <p>69. Body part</p>	<p><b>CLUES DOWN</b></p> <p>1. Two-toed sloth</p> <p>2. Fat from a pig's abdomen</p> <p>3. Romanian city</p> <p>4. Specifies</p> <p>5. Rounded, glaciated valley</p> <p>6. Spoke</p> <p>7. Collection of sacred books</p> <p>8. Extravagantly theatrical</p> <p>9. Very fast airplane</p> <p>10. Forearm bones</p> <p>11. Ancient kingdom</p> <p>12. Legitimate: __ fide</p> <p>13. Semitransparent gemstone</p> <p>21. Counsels</p> <p>23. Head honcho</p> <p>25. Cool!</p> <p>26. Touch lightly</p> <p>27. Extract money via taxation</p> <p>28. Dyes</p> <p>29. Cloying sweetness</p> <p>32. Sodas</p> <p>33. Coastal village in Guam</p>	<p>34. Chemical ring</p> <p>36. The bill in a restaurant</p> <p>37. Car mechanics group</p> <p>38. One-time presidential candidate Dole</p> <p>40. Health care for the aged</p> <p>41. Wise persons</p> <p>43. Passage with access at one end</p> <p>44. Make a wound</p> <p>46. America's spies</p> <p>47. Roof of the mouth</p> <p>49. Plants of the lily family</p> <p>50. Pinkish-red color</p> <p>51. Vaccine developer</p> <p>52. Mottled citrus fruit</p> <p>53. A place to store garden tools</p> <p>54. Rare goose native to Hawaii</p> <p>57. Popular Hollywood pig</p> <p>58. Musician Clapton</p> <p>59. A move exposing one to danger</p> <p>61. Historic Spanish soldier</p> <p>62. CNN's founder</p>
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## Holiday closures at municipal buildings

SOUTH HADLEY – Municipal buildings will be closed for the holidays, and their days are as follows:

- Town Hall:**  
December 24, closing at 1 p.m.  
December 25, closed  
December 26, closed to the public  
December 31, closing at 1 p.m.  
January 1, closed  
January 2, open
- Senior Center:**  
December 24, closing at 12:30 p.m.

- December 25, closed
- December 26 and 31, open
- January 1, closed
- January 2, open
- Libraries:**  
December 24, closing at 1 p.m.  
December 25, closed  
December 26-27, open regular hours  
December 31- closing at 6 p.m.  
January 1, closed  
January 2-3, open regular hours

**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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You must be a self-starter with excellent communication and organizational skills. Basic computer skills are required. Previous print sales experience is preferred but we will train the right candidate.

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**FUN RUN** from page 1

“The most memorable and unexpected part of the day was watching 100 participants line up at the start as the snow was coming down hard,” Leydon said. “It’s great to see people’s unwavering support and willingness to take part in the race despite the cold temps and tough running conditions.”

Planning for the Fun Run begins months in advance. Leydon said preparations usually start in August with selecting a race date, followed by several months focused on logistics. “September to November is all logistics and making sure we are ready for another great year,” she said. That includes everything from course planning to ordering the popular race shirts. “We have great race shirts, so September is when I start designing this year’s shirt and get those ordered.”

A key part of the race’s success has been the continued support of FiberSpring, the event’s longtime sponsor. “FiberSpring has been an amazing sponsor, and it’s

their generosity that makes it possible to get awards set up, lawn signs put out around town, and of course, stock up on post-race donuts,” Leydon said.

Leydon, who taught in South Hadley for 13 years before staying home with her son this year, said her goal is to create an event that welcomes runners of all ages and abilities. “My goal is always to put on an enjoyable race for runners of all ages,” she said. “It’s always great watching kids run their first 5K and being proud of their accomplishment.” At the same time, she said she also wants experienced runners to feel challenged and included, which influences decisions about awards, shirts, and post-race food.

This year brought a new challenge around outreach. “The only challenge was no longer being in the school and hyping the students up or having them create signs to put around the school,” Leydon said, adding that she relied heavily on word of mouth and returning participants.



The mugs offered as prizes for the people who came to race.

Despite the snow, turnout exceeded her expectations. The race saw more than 20 day-of registrations, bringing total participation to about 100 runners. “We typically have around 150, so this was a little lower than I was hoping for, but again, very good considering the snowy and cold conditions,” she said.

In total, the event raised more than \$4,000 for the South Hadley Food Pantry, with several local businesses also collecting food donations ahead of the race. Leydon said the event helps raise awareness even among those

who do not run.

She also credited Ledges Golf Club staff for ensuring runner safety. “The general manager of Ledges, Mike Fontaine, was out plowing the roads and salting areas,” she said. “It was extremely generous.”

Looking ahead, Leydon hopes to continue growing the event. “Every year we raise around \$4,000 for the Food Pantry, but it is my goal to raise double that in the next five years,” she said, pointing to expanded sponsorships as the next step.



Turley photos by Tina Lesniak

Dressing in festive outfits makes the run even more fun.



Dedicated runners making their way down the road.

**Route A**

**TOWN OF SOUTH HADLEY**

**Route A**

**2026 REFUSE & RECYCLING SCHEDULE**

Collections will be on a one-day delay during weeks with the following five holidays:

1. New Years Day (1/1) 2. Memorial Day (5/25)

3. Labor Day (9/7) 4. Thanksgiving Day (11/26) 5. Christmas Day (12/25)

The weeks that are impacted by the five holidays are marked in **RED**, which will result in a one-day delay in collections

*The Police Department accepts unwanted medications and medical sharps in special kiosks in the lobby 24/7*

Route #4 - Monday		Route #5 - Tuesday		Route #6 - Wednesday		Route #7 - Thursday		Route #8 - Friday	
January	12, 26	January	13, 27	January	14, 28	January	2, 15, 29	January	3, 16, 30
February	9, 23	February	10, 24	February	11, 25	February	12, 26	February	13, 27
March	9, 23	March	10, 24	March	11, 25	March	12, 26	March	13, 27
April	6, 20	April	7, 21	April	8, 22	April	9, 23	April	10, 24
May	4, 18	May	5, 19	May	6, 20	May	7, 21	May	8, 22
June	1, 15, 29	June	2, 16, 30	June	3, 17	June	4, 18	June	5, 19
July	13, 27	July	14, 28	July	1, 15, 29	July	2, 16, 30	July	3, 17, 31
August	10, 24	August	11, 25	August	12, 26	August	13, 27	August	14, 28
September	8, 21	September	9, 22	September	10, 23	September	11, 24	September	12, 25
October	5, 19	October	6, 20	October	7, 21	October	8, 22	October	9, 23
November	2, 16, 30	November	3, 17	November	4, 18	November	5, 19	November	6, 20
December	14, 18	December	1, 15, 29	December	2, 16, 30	December	3, 17, 31	December	4, 18

Abbey St Greenacre Rd  
 Abbey Ln Harvard St Old Williamsett  
 Ann St Helm St Plainville Cir  
 Apple Rd Hickory Pl Pond Rd  
 Bengor Av Karen Dr Ridge Rd  
 Benoit Ln Lawler Dr Sunset Av  
 Brigham Rd Lois Ave Victoria Ln  
 Brook St Lombard St W Cornell St  
 Carol Anne Dr Loretta St Williamsett St  
 Carriage Ln Lyman Ter Yale St  
 Charles St Lyon Green  
 Columbia St Margaret St  
 Cornell St McDowell Dr  
 Dartmouth St Memorial Dr  
 Eagle Dr Miller Av  
 Easy St Mt. View St  
 Forest Dr New Ludlow Rd  
 Glenn Dr Oak Av  
 Granby Rd Oakwood Cir  
 (Plains Sch to Old Lyman Rd  
 Granby Line)

Baker St Lawrence Av  
 Bombardier Av Lorraine Av  
 Central Av Los Angeles St  
 Cote Blvd Ludlow Rd  
 Douglas Av Malcomb  
 Grace St Marion St  
 Granby Rd Miami St  
 (Plains Sch to Michael Dr  
 Newton St) Pasadena St  
 Grandview St Paul St  
 Hillcrest Av Pine Hill Rd  
 Hillcrest Pk Ralph Av  
 Hillside Av Shadowbrook Est  
 Hollywood St Stewart St  
 Jacob’s Way Susan Av  
 John Ln Tampa St  
 Lakeview Av Wellington Av  
 Laurie Av

Alvord Pl Newton St  
 Berwyn St (Lyman to Rt. 202)  
 Berwyn St Ext Overlook Rd  
 Broad St Park Av  
 Camden St Perkins St  
 Foch Av Pershing Av  
 Haig Av Queen Cir  
 Hunter Ter Ranger St  
 Joffre Av Roosevelt Av  
 Landers St Viviani St  
 Lansing Av Washington Av  
 Lawn St Wilson St  
 Lincoln Av Wood Av  
 Lynch Pl  
 Maria Dr  
 McKinley Av  
 Mountain Av

Bolton St Main St  
 Bridge St (Smith to Bridge)  
 Carew St North St  
 Center St Parker St  
 East Carew St Pine Grove Dr  
 East School St Pleasant St  
 Elm St Prospect St  
 Gaylord St (#8-#16)  
 Grant St School St  
 Graves St Smith St  
 Harlow St South St  
 Hartford St Spring St  
 Ingram St Walnut St  
 Lamb St Warner St  
 Lathrop Vlg  
 Lesperance Ct

Applewood Ln Main St  
 Bardwell St (Bridge to N.Main)  
 Canal St Maple St  
 Carlton St North Main  
 Cordes Ct (Main to  
 Rotary)  
 Cottage Av Oakley Dr  
 Crescent Ln Prospect St  
 Cross St (#24-#57)  
 Crystal Ln Scott  
 High St Summit St  
 Kimberly Dr Taylor St  
 Lathrop St West Main St  
 Linda St West Summit St  
 Linden Dr Young Cir  
 Magnolia Ter

Route #9 - Monday		Route #10 - Tuesday		Route #1 - Wednesday		Route #2 - Thursday		Route #3 - Friday	
January	5, 19	January	6, 20	January	7, 21	January	8, 22	January	9, 23
February	2, 16	February	3, 17	February	4, 18	February	5, 19	February	6, 20
March	2, 16, 30	March	3, 17, 21	March	4, 18	March	5, 19	March	6, 20
April	13, 27	April	14, 28	April	1, 15, 29	April	2, 16, 30	April	3, 17
May	11, 26	May	12, 27	May	13, 28	May	14, 29	May	1, 15, 30
June	8, 22	June	9, 23	June	10, 24	June	11, 25	June	12, 26
July	6, 20	July	7, 21	July	8, 22	July	9, 23	July	10, 24
August	3, 17, 31	August	4, 18	August	5, 19	August	6, 20	August	7, 21
September	14, 28	September	1, 15, 29	September	2, 16, 30	September	3, 17	September	4, 18
October	12, 26	October	13, 27	October	14, 28	October	15, 29	October	2, 16, 30
November	9, 23	November	10, 24	November	11, 25	November	12, 27	November	13, 28
December	7, 21	December	8, 22	December	9, 23	December	10, 24	December	11, 26

Bara Ln Main St  
 Bayon Dr (West end)  
 Brainerd St Normandy Rd  
 (Alvord to N.Main) No. Main St  
 Brittany Rd (West Summit to  
 Brainerd)  
 Cedar Ridge Rd Pheasant Run  
 Chestnut Hill Rd Pynchon Rd  
 Cove Island Rd River Rd  
 Davina St (Lower end)  
 Dover Rd Searle Rd  
 Frederick Pl Strong Farm Ln  
 Harwich Pl Tigger Ln  
 Highland Av Valley View Dr  
 Ivy Ln Waite Av  
 Judd Av White Brook Ln  
 LeBlanc Dr

Alvord St Jewett Ln  
 Ashfield Ln Leahey Av  
 Brainerd St Meadowood Dr  
 (Newton to Alvord) Misty Ct  
 Briar Spring Ln Pheasant Ln  
 Bridgeman Ln Pine St  
 Brock Way Promenade Way  
 Brockway Ln River Crest Way  
 Buttonfield Ln River Lodge Rd  
 Chateau Dr Riverboat Vlg  
 College St San Souci Dr  
 Doane Ter Skyline Dr  
 Dove Hill Spring Meadows  
 Edgewater Ln Steven Dr  
 Faculty Ln Stonegate Dr  
 Fernandes Dr Sunrise Cir  
 Ferry St Upper River Rd

Amherst Rd Priestly Farms Rd  
 Atwood Rd Red Ledge Rd  
 Bach Ln Roundelay Rd  
 Birch Hill Rd Silver St  
 Camp Perkins Rd Silverwood Ter  
 Chapel Hill Dr Skinner Ln  
 Chatham Way Skinnerwoods Wy  
 Chileab Rd So. Sycamore  
 College View Hts Knolls  
 Dickinson Farm Rd Sorbi Cir  
 Ethan Circle Sullivan Ln  
 Greenwood Ln Sycamore Knolls  
 Hadley St Sycamore Pk  
 Lithia Springs Rd The Knolls  
 Meadow Ln The Meadows  
 No. Sycamore Knolls Titans Pier Rd  
 Old County Rd Wellesley Cir  
 Pearl Ln Woodbridge St  
 Pearl St Woodbridge Ter

Ashton Ln Morgan St  
 Bartlett St Mosier St  
 Birchwood Pl Newton Manor  
 Blueberry Bend Ohm Cir  
 Burnett Av Park St  
 Charon Ter Parkview Dr  
 Church St Red Bridge Ln  
 Country Ln Saybrook Cir  
 Cypress Dr Stanton Av  
 E. Parkview Dr Virginia Dr  
 E. Red Bridge Ln Westbrook Rd  
 East St W. Parkview Dr  
 Edison Dr Wright Pl  
 Julia Way  
 Mary Lyon Dr  
 Minden Pl

Art St Lexington St  
 Belmont Av Lloyd St  
 Boynton Av Lyman St  
 Bunker Hill St Marcel St  
 Dale St Midway St  
 Dayton St Newton St  
 Enterprise St (Mosier to Lyman)  
 Fairlawn St Noel St  
 Fairmont Av Olde Plains Hollow  
 Fairview St Pittroff Av  
 Fulton St Richview Av  
 Garden St Rita Cir  
 Glen St Stony Brook Vlg  
 Grove St Wildwood Ln  
 Henry Rd Woodcrest Ln  
 Hildreth Av Woodlawn St  
 Joan St  
 Kendrick St

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## FOR RENT



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9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28
29	30	31	32
33	34	35	36
37	38	39	40

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**CHEER** from page 1

to transport and deliver. The bags were assembled in November at the police department by members of TRIAD and at the Council on Aging by Friends' volunteers. They were distributed to nearly 350 seniors throughout town in December.

Bags were hand-delivered by the police department and both fire districts, along with the Friends of the South Hadley Seniors. "South Hadley Fire District 2 was honored to take part in this annual tradition, giving back to the community we serve, and spreading a little extra joy this holiday season," commented Firefighter/EMT Marissa Bailey, from Fire District 2, who was involved with the assembly and delivery. The Council on Aging, Neighbors Helping Neighbors, and several churches also requested bags to deliver to some of their clients and parishioners who were alone and in need this holiday season.

This year marks the third

year of the program, which originated with the Friends of the South Hadley Seniors and expanded to include TRIAD last year. "Several years ago I had read about a Friends group on the Cape that had a Christmas Giving Program to provide holiday gifts for seniors in need, and I thought it would be great if we could do something similar for our seniors who are in need and alone," said Kim Prough, president of the Friends of the South Hadley Seniors.

The collective effort and personal connection is what makes this project so special. Residents throughout town were greeted with a bag from our local police officers, fire fighters and Meals on Wheels drivers. Police Officer Molly Farber, who was on hand for both the assembly and the delivery of the bags, said, "The delivery was even more rewarding because I experienced the pleasant surprise and smiles when they received them."

This project brought much joy to both the volunteers

and the recipients. In reflecting upon this year's efforts, Stawasz said, "Seeing how a simple act of care could bring joy to so many people reminded me of the power of community and teamwork. I am proud to have been a part of something that truly made a difference in people's lives."

Gratitude and sincere appreciation is expressed to all of this year's volunteers and to the following contributors: Baltazar Dental, BankESB, Berkshire Bank, Beers & Story Funeral Home, Council on Aging, Dale Frank Financial, Daybrook Village, Friends of the South Hadley Seniors, Holyoke Dental, Greenfield Cooperative Bank, Karen Buscemi, PMH-NP, Knights of Columbus #1721, Loomis Communities, O'Brien Family Funeral Home, Ocean State Job Lot, PeoplesBank, Polish National Credit Union, South Hadley Health Dept., South Hadley Fire Districts 1 and 2, South Hadley Police Dept., St Patrick's Faith in Action, and Westfield Bank.



Submitted photos

Mrs. Claus joins the festivities provided by the Friends of the South Hadley Seniors at Hubert Place.



Janet Stawasz and Carolyn Gammons hand-deliver a holiday bag to resident Mary Roy.



Fire District 2 firefighters Chris Towne and Jayden McMains deliver holiday bags to Lathrop Village residents.



Fire District 1 Firefighter Cameron Barnish and Firefighter/Paramedic Leo Couture deliver holiday bags to Lathrop Village residents.



Officers Corey Welihan and Molly Farber deliver bags to residents of Newton Manor.



Sharon Hart, Maureen Murray and volunteers from Greenfield Cooperative Bank form an assembly line.



Mrs. Claus joins Officer Farber to help deliver bags.



TRIAD volunteers get ready to fill the holiday bags at the Police Station.



The Friends of the SH Seniors bring boxes of holiday bags to Access Care Partners to be delivered to Meals On Wheels clients. Pictured left to right are Carol Constant, Cheryl Pelland-Lak, Mary Wentzel (Access Care Partners) and Janet Stawasz.



Friends of the South Hadley Seniors' volunteers complete their assembly at the Council on Aging.

U	L	A	N	C	O	C	O	S	U	M	B	O
N	A	R	A	W	R	A	P	S	L	O	O	P
A	R	A	M	M	A	N	E	T	N	A	N	A
U	D	D	E	R	T	O	R	C	A	B	A	L
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M	A	S	D	A	D	T	A	O	C	A	P	
U	N	I	T	E	D	S	I	B	B	O	G	Y
L	I	R	A	S	M	A	C	S	O	L	A	R
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L	E	N	O	I	R	A	T	E	I	B	I	S
I	D	E	S	D	E	L	E	D	N	E	C	K

# Santa's Land fills with kids ready to meet Santa



Santa with Hudson Zadziejko, Hayden Zadziejko, and Logan Asselin.



Santa with sisters Romy and Layla Figueroa.



Santa with siblings Grace and Michael.



Santa and Mrs. Claus with their Elves, Teagan Cavanaugh, Amanda Stevenson, Reilly Jazab, Mallory Levreault, and Riley Fisher.



Mrs. Claus serves cookies to all the children.



Santa with baby Ella.

## DANCERS from page 1

grounds, including African, Asian, Celtic, European, and Middle Eastern.

At the "Wassail! A Victorian Holiday" dance performance at the library, which was sponsored by the South Hadley Cultural Council, there were many different dances to classic songs such as the Nutcracker March, Evergreen Quadrille, Mistletoe Waltz, sing-alongs to "Jingle Bells" and "Deck the Halls," and so much more.

"I have always felt that dance was a good form of storytelling. I like using dance as a vehicle to subtly educate audiences about historical events and world cultures," said Sarnelli. "I am inspired by anniversaries of historical events, news articles, and music."

Sarnelli works as the

Small Planet Dancer's artistic director and choreographer, and leads the troupe to perform all over, including at charitable events, libraries, nursing homes, fairs and cultural events, and parties.

"I like offering the opportunity to dance to adults who are non-dancers. I took up dance when I graduated from college, and it changed my life. I like to work with adults to inspire them to fulfill their interests," said Sarnelli. "We also have singers and musicians who perform with us to round out our programs."

Sarnelli works alongside each of the members of her dancing troupe and works with their talents and individualities to help them stand out.

"At the close of each performance, I listen to audience recommendations. For example, one person recently men-

tioned to me after our WWII performance that his mother was a code breaker during the war. I will probably incorporate a reading in the future commemorating those women who helped in our war efforts," said Sarnelli.

The troupe's performances are wonderful, and help the audience to look at our history differently, through the lens of dance and culture.

"We are always looking for new troupe members ... dancers, singers, and musicians. In particular, I am looking for adult male dancers. No dance experience is necessary, and age is merely a number," said Sarnelli.

You can learn more about the Small Planet Dancers, and learn more about dancing, you can find more by contacting Sarnelli at (413) 746-9067 or visiting their website at [info@SmallPlanetDancers.com](http://info@SmallPlanetDancers.com).



The dance begins, with a gentleman leading the ladies.



Dancing all around the community room in their bright dresses.



The dancers moving into position for their next waltz.



Greeting members of the crowd and getting ready for the sing-alongs.



# EARLY DEADLINE

In observance of **NEW YEAR'S** for Dec. 29-Jan. 2 newspapers there will be an **EARLY CLASSIFIEDS DEADLINE!** Place your advertisement no later than **Friday, Dec. 26 at 3 p.m.**

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