

OCTOBER 2024 Year in Review

Homeschoolers move to make a difference

By Emily-Rose Pappas
Staff Writer

SOUTH HADLEY – A group of homeschool families got together at Buttery Brook Park 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.

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.

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.

Sarah 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.

Despite what most public opinion or belief of homeschooling, there is more opportunity than one would



The kids are eager to go and start collecting trash, holding up their bags with gloves on.

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, home-

schooling 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. You can find willing and ready helpers by contacting Sarah Hull at sarahcdw2003@yahoo.com.

Obituary

DEATH NOTICE

David Oliver LaRoche
Died Dec. 25, 2024
No services
Beers & Story Funeral Home

David Oliver LaRoche



SOUTH HADLEY—David Oliver LaRoche, 86, passed away Dec. 25, 2024 at his home surrounded by family. He was born on April 26, 1938 in Holyoke, Massachusetts to the late Oliver and Della (Ganard) LaRoche. David proudly served his country in the United States Army, retiring as a Major in 1998. He loved to travel and frequently took cruises to destinations all over the world.

Besides his parents, David was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Shirley A. (Gress) LaRoche in 2011, and four older siblings.

He is survived by his children, Craig LaRoche and wife Sue of Southwick, Lisa Sheridan and husband Francis of Belchertown, and Eric LaRoche and wife Carolyn of Virginia. He also leaves his grandchildren Kurt, Matthew, Kellie (Christopher), Katelyn, Michael, Alexander and Logan as well as two great grandchildren, Ryder and Evangeline. He also leaves behind his companion of eight years, Joanne LaPlante as well as several nieces and nephews.

No services will be held, per David’s request. In lieu of flowers, donations in his name can be made to Holyoke VNA Hospice by visiting www.holyokevna.org

Consider running for local office in South Hadley

Nomination Procedures:

Nomination papers are available in the Town Clerk’s Office at Town Hall (116 Main St, South Hadley, MA) beginning the first week of December for the offices listed below. The Annual Town Election is scheduled for Tuesday, April 8, 2025.

- Candidates must be 18 years old or

older and a registered voter in South Hadley.

- Town-wide candidates need to obtain 50 certified signatures.
- Town meeting candidates need to obtain 10 signatures from their precinct.
- Candidates are encouraged to obtain additional signatures. All signatures must

be returned to the Town Clerk’s Office for certification. If the candidate does not obtain the correct amount of signatures, they cannot appear on the ballot.

Important Deadlines:

- Last day to obtain nomination Papers: Thursday, Feb. 13, 2025, at 5 p.m.

- Last day to submit nomination papers to the Clerk’s office: Tuesday, Feb. 18, 2025, at 5 p.m.

All questions, comments, or concerns should be directed to the Town Clerk’s office by phone at 413-538-5030, ext. 6183, or by email at elections@southhadley.ma.gov.

NEW YEAR from page 12

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

“My favorite part of teaching is the community that is created in each of my classes every year. Learning about each other and respecting and celebrating individuals increases engagement and learning in my classroom,” Foley said.

Mosier Elementary School

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

“At the beginning of the year I love seeing our returning students and hearing what they did during vacation. It is also exciting to welcome a whole new grade to Mosier School and begin getting to know them,” Gallagher said.

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

Overgaard got the chance to “loop” with many of her students this year, following them into the next grade to be their teacher again. “I am the most excited to watch them continue to grow into the awesome kids that they already are,” Overgaard said.

Plains Elementary School

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

“The students are always participating and wanting to say what they know. This is also where they share anything and everything...and I mean everything,” Macey said.

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

Town of Granby Massachusetts Conservation Commission

The Granby Conservation Commission will hold Public Hearings pursuant to the Wetland Protection Act (MGL Chapter 131, Section 40) on **Tuesday, January 14, 2025 at #1 Library Lane-Carnegie Building-Top Floor** to consider the following:

1. **7:30 p.m.:** “**RDA**” filed by Thomas Balbony to see whether the area/activities depicted on the plan referenced are subject to the jurisdiction of the

Wetlands Protection Act and its regulations with regards to property located at 41 Forge Pond Rd and known as Map 14-C, Lot/parcel-A-11, in the Town of Granby.

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

Anyone wishing information and/or to be heard on this matter should appear at the time and place designated. The complete mate-

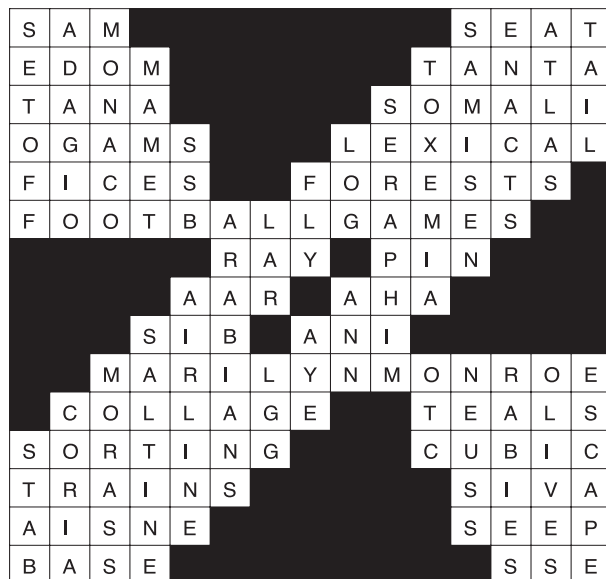
rials (including text and maps) relative to this “RDA” are available for inspection during regular business hours at the Selectmen’s Office located in the Granby Senior Center Building, 2nd Floor, 10-B West State Street. Additionally, copies of the application may be inspected on the Conservation Commission’s web page at www.granby-ma.gov.

William Shaheen, Chair
Granby Conservation Commission

01/03/2025

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

Public Notice



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- 1 Email all notices to notices@turley.com
- 2 Access archives and digital tear sheets by newspaper title.
- 3 Find a quick link to the state of Massachusetts’ public notice web site to search all notices in Massachusetts newspapers.

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