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IWWC denies Vessel permit

By Chris Levandowski

Seven months after Vessel RE Holdings and Vessel Technologies, Inc. first appeared before the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission seeking a permit for a septic system to serve a 42-unit apartment complex at 37 Hartford Avenue, the commission has announced its decision.

As the first order of business at its May 8 meeting, IWWC member Fred Jones read the commission's decision to deny the permit and its rationale-based on four issues, that are partially quoted here:

• The commission found the application incomplete because it lacked approvals for the septic system by Farmington Valley Health and the Connecticut Department of Public Health, required for approval and assuring the accuracy of the plans and calculations for determining the amount of nitrogen and other discharges from the system.

• "The application anticipates discharges of nitrogen into the environment and eventually into the wetlands in excess of 7 mg/L … ." The commission's expert testified that this eventually causes adverse changes to the wetland's vegetative composition and species dominance, "constituting a reasonable probability of unreason-

IWWC denies Vessel cont'd.on p. 9



Granby Lacrosse defender Cy Lynam at the May 16 match versus St. Paul Catholic. Photo by Jay Harder

GMHS varsity lacrosse looks toward tournaments

State tournament games will start on May 28. Additional details can be found at: ciac.fpsports.org/DashboardTournamentCentral.aspx
Above photo was taken during a match against St. Paul Catholic at home on May 16 (Granby won 15-6). See additional images on p. 27.

A solar farm as development and a solar power purchase agreement at Holcomb Farm

The Town of Granby has two solar-based projects coming down the road that are both interesting and very different when compared.

The first project you may know about—a solar farm is being proposed by DESRI Renewables LLC on the Monrovia site located on 90 Salmon Brook Street and 35 Floydville Road. About 60 percent of the farm is in Granby and the rest, 40 percent, is in East Granby.

ABOUT TOWN



with
MIKE WALSH
Town Manager

The site, if built as proposed, will produce 100 MW of power with a target operation date of December 2026. The energy produced on-site will be sold back to Eversource using an interconnection point in North Bloomfield that will feed back to Agawam.

If built, tax revenue over the 25- to 40-year life of the facility could approach $175,000 per year making this site our fourth largest taxpayer. The developer may also propose a one-time impact payment to the town, which could be up to $750,000, or he may propose a portion of the property be preserved for future economic development.

While the benefits of solar power are fairly well known and include less reliance on fossil fuel, it's renewable, it will create approximately 150 construction jobs, and it will power approximately 24,000 homes annually while adding no new children to the school system. It also creates new concerns that the town needs to study and mitigate if necessary, including hazmat training in the event of a fire, and rules to promote safe storage if battery installations are done on-site.

A community meeting was conducted on March 18. Members of various town boards and commissions had an opportunity to hear the presentation and ask questions.

One of the common themes during that meeting was the Siting Council, a state board that oversees these types of facilities, sometimes making important decisions on local matters — and that is somewhat concerning to our town.

On the surface, this project appears to be good for the community and the en-

About Town cont'd.on p. 2

Racial Unity Festival seeks volunteers

Granby Racial Reconciliation Group is seeking volunteers to help run its first Granby Racial Unity Festival on Saturday, June 29 from 8 am – 9:30 p.m. at Granby Memorial High School.

The festival will include various music genres including Native American drumming, Latin Dance, Indian Classical Dance, West African Music and Dance as well as a featured Interracial Jazz/R&B band. A Greater Hartford 3-on-3 basketball tournament is scheduled in the community gym at the beginning of the festival. Admission is free and multicultural food will be available for purchase. Community vendors will have informational booths to share their offerings.

Volunteers are needed to help with stage, gate and parking management, setup and breakdown, and cleanup. Volunteer time can count toward community service requirements for high school students or can be a great way to show support for this important cultural event.

The event runs from 11 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. and some volunteers will be needed prior to and after these hours. A minimum two-hour commitment is requested, though longer shifts are certainly welcome.

The Granby Racial Unity Festival is made possible by grants from Pomeroy-Brace Fund at the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving and Granby Education Foundation. Additional sponsors include Selective Development; Murphy, Laudati, Kiel and Rattigan, LLC; Dave and Jenny Emery; Granby Family Eye Care; Windsor Federal Bank, Farmington Valley Plumbing and anonymous donors.

To volunteer, please register on GRR's website: granbyracialreconciliation.com/racialunity. Your help will be greatly appreciated.

—Submitted by Granby Racial Unity Festival Committee

Memorial Day Parade is May 27

The parade will line up at 9:30 a.m. in the parking lot on Bank Street and step off at 10 a.m. sharp. There will be stops to lay wreaths at center monuments before continuing to the cemetery. The guest speaker will be American Legion District 1 Commander Joe Haney. The invocation and benediction will be offered by St. Therese's Father William Agyemang, and a 21-gun salute and *Taps* will be played in remembrance of all who served.

The parade will return to the town green and disband. After a brief recess, the Marquis of Granby Fife and Drum Corps will present a short concert.

June is dog licensing month

All dogs aged six months and older must be licensed by June 30 and must wear a collar and tags at all times.

The cost for licensing a neutered male or spayed female is $8. For dogs that are not spayed or neutered the cost is $19. All dogs must have proof of current rabies vaccination on file.

A late fee of $1 per dog, per month will be charged. Dogs not licensed prior to June 30 are late starting July 1.

Renewal can be done starting June 1 in person with Town Clerk Scott Nolan, or by mail. When licensing by mail, include rabies certificate if not currently on file, a self-addressed and stamped envelope, and check payable to Town of Granby. Town Clerk, 15 North Granby Road, Granby, CT 06035.

For more information, please visit Granby-ct.gov or call 860-844-5308.



Photo by Deneika Janski



Granby bids farewell to the Lofinks

Jim and Celia Lofink acknowledge the heartfelt appreciation of both the Democratic and Republican Town Committees. The couple were both longtime volunteers in a plethora of community organizations. The Lofinks are moving to their forever home back in Colorado. Dave Russell and Rick Orluk look on at the reception held at the Lost Acres Vineyard on May 8. They will be missed!
Photo by Dave Roberts

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Town hall happenings

By Catherine Lanyon
Town of Granby - Communications Staff

First pitches have been thrown, lawns fertilized, plants mulched, and everyone is out and about enjoying the warm weather. Before summer gets into full swing is a great time to visit with our friends and family by going out for ice cream, taking a walk on the rail trail, or meeting up at the park. Enjoy the weather and the wonderful parks in our great town!

Additionally, it is the season to recognize U.S. servicemen who died while serving in our Armed Forces. We honor and mourn our fallen service members. The annual Memorial Day Parade that is organized by the American Legion, Post 182, will be conducted on Monday, May 27, starting at 10 a.m. Two 5th grade students from Wells Road School have been chosen to be the standard bearers, carrying the town's flag in the parade. Congratulations to Amelia Whitlow and Nick Halsted!

The Granby Police Department participated in the DEA's bi-annual National Drug Take Back Initiative on April 27. More than 130 pounds of unneeded prescriptions were collected from Granby residents for proper disposal. The PD also participated in the Hop into Spring Food Drive hosted by Stop & Shop on April 13. The chief, a dispatcher and officers collected food for the Granby Food Bank. Two pickup trucks full of food were collected. Thank you to everyone who participated!

Calling all board game and strategy lovers! The Senior Center has regular meetings focusing on a variety of games: billiards, cribbage, set back, and more. There's even a weekly meet up for crafters on Mondays. The Senior Center accepts folks 55 years or older, and these activities are also open to those with disabilities of any age group. Check the Senior Center website for information about registration.

The Senior Center is also excited about the new 14-passenger van that arrived in March. This vehicle is lift-equipped and replaces a 10-year-old vehicle. The normal lifespan for these vehicles is five to seven years, so the replacement is a most welcome addition!

The Granby Public Library is looking forward to welcoming Tom Sieling's *Tromp Through the Swamp* musical performance! Registration is required for this special event. Sieling will perform songs accompanied by guitar, banjo, and even a drum machine to keep things upbeat and keep kids moving! For more information, check the library's calendar on its website.

Congratulations to GPL's Michele Kaminski and Amber Wyzik! On April 30 at the annual conference, Kaminski and Wyzik were awarded the Connecticut Library Association's Faith Hektoen Award for Outstanding Children's Library Programming. This award recognizes the special Granby Children's Book Festival that took place in November 2023.

Additionally, the library has been awarded a grant to purchase new computers for the library staff and new computers for patrons to use when visiting the library.

In April, Town Manager Mike Walsh, Board of Finance Chair Mike Guarco, and First Selectman Mark Fiorentino, toured all four Granby Public School buildings with Superintendent Cheri Burke and Board of Education Chair Monica Logan. This valuable experience enables town boards and departments to make the most informed decisions relating to budget and school improvements.

About Town cont'd.from p. 1

vironment, but more homework needs to be done on the proposal before we embrace the much-needed tax revenue.

The developer hosted an open house on May 22 for residents to learn more about the project. Information about the proposed solar facility is also posted on the town website on the Community Development Department webpage.

Separately, the town is working with the Friends of Holcomb Farm to consider a solar array constructed under a power purchase agreement that would stabilize the cost of electricity used at the farm while also producing a small revenue stream to help offset other costs of the farm.

So, there could be two very different solar applications coming to town in the near future—one being a farm and the other being used on a farm. Stay tuned to stay informed.

GRANBY BOARD OF SELECTMEN HIGHLIGHTS

APRIL 22, 2024

Present: Mark Fiorentino, Mark Neumann, Kelly Rome, Frederick Moffa, and student liaisons Ben LaVigne and Charles Orluk, Town Manager Michael Walsh, Town Clerk Scott Nolan, Finance Director Kimi Cheng, Public Works Director Kirk Severance, Director of Human Services Sandra Yost, Emergency Management Director CJ Staiger, Community Development Director Abigail Kenyon.

SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

Request for proposals (RFP) for Kearns School

Fiorentino proposed the agenda item, Consideration of RFP for Kearns School be tabled until a later date due to information shared by the McLean senior living facility and a market study it had done. Fiorentino said the groups needed more time for discussion before taking further action. The board agreed.

Appointments

The board appointed William Salazar (U) to the Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook Wild and Scenic Committee for a term beginning immediately, as recommended by the Republican Town Committee.

The board appointed Debra Holcomb (R) to the Commission on Aging for a term beginning immediately, and ending on Jan. 8, 2026, as recommended by the Republican Town Committee.

Neighborhood Assistance Act Tax Credit Program

Yost explained that the Connecticut State Department of Revenue Services (DRS) offers a tax credit program designed to provide funding for municipal and tax-exempt organizations by providing a corporation business tax credit for businesses that make cash contributions to qualifying entities. Program proposals must be submitted to the municipality and require a public hearing prior to submission to the DRS. The public hearing is on May 20. Approved proposals will be submitted to the DRS by the July 1 deadline.

Compliance with Statement and Policies Supporting Fair Housing

Kenyon explained that a recipient of small cities, community development block grant funding is required by the Connecticut Department of Housing to actively evidence its commitment to and take specific actions to support the principles and practices of fair housing and equal opportunity. Granby received its first small cities funding grant in 1990 and has been participating in the program ever since. Kenyon said the community development department is undertaking a variety of measures to demonstrate such commitment and asks that the board of selectman adopt the resolution, statements and policies to further demonstrate the town's overall commitment to fair housing and equal opportunity, compliance with the Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, affirmative action policy statement, municipal grievance procedure, and ADA. The board considered and passed all recommended resolutions; for a full description, please review the meeting minutes on the town website.

Granby Library grant receipt

Walsh said the Granby Public Library was awarded a grant from the state of Connecticut's Public Utilities Regulatory Authority in the amount of $22,263 to be spent on replacing all library patron and library staff computers. The grant does not require any matching funds from the town, and he noted that grant money must be spent by Oct. 16, 2024, or be returned to the DEEP business office.

Middle School Boiler

Walsh said that the middle school boilers are original equipment, in service since 1992. The boiler system provides heat to the building as well as certain humidity controls to several nearby classrooms. One boiler is out of service requiring the remaining boiler to carry the entire load. The boiler is at the end of its useful life. It failed in March, and repair parts were difficult to obtain. Walsh is concerned about its reliability. He reviewed the bid process, explaining that replacing the boilers is complicated and best completed when school is out of session over the summer.

The board authorized: 1) Walsh to sign and execute the Blake Thermal quote/contract to replace the middle school boilers; 2) use of the 2021 bond proceeds designated for BOE use as the funding source for this project; 3) the acceptance of a $250,000 contribution from the BOE from unused Severance and Capital funds to be deposited in the Capital and Non-recurring fund for future programming; and 4) the referral of this project to the School Projects Committee for further oversight.

Emergency Management Performance Grant, Competitive Funding Pool

Staiger explained that each year the town applies for funding under the emergency management performance grant through the state of Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection and the Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security. He said that while all Connecticut municipalities are eligible for this funding each year, a portion goes unclaimed. The state has pooled this unclaimed funding from the past four years and is making it available to municipalities through a competitive grant program in which municipalities can apply for up to $25,000 to renovate or reequip their emergency operation center or up to $15,000 to upgrade an emergency shelter. Staiger intends to submit a bid for funding under this grant program and while details of the specified project are being decided, the grant application requires a municipal resolution. The board agreed with this request and directed Walsh to support its accomplishment.

First Selectman's Open House

Fiorentino said he is planning to host another open house on June 10, from 7:30 to 9 a.m. and again from 7:30 to 9 p.m.

WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY MEETING

Public Hearing

The public hearing was held to receive citizen input for the purpose of setting the sewer use rates for 2024-25. No members of the public addressed the WPCA.

Setting Sewer Rates

The Granby Water Pollution Control Authority (GWPCA) approved setting the 2024-25 sewer rates for residential users at a minimum of $250 per unit up to 60,000 gallons per year and for commercial/ industrial users at a minimum of $350 per unit up to 110,000 gallons per year. For all gallon usage (residential and commercial/ industrial) above the minimum, $0.0065 per gallon will be charged. For unmetered residential properties, a 50 percent surcharge will be applied, which is $375 per unit. All commercial properties must have a water or sewer meter, or a use analysis performed by the town's engineer.

Cost Share for Wastewater Treatment

Cheng said Granby has an agreement with Simsbury to have its wastewater treated at the facility in Simsbury. That agreement requires Granby to pay its share for expansion and improvements to use 9.2 percent of its sewer capacity (380,000 GDP) and that the payment schedule had been in place for years in the amount of $116,400 yearly. She said that Simsbury refinanced its Clean Water Bond in March 2021 and received a very favorable rate. The board approved and appropriated the fund balance from the Sewer Assessment Fund for the Clean Water Fund Bond payments to Simsbury for the fiscal years 2024-25 and 2025-26 in the amount of $111,688 and $111,746, respectively.

Wastewater Flow Study

Severance described a study of Granby's wastewater flow that has been conducted by Tighe and Bond. To read details of the study, please review meeting minutes on the town website.

Fiorentino said the next steps would be for staff to prepare an RFP for a consultant to prepare/ assist with establishing a method to allocate sewer flow for new projects and to create an allocation and reserve policy for review and adoption by the WPCA. Fiorentino also directed that staff prepare an RFP to study the pump stations with the intention of upgrading/replacing them and this RFP would include a requirement that the selected firm prepare specifications and assist with the development of bid documents for the upgrade/ replacement.

MAY 6, 2024

Regular Meeting

Present: Mark Fiorentino, Mark Neumann, Kelly Rome, Frederick Moffa via Zoom, Margaret Chapple, Town Manager Mike Walsh, Finance Director Kimi Cheng, Town Clerk Scott Nolan, Director of Human Services Sandy Yost via Zoom, Lost Acres Fire Department Chief John Horr, Jr., Aquarion Water Executive Director George Logan, Parks and Recreation Chairman Anthony McGovern and Granby Education Foundation Chairman Kim Becker.

Park and recreation update

McGovern thanked the DPW for maintaining the town's parks and athletic fields. Strategic goals include incorporating effective planning and facility development to address present and future needs and establishing financially sustainable high-quality recreation services and well managed facilities. Focus areas include the community playground and basketball courts at Salmon Brook Park, recreation fund usage and the pricing of fees for services.

Aquarion Water Company presentation

Hogan explained the history of the Bridgeport-based company acquired in 2017 by Eversource. He outlined challenges facing water treatment facilities and described the next steps for an ongoing partnership between Aquarion and Granby to ensure fire hydrant maintenance.

GEF overview

Becker said that residents, inspired by a former GMHS teacher, founded the 20-year-old GEF. The foundation is tied to the town's science curriculum, including the Salmon Brook Ecology Center, the solar system, a WeatherBug, and growing fish in conjunction with the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection. Run by volunteers, it receives no grant funding but is entirely funded by community contributions. It is now partnered with Makerspace at Cossitt Library and continues to seek opportunities to expand and pull people together.

DOT MGP transportation grant

Yost reported that the Department of Transportation seeks requests for proposals for the Matching Grant Program for Elderly and Disabled Responsive Transportation for 2025-2028. She explained that Granby has been awarded this grant since 2006, and that grant funding combined with matching town funds pays to employ van drivers for the town's three senior vans that transport seniors ages 60 and older and residents with disabilities for medical and personal care appointments, grocery shopping, senior center activities and social excursions.

Last year, the vans provided more than 3,000 trips to 121 individuals, traveling more than 17,600 miles in 1,302 hours of operation. The grant allocation request for fiscal years 2025-2028, requiring a 50 percent match from the town, will be $29,453.

Budget for library summer intern

Walsh reported that the Granby Library Association (GLA) and the Friends of the Granby Public Library (FGPL) have agreed to provide $5,500 for a temporary, full-time (35-hour), 10-week summer intern with no benefits. The candidate will be a GMHS graduate who has completed at least one year of college. The GLA and FGPL will each contribute $2,750, and the intern will be working at the library in early June. Since the GLA contribution will increase town expenditure, two budget amendments were adopted.

Capital equipment loans

Cheng explained that the fiscal 2023-2024 budget includes approval for the loan purchase of capital equipment. A capital equipment loan program allows the town to spread purchase costs over several years. While selectmen recommend this practice, high interest rates resulted in a significant increase in cost. In addition to the 4.5-year loan agreement, the town requests a $45,000, two-year loan program through the quality and diversity fund to purchase Chrome books and iPads for students. Selectmen unanimously approved this request.

Contingency plan for elections

Nolan recommended the adoption of a new emergency contingency plan for conducting elections in compliance with state law. The proposed new plan meets state requirements of covering primaries, referenda, election day and all early voting events and includes troubleshooting problems, including an absence or shortage of poll workers; loss of power; a fire or fire alarm at a polling site; voting machine malfunction; natural disaster; removing and replacing a worker or moderator; disorder in or around a polling site. Rome moved adoption of the new plan, which was unanimously approved.

Town manager's report

Walsh reported that he visited Holcomb Farm and the community gardens and met with a resident about the condition of the transfer station. He added that he promoted officer Danny "DJ" Macaulay to detective and met with the police chief to assess traffic safety measures for the Route 10/202 intersection.

Children and Teen Librarian Michele Kaminski and Library Director Amber Wyzik will receive the Connecticut Library Faith Kektoen Award for outstanding children's library programming.

The building department has collected $203,936 for permits on buildings 5 and 6 at Station 280 and $84,150 in sewer connection permits for that project.

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Share the roads

With warming weather, more people will be walking, biking, and riding horses on our scenic roads. A we drive around, let's do our part to keep our roads friendly and safe.

Remember to slow down when approaching non-motorized users, especially horses that may startle at quick movement or loud noises. Though fewer equestrians are on the road than a few years ago (several of my neighbors tell me they've stopped because of unsafe driving) be prepared to stop when near horses. Pass "wide, slow, and quiet" is not only neighborly, but a part of the highway code (Conn. Statute 14-293b).

Small differences in speed have a big impact on vulnerable road users. A widely-cited 2011 study of U.S. crashes by AAA finds a 25 percent chance of severe injury to a pedestrian when struck at 23 mph, a 50 percent chance at 31 mph, and 75 percent at 39 mph. Risks are likely higher today because of the shift to larger SUVs and trucks, so please check your speed.

Also remember to pass only when it is safe and give plenty of room. Most of us have had to hit the brakes when an oncoming car moves into our lane instead of waiting until it is clear to pass. We don't want to be "that guy," right?

Since 2008, state law requires that we give at least three feet to walkers, bikers, and animals (14-232). It's both easy and legal to pass safely by moving fully into the left lane even in no-passing zones as long as we can see that the way is clear (14-234). There is no room to safely squeeze by in the same lane! Lanes on Granby roads are ten to eleven feet wide, narrower than the fourteen feet advised for shared lanes by the Federal Highway Administration.

Please understand that cyclists may lawfully ride in the center of the lane for their safety. Under state law, people only need to ride as close to the right "as is safe, as judged by such persons," while noting exceptions including when the lane is too narrow for both a vehicle and a bicycle to share the lane (14-286b).

Defensive cycling often means riding near the center of the lane to avoid potholes, cracks, and loose debris near the shoulder, to be more easily seen on curves or from side streets and driveways, and to provide room to maneuver at higher speeds.

Under 14-286b, cycling two abreast is also legal (and creates a more compact group that is easier to pass). While doing so should "not impede the normal and reasonable movement of traffic," sister-state court rulings find that a momentary delay before passing is not impeding (Salter v. North Dakota DOT) nor are cyclists traveling at normal cycling speeds (Trotwood, Ohio v. Selz).

Granby's town motto is "The Pride of the Valley." Let's do our part by driving safely and with consideration for other road users.

Joel Danke

Remembering Bob Simmons

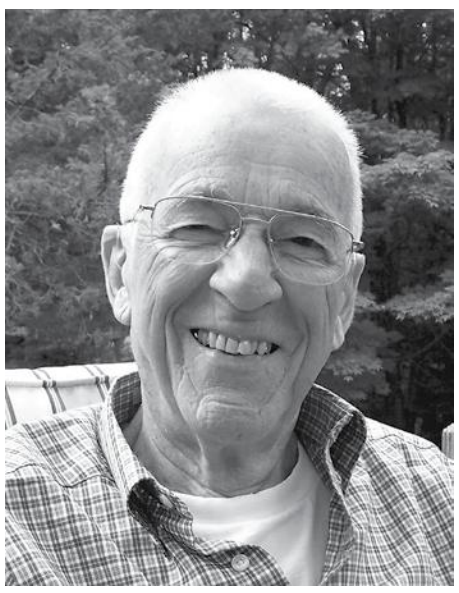
By Chris Levandowski

Robert Simmons, 98, of North Granby passed away peacefully on May 3. He leaves behind a legacy of community volunteerism and service in the U.S. Navy during WWII and the Korean War.

He and Vera King married in 1952 and raised three children—son Robert W. III, and daughters Joan Miglinas, and Nancy Woods. Bob worked for the Hartford Times, and as an executive with the Chamber of Commerce serving Danbury, New Haven and West Hartford.

He and Vera moved to Granby in 1987 where Bob set up a basement woodworking shop and spent hours making furniture, toys and wooden bowls. He learned to fly, and acquired a motorcycle on which he made a solo ten-week cross-country tour in his late 70s and continued to ride into his 90s. Many Granby organizations were recipients of his gifts of time.

In 1987 Bob pulled his first copy of the Drummer out of his mailbox, read the editor's plea for volunteers, and responded — beginning a twenty-plus-year volunteer stint as advertising manager for the community paper. He built relationships with advertisers and hunted down every



Bob Simmons

ad dollar he could find to keep the free, all-volunteer paper viable. He was successful. The paper celebrates 54 years of publication this year, and the organization and protocols he put in place continue to serve the paper well.

The board of directors of Citizens for a Better Granby and the editors and staff of the Granby Drummer share a sense of loss with and extend sympathy to Bob's family.

CORRECTIONS

Our apologies for mis-labeling FAVARH - The Arc of Farmington Valley in the May issue.

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Town of Granby Meeting Calendar

Check Town of Granby website or call Town Manager's office to verify date, time, location, and get information on how to participate on Zoom, if needed.

Board of Selectmen, 7 p.m., Town Hall, Mondays, June 3 and 17

Board of Finance, 7:30 p.m., Police Dept. Community Room, Monday, June 17

Board of Education, 7 p.m., Town Hall, Wednesdays, June 5 and 19

Planning & Zoning, 7 p.m., Town Hall, Tuesdays, June 11 and 25

Inland Wetlands and Watercourses, 7 p.m., Town Hall, Wednesday, June 12

Development Commission, 7 p.m., Town Hall, Monday, June 10

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Opinion

Comments on March 6 BOE meeting

By Susan Patricelli Regan

In the official minutes of the March 6 BOE meeting under Public Comment, Mike Kramarenko read a letter on behalf of a parent who could not attend the meeting. The highlights of that meeting in the May issue of the *Drummer* included the same reference. However, the official minutes failed to explain the underlying incident referenced in the letter, so unless you view the video of the meeting online, you have no knowledge of its content or reference.

One could assume it refers to Kramarenko's comments that followed regarding the physical attacks, harassment and bullying of female students at a recent school dance that was reported. However, no follow-up or acknowledgement by Superintendent Burke or the BOE had been offered. This is the third incident we have heard about. About a year ago, two female students gave a presentation that discussed the harassment of one of them and the other, whose younger sibling had the same concerns that were reported to Superintendent Grossman, but at the time of their comments nothing had been done.

One of the most important aspects central to our youth is providing safety and order and addressing these aggressive incidents that do not embody Burke's central theme of "let kindness ripple."

We would like to know if the bullies' parents were advised of their children's unacceptable verbal and physical attacks? Was an apology given to the victims? We don't need names and numbers, just the knowledge that these issues were addressed.

On another issue: the Educator Diversity Plan is not the responsibility of taxpayers but rather the BOE as required by the Connecticut Commissioner of Education. But every time the subject of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) arises, it seems that Granby's citizens are reminded that we are racist. Yet, we don't see any diversity on the Board of Education. Does this mean no one of racial diversity wanted to run for a spot or if they did, were not qualified and thus not chosen?

Having said that, we need more conservatives on the BOE because it is not a balanced representation of Granby citizens who want more fiscal responsibility and historical curriculum (math, science, writing skills). Relying on computers (common core), excuses them from being able to identify the meaning of words or doing math in their heads.

It is time for "wokeism" to get its thumb off the scale regarding what court should have authority over our state's youth—their safety and quality of life. It is with parents, not the BOE or government administration. It is the fault of parents, grandparents and caregivers who have allowed this toxic and dangerous situation to be left unaddressed. The "woke folk" are only looking out for their own employment and fortunate circumstances. Their method for keeping parents in line is to imply that when they speak out at BOE and other public sessions, parent's jobs, families, and children's welfare may incur unfortunate reprisal.

We hear about teachers demanding more pay raises or "they'll leave to teach in other towns." I thought they were dedicated to teaching, not threatening taxpayers and parents. As I've stated before, more parents are turning to homeschooling so that the ratio of teachers to students should reduce "the stress." And don't forget that many people contribute to students' educational experience who are skilled in and dedicated to their jobs: school bus drivers, custodians, medical office support— we don't see them demanding higher pay raises at BOE meetings.

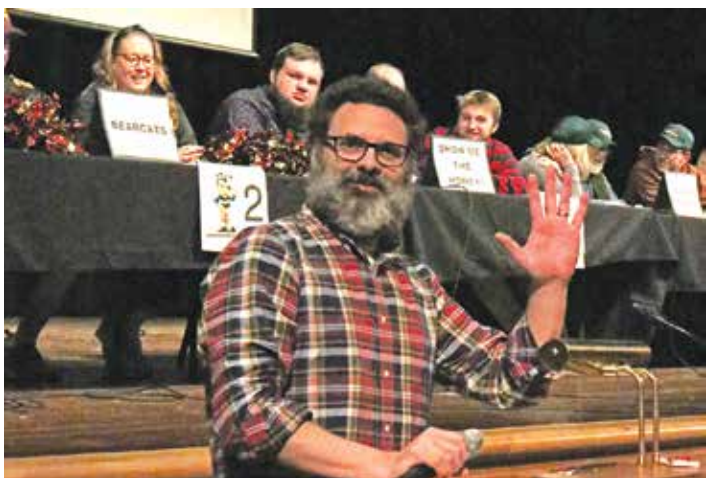
We won't know if 2023/2024 math and ELA test scores have risen in Granby until fall 2024. So, let's see if teachers have "done their homework" well enough this year to merit a raise —and don't blame COVID—it's not an issue now and we didn't shut down our schools during COVID. Going forward, contracts should require meeting objectives before raises are given. Students don't receive gold stars on their papers until they've taken the test and aced it. You don't go home with a trophy until you've won the race.

The dynamic of the BOE as a statewide directive by the Commissioner of Connecticut Education is to treat the children as adults and treat the adults as children. This is like a glove being worn inside out and on the wrong hand.

I suggest doing an anonymous survey asking Granby citizens if they feel comfortable, confident and content with how our schools are being managed. And let's not do any "ballot stuffing" one way or the other. I would be happy to provide questions for the survey.

Gran-Bee Creates Buzz, Raises Funds

Wells Road School's Jim Whitten emceed the well-attended Gran-Bee trivia competition on April 19 at Granby Memorial High School. The event raised money for the Granby Education Foundation's community grants program.



Jim Whitten, third grade teacher at Wells Road School, emceed the Gran-Bee.





The Gran-Bee's 2024 winners, team Holcomb Tree Trail, are, from left, George Peterson, Jack Lareau and Susan Canavan.

The 2024 Gran Bee Yellow Jacket Crown winners, are, from left, Patrick Gilton, Patrick Liss and Chase Alexander, all members of the National Honor Society team Sesabee Street.



Judging the 2024 Gran-Bee from left, Wells Road School music teacher Sarah Warner; strings teacher Jessica Foskitt; and Wells Road School resource teacher Lindsay Zuck.



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GRANBY BOARD OF EDUCATION HIGHLIGHTS

APRIL 3, 2024

Present: Liz Barlow, Heather Lombardo, Monica Logan, Donna Nolan, Karen Richmond-Godard, Rosemarie Weber and Student Representatives Chase Alexander and Katie O'Neill

Awards and Recognition

The board recognized Ms. Carron Cooper, Second Grade Teacher at Kelly Lane Primary School, who recently received the Expect Excellence Award from the Connecticut Teacher in Residence Program. Logan stated she is a collaborator on her team, has a thirst for knowledge and high expectations for her own learning and performance and expects the same level of excellence from her students. Colleen Bava, Principal of Kelly Lane, said that Cooper has an uplifting spirit and is such a great addition to Kelly Lane.

Public Comment

Susan Regan, 62 Hungary Road, said she attended the public meeting on Monday and has some questions that she hopes can be answered via phone or email. Specifically, Regan would like to know if the proposed part-time HR Coordinator position is necessary. Regarding raises for Granby teachers, will they need to meet or exceed their objectives. The rationale for hiring of a math Interventionist at the middle school instead of math tutor – what is the position's job description and how are the increased costs for salary, health insurance, etc. being covered? Lastly, is a Director of Pupil Services position necessary? She stated a Center of Excellence proposal that she submitted to John Ward several years ago should be considered. Regan stated again that she would appreciate a response via phone or email.

John Linebrenner, 290 Simsbury Road, a certified schoolteacher employed by another district, stated teachers are dedicated to the community and become ingrained with the students they teach and that to retain the best staff you must have appropriate benefits and salaries. Additionally, he stated that math interventionists are very different from math tutors, as a math interventionist tailors individualized education plans to raise their math scores. This new position will have a direct impact on students.

Schools in the Spotlight

Kelly Lane Teachers, Lindsay Sessions and Brianna Simonetti along with some Kelly Lane students presented a new initiative called Soft Starts where students immerse themselves in engaging math games, phonics and choice activities. Students begin their day with a chosen activity such as play dough, beads, and cutting for fine motor skills. Ms. Simonetti stated recent legislation was passed regarding play-based learning being a part of each regular school day for all students in kindergarten and all preschool programs. The skills derived from play are social emotional learning, oral language development, math and literacy skills, fine motor skills, and executive functioning. She stated executive functioning is a critical skill and a set of mental skills that includes working memory, flexible thinking and self-control. Executive functioning skills grow the most in the 6-8-year age bracket. Ms. Simonetti shared that the Granby Education Foundation awarded more than $3K for Kindergarten, First Grade and Second Grade for soft opening materials and activities.

FY25 BOE Budget Update

Logan provided an update on the FY25 budget and shared that the human resources coordinator position addressed during public comment was requested on the town side of the budget, not the BOE side.

APRIL 17, 2024

Present Board Members: Liz Barlow, Heather Lombardo, Monica Logan, Donna Nolan, David Peling, Rosemarie Weber, and Student Representative Chase Alexander

Schools in the Spotlight

Ms. Megan Proto, Teacher at Wells Road Intermediate School, and some students presented the Classroom Charter they agreed to for this school year, a promise made to one another as the classroom community is built. Ms. Pauline Greer shared that Smarter Balanced testing began today. She and Colleen Bava, Kelly Lane Principal, met regarding these presentations and agreed to topics of Social/Emotional Learning (SEL) and students having choice and voice. This presentation is about the voices of students with regard to how they should feel when in their classroom.

Ms. Proto informed the board that the Classroom Charter takes the place of teacher-given rules, and her class spent the first couple of weeks of school talking about "what school should look like". SEL gives students the life skills necessary to go out into the world and it takes explicit instruction to give them communication and problem-solving skills. Students shared various aspects of the Classroom Charter as follows: Owen shared the origin of the charter and how students wanted the classroom to feel; Kenny shared next steps of the charter with regard to communication skills to work toward solutions; Ellie and Rachel shared what to do when students need support and what strategies are used to calm yourself when nervous; and, Alex stated the charter is a living, breathing, working document and is a tool for the classroom. Ms. Proto spoke about family connections with regard to the charter and when discussed at conferences, parents were very interested in being involved with homework, SEL lessons and updates as well as weekly parent communication.

Superintendent's Report

A new director of finance and operations has been hired. Nicole Stevenson was selected from an outstanding application pool.

Congratulations to Emily Buder who was the recipient of the Fund for Teachers Grant from the Dalio Education Foundation and will travel to Scotland this summer with all expenses paid. Ms. Buder will be invited to a board meeting this spring to be recognized and to share about her trip.

Congratulations to media center specialists Casey LaPlante, Leigh Ann Ryan, Laurie Smith and Joy Cloukey on receiving the 2024 Connecticut Library Association's Faith Hektoen Award for outstanding library programs that have significantly enhanced children across Connecticut, namely, the Granby Children's Book Festival conducted last fall which was supported through the GEF as well as the Granby Public Library.



SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS

APRIL 16, 2024 SPECIAL MEETING

Present: Toby Proctor, Eric Brown, Bill Kennedy, Mark Migliaccio, Donna Nolan, Superintendent of Schools Cheri Burke, BOE Director of Facilities Shannon Sullivan, Town Manager Mike Walsh.

Update on the high school roof

Sullivan reported no further leak issues. White flashing has been installed over the black flashing, the ladder/wall work has been completed on a change order totaling $30,000, and the contractor is creating a to-do list for the BOE to review. Kennedy asked if the wall and ceiling tile damage caused by leaks has been satisfactorily addressed and Sullivan said it had been, at no additional charge. Progress reports will continue as Burke works to complete this project.

Update on middle school boiler quote

Walsh will discuss this quote at the next selectmen's meeting along with instructions to the committee overseeing the project. Selectmen will explain the committee's charge before making appointments. He said that three quotes for the job have been submitted, and low bidder Blake Thermal at $424,000 has been awarded the job. Once a contract is signed and boilers and parts ordered and delivered, the job should be completed in less than a month, ideally during the coming summer. The three refrigerator-size Cleaver Brooks boilers will run on natural gas with an option to switch to oil. This project does not qualify for state funding.

Familiar Faces

By Nicole Muller

Sgt. Doreen Mikan chose Granby

By Nicole Muller

Sometimes, life sends you exactly where you need to be.

Doreen Mikan grew up in a small farm town where she enjoyed riding her horse in a beautiful rural setting. Following high school graduation, she followed her heart to the University of Connecticut to study animal science.

"I rode as an intercollegiate sport at UConn, and while I no longer own a horse, a friend here in Granby lets me ride one of hers," Mikan said. "I love riding, hiking, just being outside." Keenly aware of her own nature and of what would make her happy, Mikan sought employment after graduation with the Connecticut Humane Society.

"Right out of college I was a humane officer, assigned to investigate complaints of cruelty to animals," Mikan recalled. "The CHS is a private organization, and to become a full officer with arrest power, I had to graduate from the police academy. I attended the protective services program for the miscellaneous who weren't state or municipal officers, including airport police, those guarding the submarine base at Groton, and officers with the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) and the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV)." Upon graduation from the academy in 1991, Mikan served just over a year as a certified humane officer.

"Then I saw that there was an opening in the Granby Police Department, and I applied for the job," Mikan said. "I enjoyed the humane society job because that was my background, but I saw right away that there was no opportunity for upward mobility. Over time, local animal control officers ended up taking over that role."

Granby was the first and only town to which Mikan applied. She was hired in August 1992. "It fit my criteria, a beautiful small town with lots of farms and horses," she said. "Definitely heads turned when I arrived. It was still uncommon for smaller towns to hire female officers, although the bigger towns like Windsor and Hartford already had multiple female officers back then."

Over the next 32 years, Mikan would marry and give birth to twins who will soon be off to college, leaving her and her husband empty nesters. Although she is eligible for retirement based on age and years of service, Mikan said she has more to do.

"I completely support women in law enforcement," she said with a big grin, then sobered as she noted that the cycle of domestic violence that Granby police deal with is challenging. "We respond to a call, the couple stays together, and the violence continues. Our challenge is to try to protect victims and guide them in a way in which they are safe from that point on.

"When I talk to people in different jobs about what I do, they are surprised by the amount of domestic violence we have. It doesn't have to be physical. It can be financial, and it can be controlling behavior, which doesn't always leave outward wounds, but can have profound effects on the victims." Drugs and alcohol often play a key role in this pervasive problem, Mikan added.



Police Sgt. Doreen Mikan has served the people of Granby for nearly 32 years. Photo by Nicole Muller

Asked her sense of how people in Granby respond to a police presence, Mikan said it's "reflexive" for people to take extra caution when they see a police car, which can be a very good thing. "I think Granby residents are largely supportive of our work, and I'm grateful to have that support," she added.

"I was drawn to police work to ensure public safety and to help people in distress, and that's what I love doing," Mikan said. "Somehow my husband and I have managed to balance work with attending our son's and daughter's sporting events, and there are many." Between them, Mikan's twins play ice hockey, volleyball, soccer, baseball and run track. They are now starting their college search, a daunting job for any family, and this family will do it times two.

Sometimes, Mikan admits, the idea of retirement crosses her mind, but she stresses that she's not ready yet. "I've been so busy working and raising kids that whenever I retire, it will definitely be a big change, a huge adjustment," she says.

Currently the department's patrol supervisor, Mikan fields all 9-1-1 calls for assistance, assigning officers to respond and briefing them on the nature of the call. During her interview for this report, Mikan received a call and had to immediately leave. "Everyone else is out," she said by way of apology as she left the room. It was a busy weekday morning for Granby police.

Know of a candidate for a future *Familiar Faces* column? Please email your suggestions and contact information to Nicoleoncapecod@gmail.com

Nancy Reardon

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19 HOME LISTED +58.33% FROM '23

10 HOMES SOLD +25% FROM '23

AVERAGE SALES PRICE $468,918 -2.03% FROM '23

AVERAGE LIST PRICE $417,849 -9.35% FROM '23

*This data was compiled from Smart MLS 2024 single family home sales.

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PLANNING & ZONING MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

APRIL 9, 2024

Present: Eric Lukingbeal, Paula Johnson, Mark Lockwood, Eric Myers, Robert Lavitt, Brennan Sheahan, Steven Muller, Director of Community Development Abigail Kenyon and Land Use Coordinator Renee Deltenre.

Application seeking a Site Plan Modification and Special Permit for three storage structures, outdoor commercial activity/display, and other site improvements ~~located~~ at 563 Salmon Brook Street

Jan Kahn, applicant, and owner of New England Pine Timber Company discussed the application and answered questions. Kenyon reported on her April 8 site visit when she took decibel readings of the sawmill. Readings were in the low 40s at the rear of the property and increased to the mid-50s when the machine was running but not processing wood. The commission visited the site later that day and had concerns, including the parking layout. Kahn said the trailers parked in front of the building will be moved to the rear. Commissioners questioned the compatibility of the proposed use and outdoor activities with the surrounding area and business zone. Kahn said he would like to construct a large building at the back of the property in the future so that all milling could be conducted indoors.

Lukingbeal said he feels the applicant is trying to shoehorn an industrial operation onto a commercial site. Meyers said that saw milling may be a reasonable accessory use to the operation but questioned how to best limit on-site processing and log storage. Kenyon said that saw milling will have to be considered an accessory use to the business for the commission to consider conditions pertaining to it.

Public Comment

Jeff Salinardi, 17 East Street, said the commission is trying to work with the applicant to allow a use that is inappropriate for the site. He said the proposed activities are industrial in nature, and the condition of the property has only declined.

Brittany Ashmore, 20 Sawmill Road, expressed concern over the number of logs stored on-site and questioned the functionality of the berm, including the wood chips that comprise it.

Paul Bleimeyer, 18 Sawmill Road, asked for clarification of the berm's purpose and how it would be constructed.

The commission deliberated at length regarding the suitability of the property for Kahn's proposed outdoor milling, and log storage. It was noted that the site is out of compliance and has taken on industrial characteristics within the Business Zone. Deliberation was continued to the next regular meeting on April 23

Application seeking a Special Permit for two wall-mounted signs that exceed the maximum square footage, for property located at 280 Salmon Brook Street

Applicant representative Cherie Thompson of Fast Signs was present via Zoom to discuss the application. The proposal includes installing two, non-illuminated signs mounted to the existing stone wall in front of the Station 280 apartment complex. Both signs are 32.5 square feet with a black background with white text, constructed of an aluminum composite material. The signs will be placed at the northern and southern entrances. Kenyon indicated that the existing unfinished wall will be stained in the coming months; the exact date of this work is unknown.

Public Comment

Theresa Spak, 274 Salmon Brook Street, questioned when the decorative wall would be complete and what colors would be utilized. Kenyon replied that she will provide a rendering of the final product at the next meeting.

The commission voted (7-0-1) to approve the application seeking a Special Permit for two wall-mounted signs that exceed the maximum square footage, for property located at 280 Salmon Brook Street.

Application seeking a Zone Change from Center Edge (CE) to Commercial Center (COCE) for properties located at 254 and 256 Salmon Brook Street

Property owner and applicant John Pagliaro and land surveyor Brian Denno were present to discuss the application. The owner purchased the properties in August 2023 and is seeking a zone change to allow for mixed residential and commercial uses. The property to the east is located within the COCE zone, while the property to the south is in the CE zone.

The applicant provided an overview of other historic properties in the area, detailing their current uses. He stated the existing structures on the subject property will remain and refurbished internally and externally. The applicant would like to convert the existing, detached garage into a professional office space for a speech pathologist on the first floor and an open loft apartment on the second floor. The second floor currently has ingress and egress through a rear stairway.

The existing house will maintain a residential use with the intent to establish three, two-bedroom apartments, each roughly 1,200 square feet in size. The print shop at 256 Salmon Brook Street would be converted to a retail food/beverage shop, and the applicant is collaborating with a potential tenant. Pagliaro presented a preliminary parking plan designed by Denno based on the proposed uses, which consists of 18 parking spaces. It was noted that this application is for a zone change only; any future use may require Special Permit approval and/or site plan approval. It was also stated that the commission can't place conditions on a zone change.

Public Comment

John Morgan, 221 Salmon Brook Street, stated concerns over potential increased traffic and how vehicles would enter/exit the site. He noted that no new rental properties have been established within the historic district since he moved to town many years ago and expressed concerns over historic preservation.

Kate Bogli, 198R Salmon Brook Street, spoke in favor of the zone change.

Kara Marshall, 45 Bushy Hill Road, spoke in favor of the zone change and stated that the proposed uses preserve the historic structures and streetscape, while providing affordable apartments and mixed-use opportunities.

William Ross, 239 Salmon Brook Street, feels that Granby does not need more apartments and stated concerns over the potential for increased traffic, lack of property maintenance, zone creep, proposed parking, future ownership and development, etc.

Margaret Lareau, 17R Reed Hill Road, stated that the property owner should utilize a use that is allowed within the existing zone and that she does not have much faith in the Special Permit process.

Ken Kuhl, 80 Silkey Road, spoke in favor of the application and the applicant's character. He noted that re-purposing the property and permitting mixed-use will allow for the restoration and protection of the existing structures.

Todd Vibert, 102 Hungary Road, requested clarification regarding the zone change process, questioned whether a property could have two different zones, and expressed concerns regarding the maintenance of historic character.

Ellen Thomson, 250 Salmon Brook Street, has mixed feelings regarding the application and expressed concerns over commercial expansion within the historical overlay district. She supports the need for more affordable housing in town but addressed the need for historical preservation.

Anna Sogliuzzo, 15 Old Orchard Road, spoke in favor of the application and is excited to see the property restored and utilized in a more suitable manner.

Pagliaro reiterated for the record that he has no intention of demolishing the existing structures and is supportive of the Salmon Brook Historical Society, as well as maintaining the character of Granby center. Denno stated that three existing curb cuts would be reduced by one during the site plan approval process. Conversations with the abutting neighbor are considering interconnectivity with 9-11 Hartford Avenue.

Kenyon submitted a memo outlining the various uses currently permitted within the existing zone and the proposed zone, which was reviewed by the applicant and commission. She indicated that residents have approached the board of selectmen regarding the establishment of a local historic commission; however, no further action has been taken. An overview of the historic overlay zone was provided and it was reiterated that no protections are currently in place in the regulations to prevent demolition.

Lukingbeal questioned the anticipated completion date of the Granby Center Study Committee. Myers replied at least one year and stated the committee cannot amend the regulations so proposed changes would have to be presented to the Planning and Zoning Commission for consideration. Myers spoke in favor of the zone change as it would help the property thrive by allowing flexibility, and other commissioners agreed. He also noted the applicant provided examples of other properties within the historical overlay zone that are utilized in ways other than as single-family homes, and still maintain historic characteristics. Lavitt spoke against the proposed change due to concerns over the property's future and that it was zoned CE for a reason. The idea of establishing a split zone on the property was discussed as well. Deliberation was continued to the next regular meeting.

APRIL 23, 2024

Present: Eric Lukingbeal, Paula Johnson, Mark Lockwood, Eric Myers, Brennan Sheahan, Christine Chinni, and Robert Lavitt, Director of Community Development Abigail Kenyon and Land Use Coordinator Renee Deltenre.

P&Z cont'd. on p. 9

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION

Saturday, June 8, 2024
8 a.m. to 1 p.m.



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PLANNING & ZONING MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

P&Z cont'd. from p. 8

Application seeking a Special Permit modification for a small engine repair service with outside storage and display, for property located at 371 North Granby Road

The Applicant and part property owner John Pagliaro is seeking permission to expand the existing outdoor storage area to the rear of the building, create a new 16' x 10' storage area to the side of the building, and create a 20' x 30' display/sale area in front of the building. The commission approved the original 35' x 50' outdoor storage area in 2021 for a small engine repair business. The applicant wants to expand said area to 70' x 50'. A detailed memorandum written by town staff outlined the current state of the property, including non-compliance issues and review of an application recently approved by the IWWC.

The commission expressed concern and frustration with the current state of the property. The business has been non-compliant for well over a year and the tenant has made no effort to clean up the property and achieve compliance. Lockwood stated that the commission supports small businesses; however, the current situation is not the intent of the original approval. Pagliaro indicated that he has requested compliance from the tenant numerous times but is unsuccessful. Lukingbeal indicated there is no reason to approve such a request based on a pattern of non-compliance, and the other commissioners agreed.

Public Comment

Robert Lindeyer, 367 North Granby Road, expressed concern regarding proximity of the equipment storage to the watercourse, impact on property values, lack of screening from abutting property owners, and the overall unsightly nature of the property.

David Roman, 10 Stonehedge Way, noted his disappointment with the current state of the property and said it is an unsuitable location for the business. He questioned the tenant's disregard for compliance and indicated that more items arrive daily.

Pagliaro acknowledged the concerns of the commission.

The commission voted (7-0-0) to deny without prejudice the application seeking a Special Permit modification under Zoning Regulations Section 3.5.4.3. for property located at 371 North Granby Road.

Application seeking a Site Plan modification for a pre-fabricated shed, for property located at 18 Hartford Avenue, COCE Zone

Applicant and part business owner Peter Taylor was present to discuss the application. He and his partner recently opened a new restaurant, The Bear's Den, in the space formerly occupied by Four Dads Pub. They would like to place a 16'x12' pre-fabricated shed on the property for dry good storage only. The former restaurant used an adjacent building; however, this option is not ideal or safe. The shed would be situated north of the existing patio and be set back from the parking spaces, in line with the existing patio/pergola. The distance between the side property line and the edge of pavement is 33 feet with a required side yard setback of 10 feet, and the shed shall be positioned 3–5 feet off the parking lot curb.

The commission voted (7-0-0) to approve an application for a pre-fabricated shed, for property located at 18 Hartford Avenue. The setback of the shed to be placed with distance between the shed and the parking lot estimated to be between 3 to 5 feet, has to be determined and approved by staff.

Application seeking a Site Plan Modification and Special Permit for three storage structures, outdoor commercial activity/display, and other site improvements for a property located at 563 Salmon Brook Street

The commission deliberated the application and discussed staff's April 18 memorandum, which outlined draft conditions of approval. Johnson stated that outdoor milling is not an appropriate use for the site and Lukingbeal requested clarification regarding the type of material to be used for the stockade fencing. Kenyon indicated that the applicant would be given a timeframe to achieve compliance if the permit were granted, and that the commission could revoke, modify, issue a cease and desist, or implement fines if the property does not achieve compliance.

The Commission voted (6-0-0) to approve an application seeking a Site Plan Modification and Special Permit for three storage structures, outdoor commercial activity/display, and other site improvements for a property located at 563 Salmon Brook Street. For details, go to granby-ct.gov/Agenda Center and select the meeting minutes under Planning & Zoning Commission.

Application seeking a Zone Change from Center Edge (CE) to Commercial Center (COCE) for properties located at 254 and 256 Salmon Brook Street.

Johnson stated that a text amendment might be more appropriate for the proposed use of the property. Under the right criteria, the existing structure could be divided into multiple units without being owner-occupied. Lavitt noted concerns with the application; however, he stated that re-zoning 256 Salmon Brook Street would be appropriate. Lockwood expressed support for the proposed uses but is unsure how to achieve the applicant's goals. Sheahan indicated the need to prevent zone creep and businesses popping up in residential areas. Myers stated his support of the zone change and the need to allow flexibility to preserve historic structures. The commission discussed the option of re-zoning 256 Salmon Brook Street and recommended the applicant proceed with a text amendment for 254 Salmon Brook Street.

The commission voted (6-0-0) to approve an application seeking a Zone Change from Center Edge (CE) to Commercial Center (COCE) for property located at 256 Salmon Brook Street.

The Commission voted (5-1-0) to deny without prejudice an application seeking a Zone Change from Center Edge (CE) to Commercial Center (COCE) for property located at 254 Salmon Brook Street.

Staff Report and Correspondence

Kenyon provided renderings of the wall in front of the Station 280 apartment complex. According to the developer, the wall should be stained at the end of April or beginning of May, and discussion is underway regarding the possibility of adding a wall cap.

High praise for GRR series on race, religion and politics

by Cathy Watso

The participants at the first workshop for Granby Racial Reconciliation's free four-part series on "Race, Religion, and Politics" gave the highest accolades for presenter and facilitator Dr. Matthew Hughey, PhD, ALM, MEd.

All 20 adults surveyed were "very satisfied" with the presentation material and "very satisfied" with his facilitation skill. Dr. Hughey's dynamism and ability to lead rich discussions stood out in event feedback. The April 27 topic of "Building Common Ground/ Knowing Our Racial Landscape" helped attendees develop shared language and historical background on race. Participants' comments included: "It gave me a broader way to think about 'race' and made me question my assumptions."; "The give and take with the audience was very helpful"; and "I would see anything by this presenter!"

Though prior attendance is not a requirement to attend future workshops, it is important to have a foundation of covered terms and historical understanding. Dr. Hughey is generously sharing some slides from his presentation with registrants of the future workshops.

A Granby community member expressed, "I wish more Granby residents would attend" as their eyes were opened by the lecture material. This individual is also motivated to do more reading about race. The upcoming workshops are at the Granby Senior Center and will take place on Sunday, May 19th from 3-4:30 p.m.; Saturday, September 28 from 12-1:30 p.m.; and Sunday, October 27 from 3-4:30 p.m. Easy registration is through the Granby Racial Reconciliation website, www.Granbyrr.com

IWWC denies Vessel cont'd. from p. 1

able pollution of the public trust in the air, water, and other natural resources of the State. Members found this to be both intentional and avoidable. The wetlands should not be used for purposefully removing nitrogen from the septic system discharge.

- Vessel has not "sufficiently evaluated the continuous seep of water from the hillside" at wetlands flag 7.
- Vessel has failed to pursue a "feasible and prudent alternative"—a connection to the public sewer system. It introduced questionable information about the distance between the site and the nearest sewer hub at Bank Street and possible installation of a sewer line in the state highway right of way.

James Sipperly, representing Vessel, extended apologies for Vice President Josh Levy's absence, and left the meeting immediately after the commission voted unanimously to deny the application. Peter Voskowsky, abutting landowner and intervenor, and his attorney, George Schober, were also present and left after the decision was announced.

Vessel has 15 days to file an appeal through the courts, starting on the publication date of the decision. The town published the decision on May 14, giving Vessel until May 29 to file a suit asking the courts to overturn the IWWC decision. (No action had occurred by May 19.)

Vessel has used litigation in other Connecticut towns to override planning and zoning denials, including Simsbury, where court-facilitated negotiations resulted in Vessel prevailing after redesigning and shrinking the project footprint. Vessel currently has dozens of projects under construction or litigation across Connecticut and New Jersey.

With this decision, and without successful litigation by Vessel, the project cannot proceed to the planning and zoning commission for the permits required for construction. Visit granby-ct.gov for possible updates.

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Social Services

The focus of the Social Services Department is to coordinate existing federal, state, regional and local services, to increase community awareness of these services and to develop new programs to meet the needs of Granby residents. For more information about any of the following programs, contact Director Sandra Yost at 860-844-5351. Office hours are weekdays, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Elderly (65+) or Disabled Renters Rebate:

Applications for the Renters Rebate program will be accepted through Oct. 1. Applicant must have turned 65 years of age by the end of 2023. Persons under 65 years of age who are receiving Social Security Disability are also eligible. To apply contact Social Services at 860-844-5350 for a confidential appointment.

Renters Requirements (not comprehensive):

· Must have rented in Granby during 2023 and currently reside in Connecticut.

· Provide proof of rent paid in 2023. (e.g. rent receipts from landlord or cancelled checks).

· Provide proof of actual bills paid in 2023 for electricity, gas, water, and fuel.

· Bring in proof of income such as Form SSA 1099, pensions, etc.

Granby Local Assistance Program:

Granby residents facing financial hardship may access funds once in a 12-month period. The gross household income cannot exceed 60 percent of State Median Income unless extenuating circumstances can be documented.

Resources and Services

Child Welfare Resources: Tools for supporting virtual times for families and child welfare workforce tools are available through the Child Welfare Information Gateway at cwig@communications.childwelfare.gov

Domestic Violence: If you need help or just someone to talk to, please visit CTSafeConnect.org or call or text 888-774-2900. Advocates available 24/7.

Mental Health and Emergencies: If you are experiencing a true medical emergency or crisis, please dial 911 or proceed to your nearest emergency room. You can also access mobile crisis services by dialing 211.

Farmington Valley Health District has a listing of resources for Mental Health Services at fvhd.org/resources

Suicide Prevention Hotline: 1-800-273-8255

When it Builds Up, Talk it Out:

With this campaign launched by United Way 211 and DCF, you can talk to a professional by calling 833-258-5011 or talkitoutct.com

State of Connecticut Department of Social Services: For assistance with applying for benefits, such as Medicare Savings Programs, Medicaid, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly known as Food Stamps, call 860-724-6443 ext 275 for the Benefits Enrollment Center.

Senior Job Bank: A nonprofit organization dedicated to helping people over the age of 50 find part-time work in the West Hartford community and surrounding towns. Jobseekers are connected with part-time job opportunities in businesses, municipalities and nonprofits as well as per diem work with individuals. Visit seniorsjobbankct.org or call 860-521-3210.

Food Resources: Granby Food Bank: Located at 248 Salmon Brook Street, pantry hours are Tuesday, 10:30 a.m.–Noon and Thursday, 2–3:30 p.m. Before using the pantry, applicants must qualify with the Town of Granby Social Services Department. An appointment is necessary; call 860-844-5350 to schedule.

Waste Not Want Not Community Kitchen: Free meal available every Wednesday, 3–5 p.m., drive up, pick up at Granby Congregational Church, South Campus, 242 Salmon Brook St. The meal is free, but an offering is always welcome.

Mobile FoodShare: Every other Tuesday, 1:30–2 p.m. Call for 2024 dates. Please park behind Granby Congregational Church–South only. Please remember to bring your own bags. For more locations or weather cancellations visit ctfoodbank.org/get-help/connecticut-food-banks-mobile-pantry-schedule

Life Church Hope 4 Life Food Pantry: Located at 23 Griffin Road, the food pantry is open on Wednesdays, 2–6 p.m. to members of Life Church as well as anyone who is in need. No qualification necessary. Please bring your own bags. For more information, please call the church office at 860-653-3308.

Open Cupboard Pantry at Granby Congregational Church–North Campus, 219 North Granby Road. Distributions are on Fridays, 3–4 p.m. on a drive-through basis. Please enter the church parking lot via north entrance on Stratton Road. Call the church at 860-653-4537 with any questions.

SNAP: CT Foodbank will continue to facilitate SNAP applications by phone. For help with SNAP call 860-856-4357. This process will take approximately 30 minutes and CT Foodbank will mail you a packet to sign and return.

PUBLIC WORKS

Hazardous Waste: a household hazardous waste collection will be held Saturday, June 8, 2024 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Simsbury Department of Public Works facility, 66 Town Forest Road, Simsbury.

Accepted items

Batteries; fluorescent bulbs, compact bulbs, other bulbs containing mercury; lawn care chemicals; household cleaners – acids, adhesives, aerosol cans, ammonia, drain cleaner, disinfectants, moth balls, etc. chemicals from the garage or workshop - antifreeze, ant/bug spray or bait, brake fluid, old gasoline, oil-based paint, lighter fluid, polyurethane, pool chemicals, road flares, transmission fluid, power steering fluid, wood stain, etc.

Items not accepted

Ammunition or explosives; asbestos; business waste; car batteries; cement; electronics; empty containers; fire extinguishers; Freon; marine flares; ice melt; latex driveway sealer; medicine, drugs, needles, syringes; propane tanks; appliances; smoke detectors; tires; used oil or oil filters.

Bulky waste: Large items such as carpet, furniture, metal pieces cannot be placed in your trash barrel. Items such as these can be brought to the transfer station during hours of operation. If you are unable to transport the items, please contact Paine's directly for a pickup. There will be a fee to dispose of large items either at the transfer station or through Paine's.

Transfer Station: The Granby Transfer Station is open on Saturdays from 8 am to 3 p.m.

Yard debris: Residents are asked to keep their yard debris out of the road. This will help to keep our basins clean, allowing for proper drainage.

Road work: Town crews will be repairing roads this summer. Please drive carefully and take extra caution when passing work crews.

DPW updates: For updates on the transfer station and other DPW events, check either the Granby website www.granby–ct.gov or our Facebook page – Granby CT Department of Public Works.

Voter and poll worker june meetings "Be Part of Our Team" series

We will be offering three meetings in June to help answer questions and recruit some help at the polls. All three meetings will be held in the Town Hall Meeting Room and are open to all. Each meeting is planned for one hour and will include an AMA (Ask Me Anything) at the end. Sign-up sheets to help at the polls will be available.

Wed., June 5 at 2 p.m. Tallying the Vote

If you are wondering how we count the ballots and declare winners, this is the meeting for you! We will review how we ensure every vote is counted correctly and no one votes twice. We will also take a hard look at the end-of-night duties, security, chain of custody procedures, and how our process has evolved.

Thurs., June 6 at 6:30 p.m. Early Voting

Looking for more accessible voting options? Early voting may be the answer. The trial run of early voting in March was very quiet: no lines, no waiting for nearly the entire four days. Curious how it works? We will share our revised Early Voting plan for August. We will break down the seven days, Aug. 5–11, into 16 four-hour shifts.

Wed., June 12 at 2 p.m. Primary Pains

Wondering if you can participate in August? We will break down how eligibility is determined by the state parties in Connecticut. Spoiler alert: we do things differently than other states. Early Voting has added to the confusion of when to enroll. We will go over what you need to know, as well as party enrollment and privilege rules and why changing parties is a 90-day process.

Lots of poll workers will be needed for 2024!

If you are good with computers, there are 21 days of Early Voting (mid-August, late October- early November.) Poll workers will also be needed for the Aug. 13 Federal Primary and of course for the Presidential Election Nov. 5. If you would like to participate, please send an e-mail to the Registrars at: registrarofvoters@granby-ct.gov Training classes will be held in the Town Hall Meeting Room, 15 North Granby Road in July.

Presidential Primary Audit on GCTV

Ever wonder what happens when a town is one of the 5 percent selected for an audit of the voting machines after a primary or election? Good news, our April 17 audit of Granby's District 2 is available to watch on GCTV. Spoiler alert: our results from the machines were a perfect match to our hand count of the ballots!



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In Town Focus

Women's Breakfast

A very special program is in store for Granby Women's Breakfast attendees on Wednesday, **June 5**. This 20th anniversary of the Granby Women's Breakfast Group will include a selection of fine teas (coffee will also be available), delicious delicacies, an antique bridal fashion show, music, door prize for the best decorated hat. Breakfast starts at 8:30 a.m. followed by the special 20th anniversary program at 9 a.m. Cost $5. Reserve your seat online or by calling the senior center (860-844-5352) soon, as the event will likely sell out.

Camera Club

During the month of June, the Granby Camera Club will have an exhibit in the Granby Library to celebrate its 30th year. There will a reception on Monday, **June 3** from 5 to 6:30 p.m. to meet and greet our photographers and learn more about the club.

Live music at New England Pizza

On Saturdays **June 1**, **June 29** and **July 27**, New England Pizza, 518 Salmon Brook St., will offer The Travelin' Trout Band from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. Enjoy live music as you dine on your favorite pie.

Guitar Recital

Windy Hill Guitar Studio Recital will perform at 4 p.m. on Monday, **May 27**, at the South Campus of Granby Congregational Church, 242 Salmon Brook Street. Admission is free.

Civic Club

The Granby Civic Club will meet at Lost Acres Orchard and Farmstore for its June Luncheon Meeting on **June 20**, at noon. It's been the club's tradition the past 20 years to hold its final meeting of the year at the orchard, partaking of a fabulous farm-to-table luncheon, discussing current events of the town and planning future club activities. The ladies enjoy a great time of food, fun, and fellowship as they eat in the beautiful and historic outside open barn. Luncheon reservations required by Wednesday, June 19.

The club invites all women of Granby and surrounding communities to join in its tradition of service and friendship and share in their vision for "A Better Granby." Contact Ginny Wutka (ginny@lostacres.com) or 860-539-2556 for additional information and reservations.

Tag Sale at GCC

The Granby Congregational Church is holding a BIG Tag Sale Saturday, **June 1**, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at its south campus, 242 Salmon Brook Street, Granby. Something for everyone! The event will be held rain or shine.

CT Hang-a-Quilt Day

The Farmington Valley Quilt Guild annual Connecticut Hang-a-Quilt Day is on Saturday, **June 15**. This free outdoor quilt display will showcase the art, craft, beauty, and history of Quilting. No registration is required. Everyone who owns a handmade quilt is encouraged to hang it outside their homes and places of business. The quilts can be hung on a line, over a chair, out a window, from a tree, or other way. Farmington Valley Quilt Guild will have a large display of quilts in the center of Simsbury. Check the website (fvquilter.org) for display addresses.

Participants are encouraged to post a photo of their displayed quilts on social media with: #CTHangAQuiltDay.

Historical society has planned something for everyone

The Salmon Brook Historical Society is located at 208 Salmon Brook Street, Route 10/202 in Granby. The research library in the Preservation Barn is open Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to noon or by appointment by calling 860-653-9713. The research fee is $25 per hour.

The society's museum store merchandise includes books, maps, mugs, tee-shirts, notecards, jigsaw puzzle and many more Granby items. Granby author Faith Tyldsley's most recent book, *To Granby, with Love*, chronicles The Granby *Drummer* articles submitted by beloved genealogist and archivist Carol Laun. This amazing book is available for sale for $20. The store, located in the Enders House, is open Thursdays from 9 a.m. to noon. Purchases on Tuesday can be made at the Preservation Barn 9 a.m. to noon. Items for sale can also be viewed at salmonbrookhistoricalsociety.com

The Wilcox House, located at 143 Simsbury Road, will be open on the following Saturdays: May 25, July 13, Aug. 17 and Sept. 14 (Open Farm Day). Tours include both the first and second floors of the house with possible weaving demonstrations.

The weekly Summer House Tours of the main campus will be open Sundays, June 2 through Sept. 29 from 2 to 4 p.m. except the following holiday weekends: June 16, July 7 and Sept. 1. Tours include the Weed-Enders House c. 1790, Abijah Rowe House c.1732, Colton-Hayes Tobacco Barn 1914 and Cooley School c. 1870. Our special summer exhibit, Here Comes the Bride—Wedding Gowns from Granby's Past, is a collection of wedding gowns and bridal accessories worn by Granby brides from 1866 through 1954. The exhibit is included with admission. Admission fees are adults $5, children and seniors $2. Family maximum is $12 and members are always Free. Consider becoming a member.

Last Chance Tag Sale will be held Saturday, June 8 with a rain date of Sunday, June 9, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Items for sale include marked down prices on items that did not sell during the May flea market plus many more things we did not have the time or room to display during the flea market. Come find your treasure.

Fall Flea Market is scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 19 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the society's grounds. Please contact Dave Laun at 860-653-3965 for vendor information. Flea Market donations to the society will be accepted on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to noon through Oct. 15.

Membership in the Salmon Brook Historical Society offers many benefits including summer tours, newsletters, annual dinner in April, wassail party in December and the opportunity to learn and help preserve Granby history. Membership dues are: students $10, individuals $25, family $40 and life membership $300. Donations in any amount are always welcome and appreciated. The society welcomes everyone. You do not need to be a Granby native, own an old house or be old. However, you do need to care about the history of Granby. Applications are available on the website or at the museum store.





Granby Artists Association 2024 All Members Show

Opening reception June 8 at Lost Acres Vineyard



Granby Artists Association's All Members Show returns to Lost Acres Vineyard on June 7. Photo by Stu Browning

The Granby Artists Association (GAA) will present its annual All Members Show at Lost Acres Vineyard from June 7 to July 7.

Since 2002, the Granby Artists Association has worked to create a vibrant and supportive community for the arts in Granby. You will find works by your favorite artists as well new people, including GMHS students, who bring an exciting diversity to our 2D and 3D presentation.

Everyone is invited and encouraged to view the works — many of which will be available for purchase—and meet local artists during the opening reception on June 8 from 4 to 6 p.m. Wine will be available for purchase along with complimentary light refreshments.

If you can't make it to the reception, Lost Acres Vineyard (80 Lost Acres Road) is open from noon to 6 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays and on Sundays from noon to 5 p.m. Come support and celebrate the diversity of art being created in our community—the artists look forward to seeing you there!



FV YMCA summer activities

By Brian Liss, Executive Director

Find your Fun at Camp Farmington Valley at Farmington Valley YMCA! Our licensed summer camp is available for students entering K-8th grade. Each day is packed with activities including arts and crafts, rock wall, STEAM, team building, sports, games and swimming. Campers receives daily swim instruction building campers' confidence and strength around the water.

We will have field trips throughout the summer and our favorite ice cream truck will be joining us every Thursday. New this year is a challenge course on our property for our campers. If your child is looking for a more athletic endeavor, consider registering for the Race4Chase youth triathlon program. This 6-week triathlon training program in honor of Chase Kowalski, a victim of Sandy Hook culminates in a youth triathlon on Saturday Aug. 3 with 600 athletes. During the program, athletes learn swimming and running techniques, and sportsmanship. This program is free and includes bicycles for those who need them. For more information, please reach out to colton.koenig@ghymca.org. Space is limited.

It's never too early to start planning for your child's after-school needs for the new school year. This fall, join the Y for our afterschool program. We offer a state licensed after-school program that is open to students at Kelly Lane and Wells Road Schools. Students are bussed directly to the YMCA.

Our program is fun filled with afternoon with crafts, STEAM activities, sports and so much more. We have the amazing opportunity to use our whole facility during our program time, including our Rock Wall and Multipurpose Pool. Families who register for full-time after-school care for five days will receive a **FREE Family Membership** for the duration of the school year (September-June). This means the whole family will get to enjoy all the amazing things the Y has to offer including the chance to register early for other programs offered at the Y, discounted programs, and access to our full facility. For further information, please reach out to amanda.fox@ghymca.org

May is Water Safety Awareness month, and we are working hard to teach children water safety tips. Our Aquatics team spent the month of May presenting Water Safety at local elementary schools. During the summer heat it's always enjoyable to cool off in a nice cool pool, ocean or lake, and safety is paramount. Here are a few tips from the YMCA to keep your family safe over the summer:

Teach your children to **always ask permission** before entering any body of water. From bathtubs to oceans to a backyard pools, kids should understand the importance of asking permission before they enter the water.

Suit up accordingly. Besides swimsuits and sunscreen, Coast Guard-approved life jackets should be used to keep kids safe, in or around any body of water.

Find your water watcher! Whenever children are in or around water, make sure an adult is identified as the official "Water Watcher". This person is tasked with keeping an active eye on and supervising everyone around or in a body of water, with no distractions.

Have a great summer!

It takes a village to make a garden grow!

By Karen Young

What do you get when you join committed volunteers, generous businesses, and a responsive town department? A Granby Community Garden to be very proud of!

The community garden, on land owned by the town, is located on Hungary Road adjacent to Ahrens Park. The garden, completely self-supporting, does not receive town funds for its operation. The garden has 80 20-feet by 20-feet plots that are rented for the growing season at a bargain price of $10 per plot.

There is a shed with shared tools, a composting station and ample water. Master gardening skills are not a prerequisite because eclectic gardens grow beside expertly staked tomato plant plots. The plots include many flower varieties, corn, peppers, cucumbers, lettuce, carrots, potatoes, radishes, beans, melons, squash, broccoli, onions and more. When in bloom, giant yellow sunflowers on the garden perimeter create a joyful environment.

Many people shared their expertise and energy to help create a more beautiful community garden. Jim Glenney managed the garden for many years and advocated with devoted gardeners to keep it for the benefit of town residents. Deborah Roe, the current garden manager, has a vision of making improvements to the property and several projects have recently been completed.

Last year the Rotary Club of Simsbury-Granby provided a $1,000 expense reimbursement grant to the garden based upon the plan submitted by Skip Morgan. Morgan also created a pollinator garden, with some contributions from Debbie Crosset and others, in two plots with Black-eyed Susan, Queen Anne's lace, cone flowers and other perennials. It quickly buzzed with hungry pollinators.



Improving the garden in 2023 involved basic infrastructure projects. An incongruous mulch pile was relocated from the parking lot to an area preferred by Rotarian Steve Basile. Basile is the owner of Clear Brook farm in Granby and used his own John Deere tractor to do the job.

A freshly painted bright burnt-orange information kiosk received a new roof by gardener Mark Roe. A creative new kiosk sign was designed by Deborah Roe. Invasive plants and dead trees were removed from the front of the garden with help from the town. Compost bins were built using pallets and donated hardware materials with the help of gardener Paul Doyle.



Rotary pollinator garden in fall 2023

Over the winter new plot number identification stakes were made. Significant improvement to the garden road was completed with milling provided by the town and grading by Steve Basile. Stuart Young with Granby Department of Public Works has been very responsive with road improvements. Brush clearing and a new blueberry plot were accomplished with the help of gardeners John Warn and Paul Doyle.

Upon completion of the infrastructure projects, the gardeners sought to enhance the beauty and enjoyment of the garden. This spring, gardeners received a generous shrub donation from the Monrovia Nursery Company that now lines the front of the garden. Lisa Vibert, a Monrovia employee, has provided blueberry and other plants for the garden.

Maximum Tree Service, a Granby-based tree removal specialist, made donations of garden path wood chips. The town removed stumps at the front of the garden and a new flower bed has been constructed. Deborah Roe has designed a new entrance sign with installation targeted by June 30. Crosset, who maintains perennial flowers at the front of the garden, helped create an area for picnic tables. Sandy Flagg at Waste Not Want Not Community Kitchen, a tireless advocate for building a sense of community through the simple act of sharing a meal, graciously donated picnic tables so folks could enjoy the harvest. The two picnic tables were delivered by gardeners Donna and David Suzenski. David also delivered compost for use in the front flower bed.

The Granby Community Garden offers a wonderful sense of community as people share seeds, plants and tips for gardening success for those not blessed with green thumbs! We had a great turnout at a recent garden "workday" in which gardeners pitched in to reline the chip paths, clear plots and run the tiller. Our Community Garden has been greatly enhanced by the dedication of gardeners, private businesses and our town.



New information kiosk – garden manager Deborah Roe admire the new sign



Steve Basile makes a garden
Photos by Karen Young

Come join us — plots are still available for this year! To learn more about the garden contact: GranbyGarden@gmail.com. An application for a plot can be found at planeteandme.com.

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Sundays 12 - 5pm
Artists Reception: Saturday June 8 4 – 6 pm
www.granbyartists.org

TOOTH TALK



by
Michael Ungerleider
D.M.D

YOUR GUMS AND YOUR HEALTH

Periodontal Disease, also known as Gum Disease or Pyorrhea, is one of the two most common infectious diseases occurring in the mouth. It causes gum recession, bone loss and can lead to tooth loss if not controlled

A recent study published in *Cancer Prevention Research* indicates that periodontal disease is associated with an increased risk of colorectal cancer. Previous studies have pointed to associations between periodontal disease and other types of cancer, as well as diabetes, heart disease, strokes and heart attacks.

The study states that their findings "advance our understanding of the interplay between oral health, microbiome, and early colorectal carcinogenesis, and reinforce the importance of good oral health to ensure a healthy oral microbiome.

The following are warning signs of Periodontal disease: gums that bleed when you brush or floss, gums that are red, swollen, puffy or tender, bad breath that doesn't go away, loose teeth, change in your bite, change in the way your partial denture fits.

However, you may not have any signs at all, but still have the disease! Just like you may have high blood pressure, and not know it, gum disease is a silent killer. Therefore, it is important to see your dentist at least twice per year to prevent the gum disease and save your teeth, and improve your health.

The doctors and staff of the Granby Dental Center invite you to see all of the new and exciting advances in modern dentistry at our office. **Computerized Dental Radiography** allows us to lower radiation doses to our patients by 50-90%! At the Granby Dental Center, we offer CEREC, an amazing technology that allows us to fabricate porcelain crowns in **just one visit**! This revolutionary CAD CAM unit allows us to preserve more natural tooth structure and restore the tooth to 100% of its original strength!

We are able to instantly diagnose in 3 Dimensions using our own Cone Beam CT technology (CBCT) which allows us to see **3-D images** instantly. This aids in early detection of pathology as well as accurate planning for **Implants**.

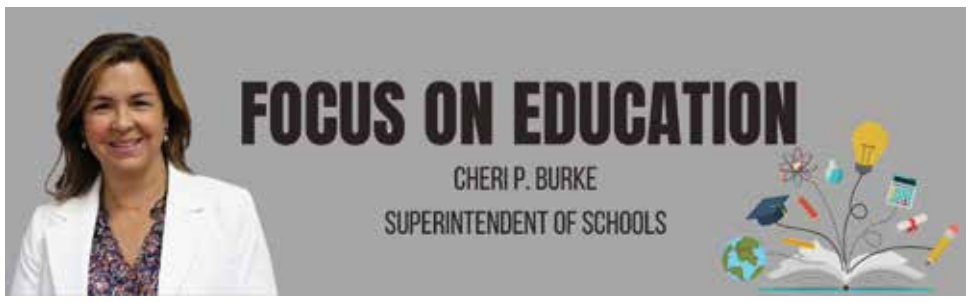
If you would like a 2nd opinion or have a question you would like answered, or would just like a tour of our modern office to view our sterilization procedures and to meet our friendly, caring staff, please contact us, or visit our website: **www.granbydentalcenter.com**

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The school year coming to a close

The full May and June calendars and the buzz of excitement from our students tells us that the end of the school year is approaching. The activities and enthusiasm of our students and staff are high energy right now as everyone is focusing on exciting end-of-year activities, spring sports, field trips, prom, concerts, senior outings and awards celebrations. We are so happy to open our doors to parents and family members for these important traditions and celebrations for our students of all ages. Please check out school websites for all the details.

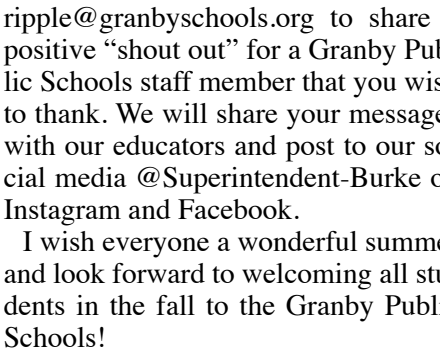
Spring is also the time of year for summative assessments and state testing. Students in Grades 3-8 participated in Smarter Balanced State Assessments in April and May. Students in Grades 5, 8 and 11 also took the Next Generation Science Standards assessment this spring and both Granby Memorial Middle School and Granby Memorial High School students participated in PSAT and SAT.

Granby students worked hard to demonstrate their knowledge and skill and we will use this important data to measure growth and plan for instructional improvements for the coming school year. We are carefully analyzing individual student growth to personalize goals and optimize learning for each child.

This year our Granby Bears Class of 2024 will graduate on Friday, June 7, with a rain date of June 10. We are thrilled to take part in this proud milestone for students and their loved ones. As my first cohort of graduates as Granby's Superintendent of Schools, this class will always hold a special place in my heart. Each graduate has taken their own unique pathway to cross the stage and we look forward to celebrating with them. I extend my gratitude to family members, friends, mentors, and the entire community of Granby for supporting these impressive young people on their journey. I know you join me in wishing them well!

Keep those celebrations coming!

Our district is in the process of identifying our Teacher of the Year and our Staff Member of the Year for 2024. The selection committee is hard at work to identify the individuals that will be selected for this special recognition. The Teacher of the Year will be announced during our professional development day on May 24 and our Staff Member of the Year will be announced at convocation in August.



In April, the Connecticut Library Association presented Granby Public Schools and Granby Public Library with the 2024 Faith Hektoen Award for Outstanding Programs. The group was recognized for the collaborative event, "Granby Children's Book Festival" that was held at Wells Road School this past November. Congratulations to our outstanding library media specialists and a huge thank you to Granby Education Foundation for funding this event!

We had a tremendous response from the community to our all-call for positive messages of appreciation for teachers and support staff in Granby Schools. The staff enjoyed these so much so we would like to keep them going through the end of the year. Please use the email address Letkindnessripple@granbyschools.org to share a positive "shout out" for a Granby Public Schools staff member that you wish to thank. We will share your messages with our educators and post to our social media @Superintendent-Burke on Instagram and Facebook.

I wish everyone a wonderful summer and look forward to welcoming all students in the fall to the Granby Public Schools!



Granby Public Schools Library Media Specialists and Granby Public Library Director of Library Services and librarian receive the 2024 Connecticut Library Association's Faith Hektoen Award. L to R: Casey LaPlante, Laurie Smith, Leigh Ann Ryan, Michelle Kaminski, Joy Cloukey, Amber Wyzik. Submitted photos

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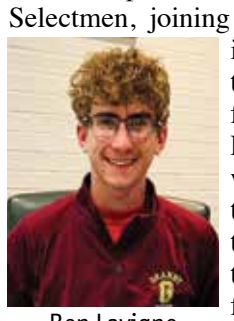
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BOS student rep is ready for new term

By Shirley Murtha

Half-way through the school year, Granby Memorial High School junior Ben Lavigne was appointed the second student representative to the Board of Selectmen, joining senior Chas Orluk in reporting scholastic and sports news from the school. Lavigne says he was interested in the job "to see how the town was run; to interact and learn from the people who keep this town moving every day."



Ben Lavigne

Since Lavigne is still tossing around ideas about college and a future career, perhaps this town involvement will play a part in his decisions. For now, however, his favorite subjects are psychology and history. As for sports, he is on the soccer, indoor track and tennis teams. Outside of school, he enjoys skiing and snowshoeing in the winter, and hiking and refereeing soccer in the warmer months.

Just go for it!

By Chase Alexander, GMHS Class of 2024

Call it ignorant, but I generally ignore the announcements that blare across the high school intercom system each morning. Ask any GMHS student, and they will likely attest to committing the same offense. However, one spring morning during my freshman year, with the sun gleaming across my desk and my mind clear from distractions, I turned my ear to the wave of advertisements and reminders spouting from the ceiling speakers.

Little did I know, a new part of me would take shape from the announcements I would hear. In my thirty seconds of listening, four years of learning, experimenting, and growing would begin when I heard that the Granby *Drummer* was looking for a student to write articles about life at GMHS.

In many ways, my experience writing monthly articles has been reflective of my broader experience as a student in the Granby Public Schools System. As my time as both a columnist and a student in Granby approaches its end, my journey as a learner is stored as a vast anthology of clubs, grades and little victories along the way, and my future reads as a blank page yet to be composed.

For the past four years, I have been privileged to share my perspective as a student each month and engage with my community on a deeper level. But to understand my gratitude as the pages fold on my chapter as a student columnist, it would be useful to get acquainted with the prologue that is stored behind years of firing synapses and personal growth.

My enthusiasm for writing has always been strong, and I remember the days when my friends would joke with me about writing too many pages or taking too long to copy down notes because I would add on every little detail. As a primary school student, it seemed easier for me to let my imagination wander on paper than speak my mind to no end. However, what began as an unrestrained hobby of writing down thoughts on paper grew into a fear of my creative thoughts being judged.

To this day, I remember the fear that left me frozen in front of my second-grade class when confronted with the task of reading my writing aloud to an audience existing outside of my own head. The colorful non-fiction book detailing fun facts and eccentric drawings depicting sports cars, which I had worked tirelessly on, was clenched between my trembling fingers. I loved to write. But sharing it? Forget about it. Not happening. No way. At this point in my life's novel, a major revision had to be made. If I were to truly grow as a learner, I had to confront my fears before they created a severe conflict in the plot. Fortunately, I was under the guidance of an incredible editor who could revise my life's story in the right direction. This editor was my second-grade teacher, Mrs. Bush.

From the time she learned about my fear of sharing my work with others to the moment she passed, Mrs. Bush recognized my traits as a student in ways I did not fully comprehend about myself. From second grade onward, she would check in with my journey as a learner, asking what I thought of my classes and extracurriculars. Her belief and patience in my ability led me to become a more outgoing, enthusiastic version of myself that reflects my eagerness as a learner. It was her confidence and guidance that cultivated my respect for challenging myself and putting myself out there to learn from new experiences.

That plot twist is responsible for shaping the way in which my ensuing chapters in elementary school, middle school, and now high school have been written. In an ironic sense, Mrs. Bush would tell my mother that she looked forward to reading about me in the *Drummer*. Well, Mrs. Bush, here I am. I'm here, putting my work in front of the eyes of the whole town, because it is what I have learned helps me to grow.

My time with the *Drummer* and as a student in Granby, has allowed me to do just that. To grow. To learn how to channel my own perspective, to be engaged with my community at a level where I always have something to write about. To always be involved in something that pushes me to be a better version of myself. I am proud to have written several chapters already, all of which have been drafted with enthusiasm and edited under the guise of mentorship from teachers, coaches, teammates and peers along the way.

It may be true that my future, like all GMHS seniors right now, reads as a blank page. Some may be excited. Others may be discouraged, hesitant to be challenged with a new and unfamiliar chapter. But if my experience suggests anything, it is the idea that every page that reads well masks a history of revisions, writer's blocks, and new ideas. The important consideration is this: as a writer, as a student, as someone entering the next phase of their life, embracing the uncertainties and accepting guidance leads to one great work of which to be proud. Thank you to The Granby *Drummer* and Granby Public Schools for leading me through this journey.



4-H Robotics team compete at world championships

Granby seniors Ben Weber and Nathan Griswold concluded their G-4s 4-H Robotics experience with a trip to the VEX Robotics World Championship in Dallas, Texas. Middle schoolers Dylan Hamilton and Emma Doherty assisted as pit crew. Check out the G-4s' next challenge at vexrobotics.com/v5/competition/vrc-current-game
Look for an announcement of the 4-H Robotics' upcoming bottle and can drive on social media and the Granby Green. For information about joining G-4s 4-H Robotics (6th grade and older) contact Coach Rachael Manzer at rmanzer@hotmail.com
From left, Dylan Hamilton of East Granby and Emma Doherty of Southwick with Ben Weber and Nathan Griswold, both of Granby. Submitted by Katy Waterman

Jazz in the Park scheduled for Friday, May 31

Pack a picnic, bring a blanket and enjoy smooth tunes from the Wells Road Intermediate School, Granby Memorial Middle School and Granby Memorial High School jazz bands. This free event starts at 5 p.m. at the bandshell in Salmon Brook Park. Presented by the Granby Public Schools music department.

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Counting Down to Safe Grad Night

By Deneika Janski

The countdown is on! Only two weeks remain until the event Granby Parents for a Safe Graduation (GSPG) has been planning all year! GSPG has been working hard to create a memorable evening to celebrate the Class of 2024.

The party, held Graduation Night (June 7, rain date June 10), absolutely cannot happen without volunteers. The committee has done the legwork, now volunteers are needed to help with day-of-event preparation and chaperoning the party itself. The event is typically chaperoned by underclass parents – parents of seniors are not allowed! – so it is important for new volunteers to step up each year. If you are interested in learning more about helping with the party, please email granbyparentssafegrad@gmail.com

We are also approaching the time that our fabulous flock of flamingoes will be migrating south until next year. So, if you want to send this bright and cheerful flock to visit a friend or relative for a $25 donation, this is the last call. Email granbyparentssafegrad@gmail.com and schedule your flocking today.

The highlight of our Grad Night celebration is the student raffle. GPSG works hard to ensure every student goes home with a prize. We are still collecting donations of prizes. If you would like to contribute, we recommend gift cards for Door Dash/Grub Hub, Amazon, other retail stores, gas stations, Visa gift cards—remember that Granby students' post-graduation plans take them across the country (and sometimes the world!). You can also donate cash to help us purchase prizes as necessary and to support the party itself. Contributions of gift cards or cash can be mailed to: Granby Parents for a Safe Graduation, Attn: Treasurer, P.O Box 81, Granby, CT 06035, or you can email granbyparentssafegraduation@gmail.com to arrange pick-up or Venmo details.

Granby Parents for a Safe Graduation is an all-volunteer, nonprofit group that organizes a substance-free Grad Night celebration for GMHS graduates each year. GPSG is unaffiliated with the Granby Public Schools; the Graduation Night party is completely funded by our fundraising efforts and generous donations from the community. We'd like to take this opportunity to say a big THANK YOU to all those organizations, businesses and individuals who have supported our organization and events throughout the past year.

Please consider being a part of this proud Granby tradition—we are looking forward to celebrating the Class of 2024!

Drumrolls

Samantha Kovaleski, East Granby, a freshman engineering major, achieved the dean's list at UConn.

Chase McGee, GMHS Class of 2021, graduated in May from UConn, earning Bachelor of Science degrees in mathematics and chemical engineering as an honors scholar.

Rhode Island College announced that seven anchorwomen earned Little East Softball Postseason Awards, including Junior pitcher **Abby Kidd,** as named First Team All-Little East. She appeared in 28 games, starting 22 of them. Kidd was 19-5 with two saves, a 1.17 ERA and 222 strikeouts in 155.0 innings of work.



Equestrian Competitor earns eighth

Granby resident Emma Edelman, IEA Nationals April 26, 2024, Tryon International Equestrian Center, 8th Place in the Open Over-Fences Photo credit: Denise Edelman

Dreams that started in Granby came true

Granby resident Jaira Paine paced the Endicott College Gulls Women's Lacrosse team to a 17-9 victory in the Commonwealth Coast Conference Championship game May 4 over three-time defending champion and top-seeded Roger Williams.

Paine, a senior midfielder, scored a career high five goals and two assists and set a school record 100th face off draw control in the game. The Gulls finished the season 11-7. Paine had 30 goals and 12 assists for the season. Paine got her start with the game in the third grade in the Granby Recreation League and was a leader on the Granby Memorial High School team before being recruited by Endicott.

The past two summers Paine has volunteered as a member of the coaching staff at a young girls lacrosse camp in Panama. Paine will graduate from Endicott on May 17 with a bachelor's degree in international studies. After the game, Paine was heard joyfully commenting, "I'm so proud of our team and grateful for our families who came and made a lot of noise and have supported us all these years."



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The male Bluebird is much brighter in color than the female. Photo by Don Shaw

The Bluebirds are back!

By Shirley Murtha

Bluebirds are being welcomed all over town this spring! Whether it has anything to do with climate change, it seems that there are more than usual appearing in our backyards. In addition to having difficulty contending with killing winter temperatures, another factor in their dwindling numbers in our area during the past several decades is that house wrens, tree swallows, alien house sparrows and starlings have crowded the gentle blues out of nearly all available nesting places.

Bluebirds make their nests from grass and stems in shrubs and trees. They have been known to construct them as high as 20 feet off the ground. The male will attract a female to a prospective site, and he may put a few grasses in it, but once the female accepts the site, she takes over to complete the nest. She will be the sole incubator of the eggs. Females can lay 3–7 pale blue eggs that hatch in a little over two weeks. The chicks stay in the nest, being fed insects and spiders and berries, for almost three weeks before the fledglings depart, hopping around on the ground and learning to fly.

Most everyone is familiar with the bright blue, rusty breast and white abdomen of the male — one of our most beautifully colored songbirds. Not everyone realizes that the much "duller" bird usually accompanying him is the female. She does not have the bright blue color, but is mostly grayish/brown on her back. She does retain the rusty breast and white abdomen..

One of the factors leading to the bluebird resurgence we are experiencing is that organizations and individual homeowners have taken up the cause of placing bluebird nesting boxes in the birds' preferred locations: open grassland with a background of trees. Specific instructions for building your own box can be found online, and most now come with instructions on how to include a protective barrier at the entrance.

As with most nesting songbirds, their eggs and chicks are highly sought after by cats, snakes, raccoons and predatory birds. If snakes are an issue in your area, plastic sheeting on the box post will impede their progress, and a slinky placed around the post will make it near impossible for the reptile and most other predators to get up to the nest.

If you want to attract bluebirds to your yard, put out their favorite food: mealworms. Mealworms are not worms at all, but the larval form of the common darkling beetle. No need to buy fresh squirmy ones, bags of dried ones are available at pet shops and farm supply stores. Be sure to get a lot, because it turns out that all the songbirds love them!

Granby Grange hosting fair on Open Farm Day

By Kara Rodgers Marshall

The Granby Grange is holding an Agricultural Fair on Saturday, Sept. 14 that will coincide with Granby Open Farm Day. The Grange invites home producers to enter products from their gardens, kitchens, cameras and craft rooms for judging and to show off your skills to residents and out of town visitors alike. There will be categories for fruits, vegetables, eggs, canning, baking, arts, crafts and photography. Start planning your entries now.

The fair will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Grange Hall at 212 N. Granby Road. Those entering items can drop them off at the Grange Hall either Friday, Sept. 13 or Saturday, Sept. 14. The items will be judged at 10 a.m., with the winners awarded ribbons and small cash prizes. Items will be displayed for the rest of the day. Items can be donated to Granby Grange for sale to visitors or picked up at the end of the day. There will also be a chili competition and other displays during the day.

"Not many residents of Granby are full time farmers anymore," said Carol Innes, president of the Granby Grange agricultural fair committee, "but everyone can grow fruit or vegetables or make something at home. Agricultural fairs like ours give everyone a chance to show off their skills." This year's President's Choice Baking Competition will be Apple Cider Donut Cake.

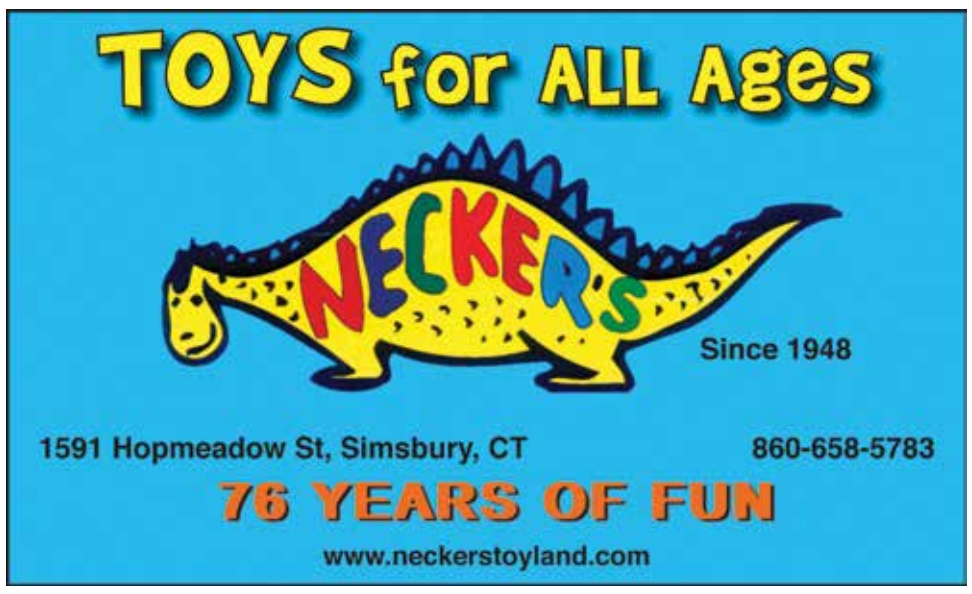
Granby Grange Number 5 is a subordinate Grange of the Patrons of Husbandry, a national organization that promotes community service and agricultural interests nationwide. Granby Grange plans and hosts the fair annually as well as meeting monthly to plan community service and social events for its members. Granby Grange was originally founded in 1875 and was reorganized in 1926. Membership is open to all.

The fair will be an opportunity to see the interior of the historic Grange Hall, which at one time was the town hall and the site of a former school. The Grange Hall is undergoing renovations, and the Grange hopes to make it available for rental later this year.

For more information about Granby Grange and the fair, please visit www.granbygrange.org



Granby Grange lecturer Judy Doyle volunteers at the 2023 Fair. Submitted photos









GRANBY Senior Center

Meet me at the Center

Please visit **granby-ct.gov/senior-services** or check your Center Life Newsletter for a complete listing of health services, support groups, clubs and ongoing activities.

If you are a Granby Senior Center member, please register for programs through **SchedulesPlus.com/granby** If you are not a member of the Granby Senior Center or you do not have access to a computer, please call **860-844-5352**. Must have a current Senior Center membership to participate in programs.

SPECIAL EVENT

Strawberry Shortcake Social: Wednesday, June 12 at noon. Enjoy a delicious deli sandwich and strawberry shortcake for dessert while Bill Benson plays his guitar! Cost: $5.

LIFELONG LEARNING

Painted Flower Pot: Friday, June 7, 10 a.m. Join Jennifer in creating your own painted terracotta planter. You will create your own design or pattern and leave with a flower to plant in it. Cost: $5.

Juneteenth – The First National Holiday authorized in the 21st century: Wednesday, June 19, 10 a.m. Juneteenth is a portmanteau word for June and nineteenth. Juneteenth, originally known as Jubilee Day, is a special holiday celebrating the promise of tomorrow that freedom provides every citizen. The presentation explores the history and origins of America's most recent addition to our national holiday schedule. It is a holiday recognized in all 50 states with Texas being the first state to legislate it as a state paid holiday. Free.

Medicare Made Perfectly Clear: Friday, June 21, 1 p.m. You're invited to the Medicare Made Perfectly Clear seminar at the Granby Senior Center, hosted by Madison Roberson. At this event, you will have the opportunity to:

Gain a comprehensive understanding of the different parts of Medicare (Parts A, B, C, and D);

Learn about eligibility criteria and enrollment periods;

Discover supplemental coverage options available to enhance your Medicare benefits;

Receive expert advice and insights from a seasoned professional in the healthcare industry; and

Ask questions and engage in discussions to clarify any doubts you may have.

This event is designed to empower you with the knowledge needed to make informed decisions about your healthcare coverage. This event promises to be enlightening and beneficial. Let us guide you through the Medicare maze. Free.

The Magic of Schubert: Monday, June 24, 2 p.m. Melody is the great gift of Schubert's music: in this purest art of musical creation, he was unequaled by anyone before or since. But he was also the master of the art song, and in this medium he goes far beyond beautiful melodies. Franz Liszt called him "the most poetic musician who ever lived." In a one-hour presentation we will look deeply into a few of his greatest songs, to hear and understand what makes them so beautiful and so moving. No prior experience or knowledge of music is necessary. Presented by: David Stein. Free.

TRIPS

See Center Life newsletter for monthly shopping and Dine & Drive trips.

Dine and Drive: The Boathouse, South Hadley, Ma, Monday, June 3, Departs Center at 11:15 a.m.

Cost: $5

Starfires Baseball Game: Tuesday, June 4, Departs the Center at 9:30 a.m. Play ball! Enjoy a 10:30 a.m. game and beat the heat! The **Westfield Starfires,** a collegiate summer baseball team based at the Billy Bullens Field in Westfield, Mass., plays in the Futures Collegiate Baseball League (FCBL), a wood-bat league with a 56-game regular season comprising eight teams from northern Vermont to western Connecticut. Bagged Lunch options available. Cost: $20.

Shopping: Lee Outlets, Monday, June 17. Departs the Center at 9 a.m. Cost: $5.

Elizabeth Park Garden: Friday, June 21. Departs the Center at 9:30 a.m. Elizabeth Park is on the national register of historic places and offers just over one hundred acres of formal gardens, recreational facilities, walking loops and the Pond House Café. Bring your camera! We will be ordering bagged lunches from Fitzgerald's to picnic at the park. Cost: $15.

ONGOING PROGRAMS

CRT Hot Lunch: Every Tuesday and Thursday, 12–1 p.m. Let someone else do the cooking. Community Café offers a healthy, low-cost lunch for seniors 60+ and an opportunity to join with others. Monthly menus are available at the Senior Center. All participants are required to complete a one-time informational survey. A donation of $3 per meal is suggested to help cover costs, however no one is denied a meal if unable to pay. Reservations are accepted until noon on Friday for the following week by calling 860-844-5350.

Ask the Attorney: June 5, 10 a.m. –12 p.m. by appointment. Specializing in Elder Law. Please call to set up an appointment for a free half-hour consultation. Free.

Ask the Realtor: June 12, 10 a.m. –12 p.m. by appointment. Granby's Judy Guarco has worked for 20+ years representing both buyers and sellers with the goal to always to be a trusted advisor when navigating the ever-changing world of home ownership. Guarco will offer good advice, solid market knowledge, customer service and attention to detail in a free 30-minute consultation.

Cribbage: Fridays 3–5 p.m. and Tuesday at 6 p.m. Join this lively group. Experienced players will assist with refreshing your game play. Free.

Set Back: Tuesdays, 1–3:30 p.m. Free.

Music Jam, Back in Time: Wednesdays, 11:30 a.m.–1 p.m. Bring your instrument and join in. Music from 60s–80s. Open to any type of musicians! Free.

Makers Club: Mondays at 10 a.m. Bring your latest project to work on and enjoy some great conversation. Free.

History Revisited: Tuesdays, 10 a.m.–12 p.m. Jerry Perkins, former professor and high school history instructor, has a unique way of bringing history to life. Join this informative and fun view of events from Pre-Columbian times to the present. Class attendees will have the opportunity to request specific subjects to review. Free.

Camera Club: Monday, June 3 at 7 p.m. For photography enthusiasts. Each month a different topic of interest is discussed. Annual membership is $10.

Women's Breakfast: Wednesday, June 5 at 8:30 a.m. Cost: $5.

Men's Breakfast: Friday, June 14 at 8:30 a.m. Cost: $5.

Sr. Center cont'd. on p. 19

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Sr. Center cont'd. from p. 18

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Chair Massage: Tuesdays, June 4 and June 18, 10 a.m.–12:45 p.m. by appointment. Bev offers 15-minute chair massages for $10.

Blood Pressure/Blood Sugar Clinic: Thursdays, 11 a.m.–12:30 p.m. No appointment needed. Courtesy of the Farmington Valley Visiting Nurses Association. Held in the Senior Center Community Room.

Healthy Minds: By appointment only: Situations such as the death of a loved one, failing health or strained family relationships can be daunting to face alone. Working with a marriage and family therapist may help you move forward with the better part of life. To schedule a confidential appointment, call 860-844-5350.

EXERCISE PROGRAMS

See Center Life newsletter for program dates and costs.

Gentle Movement: Mondays at 11:15 a.m. Next session: 6/5–7/29.

This class gently increases your strength, helps your ability to balance, and provides stretching to maintain and increase mobility. Instructor, Paula Pirog.

Chair Yoga: Tuesdays at 2:30 p.m. Next session: 6/4–7/30. Enhanced breathing, seated and standing classic Yoga poses, plus balance training and core strengthening. Guided meditation finishes the class in a calm and relaxing manner. Instructor, Paula Pirog.

Yoga: Thursdays at 4 p.m. Next session: 6/4–7/30. Strength building sequences, standing and on the mat. Includes balance and Pilates floor work. Instructor, Paula Pirog.

Chi Gong–Virtual: Wednesdays, 9–9:45 a.m. Next session: 6/6–7/25. The practice of Chi Gong helps us to feel grounded, nurtured and relaxed so that the body's energy can be naturally directed to help our organs function optimally, create flexibility in the muscles, suppleness in the joins and bring balance to our emotions. Beneficial to all skill levels. Instructor: Mary Ellen Mullins.

Line Dancing with Jim: Wednesdays, 1:30– 2:30 p.m. Next session: 6/5-7/31.Instructor Jim Gregory has been teaching dance full-time for forty years. His expertise will have you learning the steps in no time and having a blast, too! This class is for beginners to advanced dancers.

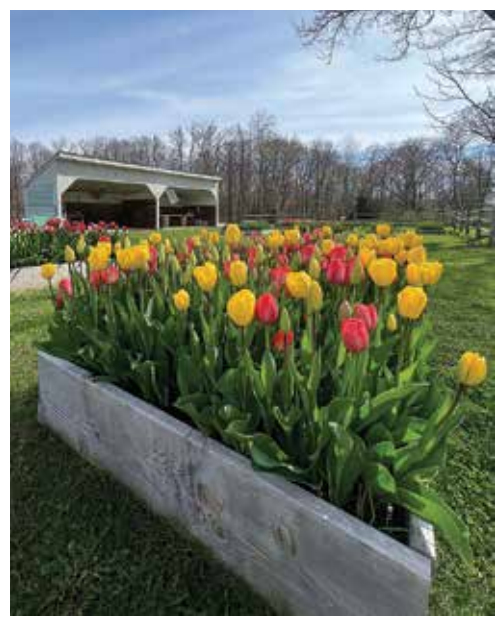
Tai Chi Yang Style 24 Forms 1-6: Wednesdays, 2:45–3:45 p.m. Next session: 6/5–7/31. This class is suitable and encouraged for beginners. Tai Chi is a practice that involves a series of slow, gentle, low impact movements, a relaxed, meditative mind set and controlled breathing. People of all ages can benefit from Tai Chi for improved balance, flexibility, and increased energy. The balanced work of Tai Chi can also help reduce inflammation, improve mental health, chronic pain and increase longevity. It takes time and a commitment to learn Tai Chi as the forms are linked together andprogressive. This first session we will work on Forms 1-6. Instructor: Mary Ellen Mullins.

Tai Chi/Qi Gong: Thursdays at 9 a.m. Next session: 6/6–7/25. Continuing the forms learned in previous sessions, this class will move on to learn Forms 9—12 of the Yang style Tai Chi. The first half of class will consist of Qi Gong warmups that are suitable for abilities. Experience in first eight forms required to participate. Instructor: Mary Ellen Mullins.

Everybody's Exercise: Thursdays, 1:30–2:30 p.m. Next session: 6/6–7/25. Suitable for anyone and everyone, this class will include strength and weights, some cardio, balance and flexibility. All movements can be modified for chair or standing. Instructor Mary Root will personalize your routine based off current flexibility, strength, etc.

All about Balance: Thursdays at 2:45 p.m. Next session: 6/6–7/25. This class focuses on strength for balance efficiency, such as squats, handheld weight maneuvers and walking drills, as well as core conditioning. Instructor: Paula Pirog.





Vineyard is new home for tulip farm

A pick-your-own tulip experience at a local vineyard last month was just in time for warm weather and springtime outings.

Almost a year in the making, the tulip farm is a partnership between small business Blooms of Lost Acres and Lost Acres Vineyard. As apparent by the shared names, the businesses are North Granby neighbors, giving them inspiration to partner up for a perfect seasonal experience. Pairing a perfect atmosphere with an interactive and visually pleasing experience, the pick-your-own farm is appropriate for families, couples, girls' days out or a solo adventure.

Gabrielle Galiatsatos is the owner of Blooms of Lost Acres, the small flower farm in operation since 2021. This past fall, her team built raised beds and planted 55,000 tulip bulbs on the vineyard property. Speaking of the inspiration for the project, Galiatsatos shares, "I have created a business that has brought me so much joy over the past few years with the support of a really amazing community, and I felt ready to take it to another level. Pick-your-own was a vision I knew I needed to build, and I knew the community wanted it as well."

Lost Acres Vineyard owner Michelle Niedermeyer was excited to partner on this opportunity: "We loved Gabby's idea the moment we heard it. What could be better than sipping wine surrounded by tulips and the natural beauty of Lost Acres Vineyard?"

While weeks of operation each spring are dependent upon demand and, of course, Mother Nature, the hope is that visitors will have a few weekends to participate. Interested visitors can find the latest updates on bloomsoflostacres.com and by following the farm on social media (@bloomsoflostacres).

Copy and photos submitted by Blooms of Lost Acres



Tisa (Platt) Beaudoin, 29, of North Granby, passed away unexpectedly on Wednesday, April 24, 2024, at her home.

Tisa was born in Hartford, the daughter of David and Kimberly (Rheault) Platt, and graduated from South Windsor High School, Class of 2012. She received her bachelor's degree in education and her master's degree in education technology from Central Connecticut State University and taught at Simsbury Elementary School, and currently, was an Art Teacher at Somers Elementary School. A position she truly loved and enjoyed.

Tisa was a deeply passionate and devoted educator and shared her love of art and ceramics with thousands of students over her seven years of teaching. She had a special gift for creating a welcoming and caring classroom environment, encouraging all learners, and helping her students grow as artists and as people. Tisa always greeted everyone with a big smile and strived to make everyone around her feel valued, important, and loved. Her zest for life, her positive energy, and her contagious smile will live on through her beloved Somers Elementary School family.

Tisa always had a smile, very caring, loving, genuine and kind. When Tisa walked into a room, the room lit up. She was a talented artist who had many talents. She would refurbish old furniture using her artistic ability adding mosaic glass and color design transforming the furniture into a beautiful piece of art. Tisa was a talented ceramist who designed her original artwork using her own creativity.
Tisa had a passion and love for board games and puzzles and played with a competitive spirit and was always ready to play a card game. She was so proud to be a dog mom to Riley and Parker "Noodles," and loved them more than anything.
In addition to her parents, Tisa leaves to cherish her memory, her husband, Brandon Beaudoin; her father-in-law and mother-in-law, Pierre and Lisa Beaudoin; her siblings, Shane Robinson, Kami Gomes and her husband Dan, Jason Platt and his wife Lindsay, and Timothy Platt and his wife Rose; her nieces, Kaeleigh, Skylar, Teagan, and Nina; and her nephews, Tyler and Colin; her grandparents Carol and Nick Semenuk, Gordon and Linda Rheault and Darrell Todd; and her loving extended family.

In lieu of flowers, please send all donations by check to Somers Elementary School, c/o the Art Department, 4 Vision Blvd, Somers, CT 06071.
To leave a condolence, please visit www.carmonfuneralhome.com

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Here Comes the Bride

Wedding gowns from Granby's past

By Jean Potetz

Salmon Brook Historical Society is exhibiting eight historic wedding gowns during the 2024 summer season. The gowns and accessories on display have a connection to Granby families and span the years 1866 through 1954. The exhibit will open for Sunday tours from 2 to 4 p.m. on June 2 through Sept. 29. The Enders and Rowe Houses on the main society campus are graced by the presence of these gowns and their histories.

The earliest gown on display was worn by Estelle Holcomb of West Granby for her wedding to Mason Good Wilcox on June 26, 1866. Estelle's two-piece gown is periwinkle, now faded to a silvery blue and black, perhaps a sign of mourning given the times she lived in. The periwinkle silk bodice is trimmed with black silk, lace and piping. Its rare needle-worked buttons are created on a silk-covered mold, its pattern stitched with needle and thread to create a periwinkle star on a black silk ground. The skirt is periwinkle and black silk, trimmed with black lace and pleated at the hem.

Unfortunately, the black silk on the gown has been affected by the salts and metals used to treat the silk threads in the manufacturing process known as weighted silk. The treatment added weight to silk which sold by weight, hence costing more, but also added the desirable rustling sound to the silk. While the periwinkle silk remains in good condition over 150 years later, the black weighted silk does not. Despite attempts to reinforce it, the black silk remains too fragile to display on a dress form. The skirt is exhibited lying flat for viewing.



Circa 1940s bridal gown with simple but beautiful flowing lines and long train. Photo by Faith Tyldsley

Estelle Holcomb's young adult years came during the Civil War. Estelle was 17 years old in May 1861 when, after the Union's defeat at Fort Sumter, 17 young men from West Granby enlisted in the 4th Connecticut Volunteer Infantry and left for the war. Estelle likely knew these young men well. Later that summer, Estelle made a quilt using the pattern in the July 1861 issue of Peterson's Magazine inspired by the Fort Sumter flag and its distinctive 34-star diamond.

Estelle and Mason's only child, Charles, born in 1874, donated his mother's wedding gown and Stars and Stripes quilt to the society in 1962, ensuring these treasured items would survive as a part of Granby's history. Estelle Holcomb's Stars and Stripes Quilt is one of very few quilts from this early pattern that survives today.

In addition to Estelle Holcomb's gown, there are seven other bridal gowns on display exhibiting fashion styles and changes over the years. All beautiful in their own way, some have interesting stories to share while some remain to be discovered. The society is excited to exhibit these gowns, some for the very first time. Stop by some summer Sunday and take a tour.



Bridal gown worn by Clara Whiton for her wedding to Sheldon Hayes on December 26, 1901. Photo by Faith Tyldsley

Women's Breakfast celebrates 20th year with antique bridal show and tea

By Amanda Lindberg

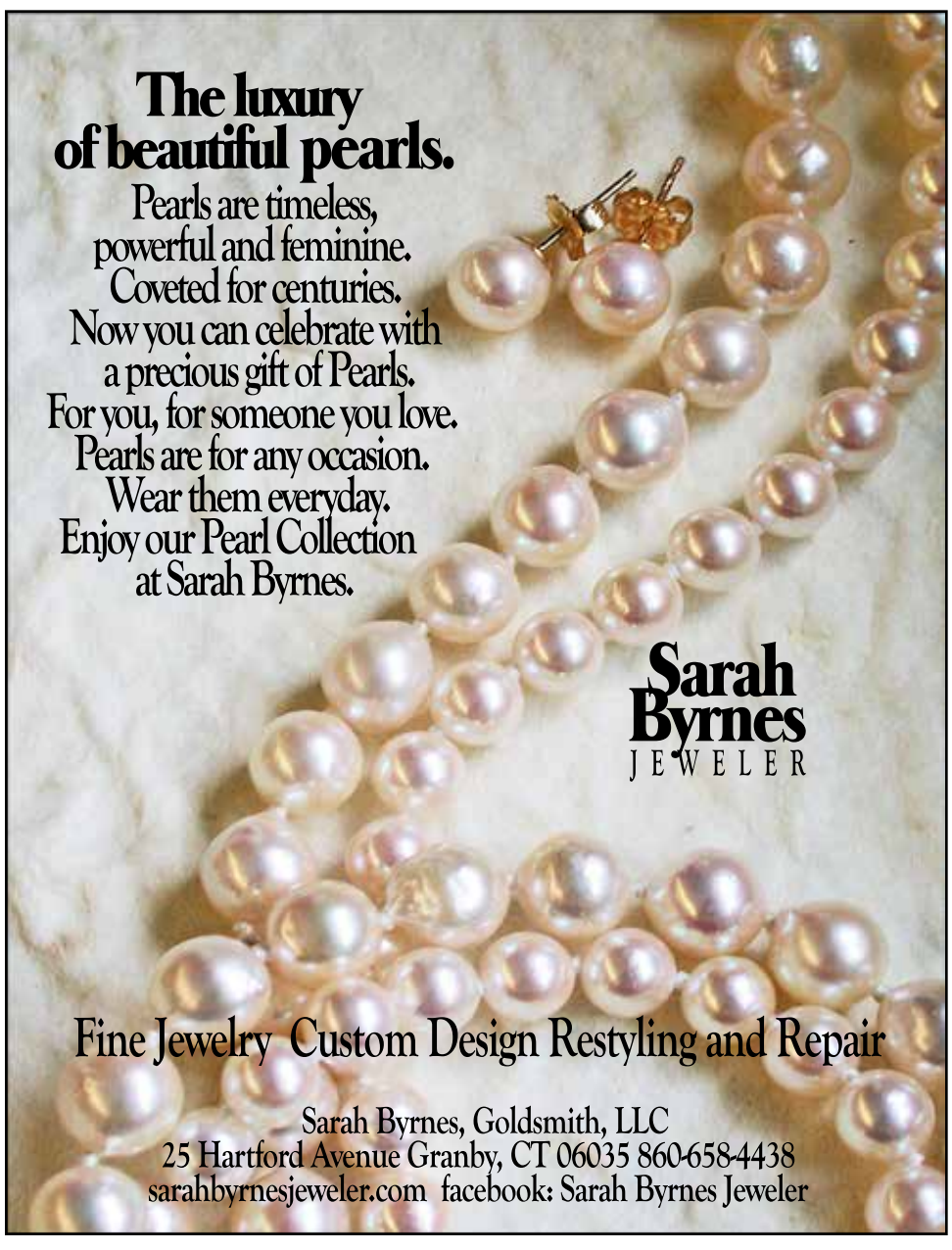
The Granby Women's Breakfast Group will celebrate its 20th anniversary in grand style on Wednesday, June 5. The Antique Bridal Show and Tea promises to be a very special morning. In addition to the delicious scones and mini quiches that will be served with tea and coffee at 8:30 a.m., participants will be delighted to look at the wedding gowns and bridal photos displayed in the large meeting room at the senior center. Ladies are encouraged to wear a spring-like or decorated hat to mark the occasion! Entertainment and the program will start at 10 a.m.

The founders of the group have been hard at work for months convincing women to bring in wedding dresses and other bridal mementos. Failing the actual dresses, photographs were requested. Accompanying this piece is a photo of my mother, Ida Julia Annulli, on her wedding day, April 29, 1949. In June 1975, my sister wore our mother's dress when she married. I had high hopes of displaying this beautiful gown at the anniversary tea but learned that my sister cut it up for various sewing projects over the years. Alas, photographs from 1949 and 1975 will have to suffice.

Ladies, please make your reservations for June 5 early as the event is expected to sell out. Call the senior center at 860-844-5352. You can pay $5 at the door, but need to reserve in advance.



Ida J. Annulli with her mother, Armanda B. Annulli, on April 29, 1949. Submitted by Amanda Lindberg





Salmon Brook Historical Society

By Todd Vibert

In the last issue of the *Drummer*, I wrote about Granby's Civil War hero, Colonel Richard E. Holcomb, who died in battle at Port Hudson, Louisiana. When Holcomb's body was returned to Granby for burial, many of his things were sent back in his trunk, such as his canteen, his uniform, with all the shoulder boards of his rank as Lieutenant, then Major, and finally Colonel. Also sent back were uniform buttons, both large and small, a leather belt with a buckle, and a few other items.

The most curious artifact was the Louisiana Secession Flag. Louisiana seceded from the Union on January 26, 1861, during the Buchanan Administration. James Buchanan was President before Abraham Lincoln, and during his time in office, six other States from the South also seceded from the Union. However, Louisiana did not join the Confederacy until March 21, 1861. When Louisiana did join, they used the Confederate flag. For nearly two months, Louisiana was its own "country." In those two months, Louisiana had its own flag.

The Louisiana Secession flag is 82 inches long and 59 ½ inches wide. It has thirteen stripes, and each stripe is approximately 4 ½ inches wide. Each stripe represents one of the original colonies. However, the stripes are colored red, white, and blue. Those colors represent France, as France owned Louisiana until it was sold to the United States, the transaction which became known as the Louisiana Purchase of 1803. The Gold Star in the corner of the flag represents Spain, which owned Louisiana for nearly 60 years, before selling the territory to France.

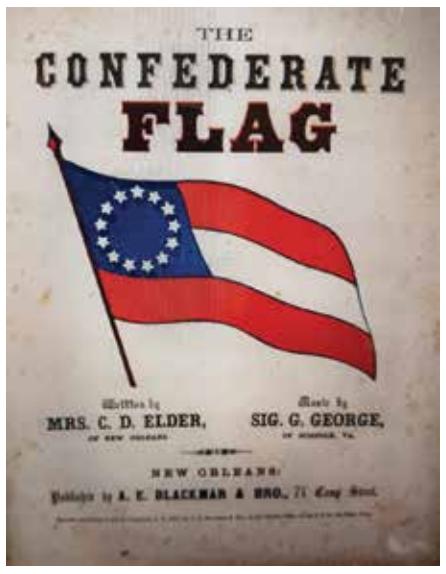
Included with this flag was a bow, which would be on top of the flag's pole. The bow of the flag is 16 inches long with a width of 9 inches with colors of red, white and blue, with a gold braid at the top of the bow and gold fringe at the bottom. This secession flag was only used in administrative buildings as a presentation flag and never used in battle.

As of 2010, there were only four Louisiana secession flags in existence, and we have one at the Salmon Brook Historical Society. The Salmon Brook Historical Society was fortunate enough to have this flag and Colonel Holcomb's items as his relatives, who had preserved his possessions for over 80 years before donating them to the Salmon Brook Historical Society to be shared with the public.

To see Colonel Holcomb's belongings, come tour the Salmon Brook Historical Society on Sundays, starting Sunday, June 2 from 2 to 4 p.m. If you want to learn more about Colonel Holcomb, join the Salmon Brook Historical Society by calling 860-653-9713 or go online at salmonbrookhistoricalsociety.com.







Top: Lousiana Secession flag. Bottom Left: Flagpole Bow and Confederate Flag music. All artifacts from a trunk belonging to Col. Richard E. Holcomb, Granby Civil War hero who died in Lousiana. Submitted photos

Historical Society News

June 2: Summer tours begin! We are open from 2-4 on Sunday afternoons at our main campus on Salmon Brook Street. The tour includes our special summer exhibit, Here Comes the Bride - Wedding Gowns from Granby's Past. Closed: June 16, July 7, and September 1.

June 8 (rain date, June 9): Last chance tag sale, 9am-2pm.

June 30: Aaron Draper Shattuck exhibit. 2:00-4:00 pm. $5 donation.

Getting to Know Us



Name: Bill Ross
Position: President
Has lived in Granby since 2007
Occupation: Educational Sales and Marketing (semi-retired)

Bill has been in the Historical Society since moving to Granby. Bill lives with his wife Nancy and their dog Islay in an historic house on Salmon Brook Street in the Granby Historic District. His passion for Granby history began when they first moved into the house and realized what an historic treasure Granby was and still is.
Bill enjoys his involvement with the SBHS's monthly meetings, Wasail party in December, the Flea Market (where you will find him cooking hot dogs), and being a docent. Bill and Nancy enjoy working in their yard, hiking, snowshoeing, and cycling. Islay (Yellow English Lab) and Bill were just certified as a Therapy Dog team through Bright-Spot.

View the Society's Aaron Draper Shattuck Collection

Aaron Draper Shattuck (1832-1928) was a landscape artist, who resided in Granby from 1870 until his death. Last fall, the Society unveiled the A.D. Shattuck catalogue raisonné on its website. The raisonné, compiled by David Kimball of Stagecoach Galleries, has over 300 images of Shattuck's work ranging from his roots in the mountains of New Hampshire to his time in Granby and surrounding areas.

The Society is fortunate to have a collection of 15 original Shattuck paintings and other family memorabilia, which will be on display to the public for the first time on Sunday, June 30 from 2-4pm. More viewings are planned on a monthly basis through September. An additional $5 donation is requested to view the gallery.



Great effort by the Ghosts of Grand Bee in their inaugural year at the Gran Bee. Martha Miller, Dave Roberts, and Todd Vibert. Photo by Ed Judge.

Salmon Brook Historical Society

Library Hours: Tuesdays & Thursdays, 9am-12pm
208 Salmon Brook Street, Granby, CT 06035
860-653-9713 · salmonbrookhistoricalsociety.com



Library Programs at GPL Main Branch, unless indicated.

Annual Summer Reading Program

June 13 – August 3, All Ages. A fun and engaging community program designed to ignite a passion for reading during summer break. This program offers supplemental programs, activities, prizes and more! All to support this year's Summer Reading theme, "Read, Renew, Repeat". Sign up online at www.granby-ct.gov/library

Great Granby Goosechase: Get ready to embark on an exciting adventure of exploration and reading this summer with the "GREAT GRANBY GOOSECHASE." This town wide scavenger hunt is the perfect way to kick off the summer season, connect with the community, promote literacy and have some outdoor fun! Gather your family, friends and neighbors to form a team and register on our library website starting June 13. A variety of prizes will be awarded to teams at the end of summer!

Summer Reading Kick Off Event — Matica Circus! Thursday, June 13, 6:30–7:15 p.m. All ages. Join us under the imaginary big top for an evening of circus-inspired fun and excitement. Talented performers will showcase their skills in a variety of acts, including juggling, clowning, and maybe even some acrobatics.

Come hangout early—5:30 p.m. Bring a picnic dinner and join us outside the library for some fun activities before the show.

Book Clubs

Books for book discussions are available at the library, online and through curbside pickup. Register online or call the library 860-844-5275 to reserve your seat.

Millennials Read: Wednesday, June 5, 6:30–8 p.m. at Las Potras, Granby.

Each month is at a new local hotspot, check library calendar for this month's spot.

At this no-stress book discussion, join readers in their 20s, 30s, and 40s to talk about current book picks. You do not need to be reading anything specific, come and fill up your to-be-read list. This is a partnership between Bloomfield, Simsbury and Granby libraries and open to all.

Something About the Author Book Club: Monday, June 3, 1:30–2:30 p.m. Ages: Adult.

The SATA group will be discussing novelist and poet Paulette Jiles. Her novel, News of the World, was shortlisted for the 2016 National Book Award. Leading the discussion is John Rusnock. Registration is requested.

Sci/Fi Fantasy Book Club: Wednesday, June 26, 6–7 p.m. Ages: Adult. Discuss The Spear Cuts Through Water by Simon Jimenez. A fantasy adventure novel about a kingdom under the rule of corrupt, magic-wielding tyrants and an ancient moon goddess imprisoned by the emperor she gave power to. Leading the discussion is Jim Gorman. Registration is requested.

ADULT PROGRAMS

GRANBY PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM

granby-ct.gov/Library
860-844-5275
GranbyLibrary@granby-ct.gov

Library Hours–Main Branch
Monday - Thursday: 10 a.m.–7 p.m.
Friday and Saturday: 10 a.m.–2 p.m.
Library Hours–Cossitt Branch
Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday: 1–6 p.m.
Saturdays, June 8 and 22: 10 a.m.–2 p.m.

Registration is required for most library programs. To register, visit granby-ct.gov/Library, and click on "Register for a Program" or call the library at 860-844-5275. To learn more about upcoming programs, sign up for the library's monthly eNewsletter.

GPL= Granby Main Branch FHC=Cossitt Branch

What's Growing On: Wednesday, June 5, 6:30–7:30 p.m. Discover what's growing on in the Granby Wildflower Meadow. Learn about the varieties of wildflowers sown in the meadow, how it differs from a typical garden, and the science behind the meadow's importance to the ecosystem. Aubrey Schulz and Friends of the local native plant and wildflower project fill us in on the latest Register to attend.

Movie Matinee: Dog. Monday, June 10, 1:30–3:30 p.m. Enjoy this funny and heartwarming movie in our air-conditioned space. Channing Tatum directs and plays the lead as an Army Ranger tasked with escorting the military dog of his fallen friend to his funeral. Register to attend.

Renew and Repeat with Line Dancing: Wednesday, June 26, 6:30–7:30 p.m. Amy Perales, Spotlight Art Dance and Wellness, wants to share her love of dance with you! Enjoy a fun summer pick-me-up when you learn a handful of steps and then repeat, repeat, repeat. Tell your friends and register to attend.

Cossitt Creation Station Makerspace

Programs at GPL Cossitt Branch, unless indicated. For adults and teens 16 and older.

Laser Cutting Demo and Training Sessions: Choose one session: Tuesdays, June 4 or 18, 4:30–5:30 p.m. Learn to use the Glow Forge Pro laser cutter from a makerspace technician. Cut, score and engrave on wood, cardstock, acrylic and leather. Upon completion of the class, attendees will be certified to reserve and use the equipment at the Cossitt Creation Station. Registration required.

Digitizing Demo and Training Sessions: Choose one session: Thursdays, June 6 or 20, 1:30–2:30 p.m. or 4:30–5:30 p.m. Convert old technology into new digital formats. Learn to edit and share VHS home videos, slides, vinyl records, cassette tapes and more. Check out the newly added Wolverine 8 mm converter! Upon completion of the class, attendees will be certified to reserve and use the equipment at the Cossitt Creation Station. Registration required.

3-D Printer Demo and Training Sessions: Choose one session: Tuesdays, June 11 or 25, 4:30–5:30 p.m. Gain an understanding of 3D printing when you learn to use the library's two Bambu 3D printers. Upon completion of the class, attendees will be certified to reserve and use the equipment at the Cossitt Creation Station. Registration required.

Custom Design Demo and Training Sessions: Choose one session: Thursdays, June 13 or 27, 4:30–6 p.m. There are so many ways to use Cricut and Brother machines! Find your creative happy place when our makerspace technician provides hands-on learning featuring sublimation techniques and other processes. Upon completion of the class, attendees will be certified to reserve and use the equipment at the Cossitt Creation Station. Registration required.

1 + 1 = New: Sustainable Fashion: Wednesday, June 19 and 26, 2–4 p.m. Join the global sustainable sewing movement right here in Granby! Sandy Salazar shows advanced sewers a fun way to create new apparel from two pieces already in your closet. There are two sessions and homework between sessions; Intermediate sewing skills are needed. Register to attend and receive more information about the class requirements.

Vinyl Cutting and Home Décor: Thursday, June 27, 1:30–3 p.m, Ages: Adult. Learn how to use our Cricut machine to create personalized home décor items. Registration required.

KIDS PROGRAMS

Take a Tromp through the Swamp! With Tom Sieling: Friday, June 14, 10:30–11:30 a.m. All ages. A Top 10 lineup of the world's most fun, participatory (many are even a bit athletic!) kids' songs--sure to engage the whole family! Tom Sieling has delighted tens of thousands in over thirty years of performing songs accompanied by guitar, banjo, and even a drum machine to keep things upbeat and kids moving! Registration required.

Sunshine Storytime: Bears and Berries: Tuesday, June 18 and 25, 10:30–11 a.m. Ages 2–5.

Join us on Tuesday mornings for a special summer story time! Each week will feature a unique theme through songs, stories, sign language, and a simple craft. Please register separately for each program.

Yoga with Young Yogis: Thursday, June 20, 9:30–10:30 a.m. Ages 5–8. Join instructor Aubrey Schulz for "Yoga for Young Yogis," a one-day class tailored for children ages 5-8. Through playful poses, breathwork, and engaging activities, kids will explore mindfulness and movement while enhancing flexibility, strength, and focus. Aubrey creates a supportive atmosphere for children to experience the joy of yoga. Registration required.

Nightfall Stories and Stretch: Thursdays, June 6, 20 and 27, 6–6:30 p.m. Ages 4–7 years.

Children are invited to join us for an independent mindfulness program featuring stories, stretches, and an interactive activity. Registration required.

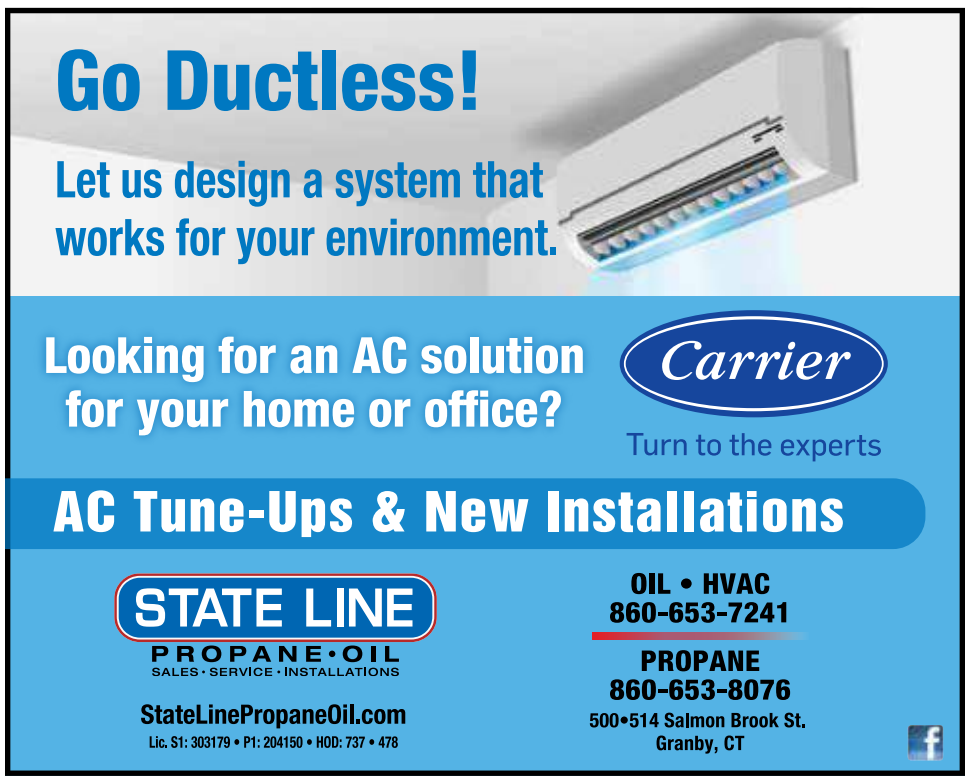
Enchanted Gardens: A Fairy Adventure: Monday, June 24, 1:30–2:30 p.m. Ages 4–10.

Let your child's imagination take flight at our "Enchanted Garden: A Fairy Adventure" program. Join us for a magical journey into the whimsical world of fairies, where children can create their own fairy gardens in just one hour of fun-filled creativity. **Registration required.**

Unveiling the Vineyard's new wine bottle labels



Lost Acres Vineyard owner, Michelle Niedermeyer (right), honored Granby artist Laura Eden during a May reception unveiling the Vineyard's new wine bottle labels.
For its various labeled wines, the Vineyard selected several of Eden's paintings depicting the iconic Dewey Granby Oak as seen through the four seasons. Eden also is offering prints of these paintings for purchase at her studio.
Photo by Don Shaw





Granby Land Trust — Preserving Granby's Natural Heritage

GLT Bird Walks identify nearly 60 species, including a loon

At the GLT's annual Mother's Day Bird Walks, participants identified — either by sight or sound — nearly 60 species of birds, including a Virginia rail, a pair of scarlet tanagers, and, for the first time ever at Dismal Brook, a loon!

The presence of many of these birds, including the loon, reminds us of the importance of having "waystations" for these birds, where they can rest and refuel along their migratory journey. Every year, migratory birds travel up and down the East Coast – along the so-called Atlantic Flyway – to follow food sources, head to breeding grounds, or travel to overwintering sites. Migration is a period of great vulnerability for these birds, and finding a suitable habitat along the way is paramount to survival. Wetlands, which are the world's most threatened ecosystem, are ideal stopover sites for migrants, providing appropriate cover in which they can rest and refuel.

Enter the Granby Land Trust's Dismal Brook Wildlife Preserve in North Granby. Thanks to the generosity of longtime GLT Member Jamie Gamble, who donated the 210-acre Dismal Brook Wildlife Preserve to the Granby Land Trust for its permanent preservation, we are able to provide tired birds with an excellent rest stop.

The GLT Bird Walks at Dismal Brook have become a Mother's Day weekend tradition. Led by GLT board member John Weeks and his wife, Christine Chinni, the walks fill up every year, and in recent years, John and Christine have generously offered additional walks to accommodate all who wish to participate. "We are so grateful to John and Christine for leading these walks," says GLT President Rick Orluk. "John has been running these annual bird walks for the Granby Land Trust since 2005! We so appreciate all the time he and Christine dedicate to the Land Trust, sharing their extensive birding expertise with the rest of us. We cannot thank them enough."

On Saturday, the group identified 57 species. "The Virginia rail gave another star turn," says John, "and we had excellent looks at Baltimore oriole, rose-breasted grosbeak, a pair of scarlet tanagers, black-throated blue warbler, yellow-throated vireo, and a pair of great crested flycatchers. Finally, we heard a loon calling in the south marsh, a first for Dismal Brook!"

The group identified 54 species on the Sunday walk, "including," says John, "looks at rose-breasted grosbeak, Baltimore oriole, scarlet tanager, yellow-throated vireo, black-throated blue warbler, two male wood ducks, chestnut-sided warbler and an adorable winter wren that piped up just before we got back to the parking lot."

To date, John and Christine have identified almost 150 bird species at Dismal Brook. To see a list, go to granbylandtrust.org and click on the Dismal Brook Wildlife Preserve page. Copies are available in the property's trailhead kiosk as well. To see photos and videos of some of these amazing birds, follow the Granby Land Trust on Facebook, Instagram or its YouTube page (videos).



The stunning rose-breasted grosbeak showed up (and showed off!) for both of the GLT's Mother's Day Weekend Bird Walks. Photo by Don Shaw, Jr.





Above and below: On the GLT Bird Walk on the Dismal Brook Wildlife Preserve on July 11, the group got a good look at a pair of great crested flycatchers.
Photos by Linda Carissimi

Rhubarb pie is a spring delicacy

By Judy Guarco

Well, spring has arrived and not only is our world turning green again, but the rhubarb is flourishing! This is a tried-and-true recipe from my mom. It's written on a tattered piece of paper in my recipe box—well used with drips and stains on it. It is very simple, just takes minutes to assemble. As with all my mom's recipes, it's the best one I have ever found.

Mom's Rhubarb Pie

4 cups sliced rhubarb (1-inch slices)
1-2/3 cups sugar
1/3 cup all-purpose flour
Dash of salt
1 double pie crust
2 Tablespoons butter
Preheat oven to 400 degrees.

Combine rhubarb, sugar, flour and salt in a bowl and let stand for 15 minutes.



Fill bottom pie crust with rhubarb mixture and dot with butter. Cover with top crust, make three to four slits in center of crust and bake for approximately 50 minutes. You want the crust only golden brown, no darker!



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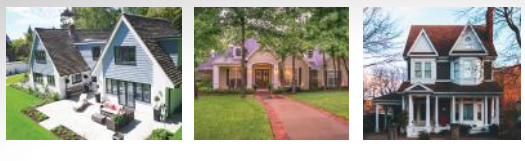
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Land Trust volunteers clean up 52 miles of roadside trash

By Trish Percival

More than 125 Granby Land Trust (GLT) volunteers fanned out across Granby over the course of Earth Day Weekend, picking up more than 1.61 tons of roadside trash from 52 miles of road – and several parking lots – as part of the GLT's Earth Day Roadside Cleanup. That is nearly double the amount of trash collected in last year's cleanup.

"This community and our Land Trust membership are amazing," says GLT President Rick Orluk. "Think about that: That's 3,220 pounds of trash removed from our roadsides. And that doesn't include the waste people threw in their own bins, or the bottles and cans they recycled. We could not be more grateful to our members and friends for answering our call."

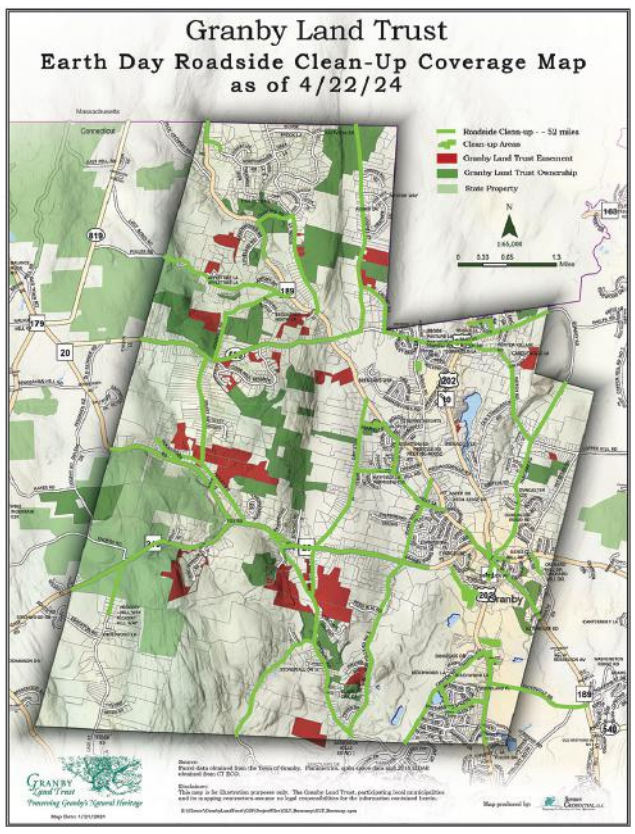
This is the third year the GLT has organized an Earth Day Roadside Cleanup and the response has grown each year. A "DIY" event, people choose the area in which they would most like to work, and head out at their convenience over the course of four days. "Our goal is to make it easy for people to participate," says Orluk. "People really want to help, but everyone's schedule is busy. This way people can contribute on their own time."

Parishioners from Granby Congregational Church and Valley Brook Community Church, Cub Scouts from Pack 325, members of the Granby Grange, members of the Town Center Advisory Committee, and numerous neighborhood groups, families and friends hit the roads with their grabbers and trash bags, making this a wide-sweeping community effort. "It's humble, but gratifying work," said one participant. "You can immediately see the results of your labor."

Afterwards, participants were invited to Lost Acres Vineyard to enjoy a glass of wine on the house. "We are so grateful to our friends at Lost Acres Vineyard for their support," says Orluk. "This was more than a free glass of wine. It was a chance for friends to gather and celebrate a job well done."



Granby Land Trust illustrations



The GLT also thanks Paine's, Inc. for discounting the cost of a dumpster, providing the organization with a central place to collect the garbage.

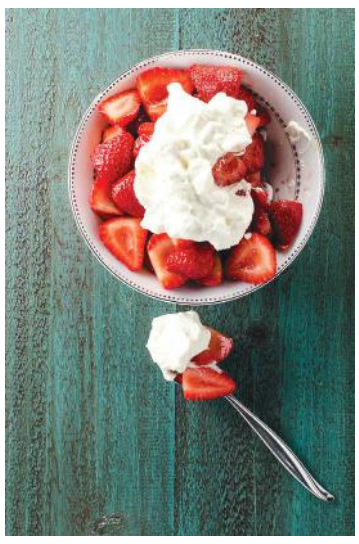
Litter is unsightly and conveys a lack of respect for nature and a lack of pride in one's environment. Litter also can cause harm to plants and animals and to people. The GLT organized its cleanup as part of the Great Global Cleanup, a worldwide campaign to remove billions of pieces of trash from neighborhoods, beaches, rivers, lakes, trails and parks — reducing waste and plastic pollution, improving habitats and preventing harm to wildlife and humans.

Now an annual event, the GLT will look to involve even more people next year. "Obviously, we would prefer that people stop littering," says Orluk. "But until that happens, some very good and kind members of our community will continue to work to set things right."

In praise of forest paths and strawberries

By Nina Jamison

Stepping into the forest is magic. You leave the man-made world and your busy life behind as nature greets your senses. Branches creaking, leaves crunching underfoot, wind whistling in the treetops. The chattering of squirrels, birds singing, insects churring. "Is that you, mama bear?" A lilting scent carried on the breeze, perhaps it's honeysuckle? Walk down a pine needle path and enjoy the fragrance of summer.



Ripe, sweet strawberries are one of my favorite gifts of the season. Cardinal Thomas Wolsey created a winning combination when he paired them with fresh cream. The cardinal served them at a banquet during the reign of King Henry VIII in 1509 and it became the dessert of choice for the tennis matches he hosted at Hampton Court Palace.

As a little boy my husband went out strawberry picking with his grampa. He ate so many from the basket that his ears turned red (or so the story goes). It can be difficult even for adults to keep from sampling the juiciest berries in the field.

Keep it simple to let the fresh flavors shine: whip up some heavy cream, add a little confectioner's sugar and vanilla and pour over fresh strawberries. Enjoy the taste of summer!

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The Garden Corner

By Cindy Dixon

Homemade and effective natural pesticides for your garden

June has finally arrived. The perfect time to plant outdoor flower and vegetable gardens. The benefits of growing, harvesting and enjoying farm to table fresh produce far exceed any store-bought veggies. The pride one feels when picking that fresh pepper, or eating a juicy cherry tomato ripe off the vine is beyond words. But our delicious bounty isn't only food for our table, it is a feast for the insect population. How upsetting it is to see the fruits of our labor devoured and left wilted and chewed up by the very next morning.

So, we need to somehow control the destruction of insect infestation. Harsh chemicals and pesticides can be harmful not only to the insects themselves, but to animals, people and the environment. Organic treatments such as homemade insecticides can deter bug infestation in your garden in an eco-friendly way.

Here are a few natural pesticides that I have used in my garden that are effective and easy to make in your kitchen.

Mild dish soap spray

In a large container, mix one and a half teaspoons of mild liquid dish soap with one quart of water. Pour the mix into a spray bottle or a garden sprayer and spray the infected surface of the plant.

Spray the undersides, tops of leaves, stems, buds and blooms thoroughly. Repeat every 7 to 14 days until you've gotten rid of the pests.

Cover the top and bottom of the leaf with the spray in the early morning or evening. Don't spray in the middle of the day when plants are exposed to heat and direct sunlight.

Works well against aphids, mites, beetles and white flies.



Create your own pesticides. Submitted photo

Vegetable oil spray

Mix one cup of vegetable oil and one tablespoon of mild soap. When mixed well, add two teaspoons of the mix to one quart of water. Pour into a spray bottle or a garden sprayer and shake thoroughly.

Spray the top and bottom of each leaf and if necessary, the stems.

As with the soap dish, don't apply during the heat of the day, but in the early morning or evening.

Works well against, aphids, mites, beetles, thrips and white flies.

Salt spray

You can sprinkle some salt around the base of the plant every week. This will deter the pests and help add magnesium to the soil, which will increase the plant nutrient absorption.

You can also make a spray. Mix half a cup of salt in one gallon of warm water. Pour into a spray bottle, stir well until the salt dissolves and spray on pest-infected plants.

The salt will prevent the insects from sitting on your plant and feeding off of it by drying them out.

Works well against slugs, beetles and cabbage worms.

Vinegar spray

Use either white or apple cider vinegar, but white is usually more affordable.

To make a spray, combine three parts water and one part vinegar in a spray bottle. Add a teaspoon of dish soap to help bind the solution. Shake until well combined and all the ingredients are mixed.

Spray directly onto the bug or apply to the base of the plant. You can also apply to leaves if they are heavily infected.

You can also use vinegar to repel dogs, cats and coyotes from your garden.

Works well against slugs, snails, moths, ants and fruit flies.

Always label your bottles

These are just a few of the many organic insecticide solutions used to combat insect problems in your garden. To sum up, when faced with the choice between synthetic and natural pesticides, consider the latter for a safer, environmentally friendly and effective solution to protect your vegetable and flower garden.

God's Promise.
Our Promise.



In the Bible, a rainbow symbolizes God's love. The rainbow was a sign of hope in ancient times. Today we celebrate the rainbow as a symbol of affirmation and love for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender folks—for everyone in the LGBTQ+ community. Granby Congregational Church celebrates love for all people, exactly the way God made us. ***You*** are beloved!
Join us at Granby Congregational Church, where all are welcome, not just during pride month, but all year long.

Happy Pride Month!

June Sunday Worship 10 a.m. at our South Campus, 242 Salmon Brook St.

We are an open and affirming church that is welcoming to all.

Services are streamed on YouTube and Facebook.
www.granbycongregationalchurch.org

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UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

South Campus
242 Salmon Brook Street

In Memory Of ...

Dutton, Barbara (Orkney), 86, wife of the late Rev. Dwight A. Dutton, April 6

Moody, James R., Jr., 69, husband of Nancy Moody, April 16

McCarthy, Judith "Judy" Anne (Mandyck), 91, wife of the late Walter J. McCarthy, April 19

Carpentieri, Neal Angelo, 72, husband of JoAnn (Lareau) LaClair Carpentieri, April 22

Edwards, Thomas Andrew, 67, husband of the late Linda Marie (Nuterangelo) Edwards, April 22

Maus, Taylor Kenneth, 34, husband of Emilee (Gitberg) Maus, May 2

Simmons, Robert W., Jr., 98, husband of the late Vera Elizabeth (King) Simmons, May 3

Sullivan, Claire Ann (Arment), 84, wife of the late Frederick G. Sullivan, May 7

Varsity boys lacrosse is on a roll

The Granby Memorial High School varsity boys lacrosse team is 14-0 for the season at press time. They are at least tied for the NCCC conference championship. State tournament games will start on May 28. Additional details can be found at ciac.fpsports.org/DashboardTournamentCentral.aspx

The boys defeated Avon 10–5 on May 11 during their run to the conference championship.



Goaltender Myles Kollmorgen and defender Cody Ehmann
Photos by Jay Harder



Junior midfielder Hayes Horst



Junior attackman Ben Zacchera

Breakfast and a trail hike talk



Jo Ann Smith was the May 1 guest speaker for the Granby Women's Breakfast. Smith entertained more than 70 people with her talk about thru-hiking the Appalachian Trail. Smith came to the event with her tent, equipment and samples of dried meals as well as photographs of her adventure. Photo by Joan Ducharme

June Thoughts

June
Month of Beauty
Month of roses
Month of planting
Seedlings growing
Month of weddings
Love sharing
Month of graduations
Completions and beginnings
Like June's days, life goes
quickly by.
Try to enjoy them.

Bernadette R. Gentry
2024

Out of Town

Seward Johnson's iconic art in Suffield

This summer students, artisans and families will enjoy bronze works of art in the town's open spaces. Seward Johnson is renowned for his monumental and life-size bronze figurative sculptures. His work is exhibited internationally and included in numerous private collections, museums and public art collections.

Most of the six bronze statues are in Suffield's town center area: near the First Congregational Church and the Suffield Academy, Kent Memorial Library, the senior center, the police station and the high school. There is also a statue at Sunrise Park.

Businesses throughout Suffield will have brochures available for those wanting to know more about the art.

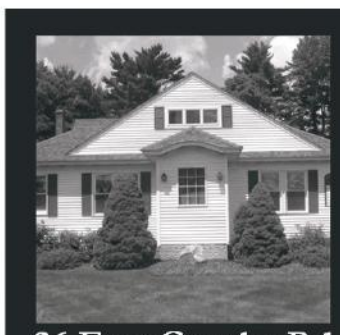
Summer at Windsor Historical Society

The Windsor Historical Society, at 96 Palisado Ave. in Windsor, will prove learning history is a great way to enjoy the summer. Register for these programs at windsorhistoricalsociety.org or call 860-688-3813.

July 12: CT State Poet Laureate Antoinette Brim-Bell blends poetry with history for two engaging programs. From 9:30–11:30 a.m., Who Tells the Story: Understanding History Through Poetry. Ages 9 and up will write some poetry of their own while learning a little history. $10 per person, $5 each for additional family members. From 1–3 p.m., Teaching with Poetry: Incorporating Poetry into Your Curriculum. Teachers will enjoy this hands-on professional development opportunity to integrate poetry and history into their lessons. $25 per participant.

Aug. 5 through 9: Summer Hands-On History Program. Children entering grades 3–5 will explore Windsor history. Start a fire, churn butter, make bricks, explore ancient burying grounds. Register per day or for the whole week. 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. $25 per day or $100 for the full week, per child.

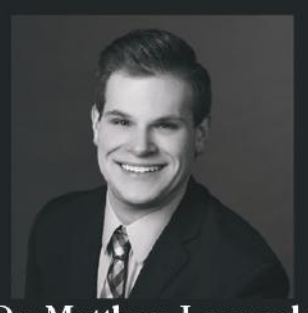
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McLean Independent Living Open House

Saturday, June 1, 2024 | 10:00am–12:00pm

50 Sarah Lane | Simsbury, CT

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McLean
Independent Living

Geissler's celebrates reopening and 101 years in business

The ribbon cutting for the Grand Reopening of Geissler's Granby Store was held on Saturday, May 4. The Chamber of Commerce, local dignitaries, vendors, customers and friends joined in on the festivities.

New extra-wide sliding doors open to a grand entrance, and as guests entered the building they were greeted by the delicious unmistakable smell of fresh popped popcorn in the air from the new popcorn kiosk.

A lighted display was surrounded by people, eager to learn about the Caper Carts that will soon be launched in all Geissler's locations. Geissler's Supermarkets will be the first in Connecticut to introduce Instacart's Caper Smart Cart; an innovative technology that allows shoppers to experience the best fresh and local items, clip digital coupons and see running totals for their purchases as they scan their purchase items and pay through the cart.

Enhancements to the store included expanded produce, bakery and deli departments, and a large new kitchen that will provide an extensive array of family meals, pizzas, side dishes, lunch options, take home meals and more, all designed to enhance customer convenience.

Multiple vendors offered samples of signature items including fresh and local products. Customers could literally eat their way around the store. There was a carving station featuring Certified Angus Beef, cut and cooked by David, our talented in-store butcher, along with local seafood, Munson's chocolates, fresh guacamole and much more.

The store also includes a new fresh-squeezed orange juice machine and a full-service chocolatier case featuring freshly made chocolates by Munson's Chocolates from Bolton.



Gathered for the cake cutting celebrating Geissler's Supermarket's 101 years as a family-owned and operated Connecticut company are, from left, store manager Paul Buchardt, Dan Nilsson, Ryan Nilsson, Bob Rybick, Eric Nilsson, Andrew Rybick and Kathy Rybick.



Popcorn king John Snow can be found each day freshly popping and sampling Geissler's specialty popcorn flavors, including butter, caramel, kettle, Oreo, jalapeno cheddar, bacon, cheddar, birthday cake, garlic parmesan, cheddar caramel, and a variety of seasonal flavors. Submitted photos

"We are thrilled to unveil our renovated store to the community that we have served since 1985. It took many long hours, major adjustments, and dedication," said Geissler's CEO and President Bob Rybick. "We thank our customers for being so patient and understanding as all of this was done to better their shopping experience."

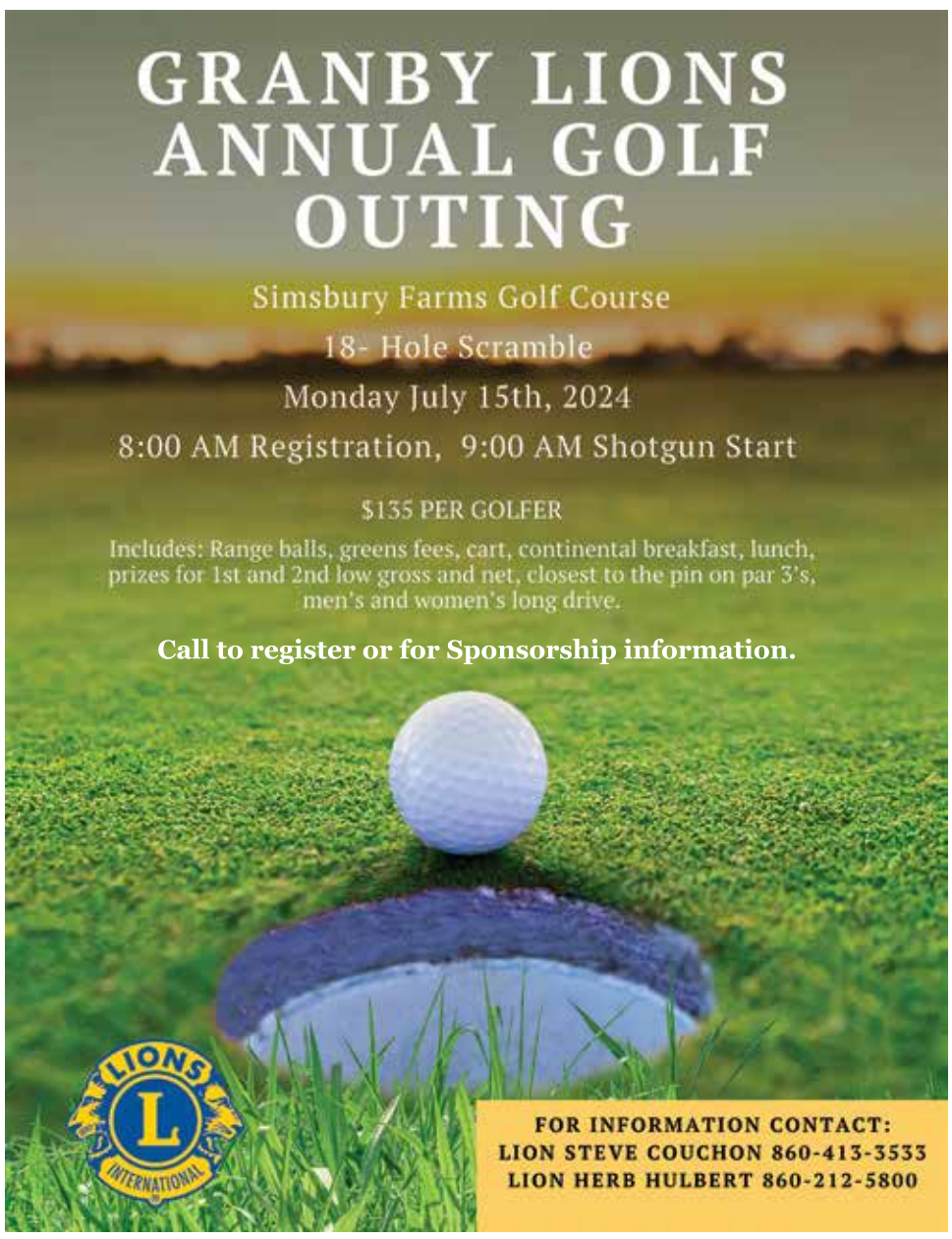


Geissler's Supermarkets also reached a monumental milestone in 2023 as it celebrated its 100th anniversary as a family-owned and operated Connecticut company. To stay up-to-date on all the store happenings, visit its Facebook, Instagram and YouTube pages.

About Geissler's Supermarkets:

Geissler's started in 1923 with A.F. Geissler delivering groceries to the small village of Broad Brook in the Town of East Windsor. Geissler's daughter, Mary, married Jim Nilsson, who expanded the business into a multi-store, independent chain. Today, there are seven locations in the New England area that are owned and operated by the 4th generation; A.F.'s great grandsons Bob Rybick, Ryan Nilsson, Eric Nilsson, and Andrew Rybick.







Friends of Holcomb Farm

It's mid-May at this writing, which means the farm is literally buzzing with activity, both the people and the pollinator varieties. In this month's news: Farm Store opening June 11; Double value for SNAP benefits; CT Trails Day June 1; new trees on the Tree Trail thanks to generous donors; greetings from our new administrator, Cat Kadrle. Hope you can visit. – Jenny Emery

Farming News

To get the season started, four days of plant sales were held on two different weekends in May. All the plants we sell at Holcomb Farm —veggies, herbs, and flowers — are seeded and nurtured in our West Granby greenhouses, in a special organic soil mix. To all who took advantage, best of luck nurturing your adopted plants, and do let us know how they grow. New this year, Granby's own Andy Griffin of RMS Growers offered his services as a fundraiser for our Fresh Access program, holding two sold-out "make-your-own-mushroom-log clinics," along with some ready-to-flush logs that were sold in the store. If you weren't able to participate, watch for the cooler to stock freshly harvested shiitakes once the Farm Store opens on June 11.



Andy Griffin and Emma Hoyt ready shiitake mushroom logs for sale at the Farm Store. Photo by Jenny Emery

Shop at Our Farm Store All Summer Long

That's right: June 11 marks the opening of the Farm Store and CSA 20-week summer season. As of this writing, we are still accepting a few more members for CSA shares, but that won't last long. And if you miss out, don't fret – you still can buy produce, a la carte, in our Farm Store, from June 11 through mid-October. We are open Tuesdays through Saturdays from 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.. Come experience the Holcomb Farm difference. And, new this year….



Holcomb Farm Crew Member Tom Spatcher shows off flowers that are ready to be planted in Granby's home gardens at the May Plant sale. Photo by Sarah Lagan

SNAP? Double SNAP!

The Friends of Holcomb Farm are committed to getting nutritious, clean food into the hands of people who need it and have been doing so through Fresh Access. Now we can also fight food insecurity in our Farm Store with our newest programs, which allow us to double SNAP benefits.

Last year the Holcomb Farm Store began accepting SNAP benefits through a special State of Connecticut program to make quality, locally grown food more available to all. Thanks to the generous support of **End Hunger Connecticut!** -- a nonprofit fighting to end hunger and improve nutrition -- we are now proud partners in both the Fresh Match and True Match programs.

SNAP dollars used to purchase Holcomb Farm produce or other local producers' products sold in our store are now worth double. For example, $20 worth of food from the store will only require $10 in SNAP benefits. SNAP, the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program for low- and limited-income households, is vital to many Connecticut residents. These two programs are amazing tools we can now use to help in our mission. Learn more about SNAP, Fresh Match, and True Match at endhungerct.org/services/farmers-markets

Connecticut Trails Day

While we await the official opening of the Farm Store and CSA, the trails are always ready for your visits. June 1 is CT Trails Day, with hikes throughout the state. Join us for a guided hike at Holcomb Farm! It's family- and leashed dog-friendly, beginning at 10 a.m. Register at trailsday.org/events/holcomb-farm-trails/. Trail maintenance teams have been out throughout the spring, and our new trail maps are almost ready (watch for more information in next month's *Drummer*).

New Trees on the Tree Trail – Thank You to Our Funders!

When you visit the Holcomb Tree Trail, you will see lots of new trees, many of which were planted thanks to generous donations. This spring, four generous families funded the purchase of eight new trees. Put and Nannie Brown funded the purchase of two sweetgums, which promise to offer beautiful foliage throughout the summer and fall. These trees are planted near two more sweetgums, creating a grove near the Tree Trail information kiosk. The kiosk is located at the top of the gravel road uphill from Tree Trail entrance at the intersection of Day Street South and Simsbury Road.

Also, on the north side of the gravel road on the way to the kiosk, is a brand new katsura, a native of Japan, courtesy of Al and Helen Wilke. And finally, in the Labyrinth, which is just northeast of the pond, is a grove of five new trees: three golden and two European larches.

Larches are deciduous conifers with evergreen-like needles that drop each



Al and Helen Wilke admire the just-planted Japanese Katsura, their recent gift to the Holcomb Tree Trail. Photo by Eric Lukingbeal



Peggy Lareau finishes planting one of three golden Larches and two European larches, generously donated by the Corbett/Pfeiffer and Kirk/Violette families, in memory of Maureen Fox. Photo by Eric Lukingbeal



Sally King admires a new Sweetgum Tree on the Holcomb Tree Trail. Photo by Eric Lukingbeal

winter. This grove is a gift of Lisa Corbett and her husband Rich Pfeiffer, and Pam Kirk and her husband John Violette, given in memory of Maureen Fox. Maureen, originally from England, moved to Granby after WWII and worked for Dr. Milkey in his early veterinary practice on Hungary Road. She managed the Milkey and Davis practice, which later became Salmon Brook Veterinary Hospital. Along the way, Maureen lived near and helped raise the Corbett/Pfeiffer and Kirk/Violette children. "She raised us," says Kirk. "As young mothers, she meant so much to us and our children. We thought these trees at the Holcomb Farm and in memory of Maureen Fox, could be a long-lasting focal point for our kids, now grown, when they return to visit Granby."

"Maureen loved animals and nature and made it a lifelong habit to connect with both daily," adds Corbett. "She shared this valuable lesson with our family and for this we honor her with a

Holcomb Farm cont'd. on p. 31



Hi!
Are you free June 7th?

Join us for a fun & rewarding Friday night!

Granby Parents for a Safe Graduation is looking for volunteers to chaperone our Safe Grad party Friday, June 7th.

Visit **http://bit.ly/SafeGrad24** or scan the QR to sign up.

SAFE GRAD
Granby Parents for a Safe Graduation

Contact granbyparentssafegrad@gmail.com with questions or for more information.

Party Rain Date is June 10th

Holcomb Farm cont'd. from p. 30

gift to Holcomb Farm."

All the trails at Holcomb Farm, including the Holcomb Tree Trail, are managed by volunteers and donor funded. If you are interested in supporting the further development of the Holcomb Farm Tree Trail, reach out to info@holcombfarm.org

Other Notes

I highly encourage you to check out the many amazing and creative programs Granby Parks and Recreation offers at the Holcomb Farm campus, located at 113 Simsbury Road, as well as the amenities available for rent. Check out granby-ct.gov/211/Parks-Recreation

The Friends of Holcomb Farm Tree Trail arboretum is located at the junction of Day Street South and Simsbury Road, across the street from the Town-run main campus at 113 Simsbury Road. holcombfarm.org/holcomb-tree-trail

The Friends of Holcomb Farm office, including our Farm Store, CSA and Fresh Access program, are housed at 111 Simsbury Road. For those who don't know, our Fresh Access program grows and sources clean, fresh produce for individuals and families in need in Granby and across Connecticut. Get involved! holcombfarm.org

Our Farm Store is open to the public beginning June 11. We can't wait!

And lastly, if you have not borne witness to the beauty and awe of the Granby Land Trust properties throughout Granby, you're missing out. Go to granbylandtrust.org to learn more!

Notes from the Farm Office, aka Cat's Corner:
The Collaborative Nature of Our Community

As the weather warms and the bees buzz in the crabapple trees, I sit in awe of the amazing nature of our community. Nature, as in the nature of the collaborative web of organizations in our town and the physical nature around me.

My young family found peace and serenity in the community of Granby during 2020, moving here after we fell in love with the Holcomb Farm hiking trails in West Granby. Since then, we have been privileged to observe and be a part of the robust collaboration between the Friends of Holcomb Farm, the Town of Granby and the Granby Land Trust. For me - first as a volunteer pulling invasives from trails, then joining the Board of Directors of the Friends, and now as the part-time administrator – it's been a deep dive into the interconnections of these three ambitious organizations. Many of you already know this part of the story, but for us newbies …

Short version: The Town of Granby owns the 312-acre Holcomb Farm and manages its gorgeous event venue and campus. The volunteer Friends of Holcomb Farm manage the rest of the property on behalf of the Town through a "Lease and Use" agreement. The Granby Land Trust ensures the spectacular, undeveloped portions of Holcomb Farm are kept in their natural state, by monitoring the property and enforcing the terms of a permanent conservation easement that was granted to the GLT by the Town.

Here's what I have learned: Holcomb Farm is not just a farm. It is history, collaboration, future and home. This land became an authentic New England family farm in 1756 and has remained so, albeit now as a community-owned treasure, through the beneficence of Tudor and Laura Holcomb. The Town of Granby collaborates with the Friends and other organizations to ensure this gift continues to serve the community.

I am so honored to be serving now as the Friends' Administrator and look forward to engaging with all of you as you connect with Holcomb Farm.

Warmest regards,

Cat Kadrle, Friends of Holcomb Farm Administrator

kadrle@holcombfarm.org

Southwick launches a new land trust

Southwick landowners seeking to preserve their property have a new option. The Southwick Land Trust, a non-profit, non-governmental organization of community volunteers, was formed in 2024 to conserve important ecological, scenic, historic and agricultural land.

Unlike many Massachusetts towns, Southwick is still rich in farmland and the land trust seeks to conserve this precious resource while supporting farms for the future, providing equitable access to outdoor recreation, promoting appreciation of open space and protecting Southwick's diverse ecology and rural heritage.

The new Southwick Land Trust was formed with the collaboration and mentorship of the Granby Land Trust (Granby, Conn.). "We congratulate all who helped form the new Southwick Land Trust – we know how much groundwork has been done and the commitment needed to make this happen," said Granby Land Trust President Rick Orluk. "The Granby Land Trust is excited to add a fellow conservation partner to our north, and we look forward to the opportunity to work together on projects and regional initiatives. We stand ready to help however we can as the Southwick Land Trust grows as an organization."Janis Prifti, a Southwick Land Trust board member, grew up on a dairy farm that her grandparents purchased in the 1920s. "Growing up, Southwick was primarily a farming community," Prifti said. "It's nice to have long-term residents tell me of their enjoyment recalling watching our 30 cows, each with their own name and behaviors, orderly exit their spots in the barn following herd leader Beulah across the road, blocking traffic a short while as they headed to day or night pasture."



Deborah Randzio, Dave MacWilliams and Janis Prifti, all of Southwick, are founding members of the Southwick Land Trust. Submitted by the Southwick Land Trust

Today, Prifti is trustee for a 55-acre parcel added 70 years ago to family farmland, and while her family continuously explores options for the parcel, preference is for protecting and preserving the land rather than development. Prifti's experience led her to join a group of like-minded citizens to establish the Southwick Land Trust.

With minimal investment and upkeep, greenspaces increase local revenue by attracting tourism and recreation while reducing the need for expensive infrastructure. Outdoor amenities attract businesses and new residents, and greenspaces reduce municipal expenses by providing effective flood, drought, heat and clean air mitigation in the face of severe weather and climate change.

Southwick is bordered by more congested towns, so its farms, lakes, woodlands and wildlife make it ripe for green tourism and regional food security. Granby welcomes its northern neighbor to the shared goal of land trusts in both states.

Understanding Fees and How They Affect Your Future?



Tim Baker, CFA
Founder & CEO
Metric Financial, LLC

We all know investing entails costs. But here's the problem for investors: the financial industry is built for itself, not the client. If "we put your interests first" was true, there would be better transparency regarding costs. And that is the purpose of this article. So, let's dig in.

Advisors: On the low end, there is the cost of having someone to talk to at a discount firm. That is typically in the 0.25% to 0.4% range. If you hire a professional registered advisor, fees can get steep. The industry average is 1.18%*, but some firms charge upwards of 1.5%. There are also varying degrees of transparency – some advisors send out invoices, but others will let you scour your statement to find it yourself.

Investments: These are the hardest to find. Mutual funds are generally the highest cost, particularly the actively managed ones. The average cost of a US stock fund is 0.7% for an institutional share class. Add that to the advisor's fee and you're at 1.88% in expenses. Furthermore, compare that 0.7% to Vanguard's S&P 500 Exchange Traded Fund (ETF) that costs 0.03% and it starts to look even worse. Another trap to watch out for: mutual fund A-shares. These are the rattlesnakes of the industry and are used by some big, well-known firms. Advisors who "don't charge a fee" are probably using A-share mutual funds. These include an up-front commission of 5.75% and ongoing fees of 1.03%, on average.

Platform fees: Many advisors are not choosing your investments. If the advisor works for a big firm, it is the home office who usually chooses the investments, and they get paid out of the advisor's fee. However, in some cases, there is a third-party investment strategist that is paid a separate fee, usually around 0.25%.

All these fees add up. While there are good advisors out there and great investment innovation, the financial industry in general doesn't want to talk about fees. The less you know, the better. It's a good idea to find an advisor that will have an open, candid conversation about ALL the fees being paid. They are an important component of the success of your financial goals.

Data sourced from Morningstar, unless otherwise noted.

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Tree Trail honors Arbor Day

By Shirley Murtha

On April 27, Holcomb Farm Tree Trail members and master gardeners Barry Avery and Eric Lukingbeal led a group of interested folks on a walk that culminated with the planting of a tree in honor of Arbor Day 2024.

Avery began the presentation with a brief history of Arbor Day. On Jan. 4, 1872, Sterling Morton, a resident of Nebraska City, Neb., proposed a tree-planting holiday to be called "Arbor Day" as a way to make up for the fact that the mid-west contained very few of the trees left behind by the pioneers moving westward. Trees are needed not only for beauty, but also as windbreaks to keep soil in place, for fuel, for building materials and shade from the hot sun.



Barry Avery loosened the roots of the young sycamore while Eric Lukingbeal dug the hole in which the tree was to be planted. Photo by Shirley Murtha

The holiday was set for April 10. Prizes were offered for the largest number of trees planted by each county that day. It is estimated that more than 1 million were planted! The governor of Nebraska proclaimed Arbor Day a legal holiday in 1874, selecting April 22 as the official date. By 1920, more than 45 states celebrated Arbor Day, and the date was changed to the last Friday in April.

The first question from the assembled crowd was "When is the best time to plant a tree?" The classic answer to this question is "Yesterday." Avery noted, "Trees planted today are for 100+ years from now. It is more important than ever that we plant many because of climate warming." Trees help to stop climate change by removing carbon dioxide from the air, storing carbon in the tree's tissues and the soil and releasing oxygen into the air.

Avery went on to explain that spring is the best time to plant because the saplings planted then do not have leaves yet, so exposure to the sun will not cause the burning that would hinder a successful outcome. Avery continued; "do diligent research regarding the site you intend to use and the type of tree you intend to plant. Make sure the soil and light conditions are appropriate for your choice." A soil test can be obtained from the local agricultural office.

Some flowering trees require a partner in order to produce the flower. Some trees have only the egg-producing parts in their flower (pistil), others only the pollen-producing parts (stamens). It's important to know that before planting only one type.

During the actual planting of the sycamore near the pond on the Tree Trail, Avery and Lukingbeal demonstrated proper planting techniques. Be sure the hole dug is large enough to accommodate the root system comfortably. Aerate the root ball; spread out the roots. Water thoroughly and apply mulch, but do not pile the mulch directly onto the trunk of the tree. "Volcano mulching," as it is called, can lead to trouble. It can stress the stem tissues, leading to insect and disease problems.

If the sapling is not straight or if it is not sturdy in a very windy area, you may want to place stakes around it. If deer are a problem in your area, you may need to put fencing around the trunk to prevent the bark from being eaten. Also, in the fall, male deer (bucks) rub their antlers on tree trunks to remove some of the velvet on the antlers and also to mark their territory. This can destroy the cambium layer just below the bark. The cambium is the layer between the outer dead tissues of the tree and the inner living tissues. It is the growth layer that contains the cells that make new tissue for the tree. If buck rub occurs in a young tree, it is most likely going to kill that tree.

Pay close attention to your newly planted tree during its first season of growth. Water during dry spells and check for any damage to the trunk or leaves. With luck and care, you should be successful and proud to have contributed to the health of our planet.



Granby Libraries Book Sale July 26-28

Donations start late June

by Brian Tomasino

This year, Friends of the Granby Public Libraries (FOGPL) 41st annual Used Book Sale will be held at Holcomb Farm, 113 Simsbury Road, West Granby. Preview Night is on **Friday, July 28** 5–8 p.m. with a $10 entrance fee. The regular sale is on **Saturday, July 29** from 9 a.m.–3 p.m. Last chance sale is on **Sunday, July 30** from 11 a.m.– 2:30 p.m. with $10 per bag or donation.

Donation Drop offs

The curbside collection of all donations for the sale will take place on specified Monday evenings and Wednesday mornings at Holcomb Farm, located at 113 Simsbury Road, West Granby. Book sale donations will not be accepted at the library. Please do not leave any donated items at any other location or at other times.

Evening donation drop offs will be on the following Mondays: June 24, July 1, 8, 15 from 6–8 p.m.

Morning donation drop offs will be on the following Wednesdays: June 26, July 3, 10, 17 from 10 a.m.–12 p.m.

What to donate

Gently used hardcover and paperback books, CDs, DVDs, audio books, LP records, puzzles, games, learning toys, comic books, trading cards, newer textbooks, sewing/quilt patterns, music sheets and other book related items.

We cannot accept

Items with any kind of odor (smoke, mold, or musty smell), VHS or cassette tapes, magazines, Reader's Digest condensed books, older travel guides, encyclopedias.

Please avoid packing books in large boxes that can become very heavy to carry. We gladly accept sturdy empty boxes with lids, especially copy paper boxes or banker boxes and reusable bags.

Volunteers

If you would like to volunteer for the book sale, whether for sorting or helping out at the three-day sale, or have questions, please contact us at Friends.GPL@gmail.com

Stay up-to-date with what's happening by visiting and liking our Facebook page, Friends of the Granby Public Libraries.

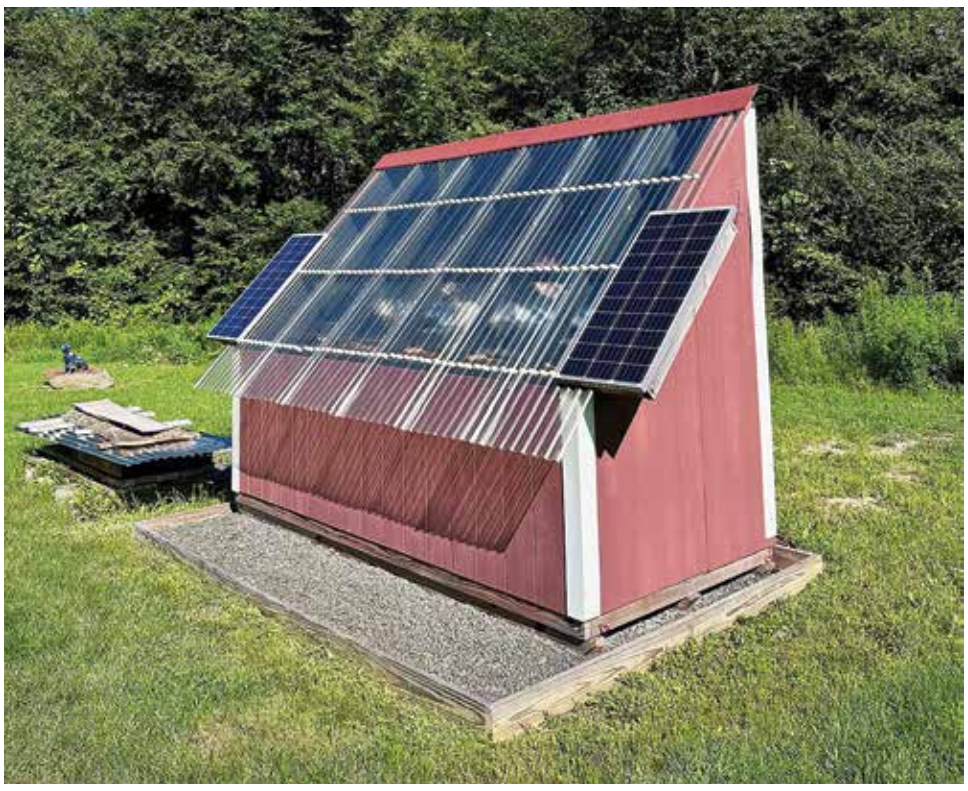
Woodworker's solar kiln featured in *Fine Woodworking* magazine

By Kim Pereira

While some of us learned how to make sourdough bread or became Wordle aficionados during the COVID-19 pandemic, Brenon Plourde and his family built a solar kiln. The construction of the kiln was recently featured in a lengthy spread in *Fine Woodworking* magazine, which Brenon describes as "like being in Rolling Stone."

Fine Woodworking is the most popular woodworking publication worldwide, with a whopping combined total of 977,000 followers across its social media platforms – over 200,000 more than its nearest competitor, *Popular Woodworking*. With an average print circulation of 130,000, *Fine Woodworking* caters to an audience of woodworking enthusiasts who often have decades of experience and a dedicated shop space.

Brenon has been woodworking all his life, starting as a child in his grandfather's shop in Windsor. While Brenon took a few classes many years ago, he considers himself mostly self-taught. Now, he crafts pieces ranging from charcuterie boards to signs to chess sets to furniture, still using tools and instruments owned by his grandfather or great-grandfather. Since retiring about 20 years ago, Brenon has expanded his online presence through social media accounts (@a91customs) set up by his kids. What was originally intended to become an online portfolio of Brenon's work quickly exploded to include nearly 40,000 followers.



The solar kiln built by Brenon Plourde. Photo by Kim Pereira

As for the solar kiln, Brenon has wanted to build one for more than 10 years. When the COVID-19 pandemic shut the world down, Brenon's wife and two sons were suddenly home, and Brenon figured it was the perfect time to undertake a family project.

Brenon's solar kiln is inspired by a design from Virginia Tech published in the late 1970s. Whereas many kilns for drying wood use oil, the solar kiln design was a method for "lumber yards to dry wood without using any fossil fuels," Brenon notes. Built in a weekend and using $2,500 of material, the Plourde's solar kiln can achieve a 50- to 60-degree temperature difference from the outside.

With a 45-degree roof of clear corrugated plastic facing south, the solar kiln resembles a salt-box house. Two repurposed car radiator fans powered by solar panels circulate the hot air inside the kiln, achieving drying within five weeks, even in the winter. The hardest woods to dry, including red oak, can drop to 7.5 percent moisture content in the kiln with relatively little human intervention. Compared to a commercial kiln, the wood "dries a lot gentler," in the solar kiln, Brenon notes, as the drying process follows the natural progress of sunlight throughout the day.

When Brenon posted the solar kiln on his social media, he was soon contacted by an illustrator from *Fine Woodworking* who was interested in the workings of the kiln. Eventually, even the editors came to see the kiln and offered Brenon space in an upcoming issue. "Not only am I a published author now, but I'm a published photographer," Brenon jokes. His article, *Build Yourself a Solar Kiln* was published in the May/June issue of *Fine Woodworking* magazine and is available online at www.finewoodworking.com



Rep. Mark Anderson and Sen. Lisa Seminara at the Goodwin Dam on the West Branch of the Farmington River. Submitted photo

Seminara and Anderson applaud new conservation law

Sen. Lisa Seminara and Rep. Mark Anderson applaud the governor for signing into law a bill they co-sponsored that calls for a study of issues related to the protection of certain waters of the Upper Farmington River Valley.

"The importance of protecting the Upper Farmington River Valley cannot be understated," Sen. Seminara and Rep. Anderson said. "This bill had the support of local officials and environmentalists as well as Democrats and Republicans. With this new law in place, the state will work with stakeholders to determine appropriate river flows and then make requests for the necessary water releases to be made from the Colebrook Reservoir. We are ecstatic to say that the vital language we sought to add to this bill was in fact included, and this legislation has made it over the finish line. This added language will ensure residents, wildlife and surrounding businesses will not be negatively affected by a less than sufficient river flow."

The new law received support from Barkhamsted, the Farmington River Watershed Association, Trout Unlimited's Farmington Valley Chapter and many others.

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Volunteer-run Clothes Closet benefits whole community

By Clark Pfaff

"We live in a very generous community!" Those are the sentiments of the volunteers who serve at the Clothes Closet run by Valley Brook Community Church at 160 Granville Road.

In 2015 after volunteering at the Salvation Army with her daughters, Donna Crombez was inspired to start a ministry at her church. Crombez said, "I felt led to start a ministry through the collection and distribution of surplus clothing for those facing clothing insecurity and alleviate some of their financial burden and allowing the allocation of limited resources to other essential needs." So, in 2016 Crombez began collecting lovingly used clothing donated by the church and the community—Valley Brook's Clothes Closet was begun.

The vision for the Clothes Closet is to bless people who for one reason or another need clothing and can't afford to go shopping. Donations include clothing for all ages and gender, plus shoes and clothing accessories. At each event the clothing is displayed by size and gender as you would find in any department store. Clothes Closet patrons are encouraged to browse and shop just as they would in a retail store with one exception, no money is required.

This ministry would not exist without volunteers—whether it's sorting the donated items, delivering items to other service organizations, working with individuals who by appointment come to get clothing for their families or others in need. Those volunteers estimate on a normal day that about 2,800 pounds of clothing is given away.

As the Clothes Closet has grown over the years it has helped families who lost all their clothing in house fires. It has provided winter clothing for local residents at the Waste Not Want Not Community Kitchen and for immigrants who have moved to New England.

Several years ago, Crombez and the crew of volunteers took racks of clothing "on the road" and gave away clothes at an event sponsored by a ministry called The Hartford Project. Recently, the Clothes Closet blessed the ABC Women's Center, a crisis pregnancy ministry in Middletown, by donating infant clothing to the center.

When asked what her dream was for the Clothes Closet, Crombez said, "I hope to develop partnerships and network with social service organizations and community centers, while continuing to directly provide clothing to individuals who visit the Clothes Closet. Most importantly, to ensure that clothing reaches those who need it the most, providing them with warmth, comfort and a sense of dignity." The Clothes Closet is open for shopping from 9 a.m. to noon on the third Saturday of every month through November. It can also be opened by appointment for emergency needs.

The ministry is grateful to the people of Granby and surrounding communities who so generously donate bags of clothing, from newborn to adult, shoes, pocketbooks and other clothing-related items. Donations of lovingly-used clothing and clothing accessories can be dropped off on any day in the small shed behind the church, but—please—only donate clothing items.

For more information about the Clothes Closet or to volunteer, contact the team at clothescloset@valleybrook.cc



Volunteers sort clothes at the Clothes Closet.
Photos by Jenna Sheridan



Donna Crombez, who was inspired to start the Clothes Closet, with her daughter Ari.

Valley Brook Camp set for July 15-19

Going b-a-a-a-a-c-k in time!

Bring your whole flock to Hometown Nazareth: Where Jesus Was a Kid!

You'll travel back into Bible times — without setting foot outside our community.

Experiencing this fun, hands-on Bible-times village at this address:

Valley Brook Community Church

160 Granville Rd, North Granby, CT 06060

Each day, your family members can become part of history as they see, hear, touch, and even taste what it was like to live in Jesus' hometown.

You'll explore authentic marketplace shops, visit Jesus' mom, Mary, take part in games, dance to lively Bible songs and sample tasty tidbits as you discover more about Jesus' childhood. The camp Director, Rob Wutka, says "I hope these experiences make God's Word come alive with new meaning for all who participate!"

So, mark these dates on your calendar: July 15 – 19, 2024.

The adventure starts at 9 a.m. and will end at noon. To register your family for this awesome Bible adventure, please visit us at: valleybrook.cc/summercamp

If you have any questions, please reach out to our Hometown Nazareth Director Rob Wutka at children@valleybrook.cc The cost for the camp is $25 per child and includes a tee-shirt.



Valley Brook Community Church summer bible school will run July 15 – 19, 2024.

Granby Community Fund
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Holcomb Farm Fresh Access Program

Fresh produce distributions at the Senior Center will start in mid-June

Legal Notice

The Salmon Brook District Water Company will convene its **Annual Meeting** on **Wednesday July 17, 2024** at **6:30 pm**.

Location:
Community Room
Granby Police Station
15 N Granby Road

Rates will be set for water usage and related costs, and election of Directors will be made.
All parties of the water system are cordially invited to attend.
Jeffery Spence, President



Town awarded financial reporting award for 18th consecutive year

Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) has awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting to Town of Granby for its annual comprehensive financial report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023.

The report has been judged by an impartial panel to meet the high standards of the program, which includes demonstrating a constructive "spirit of full disclosure" to clearly communicate its financial story and motivate potential users and user groups to read the report.

The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management.

This national professional organization that seeks excellence in all aspects of municipal governmental financial reporting. The GFOA does this in an effort to provide the community with assurance that their government is operating using the highest financial standards. To recognize this standard and achievement, Granby, through the efforts of the Finance Department lead by Kimi Cheng, was awarded a Certificate of Achievement for its annual financial report for June 30, 2023.

Town Manager Mike Walsh said, "On behalf of the Town of Granby, I want to extend my appreciation to Kimi Cheng and all the employees who helped Granby in this effort. As a long-time finance director myself, I understand the effort, time and attention to detail that needs to be invested to get this result. Granby has an 18-year history of excellence in financial reporting and the foundation to continue this excellence for many years to come because of the efforts of Kimi Cheng and the other finance department employees."

Submitted by the town manager's office

Aquarion announces water conservation schedule

Aquarion Water Company announced that the sprinkler irrigation schedule is in effect until Oct. 31. The program is mandatory for Granby, East Granby and Simsbury customers.

The schedule helps conserve water supplies by reducing overwatering of lawns and gardens through a maximum of two days per week. Since its launch, the sprinkler irrigation schedule has helped save approximately five billion gallons of water, which has helped towns avoid a complete ban on outdoor water use during dry summer months.

Homes and businesses with automatic sprinkler irrigation systems often use large volumes of water —about 40 percent more than properties without the systems. According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), up to half the water used outdoors can be lost through overwatering, leaks and evaporation. This waste, in turn, strains local water supplies while providing no benefit to lawns and gardens. Research shows that lawns and gardens can thrive on reduced watering. By encouraging roots to grow deeper into the soil, they can absorb more moisture and nutrients, even during dry spells. Drip irrigation, soaker hoses and handheld watering are allowed anytime.

The twice-weekly irrigation schedule is in effect until Oct. 31 as below:

Customers with an even number as the last digit of an address (0, 2, 4, 6, 8) may water only on Sundays and Wednesdays between 12:01 and 10 a.m. OR between 6 p.m. and midnight.

Customers with an odd number as the last digit of an address (1, 3, 5, 7, 9) may water only on Saturdays and Tuesdays between 12:01 and 10 a.m. OR between 6 p.m. and midnight.

Customers with no numbers in a street address may water only on Sundays and Wednesdays between 12:01 and 10 a.m. OR between 6 p.m. and midnight.

Some residents may qualify for a variance from the schedule. If customers, for example, have installed new plantings or sod in the spring, they would be allowed to water more frequently to help get plants established.

More information about the irrigation schedule, landscaping and gardening with less water is available at aquarionwater.com/watering



Windy Hill Guitar Studio to hold recital May 27

The Windy Hill Guitar Ensemble will perform at 4 p.m. on Monday, May 27, 2024, at the South Campus of Granby Congregational Church, 242 Salmon Brook Street, Granby. Guitarists Mark and Matthew Zhovkliy of Granby, with their mother Irina Zhovkliy, and their little sister Mia; guitarists Stefan and Mattias Kachala of Avon, with their mother Tina Kachala; guitarist Iris Paul of Granby; singer Irina Vishnevska of Ukraine; bandurist Ivan Khrystenco of Farmington, and guitarist Laura Mazza-Dixon of Granby.





The Northern Lights in North Granby

The Northern Lights lit up the sky over the GLT's Mary Edwards Mountain Road property in North Granby on May 11. Photo by Rick Orluk

July/August 2024 deadlines

ADS: Monday, June 10 at noon Ad Team 860-653-9222, please leave a message.
Email: ads@granbydrummer.org
ARTICLES: Monday, June 17 at noon *Drummer* phone: 860-653-9222.
Email: editor@granbydrummer.org
WORK DATES: June 10 to June 23 Call or email for times.
The public is encouraged to submit articles and photos about events of interest to Granby residents. The editors urge you to make submissions by email if at all possible. We acknowledge submissions by return email. If you do not hear from us please follow up with another email or leave a message at 860-653-9222. Articles should be written in the third person. More detailed information on *Drummer* submission requirements is available on the website at granbydrummer.com

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