FOR IMMEDIATE DELIVERY

**********ECRWSS****

Local
Postal Customer

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
AVON, CT
PERMIT NO. 466

The Granby Drummer

Your AWARD-WINNING VOLUNTEER newspaper

Follow us on:

Published by Citizens for a Better Granby a non-profit 501(c)3 organization

Volume LVI, No. 1 • September 2025 www.granbydrummer.com FREE

BOS approves long-term lease for Holcomb Farm

At its Aug. 18 meeting, the Granby Board of Selectmen (BOS) unanimously approved a revised long-term Lease and Use Agreement with the Friends of Holcomb Farm, marking an exciting new chapter for the farm and the Granby community.

This updated agreement gives the Friends stewardship of the former United Methodist Church property at 87 Simsbury Road—including the land, barn and building now owned by the town. The move follows a detailed proposal, presented to the BOS in May, which showed how the building could be repurposed to support Holcomb Farm's growing operations and benefit Granby, without cost to taxpayers. (See June 2025 Drummer.)

After the unanimous vote, First Selectman Mark Fiorentino said, "This is another example of the town working with its community partners for the benefit of our taxpayers. This is a valuable new asset, and the Friends' plans to put it to use will bring even more ben-

HF lease cont'd. on p. 2



This architect's rendering envisions a greatly expanded, year-round Holcomb Farm CSA and Farm Store, stocked with the farm's own produce, plus products from other local producers.



Granby visited by a truly rare bird

A rare leucistic ruby-throated hummingbird was spotted by Granby resident Denise Canora in her expansive flower garden, which is frequented by a steady flight of birds, butterflies and other pollinators. This leucistic was particularly attracted to the flourishing bright red bee balm, a hummingbird favorite. Hoping to document the sighting, Canora invited local photographer Don Shaw Jr. to capture a few good images to share.

A leucistic ruby-throated hummingbird is a rare sight, characterized by white or pale-colored feathers due to a genetic mutation affecting pigment distribution. It is estimated that only 1 in every 1,000 hummingbirds in North America is leucistic. Rarer still are albino hummingbirds, which lack melanin entirely and have pink eyes, beak, and feet.

Practicing preparedness

Who remembers the Blizzard of 1978? Or the 24 inches of snow Granby received in early 2011? Or the 2011 October snowstorm when we lost power for over a week? How about Superstorm Sandy in 2012? Or if you are old enough, the hurricanes of 1938 and 1955 with torrential rain that caused widespread flooding. While Hurricane Katrina didn't impact this area much, that storm was the impetus for the creation and use of NIMS (the National Incident Management System), at the heart of Emergency Preparedness Planning.

While we hope weather events like those listed above don't ever happen here, hope isn't a plan. We also wouldn't be doing our jobs if we didn't practice how to respond to unusual, mostly weather, emergency events. The end product of practice is preparedness.

Why do we practice preparedness? Because when you practice, you get to see what works and what doesn't work in a controlled environment. Essentially, you get to fail safely, not when lives may be on the line. You also get to assess the quality of the response using the employees who would respond in an actual emergency.

And because every emergency is different, you add "injects" into every practice session. What is an "inject" you ask? It's an unforeseen problem that alters your emergency response. An example of an inject is when the town prepares for a 24-inch blizzard but then finds out the weather pattern behind it will deliver two inches of accumulating ice causing

ABOUT TOWN



with
MIKE WALSH
Town Manager

About Town cont'd. on p. 3

Beloved Granby institution needs community's help

By Kimberley McCord, Treasurer and former Director

Fifty-seven years ago, a group of dedicated Granby volunteers created a unique youth organization. The vision of those ambitious residents became Marquis of Granby Ancient Fyfe and Drum Corps. Over the years since, hundreds of families, including mine, have built memories, relationships, life skills and truly special experiences by embracing the Marquis.

As members learned to march and play the ancient instruments of our revolution and reenacting drills from General Von Steuban's manual of arms, they gained the ability to bring pageantry and honor to Granby Memorial Day parades and ultimately thousands of events in North America and Europe. Those members learned discipline, responsibility and leadership, along with their music and history lessons. They built friendships and character, while honoring the memory of those who served and sacrificed for our freedoms.

As with many organized youth activities, Marquis is 100 percent lead and operated by parent volunteers. Its only paid staff include some of fife and drum's most talented instructors. The McCord family's journey with Marquis of Granby began 16 years ago, and it breaks my heart to think this treasure may soon vanish. Over the decades Marquis of Granby has seen many challenges, even going to the brink of collapse on a few occasions, but was brought through these crises because of the hard work of dedicated families. The work-to-fun balance is particularly challenging when children expect instant gratification, unlimited screentime, and seemingly endless options for fun and enriching activities. Parents are often spread thin navigating

Marquis cont'd. on p. 2



Photo by Heather Lockwood

HF lease cont'd. from p. 1

efits." Referring to the Friends' Fresh Access program, which makes a portion of the food grown at the farm available to those less fortunate, Town Manager Mike Walsh added, "Repatriating 87 Simsbury Road into the existing Holcomb Farm property allows a very good thing, Fresh Access, to be that much better."

With the agreement in place, the Friends can now launch its Building for Our Future campaign to fund the necessary renovations of the building. The planned uses of the building will strengthen the nonprofit's financial foundation and increase its positive impact on Granby and the region.

Friends of Holcomb Farm Board President Jenny Emery expressed excitement for what she calls a transformative opportunity. "Right now, with limited space, Holcomb Farm brings more than 500 families to Granby every week during the summer—70 percent of them from out of town—to pick up their CSA shares. With this new building, we can expand our Winter CSA and attract visitors year-round. We'll also open a year-round Farm Store featuring products from many of Granby's farms. Our staff will finally have proper workspaces and, when funding allows, we envision building a commercial kitchen to create value-added products right on site."

The barn and land are already being folded into the farm's operations, and plans for the building renovations have been developed. A building committee will oversee construction.

Now fundraising will begin in earnest. Emery reports that the Friends are not starting from ground zero. In anticipation of this opportunity coming to fruition, several grants already have been awarded, and several generous donations already have been pledged.

The hope is that the project will attract a broad base of support. As Walsh says: "Farmer Joe (O'Grady), his work crew, the Friends volunteers, and all the supportive residents make Holcomb Farm a one-of-a-kind gem synonymous with Granby."

Anyone interested in learning more about this project and how to help, can contact Emery at: Jenny@holcombfarm.org

Submitted by the Friends of Holcomb Farm



The Marquis of Granby Ancient Fyfe and Drum Corps performing at the 2018 Fringe Festival in Edinburgh, Scotland. Photo by Kent McCord

Marquis cont'd. from p. 1

all of life's responsibilities, and can't or won't commit to volunteer work to keep youth organizations going. Burnout is a very real problem among volunteers in all nonprofit organizations.

We are currently experiencing another time of crisis, having struggled to retain membership, and currently having no snare drummers ready to march with us. For the first time in decades, our low numbers have necessitated canceling participation in many holiday parades. Without paid parades, our coffers diminish and the downward spiral escalates.

So, what do we need to keep this institution alive? We need more committed families, more interested youth members, and we're also seeking assistance from our valued alumni. If you would like to learn more, bounce ideas around or offer assistance, please stop by our practice at 6:45 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 17 at Granby Congregational Church–North campus, 219 North Granby Road. If that day is inconvenient, we welcome visitors at any rehearsal (all Wednesdays except the first of the month or holidays). We also welcome emails to director@marquisofgranby.org or notes of encouragement or corps stories/memories to P.O. Box 112, Granby CT 06035.

Every year the Connecticut Law Tribune recognizes the top performing firms in the state. Brignole, Bush & Lewis is consistently on this exclusive list of exceptional law firms.

BRIGNOLE, BUSH & LEWIS, LLC

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

#1 Settlement of the Year for $6,475,000

&

Two Top Ten Motor Vehicle Verdicts of the Year for $1,551,318 and $287,924

Referrals always Welcome. Referral fees Protected

GRANBY OFFICE
261 Salmon Brook Street
Granby Center
Granby, CT 06035
Phone: 1-860-653-5222
Fax: 1-860-527-5929

HARTFORD OFFICE
73 Wadsworth Street
Hartford, CT 06106
Phone: 860-856-8361
Fax: 1-860-527-5929

NEW BRITAIN OFFICE
25 Arch Street
New Britain, CT 06051
Phone: 1-860-223-4900
Fax: 1-860-527-5929

www.brignole.com

Scout Troops invite new scouts

Troop 76 B (boys) and Troop 76 G (girls) are linked Scouts BSA troops in Simsbury, drawing members across the Farmington Valley including Granby, Avon and Canton. Anyone interested in joining a troop focused on scout-led leadership, personal growth and outdoor adventure are invited to join. An information night for interested families will be held on Wednesday, Sept. 4 at 7 p.m. at First Church of Christ, 689 Hopmeadow Street, Simsbury.

Open to boys and girls ages 11 to 17, Scouts BSA provides opportunities to build confidence, develop life skills and form lasting friendships. No prior scouting experience is required. While the troops are linked and share many activities, they maintain separate leadership structures and event planning to ensure every scout has the opportunity to lead.

Troop 76 is entering its 105th year as an active, year-round program that emphasizes youth leadership, outdoor adventure and ample opportunities for advancement. Scouts participate in monthly outdoor trips, community service projects and have frequent opportunities to work toward rank advancement and merit badges.

Families interested in learning more are encouraged to attend the information night on Sept. 4, or email troop76comm@troop76.info

Drumrolls

Kiley Schneider and **Maureen VonHassel**, both of Granby, graduated from Fairfield University in May.

Andrew LaCroix was named to the dean's list at Boston University's College of Engineering for the spring semester.

INLAND WETLANDS & WATERWAYS COMMISSION HIGHLIGHTS

JULY 9, 2025

Members present: Nicholas Dethlefsen, David Tolli, Sue Okie, John Laudati, Fred Jones, Aurelle Locke, Vickie Dirienzo. Also present: IWWC Agent Kate Bednaz and Land Use Coordinator Renee Deltenre.

Laudati recused himself from all proceedings regarding this application; however, received permission from the commission, public and applicant to continue to run the meeting.

8 East Granby Road–C. Peeler c/o AutoZone, Inc.–Permit application to demolish existing structures and construct a 6,796 sq. ft. commercial building and other associated site work within a regulated area.

Applicant representative Trent Suddeth of Kimley Horn discussed the application. AutoZone is seeking to demolish the existing single-family home and detached garage on-site, to construct a 6,796 commercial retail building, parking lot and associated site improvements. There is an intermittent watercourse located to the west on the other side of Hungary Road. The majority of this property falls within 200 feet of said watercourse and is therefore within the upland review area. Once built out, the impervious coverage will be just under 50 percent. The parking lot will consist of 41 spaces and an underground detention basin that flows to the north. Suddeth discussed the proposed erosion and sediment control measures, as well as the stormwater management plan, which was designed based on a 100-year storm event. Since the last meeting, plans have been revised to include a planting plan and address comments from both the Town Engineer and IWWC Agent.

Public Comment

Robert Flanigan, 24 Woodcliff Drive, read Reinhard Maier's presentation into the record, stated that the site is not a suitable location for the proposed business and questioned whether bonds will be submitted by the applicant.

Maureen Eberly, 37 Silkey Road, expressed concerns regarding maintenance of the stormwater system, remediation efforts if something goes wrong, and overall feels the proposal is a bad fit for the town.

John Corbett, 89 Quarry Road, had environmental concerns regarding the products that would be sold on-site and potential hazards that could arise.

Lynn Krauss, 20 West Granby Road, questioned how the proposed business will benefit the town and expressed environmental concerns.

Sandra Crain, 20 East Street, stated that the site is not conducive to an AutoZone and expressed environmental concerns as well.

Connor Smith, 57 Heather Lane, stated concerns regarding snow maintenance, run-off, treatment of the pavement, and feels the proposed parking lot is simply too big.

Toni Flanigan, 24 Woodcliff Drive, stated that the site is not a suitable location, had environmental concerns regarding the products that would be sold, and questioned remediation efforts if something happens.

Bednaz noted that she needs more time to review. Concern was raised regarding the lack of an oil/water separator and the use of pervious pavement was recommended. Some commissioners questioned run-off from the site and stated that the parking lot is too big and perhaps a variance could be considered for a reduction of required spaces. Suddeth agreed to a continuation of the public hearing to the Aug. 13 meeting.

Editor's Note: *At the Aug. 13 meeting the commission voted 2-3-1 to deny the applications with its current conditions. Please see town website (granby-ct.gov) for minutes and GCTV video.*

15 Peck Orchard Road–R. Marr–Permit request to modify an existing permit to construct a brook crossing, driveway, and associated improvements within a regulated area, to include test borings on both brook banks as part of a geotechnical review.

Property owner and applicant Richard Marr confirmed he was aware that the bridge company requires a geotechnical report to determine footing sizes. This requires the drilling of several bore holes about 80 feet into the ground on both the east and west banks of the brook. As this temporary crossing location is outside the area under the permit that was just issued, and some vegetation clearing is required to provide access, a permit modification is needed. While the east bank can be accessed at the proposed site, it is too steep at that location to cross to the west side. Since the last meeting, a revised application and drawings have been submitted that propose an alternative crossing that allows for a 70 percent reduction in wetlands disturbance. Bednaz walked the proposed route and had no questions or concerns. A draft approval letter was provided to the commission for consideration and staff recommended one modification.

The commission approved the application and draft approval letter as amended, with conditions.

Looking for additional information?

You can access the complete minutes from any town meeting by visiting granby-ct.gov/AgendaCenter

Remembering September 11th

Once again September 11th and its memories come around.

We remember what we were doing and where we were twenty-four years ago on that tragic day in our country's history. The feel of that early morning late-summer day was pleasant. The sky was so blue, and the marigolds were blooming in the yard.

I was on my way to a doctor's appointment, listening to music on the radio. The announcer's voice broke in to say that a plane had struck one of the Twin Towers in New York City. At first, I, like others, thought it was a terrible accident. When the second plane hit, and when we learned of the attack on the Pentagon and the plane crash in Shanksville, Pennsylvania, it became clear that these were targeted attacks of terrorism against the United States.

That day and in the following days our country came together as we united against the enemy. We prayed, we searched for survivors, we donated money, food, water, our time and energy, as well as other resources. Citizens signed up for military duty to fight the enemy. We truly were the United States of America.

So today, let us hold close in thought all who lost their lives, their families, and all who still suffer from the effects of that day. Let us take that spirit of togetherness and make it work for the benefit of our country. Let us truly be the United States of America.

—Bernadette R. Gentry

About Town cont'd. from p. 1

the power to be lost completely for 14 days. If that was the inject, we'd have to draw up a plan to keep this community safe, warm and fed for two weeks.

After reading to this point, I hope you concur that emergency planning is a good thing to do. To that end, the Town of Granby and key decision makers and employees will participate in a remote, mock emergency planning exercise being held by the State of Connecticut on Sept. 9.

The state will choose the emergency that will impact Granby, and our staff and elected officials will make decisions to keep this community safe. And along the way we'll get injects that will cause us to stop and rethink our emergency response as the situation changes in real time. This exercise is where we practice preparedness.

While the beginning and end times of the state's mock emergency event have not been shared with us, I have invited members of the board of selectmen, and observers from the *Drummer* and Granby Community TV, to join us on that day as we work on this mock exercise for the future benefit of the community. We'll even try to update social media in real time.

I hope to never have to employ what we will learn from this practice preparedness exercise, but I will certainly sleep better knowing that in the event of an actual emergency, the town's investment in preparedness was time well spent.

2 PARK PLACE

COMMUNITY MEMBERS

GALLERY feat. ALEX ANISIMOV
EDWARD JONES - JIM HAMMEL
FREE LUNCH HQ - MATT RYAN
Acadia ActionCOACH - DAVID OLCHOWSKI
THE WAY FORWARD COUNSELING
ASHLIE GIONFRIDDO, LPC
KINSWELL MENTAL HEALTH
subseven

Prime Retail Available - Granby Center

COME JOIN US!
2 PARKPLACE.COM

2 PARK PLACE, GRANBY, CT
860-653-PARK (7275)

Celebrating our 31st Year in Granby

Make life without pain a reality.

Our procedures are gentle and effective for personal, work, auto and sports related injuries.



- Back, Neck, Arm & Leg Pain
- Numbness
- Headaches & Migraines
- Arthritic, Joint & Sciatic Pain

Massage and Nutritional Therapy Available

Dr. John Hitchiner, Certified Chiropractic Sports Physician

Office Hours: Mon. - Fri. 8 am - 6 pm; Sat. 8 am - 11am

CHIROPRACTIC CARE OF GRANBY

www.chirocareofgranby.com

50 Hartford Ave., (Rt. 189) 653-5581

Most Insurances Accepted

VALUE ME AS YOU PLEASE

Higleyville Coin Company

We've been Buying, Selling & Appraising Coins & Collectibles for over 35 Years!

(860) 658-1344

Call Bob Kevorkian for an Appointment.

A Department of Simsbury Pharmacy

1418 Hopmeadow St. (Rt. 10) Simsbury, CT 06070

Drumbeat editorials, commentary & letters to the editor

Unsigned editorials are the consensus opinion of the editorial staff and publisher. Commentary pieces express the opinion of the writer and not necessarily the opinion of the *Drummer*.

Drummer provides early election information

By Heather Lockwood, Managing Editor

Turnout for early voting in Connecticut started a bit slowly with the primaries in April and August of 2024, according to the Office of Registrars in Granby, but turnout took off for the presidential election, with a surprising almost 50 percent of residents voting ahead of Nov. 5 last year.

In prior years, the *Drummer's* November issue carried the majority of candidate information. To better serve early voters, the *Drummer* has invited the Democratic and Republican town committees to submit information about their candidates for the October issue. Letters of support for candidates are also welcomed. The deadline for submitting letters is Sept. 15.

Early voting begins 14 days prior to election day, from Oct. 20 to Nov. 2 at Granby Town Hall. General Election Day voting on Nov. 4 will be at the high school community gym from 6 a.m. until 8 p.m.

For more details on the election in Granby, please see the Registrars' article on this page.

From the Registrars' Office

2025 is a Municipal Election year

Early voting is held at Granby Town Hall, Monday, Oct. 20 through Sunday, Nov. 2, 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. There are extended hours of 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 28 and Thursday, Oct. 30.

November 4 is Election Day with polls open at Granby Memorial High School 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Ten races on the ballot

Both major parties had uncontested slates at their respective July nominating meetings and all required paperwork was submitted on time and accepted by the Town Clerk. There are 10 races with a total of 22 openings. Only four races are contested—board of selectmen, board of finance, board of education and town moderator.

Public lottery

A public lottery was held on Aug. 6 at Town Hall to determine horizontal placement of nominated candidates (determining which name is first, second, etc. on each party line).

Candidate list

A list of all the candidates, as well as more information about dates and deadlines for the November election, can be found on our web page. Go to the Town of Granby website, and look for Registrars of Voters under Town Departments, or go directly to granby-ct.gov/274/Registrars-of-Voters

New voting machines

Granby's new voting machines will debut at the November 4 election.

Absentee Ballots

Absentee Ballots can be requested online from the Secretary of State's website or in person at the Granby Town Clerk's office. See the Town Clerk's web page at granby-ct.gov/267/Election-Voting-Information for eligibility requirements and more information.

Poll workers are needed!

Volunteers for early voting sessions and election day must be at least 16 years of age. They have the option to volunteer for a few hours or a full shift as befits their schedule. Please consider helping at the polls this year by emailing the registrars at registrarofvoters@granby-ct.gov Training is required and provided by trained personnel in advance.

Calendar Review

Oct. 3 is the first day absentee ballots are available.

Oct. 17 is the deadline for online and postmarked voter registrations. There is also a special in-person registration session that day, from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the Registrar's office at town hall. See our web page for information on how to register after that date.

Oct. 20–31 and Nov. 1 and 2 is early voting at town hall 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Oct. 28 and Oct. 30 is early voting at town hall 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Nov. 4 is election day with voting at Granby Memorial High School 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.

ADVERTISERS AGREEMENT

The Granby *Drummer* reserves the right, without explanation, to reject any advertisement. Advertisers assume the responsibility for the content of all ads they submit for publication, including having authorization for all photos, trademarks and brand names used in their ads. The Granby *Drummer* will assume no liability for failure to publish an ad or for any typographical errors or omissions beyond the actual cost of the ad.

CORRECTIONS

Please tell us if you find an error in this issue of the *Drummer*. We'll attempt to correct it in the following issue. Leave a message at 860-653-9222 or send an email to: editor@granbydrummer.org

KEEP US IN THE LOOP

Send your news articles and ideas, photos and letters to: editor@granbydrummer.org. Please include your name, phone and email address. Deadlines for the next issue are printed on the back page in this issue or visit our website: granbydrummer.com

Drummer Advertising Rates 2025

Contract rate per column inch
B/W $10. Color $14.

Non-profit rate per column inch
B/W $7. Color $11.

Email ads@granbydrummer.org for more information.

FIND US

Social Media

www.facebook.com/Granby-Drummer

@GranbyDrummer

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, Tuesday, September 2, Monday, September 15

Board of Finance, 7:30 p.m., Police Dept. Community Room, Tuesday, September 22

Board of Education, 7 p.m., Town Hall, Wednesdays, September 3, 17

Planning & Zoning, 7 p.m., Town Hall, Tuesdays, September 9, 23

Inland Wetlands and Watercourses, 7 p.m., Town Hall, Wednesday, September 10

Development Commission, 7 p.m., Town Hall, Monday, September 8

Conservation Commission, 7 p.m., Remote Meeting, Tuesday, September 9

Granby Center Advisory Committee, 7 p.m., Town Hall, Wednesday, September 24

GRANBY FOOD BANK
248 SALMON BROOK ST., GRANBY
860-653-5514



The Granby *Drummer*

A volunteer, non-profit publication established in 1970. The Granby *Drummer* (ISSN 1547-1497) is published monthly except January and August by Citizens for a Better Granby at 11 North Granby Road, Granby, CT 06035. It's delivered free of charge to all Granby households and businesses. Out-of-town subscriptions are $25 per year. Periodicals postage paid at Granby, CT, and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to THE GRANBY *DRUMMER* P.O. Box 165, Granby, CT 06035-0165

Copyright ©2025 Citizens for a Better Granby, a non-profit 501(c)3 organization, all rights reserved.

CBG Board
Kathy Norris, Chair
Sam Mikus, Vice Chair
Karen Cleary, Treasurer
Flo Bischoff, Secretary
Jen Bell, Carol Bressor, Karen Handville, Roger Hayes. Amanda Lindberg, Rebecca Mikus, Dave Tolli, Lew Noble

Staff
Heather Lockwood, Managing Editor
Leisa Ritchie, Production Coordinator
Chris Levandowski, Copy Editor
Amanda Lindberg, Copy Editor
Rick Handville, Photo Editor
Kathy Agresta, Carol Bressor, Fran Brown, Nancy Dudenhofer, Karen Handville, Rita Isaacson, Patricia Kovaleski, Eileen Longhi, Mikayla Munson, Patty Sansone, Donna Schedinger, Faith Tyldsley

Reporters & Contributors
Karen Antonucci, AnneMarie Cox, David Desiderato, Cindy Dixon, Rob Flanigan, Mark Fiorentino, Monique Fitzpatrick, Bernadette Gentry, CJ Gibson, Judy Guarco, Mike Guarco, Jay Harder, Holly Johnson, Catherine Lanyon, Brian Liss, Monica Logan, Brian Long, Shirley Murtha, Trish Percival, Kim Pereira, Lisa Pyatt, Scott Riley, Katie Stover, Faith Tyldsley, Todd Vibert, Mike Walsh, Laura Wolfe, Amber Wyzik, Sandra Yost, Karen Young

Advertising Team
Deneika Janski, Advertising Coordinator
Fran Brown

Website Manager
Jake Kean

Subscriptions & Delivery
Sam & Rebecca Mikus

LETTERS & OPINION POLICY

The *Drummer* appreciates hearing from its readers.

Letters and opinions do not necessarily reflect the views of the CBG Board and the *Drummer*.

The length of letters will be held to 250 words and less, and opinion pieces shall not exceed 500 words.

To be published, material must be signed and include an address and phone number.

This information will not be given to anyone other than the necessary editorial staff. Material from readers who do not reside in Granby will have the town of residence noted at publication.

Only one letter or opinion piece per household will be considered for publication in each issue.

The *Drummer* reserves the right to edit, shorten or not publish a submission, and to run the material in any electronic form. Material becomes the property of the *Drummer*.

Email your letters to:
editor@granbydrummer.org

Opinion

Anderson's low environmental score equals need for stronger conservation leadership

By Deborah Roe

As Connecticut takes bold steps forward on environmental policy, not all legislators are moving with the same urgency. Granby and its surrounding communities deserve a representative committed to safeguarding our air, water, land and the health of future generations. Yet this year's Connecticut League of Conservation Voters (CTLCV) Environmental Scorecard tells a sobering story. State Representative Mark Anderson (R-62nd) earned one of the lowest scores in the state, with only 39 percent support for pro-environment policies in the 2025 session.

What does the scorecard measure?

For 25 years, the CTLCV Scorecard has graded legislators—Democrats and Republicans alike—on their votes related to Connecticut's climate, energy, conservation, wildlife and public health. This year, the league scored more than 20 major bills, including landmark legislation to address climate change (HB 5004), climate resiliency (SB 9), energy affordability, invasive species management, reduction of toxic chemicals and land preservation.

Anderson voted against the environmental position on a majority of major bills—an overall record at stark odds with the pro-environment stance that a growing majority of Connecticut residents demand.

Breaking down the record

When the 2025 session called for action on pressing environmental issues, Anderson's votes lagged behind:

Climate Action: Voted against HB 5004, which sets a net-zero carbon emissions goal for 2050 and provides incentives for clean energy jobs.

Pollution and Waste: Opposed or neglected to support measures for managing food waste and reducing plastics, critical as Connecticut faces a growing waste crisis.

Land, Water and Wildlife: Missed opportunities to support new state water plan updates, riparian area protection, and invasive species control.

Public Health: Showed little support for bills aiming to restrict harmful chemicals like PFAS in consumer products and to protect pollinators by banning dangerous pesticides.

The environment matters for Granby

Granby is defined by its farmland, forests and small-town heritage. Unchecked pollution, climate shifts or weakened conservation protections pose real threats—to property values, public health and Granby's rural character. As Connecticut leads on these issues, Granby's environmental voice in Hartford must be stronger, not weaker.

Protecting natural resources is not a partisan issue—it's a promise to the next generation. Connecticut's best local leaders, regardless of party, put the environment and public health at the heart of their service. With a 39 percent score, Rep. Anderson falls short—not just compared to environmental champions in Hartford and beyond, but to the needs of the people he serves.

Climate change, toxic pollution, and loss of green space are not waiting for politics to catch up. Granby and area residents deserve a representative ready to find common ground and embrace solutions that will sustain both the economy and environment. As the next election approaches, voters have a clear choice: demand better, and hold leaders accountable for their environmental records.

Results matter in positioning our finances

By Michael B. Guarco, Jr., Chair, Board of Finance

The onset of summer brings a diminished pace of outwardly visible activity for Town Hall and the school system's Central Office. It also heightens the work for the fiscal staff, as they look to close the books on FY25 and open them for FY26 that began on July 1. In particular, it is a snapshot of Granby's finances on June 30, the close of the fiscal year. While the annual outside audit of the books and its portrayal of our financial condition as of that date are generally required to be filed with the state Office of Policy and Management for December 31, the preliminary snapshot for the fiscal yearend comes into focus in July.

Granby closed out the fiscal year in a very strong position, as we have done in recent years. The bond credit rating professionals look for us to maintain our unassigned reserves in the General Fund in the vicinity of 15 percent of the budget, which is where we are. We also have strengthened our capital and infrastructure reserves and have seen improvement in the joint self-insured health plan fund balance, as well as in the Other Post-Employment Benefits and pension trust funds. These components reflect the stock markets hitting high water marks of late.

While some of our positive status is attributable to good fortune and the stock market upswing, it is equally true that our steadily strengthening financial condition has been guided and at times driven by a board of finance that has, on a bipartisan and usually unanimous basis, worked in conjunction with the boards of selectmen and education to meet the needs of our town while paying heed to the cost to do so. For the most part, both operating boards/administrations have done their part in addressing needs while also returning money to the General Fund.

While at times some people may look to pressure the boards and administrations to spend every dime budgeted whether they need it or not, most recognize that in the big picture, money that is authorized to be spent but deemed not needed for the original intended purpose can be put to better use next month or next year for a different need that arises or that is scheduled in the future.

A prime example has been the volatile special needs education accounts that gyrate not just year-to-year but within the year. In recent years the BOE has had to cover cost overruns internally with lapsing dollars budgeted in other line items and at times had need for a special appropriation from the General Fund. This past year, for example, a diminished need and returning some students back in-house, freed up a significant amount of money. This allowed the board to prebuy in FY25 an item like French textbooks already budgeted for FY26. It also permitted the boards to act on a BOF-engineered transfer of $650K from the FY25 budget into the Small Capital infrastructure fund for carryover use this summer in meeting three timely needs—replacing the high school main gym bleachers (original to 1970), replacing the roof on the central

Financials cont'd. on p. 6

Get Pumped....
with an Energy Efficient Heat Pump!
Energy efficient heating and cooling is simple with options for ducted and ductless systems
Ducted Heat Pump Systems
Ductless Splits
Dual Fuel Systems
Full Ductwork
New Installations
System Replacement
Energy Efficient Upgrades
Annual Maintenance
REBATES, TAX CREDITS & FINANCING AVAILABLE!
Call for a FREE in-home estimate today!
Shaffer Beacon MECHANICAL LLC
HEATING · COOLING · PLUMBING · OIL
Quality & Integrity Since 1890
860-844-0111 / ShafferBeacon.com
S1-0397099 / P1-203890 / HOD - 0000787

Ravenswood Natural Health
Fallin' for Fall!
Stress – Immune – Sleep
All systems go! Drop by for...
✪ Stress-busting teas
✪ Essential oils to calm or clear the sir
✪ Herbal sleep aids
✪ Immune supports & germ busters
Supplements: DIY to off-the-shelf, we have you covered!
80% of your immune system is in your gut; don't forget probiotics, too!
1606 Hopmeadow St. Simsbury 860.264.1587
Tues. 9.30–5.30 / Wed. Thurs. Fri. 9.30-5.00 / Sat. 10.00-5.00 / Sun. 10.00-3.00

Opinion

Silence is not Golden

By Skip Mission

The First Amendment was enacted to assure the freedom of conscience in speech, religion and assembly without coercion by government. However, we've forgotten the moral religious underpinnings of the Amendment, living in a day where all sides are trying to silence the other's free speech with who can "shout" and "profile" the loudest for their cause.

Meanwhile, our town leadership, educators and library staff are trying to keep the peace in navigating this mine field. First Selectman Mark Fiorentino repeatedly says, "We can agree to disagree," to bring sides together to discuss and resolve issues. I further applaud Granby's facilities' use policy that permits use regardless of belief.

The amendment brings challenges for Granby. Recent abuse of the right to home school in Waterbury has sparked criticism, but isolated incidents shouldn't diminish collective rights. Also, a recent Supreme Court ruling requires religious opt-outs of lessons in public schools. This right to opt out of certain educational content will require more two-way collaborative communication going forward.

Another example is the apprehension for Bible education or religious history programs due to potential criticism. The content of programs I've conducted has been to review the history of what the Bible says with application being a personal choice. My experience in the last five years has been nothing but healthy social camaraderie and learning, relieving the fears.

The worst thing is to silence the other side to maintain the peace. This is not a new tension, but it has become an obsession because of the potential for moral issues at stake. Silence is not golden as it results in blind spots in the moral and religious education of Granby's adults and children in the issues of our day.

Editor's note: *Skip (Walter) Mission, a lifelong Granby resident, has taught Bible classes in Granby and elsewhere for several years at various venues.*

GRANBY DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION HIGHLIGHTS

JUNE 25, 2025

Members present: Marty Schwager, Matt Brady, Jim Caldwell, Ken Kuhl, Anna Sogliuzzo. Also present: Director of Community Development Abigail Kenyon.

Kearns School Housing Development

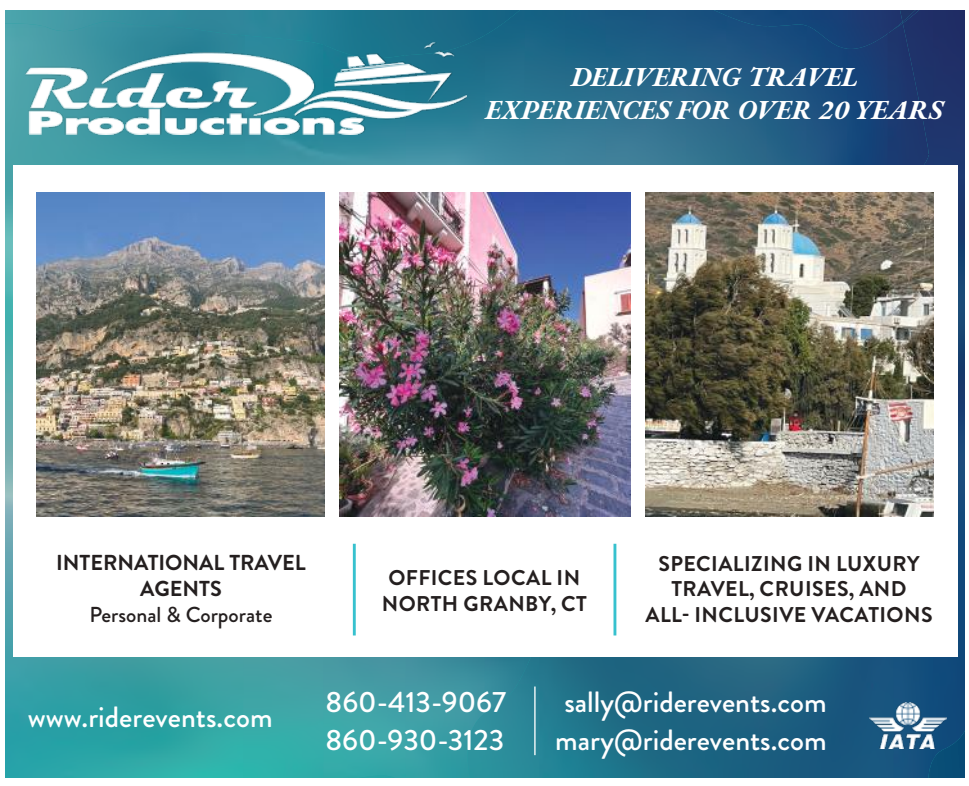
The commission reviewed a presentation recently included in a Board of Selectmen meeting packet that was a progress-to-date overview of the Kearns School redevelopment. Noted was the commission on aging's recommendation that the town pursue 80 units of senior housing and 40 units of workforce housing on the property. Development on the west side of the property that could include some additional housing units has been put on hold due to a preliminary assessment of the wetlands.

The commission had questions about income calculations and eligibility criteria for seniors. Overall, the commission questioned if the proposed unit mix would be financially viable and the impact this would have on the long-term maintenance and upkeep of the property. Members questioned if more market-rate units should be considered and questioned the financial benefit to the town.

Financials cont'd. from p. 5

office building behind Town Hall, and for upcoming safety and security work. Setting that transfer in motion allows those items to come off the listing of needs that we would have to handle anyway in upcoming budgets.

We on the board of finance believe that how we have fiscally positioned Granby, in conjunction with our partners on the BOS and BOE, puts the town in an excellent place as the boards consider the next major capital outlays that the town may choose to pursue. We expect to be well-prepared to manage taking on new debt service, as another existing bond is paid off next year. A major underlying theme is setting the stage to maintain a gradual slope to the ongoing change in mill rate over time as any new debt service is introduced into future budgets. At that juncture, and properly positioned and prepared, it is then up to the voters of Granby to decide.



GRANBY BOARD OF SELECTMEN HIGHLIGHTS

JUNE 16, 2025

Members present: Mark Fiorentino, Mark Neumann, Margaret Chapple, Frederick Moffa, Kelly Rome. Also present: Town Manager Michael Walsh, Director of Finance Kimi Cheng, Town Clerk Jen Espinal, Director of Finance Kimi Cheng.

Kearns Senior Housing Development Direction

The board welcomed Granby Commission on Aging Chair Jean Donihee-Perron who reported that the commission unanimously selected option 3 — 80 Units Senior Housing and 40 Units Workforce Housing —for the Kearns School redevelopment. Donihee-Perron emphasized that option 3 aligns with the AARP livability index and supports access to key services and community engagement.

Public Comment

Virginia Wood, 130 Lost Acres Road, voiced concerns about the proposed rent levels in the Kearns School redevelopment plan. Wood encouraged the board to consider adjusting the rent upward based on the community's needs and market conditions.

Commission on Aging member Ellen Thomson emphasized the urgent need for senior housing in Granby, noting a long waiting list at Stony Hill Village and the broader national housing crisis.

Peggy Lareau, Reed Hill Road, expressed support for the senior housing component in the redevelopment plan and urged a review of income level proportions. Suggested leasing the property rather than selling it, to retain long-term control and financial benefit from the site.

Kim Becker, 149 Loomis Street, a member of both the commission on aging and the Stony Hill Village board, voiced support for the proposal and emphasized the urgent need for affordable senior housing in Granby. Also highlighted the importance of including workforce housing. Becker encouraged the board to support the Commission on Aging's recommendation.

Jim Warnke, 11 Elizabeth Street, a longtime Granby resident and senior citizen, expressed support for expanding senior housing in town. He noted the long waitlist at Stony Hill and emphasized that many seniors, like himself, want to remain in Granby, and the town should prioritize housing for seniors.

Lynette Simpson, Reed Hill Road, emphasizing that the commission on aging has spent years working toward a viable affordable housing solution, encouraged support for the recommendation.

10-Year Capital Plan

The board reviewed each page of the 10-Year Town of Granby Capital Plan. Please see full board minutes for details, at granby-ct.gov

Public comment

Peggy Lareau expressed relief and appreciation that the bathroom facilities at Salmon Brook Park are a topic of discussion and emphasized the importance of having winter-friendly bathroom facilities that remain accessible year-round.

Director of Library Services Amber Wyzik anticipates that the current staff will be sufficient post-expansion, and shared the difficulties faced when coming up with a budget, yet there was strong community support for the library. Her hope was that the funding would allow the library to continue offering the desired services.

Judy Guarco, 80 Harmony Hill Road, emphasized that while she respects differing opinions, the budget is insufficient for the library's needs. Guarco stressed that the library serves people of all ages, from infants to seniors, and the current facility is no longer adequate. Usage of the library is extremely high, including services for the homebound.

Kim Becker, 149 Loomis Street, expressed support for the library project and noted that the Granby Education Foundation board was in favor. She commended the library staff for their excellent work and highlighted the community's strong value for education. She concluded with hope that the library project can move forward successfully.

AUGUST 4, 2025

Members present: Mark Fiorentino, Frederick Moffa, Mark Neumann, Margaret Chapple, Kelly Rome. Also present: Town Manager Michael Walsh, Director of Finance Kimi Cheng, Town Clerk Jen Espinal.

Appointments

Martha Anne LaCrosse was appointed to the Granby Agricultural Commission, for the remainder of the unexpired term left by the resignation of Heather Lombardo.

Ann T. Woods was appointed to the Granby Board of Education, for the remainder of the unexpired term left by the resignation of Karen Richmond-Godard.

McLean Presentation

Lisa Clark and Carlene Rhea provided an overview of McLean Retirement Community in Simsbury, highlighting key benefits offered in their facility, and what is coming in 2028.

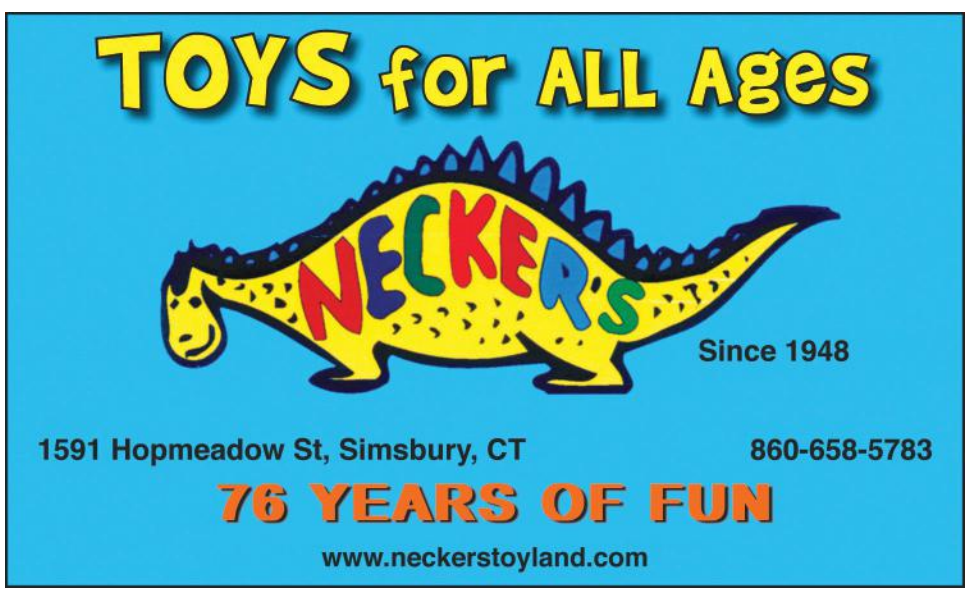
Founded through the vision of Senator George McLean, who passed away in 1932, the McLean organization began with a land donation of more than 2,000 acres to create the McLean Game Refuge, now expanded to 4,400 acres (primarily in Granby, Simsbury and Canton).

McLean operates as a nonprofit life plan community offering a continuum of senior care services, including independent living (apartments, cottages, villas, and duplexes), assisted living, memory care, short-term rehab, home care and hospice, adult day services, outpatient therapy, meals on wheels, and caregiver support and community education. Outreach includes senior center meal delivery, education series and free community events.

Plans are underway to build 50 new duplex homes in the Meadows area by 2028 (160 people are already on the waitlist).

Looking for additional information?

You can access the complete minutes from any town meeting by visiting granby-ct.gov/AgendaCenter



GRANBY PLANNING & ZONING HIGHLIGHTS

JULY 8, 2025

Members present: Eric Lukingbeal, Christine Chinni, Mark Lockwood, Eric Myers, Robert Lavitt, Meg Jabaily, Brennan Sheahan. Absent: Steve Muller, Paula Johnson. Also present: Director of Community Development Abigail Kenyon and Land Use Coordinator Renee Deltenre.

Application seeking a 7-lot subdivision, Breezy Meadow, for property located at 188 Day Street, R30 and R50 Zones.

Professional Engineer Christian Alford of Alford Associates, Inc., represented the applicant, who is proposing a seven-lot, single-family home subdivision at 188 Day Street, on 15.63 acres. The property consists of two zones (R50 and R30) and has 965 feet of frontage on Day Street and 545 feet of frontage on North Granby Road. Soil testing has been completed, indicating that the sandy/gravel soils are suitable for on-site septic systems.

Wetlands are located at the southwestern corner (wetland #1) and northeastern corner (wetland #2) of the property, and to satisfy the open space requirement, 3.55 acres on the eastern side of the property are shown to be open space. Wetland #1 consists of 0.43 acres and consists of a 150-foot-long watercourse that enters the property from the west and Wetland #2 consists of 0.09 acres and is located within the proposed open space parcel. Due to the location of mapped wetlands along the frontage of lots 6 and 7, the driveway serving said lots is shown to be constructed on lot 5.

As part of the IWWC approval received on May 22, a conservation restriction area has been established to protect the existing wetlands at the southwest corner of the property. The applicant is seeking a waiver of Subdivision Regulations Section 3.1.4.1.5, to allow a reduction of the required visual streetscape buffer to 30' on lots 1–4 and 20' on lot 3 where it has frontage on Day Street. Lots 5–6 have the conservation restriction that allows for a greater buffer. Kenyon asked the commission to consider the proposed streetscape buffer, and the applicability of the conditions outlined within the regulations.

Lockwood expressed concerns regarding the layout of the subdivision, focusing on the proposed driveway access and configuration on lot 5, including a shared driveway, and potential conflicts. Lukingbeal discussed the lack of screening along Day Street and requested that the applicant submit a planting plan. Chinni questioned why the feedback received at the informal meeting last November was not considered prior to submission of the application.

Public Comment

Dana Warren, 10 Day Street South, expressed concerns regarding the proposed number of lots and stated that access to the open space parcel should be accessible to the public and not located on a state highway.

The commission recommends that the orientation of the lots be reconsidered in order to address concerns on lot 5, a planting plan be submitted, and more specificity be given regarding the request for a reduction of the visual streetscape buffer.

The public hearing was continued to the next regular meeting.

Application seeking to renew a Special Permit under Zoning Regulations Section 9 for earth excavation for properties located at 67/87/95B Notch Road, R50 Zone.

Hal Pierce, with Land Surveyor Brian Denno, is seeking to renew an existing earth excavation permit that was originally approved by the commission in 2021 for the removal of 700,000 yards of material from the three properties, and then renewed in 2023. Since the last renewal, one of the houses, a barn and a silage bin have been demolished and 86,400 yards of material removed, for a total of 237,800 yards removed to date. Phase Two is underway. The applicant is requesting two modifications from the original approval to include preserving the house closest to Notch Road, and grading changes in the area adjacent to Notch Road that would benefit future farming activities. Even with the proposed modifications, the total amount of material to be removed remains the same at 700,000 yards. Kenyon indicated that the town engineer's comments have been addressed.

There was no public comment. The commission approved with conditions.

Application seeking a Special Permit under Zoning Regulations Sections 8.3 and 8.16 for a restaurant serving alcoholic beverages for property located at 9 Bank Street, Unit H, COCE Zone.

Applicants/business owners Julien Tessier and Chris Peregrin, owners of Julien's Farm Store located on Barn Door Hills Road, are looking to establish a second location in order to expand and ease the burden on the existing location. The proposed unit consists of 4,000 square feet and would be renovated to include a dining area, counter service in the front, kitchen and prep kitchen with an office and cooler/freezer to the rear. The restaurant would offer freshly baked goods, a grab-and-go section for soups, salads, etc. and host a weekly pizza night, during which alcohol would be offered. There is adequate parking available, and the restaurant would utilize the existing designated trash disposal area/system. The hours of operation requested are 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Tuesday through Sunday; however, the commission discussed expanding the hours to 6 a.m. to 11 p.m., seven days a week in order to provide greater flexibility.

There was no public comment. The commission approved with conditions.

JULY 22, 2025

Members present: Eric Lukingbeal, Steve Muller, Paula Johnson, Eric Myers, Robert Lavitt, Meg Jabaily, Brennan Sheahan. Absent: Mark Lockwood, Christine Chinni. Also present: Director of Community Development Abigail Kenyon.

Seating of Alternates: Johnson and Jabaily were seated for Lockwood and Chinni.

Application seeking a 7-lot subdivision, Breezy Meadow, for property located at 188 Day Street, R30 and R50 Zones.

The above application was continued from the July 8 meeting. [*Editor's note: please see above*.] Changes have been made to the plans. The shared driveway for lots six and seven has been moved so it is only on lot six. MacNaughton noted that a driveway easement has been submitted and anyone buying lots six and seven would understand the provisions associated with purchasing a property with a shared driveway. He said that a planted buffer has been added to screen the house on lot six from the shared driveway. Regarding the open space, it was noted that there would be no roadway to access it, and the open space would serve as a buffer for the neighbor.

MacNaughton stated that the stormwater runoff has been addressed in the overall drainage plan and a rain garden would accommodate runoff from the house and roof leaders. There would be no increase in peak flow off site. MacNaughton stated that three trees have been added to the front yards to comply with the regulations. He also reviewed the proposed streetscape buffer along Day Street and discussed the wetland area and associated plantings. He reviewed the conditions that allow the commission to consider a reduction in the streetscape buffer depth, noting that there is already a buffer in some areas and the proposed landscaping would enhance the buffer area.

It was stated that the town engineer had issued comments, and all comments have been addressed on the revised plans.

The commission discussed the application. Johnson and Muller noted for the record that they reviewed the recording from the previous meeting. The commission stated that the concern with the shared driveway has been addressed and the side lot lines comply with the regulations. The Commission discussed the streetscape and proposed landscaping at length, including the depth of the buffer, existing invasive species in the area, and proposed plantings. It was noted that the buffer should be expanded, and additional plantings proposed for the area.

Public Comment

Dana Warren, 10 Day Street South, expressed concerns regarding the slopes and questioned the calculation; questioned the developable area calculation; commented on the trees; stated perpendicular lot lines can be achieved if there are fewer lots; and commented on the driveway curb cuts along the state route.

Susan Courtemanche, 184 Day Street, asked about a water study and if the property could support seven new wells.

The commission asked the applicant to look at the depth of the streetscape buffer along Day Street; consider other plantings; and in general, enhance the proposed streetscape buffer.

The public hearing will be continued to the Sept. 9 meeting.

NANCY REARDON

GRANBY'S #1 REALTOR YEAR AFTER YEAR

#1 AGENT IN THE BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY HOMESERVICES NEW ENGLAND PROPERTIES NETWORK IN CONNECTICUT FOR 2024 FOR HOMES SOLD.

YOUR HOME SALE DESERVES A HARDWORKING AGENT

When it comes to selling your home, you need more than a sign in the yard, you need someone who works hard for you. This Labor Day reminds us that great results come from effort, and that's exactly what I bring to every listing. From standout marketing to connecting with serious buyers, I'll go the extra mile to get your home sold. Thinking of selling? Let's roll up our sleeves and make it happen!

GRANBY MARKET STATS FOR JULY 2025

• 21 HOMES LISTED • AVG. LIST PRICE $505,171

• 14 HOMES SOLD • AVG. SALES PRICE $555,478

BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY HOMESERVICES

NEW ENGLAND PROPERTIES
NEW YORK PROPERTIES
HUDSON VALLEY PROPERTIES

22 HARTFORD AVE GRANBY, CT 06035

NREARDON@BHHSNE.COM 860.836.7506 NANCYREARDON.COM



© 2025 BHH Affiliates, LLC. An independently owned and operated franchisee of BHH Affiliates, LLC. Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices and the Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices symbol are registered service marks of Columbia Insurance Company, a Berkshire Hathaway affiliate. Equal Housing Opportunity.

CANDIDATES ON THE NOV. 4, 2025 MUNICIPAL BALLOT

First Selectman, 2-year term – Vote for one
Republican: Mark Fiorentino
Board of Selectmen, 2-year term – Vote for up to four
Democrats: Margaret Q. Chapple, Kimberly L. Becker, Frederick Moffa
Republicans: Mark Neumann, Andrew Badeau
Board of Finance, 4-year term – Vote for up to three
Democrats: Jenny Emery, Kent McCord, Toby Proctor
Republicans: James C. Tsaptsinos, Benjamin Perron
Board of Education, 4-year term – Vote for up to three
Democrats: Lynette Simpson, Ann Woods
Republicans: Donna Nolan, Jessica Diglio
Board of Assessment Appeals, 4-year term – Vote for up to two
Democrat: Victoria K. Dirienzo
Republican: Dorcus S. Forsyth
Planning and Zoning Commission, 4-year term – Vote for up to three
Democrats: Eric Lukingbeal, Bob Lavitt
Republican: Eric Myers
Planning and Zoning Commission Alternate, 4-year term – Vote for one
Democrat: Margaret Jabaily
Zoning Board of Appeals, 4-year term – Vote for up to two
Democrat: Thomas J. Caputi
Republican: Robert M. Lindeyer
Zoning Board of Appeals Alternate, 4-year term – Vote for up to two
Democrat: David W. Roberts
Republican: William O'Leary
Town Moderator, 2-year term – Vote for one
Democrat: Francis Brady
Republican: Edward Ohannessian



Soup for the coming fall

By Judy Guarco

As summer fades and cooler days creep in, I always start thinking about soup season. This Crab Bisque is a longtime family favorite—rich, delicious, and the perfect comfort food as we transition into fall. A dear friend shared this recipe years ago, and it's become a treasured classic in our kitchen. It's hearty enough to serve as a meal and special enough to make any dinner feel like a celebration. Enjoy!



Crab bisque. Submitted photo

Ingredients
1 large onion (chopped)
2 sticks butter
1 ½ cups flour
6 cans or 2 ½ boxes chicken broth
1 ½ cups dry sherry
8 cans of crab, drained and diced
4 cups light cream
4 Tablespoons tomato paste (or so)
Salt and pepper to taste

Directions
Sauté onion in butter in large pan. Stir in flour, cook until bubbly. Gradually stir in broth, cook until thickened. Stir in sherry and crab. Cover and simmer 15 minutes. Stir in remaining ingredients, and heat.

Post 182 launches three charity drives

By Bill De Nio

Legion Tag Sale

The members of American Legion Post 182 invite you to their upcoming tag sale on Saturday, Sept. 6, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Legion Hall, 244 North Granby Road.

This tag sale specializes in treasures that deserve a second life. Think vintage tools, kitchen gear, books, décor, etc. Proceeds will support Post 182's community and veterans' programs.

Legion Scholarship Raffle

Post 182 proudly continues its tradition of awarding an annual scholarship to a deserving senior at Granby Memorial High School. The scholarship honors citizenship and patriotism through a student-written essay on a rotating theme and is funded by the raffle.

Ticket sales will begin Aug. 30 through Nov. 7 at $10 per ticket and will be available directly from Post members and at weekend tables outside Geissler's and Stop & Shop in Granby.

The raffle drawing, with a grand prize of $1,000, will take place during the Armistice/Veterans Day Dinner on Saturday, Nov. 8, at 8 p.m.

Proceeds from the raffle will fund the prize, the scholarship program, and contribute to operations and maintenance of Legion Hall.

Connecticut Veterans Stand Down

On Friday, Sept. 19, Connecticut will host its annual Veterans Stand Down—a statewide initiative connecting veterans, especially those who are homeless, at-risk, and underserved, with critical services, from housing and employment assistance to medical care and legal support.

Granby's Post 182 is supporting the Rocky Hill site by collecting donations of high-need items typically distributed at Stand Down, including new socks and underwear (men's and women's), travel-size toiletries, non-perishable snacks, backpacks and duffel bags, warm outerwear and rain gear.

Donations, including cash contributions, may be dropped off at Legion Hall, 244 North Granby Road, Saturdays from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. To arrange other drop off times or to volunteer, contact Bob Groper at 860-906-2614 or Cliff Burrell at 860-309-6812.

Additional details are available through the Connecticut Department of Veterans Affairs at 860-616-3772 or standdown@ct.gov for more information. Visit Post182ALCT.org for more information and updates.

Out of Town

Open auditions for choral singers

Do you have a love and passion for choral music? Do you dream about adding your own voice to amazing sounds that move your soul? Then you are the person we are seeking to join us!

Auditions will be held at St. James Episcopal Church, 1018 Farmington Avenue in West Hartford, on Saturday, **Sept. 6**, 11 a.m.–1 p.m., and Sunday, **Sept. 7**, 2:30–4:30 p.m.

Qualified singers who can accurately and independently prepare music and commit to a number of rehearsals and concerts during our multi-concert season will be considered.

To schedule an audition or for additional information visit hartfordchorale.org/sing/auditions or email auditions@hartfordchorale.org

We also invite qualified students to participate in an internship program; no audition is required, only a recommendation from a current music teacher. Visit hartfordchorale.org/sing/internships/ in order to complete an internship application, or request an information packet by emailing admin@hartfordchorale.org

Flank Steak Dinner

The North Canton Community United Methodist Church will host its Flank Steak Dinner on Friday, **Sept. 19** from 5 to 7 p.m. Menu includes flank steak with mushroom sauce, roasted potatoes, zucchini and sliced tomatoes with balsamic vinaigrette and basil, dessert and coffee. Takeout available. Adults $22, children 6–12 $15, under 6 free. The church is located at 3 Case Street in Canton.

Free Lifelong Learning open house

Presidents' College Lifelong Learning at the University of Hartford will hold a Get to Know Us event on Wednesday, **Sept. 10** from 4:30 to 6 p.m. with refreshments and jazz. Watch as Director Michele Troy interviews professors about what inspired their non-credit fall lectures or mini-courses (two–four sessions). See if the program's offerings are the right fit for you. Topics include extreme weather, cryptocurrency, the Supreme Court, Afro-Cuban jazz, stories from Homer's *Odyssey*, film, discussions of the *Wicked* films and Broadway show, moral heroes, national and global politics and much more. Join us for lectures on the Hartford Stage production of *Rope* and then attend a performance. There's no charge for the Sept. 10 kickoff event, but you must register at hartford.edu/pc Email pcollege@hartford.edu or call 860-768-4495 with questions or to be added to the mailing list.

Medicare Workshop

The East Granby Public Library will offer Medicare 2026: Understanding Changes and Coverage Options on Tuesday, **Sept. 30** at 6 p.m. All area residents are welcome. The library is at 24 Center Street, within the town center complex.

The father/daughter team of Lou and Jessica Pelletier will help participants navigate the complexities of Medicare in 2026, including the Parts (A–Hospital; B–Physician and Outpatient Coverage; D–Drug Coverage) and the important new changes to Medicare drug plans rolling out in 2026.

The Pelletiers will walk you through the pros and cons of Medicare Supplement Plans and Medicare Advantage Plans, and help you understand IRMAA (Income Related Monthly Adjusted Amount), Medicare Savings Programs, and the importance of having a Medical Power of Attorney. This workshop is perfect for seniors, their adult children, and anyone who wants to understand how to make smart, informed decisions about Medicare in 2026.

Singers sought

The Farmington Valley Chorale welcomes new members for the 2025-26 season. FVC rehearses Sunday evenings from 7 to 9 p.m. at Simsbury United Methodist Church, 799 Hopmeadow Street. The first rehearsal is **Sept. 7**, with open rehearsals on **Sept. 7, 14** and **21**. Interested singers please plan on arriving at 6:15 p.m. on the evenings of open rehearsals so that Artistic Director Ellen Gilson Voth can hear your voice in a brief tryout for placement in the correct vocal section.

For more information, please email info@farmingtonvalleychorale.org

Drumrolls

Anne McSwain, of Granby, was named to the dean's list at Smith College for the 2024-25 school year.

Leon Totten V, of Granby, was named to the dean's list at the University of North Dakota for the spring semester.

Empty Bowls raises funds for food pantry

The Expressions Pottery Workshop and the Friend to Friend Food Pantry have partnered for the 25th annual Empty Bowls event on Saturday, **Oct. 4**. Held at the East Granby Community/Senior Center, 7 Memorial Drive, attendees are welcomed between 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. to select a hand-potted bowl, then enjoy the festivities.



Delicious soups are prepared on-site by Guest Chef Julien Tessier, owner of Julien's Farm Store in Granby. There will be live music by Allendale Rose to accompany your lunch, and a chance to purchase a raffle ticket for a fresh holiday turkey through Holcomb Farm or a gift card to Julien's Farm Store. After lunch, stroll the short distance to Expressions Pottery Workshop to indulge in a sweet treat (or two!) while perusing the beautiful handmade pottery. Enter a free raffle to win a gift card from Expressions and pick up a pumpkin compliments of Peter L. Brown Company before you leave.

The Friend to Friend Thrift Shop at 32 Spoonville Road will have extended shopping hours, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., allowing a visit before or after the event.

Tickets are $25 in advance or $30 at the door. Purchase tickets online at friendtofriendeg.com or mail check to Friend to Friend, P.O. Box 631, East Granby, CT 06026. All proceeds benefit the Friend to Friend Food Pantry, providing food to pre-qualified East Granby residents and families in need.

Spooktacular Boos and Brews

The Granby–Simsbury Chamber of Commerce and the Simsbury Meadows Performing Arts Center co-host a frightfully fun afternoon at the Spooktacular Boos and Brews on Saturday, **Oct. 18**, 1 to 5 p.m. at the Simsbury Meadows Performing Arts Center.

This family-friendly community celebration will feature something for everyone. Adults can enjoy sampling selections from local and renowned breweries, while children enjoy bounce houses, trick-or-treating and classic autumn games. Live music will keep the atmosphere lively, and an array of food trucks and local business vendors will ensure there's plenty to eat, shop and explore.

The presenting sponsor, Liberty Bank, is helping to make this seasonal favorite a reality—bringing together neighbors, friends and visitors to celebrate all things fall. Additional sponsorship opportunities are available for businesses and organizations looking to connect with the community and be part of the festivities.

Admission is $15 for adults, $5 for children and students (ages 2 and under free). Beer tastings are available for $35, which includes general admission. Whether you're coming for the brews, the boos, or simply the community spirit, this is an event you won't want to miss.

Sullivan Hardwood Floors
Installation, Staining, and Refinishing
Serving the Farmington Valley and beyond for 35 years
Glenn Sullivan
860-712-9803
Owner Operated
Fully Insured

BUYING
Old books, old costume/gold/antique jewelry, coins, watches, stamps, silver, small antiques, fountain pens, paintings, old photographs & correspondence, postcards, estates, etc.
35+ years experience
Gallery One
Ed or Tami - tami.resource@gmail.com
860-658-0268
Single items or entire estates - if in doubt, just ask
Not quite ready to sell? Save this ad!

In Town Focus

Camera Club

The Granby Camera Club will meet on Monday, **Sept. 8** at 7 p.m. at the Granby Senior Center. Get acquainted with the club and enjoy the evening's program, Back to School with the Granby Camera Club. Do you remember the three-legged stool, rule of thirds, or leading lines? Bring your camera and questions for an evening of fun and learning!

Civic Club

The Granby Civic Club will begin its 112th year of service to the Town of Granby when it meets on Thursday, **Sept. 18** at 1 p.m. in the Granby Senior Center. Its single purpose over all these years has been *for a better Granby*.

The members welcome all women in Granby and surrounding communities to the September Welcome Back Tea. Please bring your favorite tea cup with a story to tell as we reconnect with each other and welcome new folks. We meet the third Thursday of each month in the Senior Center, unless otherwise indicated. Contact Ginny Wutka (ginny@lostacres.com) or 860-539-2556 for additional information.

Dog Park Fundraisers

The Granby D.O.G.G.S. Park Canine Swim FUNdraisers will be held on the following Sundays from 12 to 3 p.m. within the enclosed pond area at Salmon Brook Park: **Sept. 7, 21, 28,** and **Oct. 5**. The cost is $10 per dog; cash or check only—no credit cards, Apple pay, or Venmo are accepted. Due to safety reasons, no children under six years old are allowed within the enclosed pond area during the Canine Swim FUNdraisers.

Swimming dogs can frolic in the water by chasing balls, water toys and other dogs while non-swimming dogs can run on the sandy beach with new friends. All proceeds pay for the upkeep and maintenance of the Granby D.O.G.G.S. park.

Men's Breakfast

The Men's Breakfast Group will meet on Friday, **Sept. 12** to hear Ken Kuhl speak about the fascinating history of Connecticut canals. Where were the canals and why did they fail? Breakfast will be served at 8:30 a.m. with the program to start at 9 a.m. Please call the Senior Center to reserve your place.

At the Aug. 8 breakfast group meeting First Selectman Mark Fiorentino fielded questions on the Granby Center Planning design, updates on various town properties, transparency in the budgeting process and capital planning to mitigate the size of tax increases managed by the various boards in town, as well as other town issues.

Women's Breakfast

The Women's Breakfast Group will meet on **Sept. 10**, (the second Wednesday due to Labor Day). If you ever wanted to see South America, you are in luck. See it from the comfort of the Granby Senior Center as Charmaine Glew entertains with slides from her travels in South America. Breakfast at 8:30 a.m. followed by Glew's presentation at 9 a.m. Cost remains $5.

Advance notice for the October meeting: save **Oct. 1** as the group welcomes back retired veterinarian Dr. Harry Werner! We are looking forward to being entertained with his humorous animal anecdotes.

Register in advance of every breakfast meeting, online at JenniferKielbasasenior@granby-ct.gov or by phone at 860-844-5352. This helps to insure an accurate food count.

SBHS News

The Salmon Brook Historical Society is located at 208 Salmon Brook Street, and salmonbrookhistoricalsociety.com

The weekly Summer House Tours will be open **Sundays**, 2–4 p.m., through Sept. 28, closed Aug. 31 for the holiday. Tours include the Weed-Enders House c. 1790, Abijah Rowe House c. 1732, Colton-Hayes Tobacco Barn 1914 and Cooley School c. 1870. Tour the Shattuck collection on Sept. 28.

Open Farm Day is Saturday, **Sept. 6**, 10 a.m.–4 p.m. The Tobacco Barn on the main campus will be open, along with the Wilcox House at 143 Simsbury Road with weaving and hearth cooking demonstrations.

The popular Appraisal Event will be held on Sunday, **Sept. 14**, 10 a.m.–2 p.m. Fee is $5 per item.

Fall Flea Market is scheduled for Saturday, **Oct. 18**, 9 a.m.–4 p.m. on the society's grounds. Please contact Dave Laun at 860-653-3965 for vendor information. Flea Market donations are welcome any Tuesday or Thursday between 9 a.m. and noon through Oct. 14.

Pasta Dinner

The Granby UNICO is hosting their annual pasta dinner fundraiser Sunday, **Sept. 14** at Holcomb Farm in West Granby. Join us for a family-friendly event to enjoy delicious pasta with meatballs, sausage, salad and fresh Italian bread with ice cream for dessert. Seatings run continuously from 2 to 5 p.m.

Tickets are $25 and kids 10 and under eat for free. Purchase tickets at the door, or in advance by calling Jenn at 860-214-8552 or Julie at 860-805-7873.

The *Drummer* welcomes announcements of upcoming events sponsored by Granby organizations. Announcements may not exceed 120 words.
Submit to editor@granbydrummer.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. It really should be called BONE Disease, since it causes permanent bone loss.

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. LANAP is a laser assisted gum therapy that allows those people with a more severe form of gum disease to avoid the scalpel and sutures and save your teeth. 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

Follow us on Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/GranbyDentalCenter/

Scan the QR code below to find out more about our practice:

GRANBY DENTAL CENTER

Michael A. Ungerleider, DMD | Vipasha Desai, DDS
41 Hartford Avenue, Granby | 860-653-3220
Visit our website at: **www.granbydentalcenter.com**
ADVERTISEMENT

HAYES-HULING & CARMON
Funeral Home
Funerals • Cremation • Pre-Planning



Providing compassionate care *since 1946.*

364 Salmon Brook Street, Granby 860-653-6637
carmonfuneralhome.com • Family owned & operated.

Morgan Stanley

Wealth Management
Retirement Planning
College Savings Plans

Thomas Sullivan
Senior Vice President
Financial Advisor
433 South Main Street, Suite 100
West Hartford, CT 06110
860 313 7132
thomas.d.sullivan@morganstanley.com
www.morganstanleyfa.com/willowgroup
NMLS # 185351
© 2025 Morgan Stanley Smith Barney LLC. Member SIPC.
CRC 4044658 11/24



New year — new strategies

As Granby School District families return to the routine of another school year, the board of education will begin executing some new strategies and opportunities for 2025–26.

Board members participated in a retreat at the end of August where we brainstormed and discussed the beginning of a new strategic vision for our board and our schools. As should be expected, the primary focus of such a strategic vision is the achievements of our students.

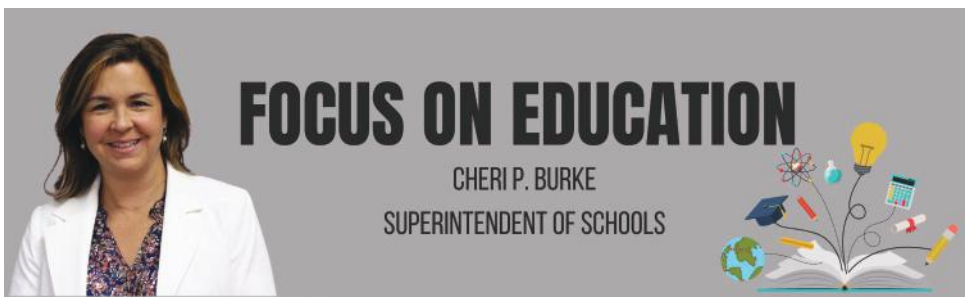
As we work on developing future strategies, we first must examine the outcomes of last year's strategies. An early look at student learning outcomes indicates strong improvement, with the district achieving its highest levels of math performance since the pandemic. The available data we have indicates Granby Memorial Middle School Smarter Balanced math scores in grades 6, 7 and 8 are at pre-pandemic highs, while PSAT scores in grades 8 and 9 increased by 20 points over the previous year. These gains reflect the district's commitment to instructional rigor and targeted support.

In addition, the board of education will implement a rigorous curriculum review that has not been implemented in prior years. Over the past year the district leadership team, including district and building administrators, department chairs and content area specialists, led by Assistant Superintendent Jen Parsons, has been developing a five-year curriculum review cycle. This cycle lays out action steps for PK–12 vertical teams (meaning educators for the same / related subject matter) to complete in each year culminating in a thorough review of the current curriculum and a proposed action plan for the content area. This process will allow teams to review the state approved standards for the specific content area as well as current data and instructional practices within the department. Essentially, every primary subject matter should undergo a full curriculum review every five years.

The action plan will be presented to the district leadership team and the BOE curriculum subcommittee for review and feedback and will include proposed changes to curriculum, courses and instructional resources. This process will continue this year with social studies after a soft launch with English language arts last year.

The goal of this work is to ensure Granby School District curriculum and lesson plans not only meet standards set by the Connecticut Board of Education, but add adaptive expertise and skill refinement quickly and consistently, and with a higher level of accountability for the outcome of higher student achievement.

Families can learn more and engage by attending or viewing Granby Board of Education meetings the first and third Wednesday, September through June. As always, please feel free to contact me with any questions at loganm@granbyschools.org



The year ahead, taking a theme to a strategic plan

Granby Public Schools will carry forward Connect. Believe. Achieve. from last year—because it just makes sense. It's more than a theme; it's what we stand for and what we believe. This year, we plan to build on this theme in a big way as we create our next five-year strategic plan, turning those words into action across the district. The strategic plan will be developed throughout the 2025–26 school year, incorporating input from students, staff, parents and community members. Regular updates will be shared during board of education meetings so everyone can follow our progress.

Communication remains center stage

We continue to make steady progress toward streamlining how we share information so you can easily find what you need. As part of this work, we are excited to introduce ParentSquare, which will now be used for all district, school and classroom communication. ParentSquare provides a simple, safe way for everyone in our schools to connect. Soon, we will roll out ParentSquare to community members who do not have children in our schools. We will launch this feature after we successfully onboard our staff and parents.

In the meantime, please continue to follow Granby Public Schools via our website and social media @Superintendent_Burke. If you have a specific question, we invite you to send it to: AskGPS@granbyschools.org and keep an eye on our new blog posts to see questions from your fellow community members.

School Resource Officer Chris Dufresne

We are thrilled to welcome School Resource Officer Christopher Dufresne to the district this year. Dufresne brings more than 20 years of experience and a passion for connecting with students. You will see him across the district—starting on the very first day of school—meeting students, staff and parents.

He will transition into his full-time role once the Granby Police Department fills his current vacancy. We are confident he will be a positive and visible presence for our schools and community. Special thanks to Granby Police Chief Scott Sanson and Captain Kurt LaFlamme for their support throughout this process.

We know this is going to be our best year yet!

O.P. PAINTING
By Scott O'Meara
Free Estimates QUALITY WORKMANSHIP Fully Insured
Scheduling Estimates Now for Winter 2024 & Spring 2025
CT License #564538 860-653-6828 oppainting@cox.net Granby, Connecticut

Town Hall Happenings

By Catherine Lanyon Town of Granby Communication Staff

What a fun summer we had but now it's time to get prepared for fall, especially the many autumnal sports, events and celebrations.

The Holcomb Farm Fresh Access Drive-through program for Seniors continues each week with great success; close to 100 members pick up fresh farm produce at the Senior Center to cook at home. If your family is having food needs this fall, please reach out to Granby Social Services to learn more about the many food and assistance resources available.

The second Granby Senior Center's Got Talent event will be held on Sept. 29. Can you sing? Dance? Maybe do both at the same time? Play an instrument, juggle, create incredible art, have a hilarious skit in mind to perform with friends? The possibilities are endless—whatever your talent, this is your moment to shine! Not a performer? Be part of the audience, cheer on your peers and enjoy the show. Register online to perform or by calling Jennifer at the Senior Center.

America's 250th birthday will be celebrated on July 4, 2026, and Granby has created a committee to plan a celebration. This committee will plan a celebration for the whole town to enjoy.

To receive updates about these events and other topics of interest, sign up for notifications at granby-ct.gov Click on the yellow "Subscribe" button on the homepage and follow the instructions to get connected.


Live Where You Love
With rates you'll love
...and local mortgage experts to guide you through the homebuying process!
Scan to begin your journey!
Windsor FEDERAL BANK
860-688-8511 Windsor | East Windsor | South Windsor | Bloomfield | Granby | Suffield
Member FDIC NMLS 472578

Navigating the Next Chapter:
Assisted Living at McLean

Two opportunities to learn more



All About Assisted Living Panel Discussion

Thursday, September 18, 2025
5:00-6:00 p.m.

Hop Meadow Country Club
85 Firetown Road, Simsbury

Bring your questions and join McLean's Director of Assisted Living & Resident Resources and our Director of AL Nursing to learn about the care options available at McLean – and how to tell when the time may be right for Assisted Living. **Seating at this event is limited; an RSVP by September 10 is required.** Light appetizers will be served. To RSVP please call 860-658-3718 or use the QR Code.



Assisted Living & Memory Care Drop-In Tours

Tuesday, September 23, 2025
5:00-6:30 p.m.

McLean Health Center
75 Great Pond Road, Simsbury

Stop by for a personal tour of McLean's award-winning Assisted Living and Memory Care. Meet our caring team, view our warm and inviting amenities spaces and residences, and discover what we mean by "the McLean Difference." No RSVP necessary.

To RSVP for the panel discussion or to learn more about Assisted Living at McLean, call 860-658-3718.

75 Great Pond Road Simsbury, CT 06070
860-658-3700 | ExploreMcLean.org

Purple Flag™ FOR DEMENTIA CARE

McLean

Granby Land Trust

Preserving Granby's Natural Heritage

GLT earns national accreditation—again



Photo of merganser family by Todd DeWald

Strong commitment to conservation excellence and responsible governance recognized

One thing that unites us as a nation is land: Americans strongly support saving the natural spaces they love. Since 1972, the Granby Land Trust (GLT) has been doing just that for the people of Granby. Now the land trust is excited to announce it has renewed its land trust accreditation, proving once again that it is committed to conservation excellence.

"Renewing our national accreditation shows the Granby Land Trust's ongoing commitment to permanent land conservation in Granby," said GLT President Rick Orluk. "We are a stronger organization having gone through the rigorous accreditation renewal process directed by the Land Trust Accreditation Commission. Our strength means special places—places like the Mary Edwards Mountain Property, the Dewey Granby Oak, 277 acres of West Granby's Holcomb Farm that are protected by a GLT conservation easement, the Seth and Lucy Holcombe Preserve, and the Dismal Brook Wildlife Preserve, to name a few—will be protected forever, preserving the critical natural places that help make Granby the incredibly beautiful place that it is."

The Granby Land Trust provided extensive documentation and was subject to a comprehensive third-party evaluation prior to achieving this distinction. The Land Trust Accreditation Commission awarded renewed accreditation to the land trust for the second time following its initial accreditation in 2014, signifying its confidence that GLT's lands will be protected forever. Accredited land trusts now steward more than 20 million acres—the size of Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island combined.

The GLT currently protects nearly 3,500 acres of land in Granby. A nonprofit organization with no public funding, the GLT relies on its members and donors for support. Some of Granby's most scenic and environmentally important properties are cared for by the Granby Land Trust: places like the Western Barndoor Hill Preserve, the Katan-Ensor, Garmany, Hayes Family and Schlicht Preserves, the Griffin Farm Preserve, the Godard Preserve, the Nuckols Family Preserve, the Wilcox Family Preserve and the recently acquired Emery and Hart Family Preserves. (To see a full list of properties under the GLT's care, go to GranbyLandTrust.org)

"We are proud to recognize the Granby Land Trust's continued commitment to conservation excellence," said Melissa Kalvestrand, executive director of the commission. "The accreditation seal is a mark of distinction that stands for excellence, trust and permanence. The Granby Land Trust is part of a network of more than 450 accredited land trusts that are united by their strong ethical practices. Accredited land trusts inspire confidence and respect among their peers and in their communities."



Midsummer sunrise at the GLT's Mary Edwards Mountain Property in North Granby. Photo by Rick Orluk.



A pollinator at work on native goldenrod in the GLT's Mary Edwards Mountain Property field in North Granby. Goldenrods are ecological powerhouses, providing an important late-season source of nectar and pollen for dozens of beneficial insects, including bees and butterflies.
Photo by Rick Orluk.



Swim Center at Westminster School

Crystal-Clear Water
Lap Swimming
Swim Lessons
Water Fitness
Monthly Memberships
Masters Swimming
Family Fun!

860 408-3021
www.SwimCenter.net
995 Hopmeadow Street
(Route 10) Simsbury

Beman Hardware
20 Hartford Ave., Granby, CT 06035
860-653-2598

90TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY

Join us
Saturday, September 6th
to celebrate our 90th Anniversary!
Enter to win Give-a-Ways
Kamado Joe Jr. Smoker, Refresh a room with Benjamin Moore Paint, T-shirts and many more!
Support the Lions Club
Get a hotdog for $1.00 11am-2pm
A SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL OF YOU!!

Martha Kane—a lifetime with birds

By Shirley Murtha

Raised in Westfield, Mass., in the late 50s/early 60s, Martha Kane knew instinctively from early childhood that things were not going well for many of the planet's plants and animals. Environmentalists were few and far between and politicians had not yet instituted Earth Day, so most people were unaware of any serious problems with the way humans were interacting with the natural world. Young Martha decided she would become a scientist and do her best to help nature.

The problem with this decision was the Kane family didn't have the resources to send her to college, but she had a plan. Starting with 6th grade she would get straight A's in school so she could get a scholarship to college where she would get assistantships and do work-study programs. Things turned out even better when her excellent high school grades allowed her to participate in extra-curricular field studies in Westfield's Educational Project to Implement Conservation (EPIC.)

One of EPIC's instructors was Phil Stanton, an ornithologist and professor at Framingham State College. Stanton was impressed with the young woman who clearly had her heart set on a career in the natural world. Having work-study money to hire an assistant, he chose Kane to help with his various projects: getting endangered trumpeter swans to breed in captivity, and methods to save sea birds that get caught in oil spills. (Long before the 1989 Exxon Valdez disaster, oil spills were killing lots of birds.)

Working with Stanton allowed Kane to narrow her field of interest to birds. It is no surprise that she went on to obtain



Martha Kane monitors a bluebird box on the Tree Trail at Holcomb Farm.
Photo by Shirley Murtha

her B.S. in wildlife biology from Framingham State University, graduating in 1975 with a burning desire to do field work. Unfortunately, she discovered that in the 70s most wildlife agencies were opposed to women doing field work so she went back to school, earning an M.S. degree in natural resources management and environmental education in 1977 from the University of Wisconsin at Stevens Point.

Kane's hope was, "To create a more environmentally literate citizenry that might take positive action to protect and conserve our natural resources." From 1980 through 2019, she had a variety of jobs in North Carolina. She was an outreach specialist for public schools in Catawba County, an 8th grade science teacher in Alexander County, wildlife education specialist for the state's coastal fish and game agency, lead educator for the North Carolina state parks system, and manager of Raleigh's first nature preserve.

After retiring from this last position, Kane returned to her love of field research. Volunteering in many parks and golf courses in the Raleigh area, she monitored and maintained nest boxes for cavity-nesting songbirds and trained others to do so. She did bird counts and participated in the National Audubon Society's climate watch program and was very active in the local raptor rescue, transporting injured hawks, owls and vultures for veterinary intervention before settling them in a rehab center. She did educational programs for the public using birds whose injuries were such that they could not be returned to the wild.

It would seem that life was quite rewarding for Kane but, in the fall of 2021, 350 acres of farmland and forest next to her home were razed to the bare ground to create a mega-housing subdivision. "It was heartbreaking to see all that wildlife habitat destroyed, all those native trees cut up to be used for wood pellets," Kane said. She still suffers some PTSD when she remembers watching the trees coming down and seeing some of the animals killed. To top it off, with the trees gone and no erosion protection, the creek in her back yard flooded and she needed to take out FEMA flood insurance.

That was the final straw. Knowing that New England had better environmental protections for soil and water, Kane headed home. She found a little "fixer-upper" in Southwick that happens to be located one mile north of the Granby Land Trust's Dismal Brook Wildlife Preserve. As Kane walked around the preserve, she noticed some nest boxes that were in disrepair. She had seen an online bird list with the Granby Land Trust's expert birder John Weeks contact info on it. She contacted Weeks and said she would love to help with the nest boxes. Weeks put her in touch with the land trust's Dave Emery and that started a new bluebird project. Emery made new boxes and installed them where Kane suggested, not only at Dismal Brook, but also at the Pelka fields across from the Seth and Lucy Holcombe Preserve and the Mary Edwards Mountain Preserve. She monitored all the boxes and wrote up a report for the land trust. So many birds fledged that the land trust approved an expansion of the program. Another local birder, Amy Woodman, got involved by monitoring boxes in three fields of the Holcombe Preserve while Kane continued to monitor in Dismal, Mary Edwards and Pelka.

Knowing that the folks at the Holcomb Farm Tree Trail might be interested in some advice with the bluebird boxes on their trail, Emery had the trail's Eric Lukingbeal contact Kane. She had heard reports of rat snakes getting into some of the boxes at Holcomb and she had plenty of experience wrangling them in North Carolina, so she was eager to get started on the tree trail.

Bluebirds have many challenges on the tree trail: mid-summer mowing, house sparrows and house wrens and tree swallows compete for the boxes. Moving the boxes and installing protective tubing on the posts seems to have reduced the predation and more birds have fledged this year. Unfortunately, the tree swallows seem to be more successful than the bluebirds, but at this writing, it was hoped that the blues would return once the swallows departed.

Kane follows the NestWatch protocols of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, loading all the box information into a database that is available for scientists in this country and across the world. Other Cornell-hosted bird count programs for ordinary citizens add data that shows many bird populations are declining, many due to the effects of climate change. "If we know the status of our native birds, this tells us a lot about the health of our local and regional environments," notes Kane.

In addition to all the bird box monitoring, maintaining a pollinator garden at her home, taking care of her two budgies, a parakeet and a "special needs" parrot, and making improvements to her fixer-upper, Kane does not have much time for anything else, although she does enjoy hiking with the Western Mass Hilltown Hikers and learning about the history of the land. Since her siblings live nearby, she is also enjoying the family activities that she missed while living in North Carolina. Kane treasures the friends she has made here, noting, "The folks at the Granby Land Trust and Holcomb Farm have the same love of nature and dedication to conservation that I have, so I always feel at home when I am on a GLT property or roaming around Holcomb Farm."





How a village makes a garden grow

By Chelsey Bagshaw

Early this spring, a nine-year-old Cub Scout in Granby was having dinner with her family, and made a simple comment, "Wouldn't it be cool if we had a garden that grew food for the food bank?"

The question was a good one, and the answer was easy—Yes, that would be cool!

Her idea was brought to the Pack 325 leaders, who agreed to give it a try. Coincidentally, the Volunteer Fair put on by the Granby Public Library was that week and by the end of the day, the scouts had arranged with Waste Not Want Not Community Kitchen to accept any produce the scouts could donate. The Granby Grange No. 5 had generously offered garden space, the American Legion Post 182 offered to prep the area and till the ground, and the Lions Club agreed to send some volunteers to help the Scouts plant.

A date was picked for a planting party, and with a truckload of donated plants from Aerie Mountain Nursery in Barkhamsted, the scouts (and some friends) showed up ready to get to work!

The kids, ranging in age from preschool to third grade, unloaded the truck, pulled any remaining weeds from the area and got down to business. They planted tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers, basil, parsley, green beans, lettuce, lettuce and more lettuce!

The adult volunteers, including scout parents and members of the Grange and Lions, helped teach the kids as they worked. Did you know that tomatoes like to be planted really deep? Or that cucumbers should be planted on a little mound of dirt? Because our scouts know that now! The kids were delighted to find that the garden was crawling with worms, and they named them all Jonathan, losing count at 104 Jonathans.



The kids in the photo are (from left): Caydence, Catherine, Bridget, Jacob, Julia, Haley, Dexter, Avalene, Zeke, Bergen, Fiona. Not pictured: Autumn, Everett, Ben, Emily. Submitted photo

Throughout the summer, scouts and their families have been weeding and watering the garden. The tomatoes needed cages, so a request went out on Facebook for anyone who would be willing to donate their old, unused cages, and the response from the community was overwhelming.

The scouts gathered for a harvesting party, picking more than ten gallon-sized bags of lettuce that they delivered to Waste Not Want Not. To date, they have been able to deliver a handful of peppers, a bag of green beans, some parsley and basil, and are waiting patiently for the cucumbers and tomatoes to be ready to harvest.

Community service is a large part of the Cub Scout program, and the garden project has been a great opportunity for the scouts to do something to help those in need. It also helped connect the kids to other volunteer organizations, showing that a generous spirit and a desire to make a difference has no age limit.

PUBLIC WORKS

Trash holiday: Monday, Sept. 1, Labor Day is a holiday for USA Waste. All trash and recycling pickups will be delayed by one day the week after the holiday.

Transfer Station extended hours: The Transfer Station will be open Wednesday mornings from 8 a.m. until noon though Dec. 31.

Roadwork: As we move into September, town crews will be completing the final steps of road improvement projects. Please use caution when traveling in the area of any roadwork.

RecycleCT: Do you have questions about what can go in your recycling bin? You can simply check your phone. Download the RecycleCT app and you can look up whether an item is recyclable anywhere, anytime.

Yard Waste: Yard waste cannot be placed in your trash or recycling barrel. Yard waste has been banned from curbside barrels since 1998. Grass, leaves and brush should either be composted on-site or brought to the Granby Transfer Station.

Hazardous Waste: The next hazardous waste collection will be Saturday, Oct. 18. A shredding truck will be available at the event. Residents may bring two boxes of documents for shredding.

Class of 1975 to hold 50th reunion

The 1975 graduating class of Granby Memorial High School is pleased to announce its 50th reunion, starting with an informal gathering Friday, Oct. 10 at 6:30 p.m. at the Cambridge House in Granby. Saturday, Oct. 11, there will be a guided tour of Granby Memorial High School, followed by a hike at Dismal Brook and lunch. The grand finale will be a banquet Saturday night at Metro Bis Restaurant in Simsbury. Festivities begin at 5:30 p.m. with cocktails; 6:30 p.m. dinner and dancing.

This year's reunion will feature musical entertainment provided by talented classmates from the class of 1975, and a complimentary 50th reunion memory book.

"We are very enthusiastic about bringing together our classmates from 1975 and celebrating this significant milestone," stated Gail Alix Heywood, reunion committee chair. "It is an exceptional opportunity to reflect on our shared experiences at Granby Memorial High School and to see how everyone's journeys have developed."

Classmates are encouraged to spread the word and make plans to participate in the celebration. Cost: $75 per person. Contact granbyhighschoolclassof1975@gmail.com or call 715-459-8180. RSVP deadline is Sept. 26.

LISTENING TO RESIDENTS.
GRANBY FOCUSED.

This November, vote for leaders who will put Granby first, with smart spending, strong schools and a focus on public safety and transparency.

BOARD OF EDUCATION
Donna Nolan
Jessica Diglio-Tsaptsinos

BOARD OF FINANCE
Ben Perron · James Tsaptsinos

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Mark Fiorentino
Mark Neumann · Andy Badeau

GRANBYRTC.COM
@GranbyRTC

Teacher of the Year: Sarah Warner, music educator and band instructor

Granby Public Schools is proud to announce that the 2025–26 Teacher of the Year is Sarah Warner, music educator and band instructor at Wells Road Intermediate School.

Warner was selected from an exceptionally talented group of Granby educators, each worthy of this special recognition. During the selection process, Warner shared her deep love for watching students grow—from their very first notes on an instrument to performing with them at middle and high school concerts. She also takes pride in welcoming back Granby graduates who are aspiring musicians and music educators to work alongside her each summer at band camp.

Reflecting on her career, Warner said, "It has been my absolute privilege to be a band director and music teacher in Granby for the past 22 years. I seriously have the best job, working with the best people. Thanks to my Wells Road and music department families for your friendship and support."

While her passion lies in flute and jazz music, Warner has embraced innovation by incorporating educational technology into her general music classes, including AI image generation. In a recent lesson, students listened to an Impressionist piece, brainstormed words describing the feelings the music evoked, and used those words to create AI-generated artwork, "painting a picture of the music." Each classes' images were compiled into a slideshow for comparison and discussion.



Sarah Warner, submitted photo

The letters submitted for her nomination reflect the impact she has had on her students: "Sarah's dedication is unmatched! She is not only focused on the music, but also the growth of all of the children" and "Mrs. Warner has always been there for me and by my side when playing the flute. We have a lot of great memories together, and I look up to her a lot."

Granby Public Schools congratulates Sarah Warner on this well-deserved honor and thanks her for her dedication, passion, and unwavering commitment to her students.

Submitted by Cheri Burke and Jennifer Parsons.



Parker Wrabel and Flynn Lankford parade their wearable art! Submitted photos



Sal Okenquist and Emmett Janssen take part in the robotics class, traveling down the hallways of Kelly Lane.

Summer Enrichment Program engages more than 120 students

By Kathryn Busbey, Instructional Specialist at Wells Road School

Granby's Summer Enrichment program had another successful summer with more than 120 student enrollments in seven exciting classes: robotics, mixed media exploration, STEAM summer, crazy chemistry, strings, drawing and painting, and sculpture arts.

Robotics allowed students to program robots to travel down the hallways of Kelly Lane, while mixed media exploration developed creativity with the formation of paper sports fields and wearable art. And strings students learned new pieces and performed them for guests on the final day.

Thank you to Nick Witherell, Kristy Lankford and Jess Foskitt for leading these classes and to our middle and high school volunteers for helping out over the three weeks! We look forward to another great program next summer!

Youth Services Bureau

by AnneMarie Cox

THEY'RE BACK!

The Feelings Bunch, for K–2 with a caregiver

Held Thursdays, Oct. 23 to Nov. 13, 4 to 5 p.m. at the Youth Service Bureau. Join your little one for an hour of fun and creative activities designed to help explore and express feelings. The Feelings Bunch is an opportunity for kids and their caregivers to learn and promote the development of social and emotional learning together while creating connections with others their age. Led by in-house family therapist Megyn Craine. Call 860-844-5355 to register you and your child.

Creative Minds Group—high school students

Held Thursdays, Oct. 23 to Nov. 13, 6 to 7 p.m. Led by artist and family therapist Megyn Craine, participants will use a variety of creative tools to experiment with self-expression. The Creative Mind Group is a place to explore who you are, and learn more about yourself—sometimes in surprising ways—through the use of your own innate creativity.

Parenting LGBT youth in troubled times

By AnneMarie Cox

Many parents in Connecticut are reeling as they try to anticipate how to help their LGBT children, while the national dialogue seems to be swinging from acceptance back toward intolerance. Although we live in a blue state, sadly, I have seen an increase in LGBT youth reporting they are encountering slurs and hostility in Granby and online. As a therapist, one of the reasons I was so happy to see us moving toward inclusivity and acceptance (terms I personally and professionally embrace) was the impact on LGBT youth suicide. The greater the family and community acceptance, the lower the LGBT suicide rates.

Did you know that there is no longer specialized LGBT support offered when a person calls 988?

If we cannot rely on national support, we need to rely on local community support. One thing the Youth Service Bureau can offer is a space for a Parent Support Group for families raising LGBT youth. Is there a need for this kind of local support group? Would you be interested? If so, the Youth Service Bureau is offering space and a facilitator on Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m.

You can call 860-844-5355 to express interest. If there are several parents interested, I will reach out to let everyone know when we can start the group.

Family Owned T.J. BARK MULCH INC. Since 1985
Visit TJBarkMulch.com for Coupons
18 Different All Organic Double Ground Mulches
Pine • Spruce • Hemlock • Cedar • Red, Black & Brown
Playground • Forest Blend • Topsoil • Firewood
SUMMER SPECIAL Native Blend 15.00 Per yard FOB Delivery available
Now Carrying Decorative Stone
We are a mulch manufacturer, not a resaler of other people's products. This means no middleman, and you save on the best product around. Come visit us on the web for great deals!
860-654-1975 | 25 Sam West Road, Southwick, MA | 413-569-2400


Granby's Food Bank needs your help ALL YEAR LONG.

ROBERT CARTER PAINTING
QUALITY COMES FIRST
860-653-5859
RobertCarterPainting.com
• Interior • Exterior • Insured • Written Estimates
20 Pendleton Rd. Granby, CT 06035 CT Lic. # 00559744

Granby dancers to perform at Walt Disney World



Some of the Nutmeg dancers getting ready for Walt Disney World. Submitted photo

On Oct. 26, 34 dancers from Nutmeg's Dance and Theatre Co. will take the stage at Walt Disney World in Orlando, Fla., performing for audiences from all over the globe.

The dancers, 22 of whom are from Granby, were accepted into Walt Disney World's prestigious Imagination Campus program and have spent the summer rehearsing for the big event. They will perform to music from *The Descendants* films, and couldn't be more excited to share their hard work.

Nutmeg's Dance and Theatre Co. opened in 2003 under the direction of Meg Fenton Funk, a long-time Granby resident and GMHS graduate. She also co-choreographs for the Granby Memorial High School Drama Club, and says it's been a joy to watch the school's performing arts program grow and thrive. "There is so much talent in our town," Funk shared.

Nutmeg's Dance and Theatre Co. is a non-competitive dance studio offering classes for ages 1.5 through adult in a welcoming, family-like environment. Its programs include ballet, hip hop, boys' classes, acro, musical theatre, Broadway jazz, commercial street jazz, modern, contemporary, dance team/cheer, world dance, tap, adult modern, adult tap, adult hip hop, and more. Over the years, the studio has awarded more than $15,000 in scholarships to Granby's graduating seniors pursuing the arts.

Stay tuned—the dancers will soon hold a public dress rehearsal of their Disney performance. Details will be shared on the studio's Facebook page and at NutmegsDance.com



From left, Kelly Rome (BOS), Mark Fiorentino (BOS), Ann Woods (BOE), Mark Neumann (BOS), Margaret Chapple (BOS), Town Manager Mike Walsh. Photo by Monica Logan

Ann Woods joins BOE

The Granby Board of Education is pleased to welcome new member Ann Woods. Woods moved to Granby in 2002 for its New England charm and natural landscape. She started her career at The Hartford and continued her education, earning a master's degree in management adding to her bachelor's in communications.

Woods chose to raise her family in Granby. Her 18-year-old son graduated from GMHS in 2024 and now attends Penn State University and her daughter is entering her sophomore year at GMHS.

"Raising my kids here has been a complete joy. From kindergarten on, Granby teachers and administrators have made a real difference in my kids' lives. Not only am I impressed by the quality of our educators, but from the athletics fields, to the drama stage, to the robotics pit, to the music performances, I'm constantly amazed by Granby's young people."

Woods was appointed by the Granby Democratic Town Committee to fill the remaining months of a four-year term upon the resignation of Karen Richmond-Godard, who is relocating out of town. Woods will campaign in this year's municipal election to fill the BOE seat for another four years.

Board members look forward to Ann Woods' perspective, expertise and contributions to kick-off the new school year.

Submitted by Heather Lombardo

Church welcomes new pastor

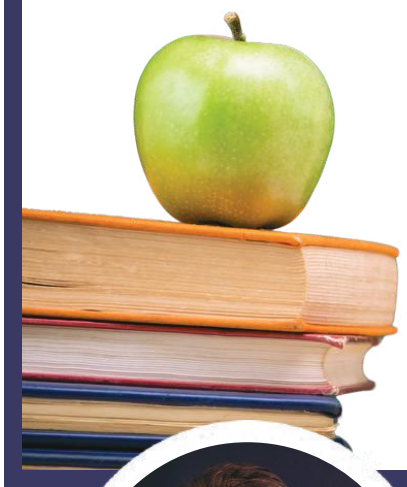
North Canton United Methodist Church's (UMC), 3 Case Street, welcomed its new minister, Reverend Doctor Oon Don Choi, this summer at the church's July 6 worship service.

Pastor Oon Don was born in Seoul, South Korea. He earned his master of divinity at Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University, and his doctor of ministry at New York Theological Seminary.

Oon Don, as he prefers to be called, served churches in Oklahoma and New York before moving to Connecticut to pastor the Hartford Korean Methodist Church. He and his wife, Ana, have four adult children.

At the request of the congregation, every service ends with a blessing in English and Korean.

BACK TO SCHOOL MEANS IT'S TIME TO WRITE YOUR NEXT CHAPTER!



LET'S WRITE YOUR NEXT CHAPTER TOGETHER!

With home values still near record highs, now may be the perfect time to make a move. Whether you're upsizing, downsizing, or just curious, I'm here to help! No pressure, just smart advice.





JUDY GUARCO, REALTOR®
860.559.2133 • JUDYGUARCO@BHHSNE.COM
22 HARTFORD AVE GRANBY, CT 06035
BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY HOMESERVICES | NEW ENGLAND PROPERTIES NEW YORK PROPERTIES HUDSON VALLEY PROPERTIES

TOP 2% OF THE NETWORK · BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY HOMESERVICES · BHHS

AS A RESIDENT OF GRANBY FOR 60+ YEARS, THIS GRANBY GIRL KNOWS AND SELLS GRANBY!
• Ranked Top 2% Nationally • Awarded Chairman's Circle Gold
• #2 Realtor for Home Sales in Granby for 2024 • One of Hartford Magazine's Best of the Best
• Five Star Professional Realtor Award • Selected as a 2024 Top Agent in CT by BestAgents.us

© AN INDEPENDENTLY OPERATED MEMBER OF BHH AFFILIATES. ®EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY.

Animal Talk

DR. MONIQUE FITZPATRICK



Why rabies vaccines are so important

Rabies vaccinations in dogs and cats are extremely important for their safety and the safety of the public. The vaccine is extremely effective, and failure of protection has been rarely reported in our animal patients. The rabies vaccine is the only vaccination in cats and dogs that is mandated by the state. This vaccine must be given by 14 weeks of age and given every one or three years depending on age and vaccine history. Because the vaccine is safe and effective, dogs and cats should be given the vaccine on a regular schedule.

What is rabies?

Rabies is a virus that attacks the nervous system in mammals and is almost always fatal. Symptoms may include behavior changes, aggression, excessive drooling, staggering, paralysis and seizures. According to the World Health Organization, the rabies virus kills about 59,000 people per year. Dogs are the primary source of infection in humans, especially in countries that do not have an established vaccine program. Because the United States has state-mandated vaccination programs, there are typically only 1 or 2 deaths per year from the rabies virus. According to the American Veterinary Medical Association, in 2022 there were 3,579 reported cases in animals. Rabies is 100 percent preventable with routine vaccinations, which is why many veterinarians, including myself, highly stress the importance of the rabies vaccine. Not only do we want to protect your furry friends, but we want to protect your family as well.

Titers

Titers measure antibody levels, or response to a vaccination. Some sources will recommend rabies titers instead of routine vaccination. This is not sufficient by state law and appropriate titer levels have not been established. With the rabies virus, antibody levels correlating to the amount of protection have also not been established or studied. This means that the titer level is impossible to interpret accurately.

Testing

I have been asked many times why we don't routinely test pets for rabies. Unfortunately, the only way to confirm a diagnosis is with brainstem samples. These samples cannot be taken on a living animal. Animals must be euthanized for testing to be done.

Rabies in Connecticut

While there have not been any cases of rabies in humans in Connecticut, this summer alone there have been multiple cases reported in animals. One was a raccoon that bit a dog; another included a feral cat colony. In 2023, the Department of Health in CT reported 36 total positive rabies cases in animals, including five in Hartford County.

I do not share this information to scare people but to shed some light on why veterinarians, towns and states are so strict about rabies vaccinations. We hate to have to tell families that their pet should be tested and we hate to see the number of positive cases growing. If you have questions about your pet's vaccination status or the rabies vaccine, please contact your veterinarian.

Gary's Lawn Mowing
Since 2005 (one-time or seasonal)
Spring and Fall Cleanups
NO CREWS – DEPENDABLE SERVICE
Locally owned and operated
Call or text
860-392-8137
Same day response

WE ARE ALL GROWN UP
16 YEARS SERVING WITH PLEASURE



SMALLTOWNSEPTIC
Septic Pumping, Installation, Repair and Inspection
A Division of JRL Construction, LLC

$40 OFF Septic Cleaning
Mention Code FALL25
expires 11/30/25

Ride with the Granby Pony Club

By Karen Doherty

For those unfamiliar with Pony Club, the name may be deceptive. You might assume that the club is solely focused on children and ponies but, in fact, it is an equine program open to all ages. Amy Aureli serves as district commissioner of the Granby Pony Club that is a member of the United States Pony Clubs, Inc. (USPC). Based in Lexington, Ky., USPC is the largest equine educational organization in North America. Started in 1954 and originally based on Great Britain's The Pony Club, the curriculum teaches riding skills, horse care fundamentals and sportsmanship within a structured learning pathway. Members progress at their own pace, beginning with club certifications and moving to national certifications. Pony Club is for everyone who loves horses and wants to learn about them.

With members in Granby as well as Avon, Canton, Ellington, Enfield and Vernon, the Granby Pony Club brings together members from ages 12 to 62 who share an interest in horsemanship and community. While owning a horse is not required, having access to a horse allows members to participate in mounted activities that the club organizes. Granby Pony Club has hosted guest speakers including farriers, veterinarians and a visit to the Hampden County Mounted Patrol Unit.

Granby Pony Club is a member of the New York/Upper Connecticut Region and Granby resident, Lynn Guelzow, serves as regional supervisor. With 10 clubs in the region, there are a variety of opportunities to increase skills in both riding and horsemanship. In June, a three-day intensive program, both riding and unmounted, was held at the Kent School. On both the eastern and western sides of the region, clinics were held involving games, cross country and other riding disciplines. In the fall a Horse Management and Certification Clinic, free to all regional members, will be held. In addition to mounted programs, the club also uses Quiz Rally as a fundamental learning tool, providing members with opportunities to learn good sportsmanship, leadership and teamwork.

In addition to horsemanship and riding skills, the goal of the Granby Pony Club is to teach life skills, such as communication, confidence, leadership, safety, responsibility and teamwork. Leadership opportunities for 18 to 23-year-olds through the USPC National Youth Congress and National Youth Board provide an empowering platform for Pony Club members to take on leadership positions, actively participate in events and projects, and boost camaraderie within clubs and regions. The Granby Pony Club welcomes new members. Anyone interested in learning more can email granbyponyclub@gmail.com for information.



Horses and riders coming through a Kent field during the three-day clinic this past June.



Praisa Willey was one of the pony clubbers participating in the June program at Kent School. Photos by Sarah Willey

Make a difference—become a Girl Scout leader!

Are you looking for a fun, meaningful way to give back to your community—do you enjoy working with children and helping them grow into confident, capable leaders? Consider becoming a Girl Scout leader!

A troop leader guides a group of girls through amazing adventures, skill-building activities, and community service projects. It is completely flexible, with leaders choosing the days and times of meetings to fit schedules. The Girl Scouts of Connecticut makes it easy to get started. New troops receive special Daisy or Brownie boxes filled with everything needed to kick off the journey—including activities, supplies, lesson plans and support resources.

Whether a parent, teacher, grandparent or simply someone who wants to make a difference, leading a Girl Scout troop is a rewarding experience that creates lasting memories. Reach out to Samantha Warner at salmonbrook717@gmail.com to learn more and take the first step toward becoming a leader in your community.

Town manager, IT people, attend cybersecurity program

By Shirley Murtha

Town Manager Mike Walsh, Board of Education IT person Frank Melanson and Town of Granby IT person Tristen Grouten attended a cybersecurity program on May 28. The Town of Simsbury invited Avon, Canton, East Granby, Farmington and Granby to join in assessing how each town handles the occurrence of a cyber incident.

After being presented with a mock security incident, each town was evaluated on its procedures for detection and response. Walsh noted that Melanson's responses to questions from the program leaders were excellent, indicative of the work the IT staff has put into the Town of Granby's security.

Granby has a risk management program that regularly receives cyber threats—up to 1,000 a month—but, so far, none have gotten into its domain, thanks to alerts from the CISA (Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency), a division of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and MS-ISAC (Multi-state Information Sharing and Analysis Center). These two agencies scan networks and gather information on recent threats of which towns are informed.

Also, the town works with CTIC (Connecticut Intelligence Center) if there are any fraud attempts, or other illegal activities are noted. CTIC is the designated fusion center for the state, one of 890 such centers in the country. Fusion centers were developed after Sept. 11, 2001 in an effort to increase collaboration and information sharing among state, local, federal and private sector entities. It includes representatives from organizations such as Homeland Security, the FBI, TSA, Connecticut National Guard and state police.

Both Granby's head of IT, Jon Lambert, and Melanson receive these notifications, which may involve the town's software, Microsoft programs, email and internet. Granby also uses internal software tools to monitor systems and the internet provider monitors the connection for attacks and abnormal usage. Most of the town's internal systems are backed up nightly by the town's cloud provider, Microsoft, or stored in several different town buildings depending on the software platform involved.

Town and BOE staff report threats to Grouten and Melanson. The response to a security issue depends on the magnitude of the threat. The town will gather its emergency center operations staff, much as it does for weather-related emergencies, to decide what the response will be and which department(s) will make that response. Any indications of compromise would be looked at by the technology department and, depending on the issue, could escalate it to one or more individuals including the town manager, police chief, public works director or school superintendent.

Another organization that is contacted in the case of a threat is CIRMA (Connecticut Interlocal Risk Management Agency), the town's insurance carrier. If the security issue involves financial payment to prevent loss of data, it will help recover the loss and pay the claim. The information would also be shared with the state police, who would also assist in trying to recover any lost money as well as starting any criminal investigation they believe to be merited.

The emergency operations center staff have received training and regularly receive training updates. Those who work for the state are required to have performed updates within 30 days of the update's arrival, but individual towns are not as stringent. Lambert and Melanson decide the appropriate training frequency for the town and BOE staff.

Depending on the criticality of the issue, reconstitution can take a few days or months. The emergency operations staff tailors the response to the severity. Once all systems are running again and all data is restored, the incident is deemed to be over.



Fill Paul's Truck at Geissler's a success



Kim and Kent McCord were among the many generous people that purchased and then donated non-perishable food items, as well as donated cash, to the Friend to Friend food pantry on July 26. Geissler's management organized pre-packed bags for varying dollar amounts for shoppers' convenience, as well as scheduled vendors for food-tasting in the store. The East Granby-based food pantry's shelves were restocked with the more than $1,000 worth of groceries that filled the truck to capacity. Many thanks to the folks that turned out that day, and to Geissler's Supermarket for always supporting the community. Submitted photo

Granby Congregational Church.
We're up to something good!



One of the things you'll discover about Granby Congregational Church is that there always seems to be something going on! Almost any day of the week chances are you'll find a gathering at one of our campuses. It might be a yoga class or a free meal by Waste Not Want Not. Perhaps a Salmon Brook Music Series concert or a Red Cross blood drive. Maybe a meeting of one of Granby's civic groups or GCC's Friday afternoon Open Cupboard Pantry food distribution program. The list goes on and on. Follow us on Facebook and Instagram or check out our website calendar to see for yourself. You'll see it's all good stuff!

September Worship Services are 10.00 a.m. at our South Campus.

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

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

Top row photos, L-R:
Waste Not Want Not Community Meal
GCC Pumpkin Patch
American Red Cross Blood Drive
Tuesday and Thursday Morning Yoga

Bottom row photos, L-R:
Salmon Brook Music Series
Good Company Theater
Open Cupboard Pantry
Bruce Porter Memorial Music Series

South Campus
242 Salmon Brook Street

North Campus
219 North Granby Road

GRANBY CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

HOMECOMING SUNDAY IS 9/14 JOIN US!

As we get set to usher in a new year of high school sports, the GMHS Athletic Booster Club would like to say a heartfelt "Thank You" to all of the coaching staff, athletes, families, community members, volunteers and sponsors who made our 2024-2025 seasons such a success! In particular, we would like to acknowledge our 2024-25 All-Season Sponsors: Windsor Federal Bank and Mitchell Auto Group. And to our Seniors that graduated in May, thank you for all of your contributions to GMHS Athletics and the broader GMHS and Granby communities!

In addition, we would like to recognize the many team and individual athletic achievements from our 2024-2025 seasons - congratulations on your well-deserved honors!

2024-2025 INDIVIDUAL HONORS

1000 Kills (Volleyball)
Jayne Hiatt

All-Conference

Boys Soccer
Dylan Brown
Ben DelGallo
Noah DelGallo

Girls Soccer
Mackenzie Boyd
Cassie Earl
Brenna Nichols

Volleyball
Jayne Hiatt
Teresa Moody
Sage Pycz
Olivia Teclaw

Cross Country
Gavin Baron

Field Hockey
Tia Angelis
Abbey Heller
Lauren Kaczka
Camryn Santa
Ava Santa

Football
Carter Chambers
Ryan Cuniowski
Vinny Forte
Joe Lewie
Hayes Horst
Tristan Jackson
Kendall Thomas

Boys Basketball
Jake Teclaw

Girls Basketball
Mia Crunden
Jalisa Matthews

Indoor Track
Sean Jones

Wrestling
Liam Kirkpatrick

Baseball
Jadon Adams
Eli Benson

Softball
Amanda Bristol
Brynne Simard

Golf
Brady Liss

Boys Lacrosse
Cody Ehmann
Hayes Horst
Benjamin Zacchera

Girls Lacrosse
Mackenzie Boyd
Alyssa Ditommaso
Natalie Jones

Boys Tennis
Benjamin LaVigne

Girls Tennis
Jaclyn Scanlon

All State

Girls Soccer
Cassie Earl

Boys Soccer
Ben DelGallo
Noah DelGallo

Field Hockey
Tia Angelis
Camryn Santa

Volleyball
Jayne Hiatt
Teresa Moody
Sage Pycz

Football
Hayes Horst

Softball
Amanda Bristol

Boys Lacrosse
Cody Ehmann
Hayes Horst
Benjamin Zacchera

Girls Lacrosse
Mackenzie Boyd
Alyssa Ditommaso
Natalie Jones

Robotics
Charles Krut

All New England

Boys Soccer
Ben DelGallo

2024-2025 TEAM HONORS

Girls Volleyball
NCCC Conference Regular Season Champions
NCCC Tournament Champions
CIAC Tournament Finalists

Boys Soccer
CIAC Tournament Semi-Finalists

Football
CIAC Tournament QuarterFinalists

Field Hockey
NCCC Conference Regular Season Champions
CIAC Tournament QuarterFinalists

Boys Lacrosse
CIAC Tournament QuarterFinalists

Girls Lacrosse
CIAC Tournament Semi-Finalists

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

Finally, we wish all of our returning athletes the best of luck in your upcoming seasons! We encourage all Granby residents to attend home games and matches; they are fun, (mostly!) free and a wonderful way to build community and show support for our students and coaches. Game schedules can be found on our Booster Club website: https://gmhsboosters.com/

Booster Club Mission

The GMHS Athletic Booster Club is a group of GMHS parent and student volunteers dedicated to developing and enhancing athletic programs and facilities at GMHS and promoting pride in our school. We do this by, among other things:

- Supporting and promoting Homecoming weekend
- Selling concessions at games to raise funds
- Hosting special events (i.e., "New Athlete Night" and "Rovers Night" in the fall) to promote GMHS sports and camaraderie among players and/or encourage attendance at home games
- Supporting fan buses for travel to away games for students
- Providing funding for equipment and facilities enhancements requested by our coaches and athletic director, such as covered player benches for the stadium field

Our success depends entirely on the involvement of our GMHS parents and students and the generosity of our community sponsors. For more information on volunteering or sponsoring the Booster Club for the upcoming 2024-2025 season, please visit our website (https://gmhsboosters.com/) or email us at gmhsctboosters@gmail.com.

Granby Horse Council visits Valkyrie Equestrian Center and Julien's Farm Store



Chris Peregrin, co-owner of Julien's Farm Store, puts finishing touch to the buffet. Photo by Adam D. Hill



Carolyn Mainardi, owner of Valkyrie Equestrian Center, with Leo, a horse boarded at the farm. Photo by A. Lindberg



"Where's my carrot?" Isabella Ekstrom, 8 years old, visits with hungry Hero. Photo by A. Lindberg

By Faith Tyldsley

On July 16, Julien's Farm Store hosted the Granby Horse Council (GHC) during its monthly meeting that was held at Valkyrie Equestrian Center. Carolyn Mainardi, Valkyrie's owner, gave a tour to start off the evening. GHC members and guests walked through the stables, past the indoor and outdoor rings, and were introduced to equine residents along the way.

Between the tour and the program, a buffet provided by Julien's Farm Store was a special culinary treat—as those who have come to love Julien's will well understand.

What is the Granby Horse Council?

The GHC was founded in 1979 by horse-minded residents of Granby. President Billie McNealey says members need not be Granby residents or even horse owners. She adds, "Many members are just lovers of horses, but don't own them. Many others own a single horse, but multiple owners have two or more. The one thing they all have in common is a love and respect for these beautiful animals." There are currently 75 members. Meetings are held on the third Wednesday of the month, from April through October and open to anyone interested.

The group's mission is to promote the rights of equines and horse people in the town of Granby. In one of its recurring community programs, called Share the Road, members provide guidance to the public regarding how to drive in the presence of horses being ridden on the road.

On Open Farm Day (Sept. 6), GHC members are there to share knowledge about horses. The council periodically invites the community to observe council activities—such as drill team practices, obstacle training events, and the Poker Ride—held at Salmon Brook Park and Holcomb Farm arenas.

This year members will hold a breed demo, which will consist of members showing their horses of different breeds and pointing out identifying physical and behavioral characteristics. The group maintains local multi-use trails and the exercise rings at Salmon Brook Park and Holcomb Farm.

Council's evening program

A conversation between Dr. Harry Werner and Dr. Caitlin Rothacker, equine veterinarians, followed the meal. The moderator was Piper Klemm, publisher of *The Plaid Horse*, a magazine for those intensively involved in the equestrian life. The veterinarians spoke of the positive changes that have occurred over the past 50 years in the care of horses.

Werner came to Granby in 1974. He described what equine veterinary practice was like at that time. One important issue for him was that there be a positive liaison between horse owners and town governance. In 1979, he helped to form GHC for that reason.

Werner related, "There was a time when horses could not be in the Memorial Day parade. We went to the parade officials to ask that horses be included. I pointed out to them that eight million horses were killed or died of disease and untreated wounds in military service while serving our country." Horses have marched in Granby parades since then.

Werner noted the welcome introduction of specialized equipment over the past 50 years. "In 1983, we got the first ultrasound imaging machine. Now we have acupuncturists, board-certified vets, internal specialists, and a relatively-new podiatry specialty, whose practitioners are aptly called 'horse podiatrists'."

Rothacker became board certified by the American Board of Veterinary Practitioners in Equine Practice in 2014. She moved to Granby in 2015 and now works for Grand Prix Equine, one of the largest privately-owned equine practices in the northeast. Grand Prix is an ambulatory practice, with services provided where its equine clients live.

Horse Council cont'd. on p. 22

GRANBY-SIMSBURY Chamber of Commerce CHAMBER Updates

VIEW ALL EVENTS FIND A MEMBER

VISIT US AT WWW.SIMSBURYCOC.ORG
INFO@SIMSBURYCOC.ORG | 860.651.7307

UPCOMING EVENTS

09/12 NETWORKING
Second Friday Morning Networking

09/18 AFTER HOURS NETWORKING
Ethel Walker School Third Thursday

10/10 NETWORKING
Second Friday Morning Networking

10/16 NETWORKING
Third Thursday After Hours Event

10/18 SPOOKTACULAR BOOS & BREWS
Simsbury Meadows Performing Arts Center

SPOOKTACULAR BOOS & BREWS
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2025
1:00-5:00 PM
SIMSBURY MEADOWS PERFORMING ARTS CENTER
TICKETS
$15 adults
$5 children/ students*
$35 tastings
*2 and under free
Community Event featuring:
- Tastings from local and renowned breweries
- Live music
- Bounce houses, trick or treating, games
- Food vendors and local business vendors
LIBERTY BANK Be Community Kind. Presenting Sponsor
SCAN ME

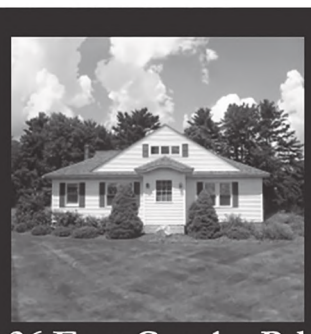
JOIN US SIGN UP ONLINE SIMSBURYCOC.ORG

NEW MEMBERS
Saint Therese Parish
Kris Barnett/Berkshire Hathaway
Dixon Orthodontics
Kyoto Sushi & Hibachi

SHOP LOCAL.
SUPPORT LOCAL.
STRENGTHEN OUR COMMUNITY.
Discover local shops, services, and more. Find them all in one place.
VISIT www.simsburycoc.org

THANK YOU for your support
INVESTING IN OUR FUTURE TOGETHER
MITCHELL AUTO GROUP
Granby-Simsbury Chamber of Commerce & Mitchell Auto Group

GRANBY DENTAL



26 East Granby Rd



Dr. Vince Steniger
GENERAL DENTISTRY



Dr. Matthew Lepowsky
GENERAL DENTISTRY



Dr. Jason Raney
ORTHODONTIC SPECIALIST



Dr. Staci Allen
PEDIATRIC SPECIALIST

General Dentists and Certified Specialists
All Under One Roof!
860-653-7596
WWW.GRANBYDENTAL.COM
.....
Appointments 8:00 am to 7:00 pm and Saturdays!

Horse Council cont'd. from p. 22

Each doctor's vehicle is outfitted as a mobile equine ambulatory clinic.

An equine practice on the cutting edge, Grand Prix performs radiographs, ultrasound, endoscopy, shockwave and laser therapy and chiropractic care. Rothacker noted, as had Werner, that increased availability of specialized horse care in cardiac, respiratory and neurologic cases have given equine vets apparent super powers. On the flip side of technological advances, Rothacker pointed out that, "There is great value in mentorship in our field—the sharing between experienced vets and those new to the field."

The evening drew to a close with a business meeting. Members drifted away to their cars. It had been one of those perfect summer evenings.

In the golden embrace of a summer's eve
Lush gardens sway, a sea of green.
Sunflowers, high as elephants' eyes,
Yellow petals whisper: time to rest.

Horses roam, silhouettes against the fading sun,
Manes like flickering shadows.
Gentle breaths slow and soften
As dusk wraps the barns in a soft quilt of twilight.



Joan Davis is shown riding her horse Cherokee in the 2023 Memorial Day Parade. Photo by Shirley Murtha



Dr. Harry Werner, Piper Klemm and Dr. Caitlin Rothacker chat about equine care.
Photo by Adam D. Hill

Granby Artists' Open Studios Tour

Connect with your local Granby artists at the annual Granby Artists Open Studio weekend on Oct. 4 and 5 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Open Studio tour invites visitors to artists' studios to meet the artists, watch demonstrations and find art and gifts. The Open Studio tour map showing the artists' locations is inserted in this Granby *Drummer*. Visitors can also read detailed information and download the map from granbyartists.org Thank you to all our generous supporters and donors whose financial support makes this annual event possible!

This year the following artists are participating the tour:

Avis Cherichetti and **Linda Yurasevecz** will display their pottery art at Avis's studio, Honey Hill Pottery. **Cherichetti** will have her raku birds and fairy doors. Yurasevecz will have some new raku pieces. Ongoing demos will feature bowls to be given to the GMHS Honor Society for the 2026 Empty Bowls event .

Sally Sargent-Markey will have watercolor paintings, handmade soft animals, polymer clay jewelry, and small decorative items. During the event she will show how she makes bookmarks and cards with black line drawings. She will be giving away free bookmarks.

Alex Anisimov will be in his gallery at 2 Park Place. Check out his new art work while he gladly answers questions about art, artists, his philosophy of life and the creative process.

Susan Canavan will be at Lost Acres Vineyard showing her crepe paper botanicals. She will have a variety of paper flowers, foliage, and mushrooms for sale and will be showing how she constructs these paper sculptures.

Kathy Ungerleider will be at Lost Acres Vineyard displaying her handcrafted resin sea shell/sea glass artwork and mirrors, decoupage oyster shell trinket dishes, and other unique handcrafted gifts. She will be available to explain her process throughout both days.

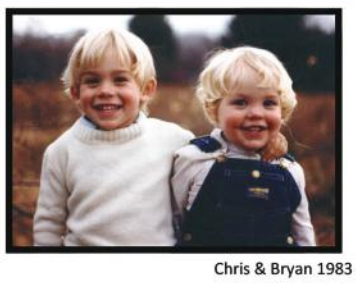
Karen Dalecki is a watercolor artist who enjoys a wide range of interests: the New England landscape, house and boat portraits, her flower gardens and abstracts. Her framed paintings will be at the Lost Acres Vineyard location. Commissions are welcomed.

Matthew Mikalonis is an interdisciplinary artist working primarily in print media and papermaking. He enjoys engaging with craft by making handmade paper with natural fibers and linoleum cut prints to create narratives inspired by his interests in folk art, antiques, and mythology.

Alexander Sogliero will be displaying his body of work at Lost Acres Vineyard. His portfolio includes portraits, wildlife photography and New

Open Studios cont'd. on p. 23

Why We Should Be Your **Septic Company**



Chris & Bryan 1983

Emergency Service 24/7

Connecticut Onsite Wastewater Recycling Association COWRA

THE CHRISTOPHER BRYANT CO.
SEPTIC • SEWERS

Ask your neighbors about us!

We are:
- Family Owned and Operated
- Professional & Knowledgeable
- Fully Licensed & Insured

CT License # HIC0559131



Buying a home is one of your biggest investments...

LET US HELP YOU PROTECT IT!

BBB A+ RATING

All major credit cards accepted

(860) 651-7060
www.ChristopherBryantCompany.com

SEPTIC CLEANINGS * INSTALLATIONS & REPAIRS * PUMP & PUMP CHAMBERS
FIBER OPTIC VIDEO INSPECTION * SEWER CONNECTIONS * E XCAVATION & DRAINAGE



Scouts shooting for the moon. Photo by Chelsey Bagshaw

Cub Scout Pack 325 launches into summer fun

By Bill De Nio and Chelsey Bagshaw

Cub Scout Pack 325 of Granby held its annual rocket launch on Aug. 9 at Salmon Brook Park, and the skies were buzzing with excitement as scouts and their families gathered for one of the pack's most thrilling summer traditions.

The launch was coordinated by Steve Sosik and Evan Moreau who oversaw setup and safety. Rockets were launched four at a time, giving kids the chance to lead countdowns and cheer each other on. Sosik counted a record-breaking 48 spent engines—every child got to launch as many times as they wanted, thanks to the pack providing rockets and supplies.

The weather was perfect, and aside from one rocket rescued from a tree, all landed safely in the field. With laughter, teamwork and high-flying fun, the rocket launch was a soaring success and a great way for scouts to reconnect over the summer.

Granby teen earns Girl Scout Gold Award

Girl Scouts of Connecticut recently recognized 35 exceptional Girl Scouts who earned the organization's highest achievement at the Annual Girl Scout Gold Awards Ceremony. One of these scouts is Granby's Mackenzie Janski.

"Less than six percent of all Girl Scouts earn the prestigious Girl Scout Gold Award," adds Elicia Pegues Spearman, CEO at Girl Scouts of Connecticut. "Above all else, this achievement makes a girl understand what a difference one person can make, and how dreaming big can make positive change in the world."

All 35 Gold Award honorees received an official Gold Award Certificate, Letter and Proclamation.



Mackenzie Janski. Photo by Deneika Janski

Open Studios cont'd. from p. 22

England landscapes that are printed in large format, matted and framed—all in-house at his studio at the historic Tariffville Mill in Simsbury.

Don Shaw Jr. will display his photographs at Granby Congregational Church North Campus. His work includes wildlife, landscapes and street scenes.

William Bentley is showing watercolor paintings, which include flowers and still-life subjects. Sketches for future watercolors will also be displayed.

Michael Bentley developed his photographic skills while working in graphic design where he produced album covers, print publications and, eventually, websites. Besides an overriding effort to capture light, color and shape, Bentley's most recent work has found painterly detail in the garden that is Granby.

Carolyn Dittes is excited to display her new large floor vases along with bowls, mugs, utensil holders and other functional pieces, many with new glaze combinations. She will also have a table of seconds.

George Mattingly is drawn to the natural world, and that has been the focus of his paintings to date. "New way of life—learn and paint, paint and learn—reveals that there is still much more ground to cover."

Emma Smith's art consists of acrylic paintings of places she has visited in Europe, Asia and Iceland. She also has paintings of New England scenes. She enjoys traveling and then putting effort into designing and painting a memorable scene.

Anne Marie Elder will be doing carving demonstrations at her home studio. She carves wooden spoons and utensils.

Steve Linde will be showing his oil paintings and pastels at Lost Acres Vineyard.

Save the Date

Granby Artists Association will host its popular Annual Holiday Gift Show on Saturday, Dec. 6, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Granby Congregational Church's Cook Hall at its North Campus, 219 North Granby Road. Shop local and support your favorite artists at this one-day event. We look forward to seeing you there! Check our website and the November *Drummer* for more details.

The Granby Lions Club would like to thank the following sponsors who have contributed to the success of our Annual Golf Tournament, held July 21, 2025!

PLATINUM SPONSORS

Mitchell Auto Group
Windsor Federal Savings

GOLD SPONSORS

State Line Propane & Oil
The W.I. Clark Company

SILVER SPONSORS

Ahrens Fuller St. John & Vincent Insurance
Carmon Community Funeral Homes
Peter L. Brown Co
Route 10 Tire
Arrow Concrete Products
Integrated Dermatology of Enfield/Simsbury
Pierce Builders Inc
Tim's Automotive

TEE SIGN SPONSORS

Adherent Technologies, LLC
Cahill Motor Cars
Granby Family Eye Care
Landmark Tours and Cruises
Small Town Septic
Shirley and Doug Beach
Drago's Kitchen
Grass Helper
Maximum Tree Service
Wayne Chapple - Windsor Locks Lions
Beman Hardware
Eaton Eye Care of Granby
JDS Advisory, LLC
Russ's Collision Services, LLC

LONG DRIVE & PAR 3 SPONSORS

Evans Automotive, LLC
Grape Ape Smoke n' Vape
Lost Acres Vineyard

RAFFLE SPONSORS

John Adams
Cambridge House
The Coach Stop
Granby Pizzeria
Thomas Hooker Brewery
Heather & Mark Lockwood
NAPA - Southwick
Simsbury Farms Golf Course
Back in Touch Wellness Center
Tony & Anne Capelli
Edgewood Golf Course
Geissler's Supermarket
Drake & Deborah Klotzman
Mahers Simsbury Paint
New England Pizza
Village Cork & Keg
Windsor Locks Lions Club
Cliff & Deb Burrell
Chiropractic Care of Granby
Granby Package Store
Hopmeadow Country Club
Liquor World Granby
Monrovia
Oak Ridge Golf Club
The Whisk

GRANBY CENTER ADVISORY COMMISSION HIGHLIGHTS

JULY 30, 2025

Members present: Mark Fiorentino, Meg Jabaily, Eric Myers, John Oates, Martin Schwager.

Review of Draft Plan

Fiorentino noted the purpose of that night's meeting is to continue the review of the center zone boundaries proposed by the consultants and the land use chart.

Myers would like to expand the consultant's recommendation and the land that is already being used, including some areas the consultants missed that are largely commercial, i.e., the three houses in disrepair on Route 10/202, the VNA, the fire department and the church. He believes the center area should be expanded to include the cemetery, behind Station 280, the bank, town hall complex, etc. and further down Route 10/202. This would encourage commercial development and would add more land that allows for future growth. At some point, the committee should decide what the commercial center should look like and believes it should be bigger than what the consultant proposed.

Oates questioned how far south the center goes down Route 10/202 and pointed out it would be challenging to have different zones on different sides of the same street and it creates a disconnect. He noted this is true for Route 20 heading toward East Granby as well.

Schwager believes the mapping should be more precise and pointed out there was interest from the public to include the T-1 zone going further south down Route 10. He would like to expand the center south but feels caution should be taken regarding about going too far. He would like to avoid zone changing of one-off lots.

Jabaily stated in preparation of tonight's meeting, she focused on uses. When expansion is being considered, preservation should always be reviewed in regard to how it ties in. She also noted if uses are looked at, the zone should go up to Station 280 and down Route 10.

Fiorentino looked at the original concept of the area in the center and noted the committee wanted it to be more connected and walkable. The concept was to encourage development to fit a pedestrian focus, more greenery, review codes to see what could possibly fill some vacant buildings, create uses in current buildings, etc. He recommended going through the consultant's proposed uses and recommend boundaries to planning and zoning for goals to be achieved.

The committee reviewed the consultant's proposed center uses and made suggestions:

Permitted use: business or professional offices; restaurants limited seating; retail sale, rental, and/or repair (auto repair clarification needed); personal services, including barbershops, beauty shops; commercial educational, instructional, or recreational; open air markets; printing, photography, or similar services; government buildings and facilities; accessory uses incidental to permitted uses.

Not permitted use: fueling stations for motor vehicles; single family dwellings; home occupation; agriculture; attached accessory apartment; family child care/group child care home; bed and breakfasts; churches, religious buildings, similar organizations; neighborhood retirement housing assisted living; detached accessory apartment; antique sales.

Special permit required: mixed use buildings (regulations to be reviewed; minimum lot size discussion tabled); banks/financial institutions; daycare centers/preschool; movie theaters; charging stations; retail sales of alcoholic beverages.

Celia Eggert

Beloved Sister, Daughter and Friend, Respected Lawyer



Meriden, CT – Celia Eggert, 64, formally of Granby, CT, passed away peacefully at Apple Rehab Coccomo in Meriden, CT after a prolonged illness on August 11, 2025.

Born on May 20, 1961, in Morristown, NJ, the daughter of the late George and MaryAnn Eggert of Bethlehem, CT., Celia grew up in Bethlehem, CT.

She was a part of the 1979 Nonnewaug High School graduating class in Woodbury, CT. She then went on to graduate from the University of Connecticut with a bachelor's degree in 1983 where she was a member of Kappa Kappa Gamma Sorority. She also attended the University of Hartford where she obtained her MBA in 1990. She received her law degree from Western New England College in 2000.

Celia lived in Granby for almost 30 years. She served on the Granby Board of Assessors for several years. Before her retirement in 2020 she was a respected trial attorney for Nationwide Insurance for over ten years. She was held in high regard by her colleagues and peers. Prior to her illness, Ms. Eggert loved playing the slots at the Connecticut casinos. She also enjoyed taking care of her house, reading, working on puzzles, watching mysteries and game shows and spending time with her cat, Scooby. She had many good times taking day trips with her sister and friends throughout New England. She also enjoyed travel to North Carolina and occasional trips to Europe.

She is survived by her sister, Dr. Christina Eggert of Naugatuck, CT and her beloved cat, Scooby. She is also survived by her cousin James Kingery of Cavendish, VT, her cousin Maureen Castro of Woodbine, MD, her Aunt Lois Hornbostel and Uncle Charles Hornbostel of North Carolina and several cousins throughout the East Coast.

Celia leaves behind many close friends – among them Tony Santocroce of Burlington, CT; Kate Allsup of Trumbull, CT; Krissy Baker from PA: Trisha Cox from MO and her former neighbor, David Guay of Granby, CT who were all a significant help to the family and provided great comfort to her during her illness. Special thanks to private speech therapist and family friend, Dr. Shawneen Buckley of Granby, CT.

The family would like to thank River Glen Health Center for their care of Celia in 2020, PAFY Inc, Seniorbridge and Prime Healthcare at her home from 2021 until early 2023. The family would also like to thank Apple Rehab Coccomo for their care of Celia from early 2023 until the end of her life.

Services will be private. Celia will be interred in the family plot at Carmel Hill Cemetery in Bethlehem.

In lieu of flowers, donations in her name can be made to the American Heart Association or a pet rescue organization of choice.

The Woodbury Funeral Home of Munson-Lovetere, 2 School St., Woodbury, CT assisted with the arrangements. For online condolences, please visit munsonloveterefuneralhome.com.





On left , the gazebo prior to remodeling. On right, the completed remodel.
Submitted photos

Improvements for district buildings

Granby Public Schools Building Facilities Department has made major strides this past summer, working to improve buildings and facilities.

In preparation for the new school year, the facilities team has ensured that school environments are clean, safe, and welcoming for students and staff. They have thoroughly deep-cleaned classrooms and other school facilities.

The Wells Road Intermediate School gazebo had been in a state of disrepair for several years and could not be used to its full potential. Unfortunately, quotes for repairs were cost prohibitive at nearly $20,000 for labor and materials. However, this summer, under the direction of Director of Facilities Christopher DeGray much of the work was done in-district. The gazebo received a much-needed makeover including a new roof, seating, handrails, ramp and painting. Additionally, the picnic tables in the courtyard were repaired and painted. This renewed space will be greatly enjoyed by the Wells Road community at a total cost of $3,500 for materials.

Ongoing investigations into the high school athletic turf field sinkholes, included additional testing to further determine the depths and quality of soil compaction, as well as the potential for future sinkholes before moving forward with plans for track and turf field upgrades. The results of this testing and comprehensive plans for a new turf field and track will be presented to the Granby Capital Program Priority Advisory Committee (CPPAC) this fall.

Additional upgrades have been made to the high school boys' locker room, providing fenced off storage and a secure coach's office space as well as new helmet/backpack hooks to accommodate student athletes and improve the organization of athletic gear. Current lockers couldn't fit all the football helmets, so the surplus was often left on floors and benches, creating trip hazards. Working with the athletics department, facilities staff provided solutions to optimize the space for a total cost of $415 compared to external vendor quotes of approximately $2,000.

These are some of the projects that reflect the department's ongoing commitment to maintaining high quality learning environments. Special recognition and sincere appreciation go to Granby Public Schools Facilities Director Christopher DeGray, whose leadership and oversight have been instrumental in bringing these projects to fruition.

Submitted by Granby Public Schools

Purchase Stop & Shop shopping bags in September

The Stop & Shop grocery store in Granby has selected the Citizens for a Better Granby (publishers of the *Drummer*) to receive a portion of the sales of its Community Bags during September. The $2.50 reusable bags both benefit the environment by reducing the use of paper and plastic bags and yield a $1 donation to CBG. That sounds like a WIN-WIN to us!





Granby resident represents state at UN conference

Dave Roberts, vice president of the United Nations Association of Connecticut, recently returned from the 2025 UNA-USA Advocacy Summit in Washington, D.C., where he represented Connecticut in a call for global engagement and international cooperation.

Held June 22–25, the summit gathered 150 grassroots advocates from 225 chapters across the United States. The summit, hosted on Capitol Hill, was an incubator of ideas and energy with sessions focused on how the UN contributes to America's safety, prosperity, and strength—from combating climate change and human trafficking to safeguarding global food systems and maternal health.



From l., Legislative Aide Emily Naden from Rep. John Larson's D.C. office, Ashley Phan and Dave Roberts during the 2025 National Advocacy Summit. Submitted photo

Volunteer sharpeners needed for Repair Cafe

By Tony Peterson, Co-chair
Sustainable Suffield

If you're skilled at sharpening knives, scissors, garden tools and more and are willing to volunteer your time—you are needed. Residents of Granby are welcome to bring household items to the Suffield Repair Cafe for free repair by volunteers.

Suffield hosts Repair Cafes each quarter, open to Suffield residents and those from surrounding towns like Granby. There are 13 volunteer fixers who sharpen dull scissors, knives and garden tools and repair household items, including lamps and small appliances, wooden furniture and cabinet doors, ceramics, jewelry clasps and links, bicycles, and clothing with ripped hems, missing buttons and non-working zippers.

Currently, Sustainable Suffield, which runs the Repair Cafes, needs more volunteer sharpeners. "Lately, our Repair Cafes have been overwhelmed by requests for sharpening," according to Sustainable Suffield co-chair Anna Kristin Daub-Murphy. She said the group has two volunteer sharpeners, one being Granby resident Jim Baker.



Do you have sharpening skills that you're willing to share at a local Repair Cafe? Photo by Anna Kristin Daub-Murphy

Sustainable Suffield provides the volunteer fixers with homemade muffins, cookies and coffee throughout the day along with a sandwich lunch, Daub-Murphy noted.

Sustainable Suffield's next Repair Cafe is Saturday, Sept. 27, at the Suffield Senior Center on 145 Bridge Street, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. To volunteer as a sharpener, email Daub-Murphy at sustainablesuffield@SuffieldCT.gov

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 Sept. 30.

Energy Assistance

Connecticut Energy Assistance Program (CEAP) is designed to help offset home energy costs of Connecticut's lower income families, specifically those households whose annual income falls at or below 60 percent of the state median income ($91,854 for a family of four in 2025). You may apply online at crtenergyapplication@crtct.org

Eversource Assistance Programs

Eversource is offering additional discount rates for qualifying households. Check eversource.com/discount-rate for additional information.

Food Resources

Granby Food Pantry, at 248 Salmon Brook Street, is open Tuesdays, 10:30 a.m. to noon and Thursdays, 2 to 3:30 p.m. Before using the pantry, you must qualify with the Town of Granby Social Services Department. Call 860-844-5350 to schedule an appointment.

Waste Not Want Not Community Kitchen serves a free meal every Wednesday, 4–6 p.m. with food shopping 3:30-4 p.m. at Granby Congregational Church South Campus, 242 Salmon Brook St. The meal is free, but an offering is always welcome.

Mobile FoodShare: Tuesdays, Sept. 2, 16, 30 and Oct. 14, 28, 1:30–2 p.m. Park behind South Congregational Church and the Visiting Nurses Building only. 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, is open Wednesdays, Sept. 11 and 25, 2 to 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 is open on Fridays, 3–4 p.m. 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.

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.

In Memory of . . .

Trudeau, David Laurence, 56, November 19
Kupruck, Edward James, 93, husband of Christine (Kearns) Kupruck, January 20
Joy, Rev. Patricia Cutler, 89, wife of the late William S. Joy, June 10
Martin, Geraldine Ahearn, 92, wife of the late Robert L. Martin, June 11
Ahrens, Doris C., 89, June 19
Forsyth, Susan Jean (Skidmore), 75, wife of Robert Green Forsyth, Jr., July 6
Swedo, John L., Jr., 74, companion of Linda Swedo, July 10
Brown, Michael Courtney, 65, husband of Linda Brown, July 11
Kotowski, Frederick Thomas, 89, husband of the late Sally J. (Garrity) Kotowski, July 11
Castle, Robert "Bob" Wayne, Jr., 76, July 12
Stuck, Kevin Wayne, 63, husband of Janet (Millerick) Stuck, July 12
Morin, Evelyne (Boucher), 83, wife of the late Bertrand Morin, July 19
Douville, Gerard "Jerry" Thomas, 76, former husband of Katherine (Marine) Douville), July 24
Ryan, Shirley W., 89, wife of the late Richard F. Ryan, July 30
Price, Elaine, 78, wife of Doug Price and former wife of Lee Winsor, August 8
Davidson, Shirley Rice, 94, wife of the late George J. Davidson, August 11
Eggert, Celia, 64, August 11
Beaudoin, Robert Philip, 64, husband of Nara Sivalingam, August 12

BOS fills Ag Commission vacancy



At its Aug. 4 meeting, the Granby Board of Selectmen appointed Martha Anne LaCrosse to the Agricultural Commission. First Selectman Mark Fiorentino with LaCrosse. Photo by Shirley Murtha

SALMON BROOK MUSIC SERIES

SAVE THE DATE: October 11th at 7:30
The Salmon Brook Music Series presents THE MEANIES
$25.00 online
Granby Congregational Church South Campus, Fellowship Hall 242 Salmon Brook St, Granby
www.salmonbrookmusic.org

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**.

The Senior Center will be closed on Monday, Sept. 1, for Labor Day.

SPECIAL EVENT

Second Annual GSC'S GOT TALENT: Monday, Sept. 29 at 2 p.m. A spin-off of the hit show America's Got Talent, whatever your talent, this is your moment to shine! Come be part of the audience or showcase your talent. Each participant will have up to 5 minutes to wow the crowd. Cost: Free.

LIFELONG LEARNING

Paint with Nina: Apple Basket: Friday, Sept. 5 at 10 a.m. Join local artist Nina Chrisanthopoulos. No art experience needed! Cost: $10

Medicare Made Perfectly Clear: Friday, Sept. 12 at 10 a.m. You're invited to the Medicare Made Perfectly Clear seminar at the Granby Senior Center hosted by Madison Levins! 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.

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.

American Flying Aces: Friday, Sept. 26 at 10 a.m. An American fighter ace is a U.S. citizen who served as a fighter pilot in the U.S. military or in the service of a nation not at war with the U. S., and has taken down five or more enemy aircraft in intense aerial combat. In a tribute to America's pilots, John Cilio reminds us of the incredible impact that one individual can have. Free.

TRIPS

Shopping: Target, Monday, Sept. 8, departs center at 9:30 a.m. Cost: $5

Dine and Drive: Blackboard Congamond, Thursday, Sept. 18, departs Center at 11:15 a.m. Cost: $5

Lyman Orchards: Monday, Sept. 15, departs Center at 9:30 a.m. Lyman Orchards has been chosen as CT Magazine's Best Pick-Your-Own Farm in Connecticut and one of the Top 10 Apple Picking Spots in the U.S. Stroll through the pick-your-own fields, wander the Farm Market, and when you're ready for a break, savor lunch at the 1741 Pub and Grill. Cost: $5

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 the 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.

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

Setback: 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, 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.

ASK THE...SERIES

Ask the Attorney: Wednesday, Sept. 3, 10 a.m.–12 p.m. by appointment. Specializing in elder law. Please call to schedule an appointment for a free half-hour consultation.

Ask the Realtor: Wednesday, Sept. 10, 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 be a trusted advisor to help navigate the ever-changing world of home ownership with good advice, solid market knowledge, customer service and attention to detail in a free 30-minute consultation.

Ask the Registered Dietitian: Wednesday, Sept. 17, 10 a.m.–12 p.m. by appointment. Amy Woodman, Registered Dietitian from Farmington Valley Nutrition and Wellness, will meet with you for a free 30-minute consultation.

Ask the Financial Advisor: Wednesday, Sept. 24, 10 a.m.–12 p.m. by appointment only. Meet with Financial Advisor, Matthew Sondrini from The O'Brien Group for a free 30-minute consultation.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Blood Pressure/Blood Sugar Clinic: Thursdays, 11 a.m.–12:30 p.m. No appointment needed. Courtesy of the Visiting Nurses and Hospice of Litchfield County. 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 our marriage and family therapist may help you move forward with the better part of life. To schedule a confidential appointment, call 860-844-5350.

Foot Care by Sarah: Wednesday, Sept. 10, by appointment only. Sarah from Mobile Manicures provides 30-minute foot care appointments. Cost: $35

EXERCISE PROGRAMS

See current Center Life newsletter for session dates and cost for all programs.

Gentle Movement: Mondays, 11:15 a.m. This class will gently increase your strength, help your ability to balance, and provide stretching to maintain and increase mobility. Instructor, Paula Pirog.

Total Body Tone: Mondays, 12:45–1:45 p.m. Class will consist of circuit style strength training/cardio using a variety of equipment like bands, weights, and steppers, etc. Class will include chair and standing exercises. Instructor Michelle Rancourt is a certified personal trainer and has been coaching wellness for 10+ years.

Chair Yoga: Tuesdays, 2:30 p.m. 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: Tuesdays, 4 p.m. Strength building sequences, standing and on the mat. Includes balance and Pilates floor work. Instructor, Paula Pirog.

Tai Chi: Wednesdays, 9:30 a.m. Tai chi is an ancient Chinese practice that combines slow, graceful movements, deep breathing, and meditation. It is a form of mind-body exercise that has numerous health benefits. Join us to learn simple Tai chi basics, stretch, breath and increase stamina and vitality. Beginners welcomed and encouraged.

Line Dancing with Jim: Wednesdays, 1:30–2:30 p.m. 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.

Everybody's Exercise: Thursdays, 1:30–2:30 p.m. 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. Mary Root will personalize your routine based off current flexibility, strength, etc.

All About Balance: Thursdays, 2:45 p.m. 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.

Adult Fencing: Fridays, 11 a.m. Olympic fencing is open for everyone with any physical abilities. Fencing does not have weight categories or age limits and there are fencing tournaments even in 90+ age groups. It is an elegant and complex sport that makes your brain think fast and clearly, keeping it healthy and alert. It helps to maintain your motor skills in top condition throughout your life. Taught by coach Marc, a fencing master with 45 years of experience and a member of USA Fencing.

Asking the question: "What's Next?"

A free, non-denominational study presented by Skip Mission

THY KINGDOM COME

A SURVEY OF THE BIBLE BOOK OF REVELATION

Saturdays
September 20 to November 8
9:30-10:30am
Granby Town Hall Meeting Room
This event is not sponsored by the Town of Granby

For a survey summary, invitation link, more info and questions:
Call, Text or Email Skip
860-276-4936
waltermission@gmail.com



Fine Jewelry Custom Design
Restyling and Repair

Welcome to our jewelry store in Granby Ct.
Whether you need a repair, custom piece, browsing or buying something special.
We will help you with all your jewelry needs now or in the future.
Call us or just stop by.

Sarah Byrnes JEWELER

Sarah Byrnes, Goldsmith, LLC 25 Hartford Avenue Granby, CT 06035 860-658-4438
sarahbyrnesjeweler.com facebook: Sarah Byrnes Jeweler



Community Calendar

The Friends of the Granby Public Libraries is excited to introduce a new community calendar. This easy-to-use online tool brings together events, programs and activities happening across town—all in one convenient place. Whether you're looking for family-friendly activities, cultural programs, or town happenings, the community calendar makes it simple to stay connected and get involved. Visit the library website and click on "Community Calendar" to explore what's coming up and to submit your own events!

Children's Programs at GPL

Please visit the website for additional programs.

Children's Halloween Costume Swap: Sept. 8–22, ages infant to 10 years. Don't buy new—swap and save! Bring your child's gently used costumes in September, then return in October to pick out a "new-to-you" costume just in time for Halloween!

Coding Crew: Tuesdays, Sept. 16, 23 and 30, 4:15–5 p.m., grades 3–5. Come have fun learning to program our Ozobot robots. Use colorful codes to give your bot special commands—make it twirl, navigate mazes, even hunt for treasure on a pirate map. This three-part series builds critical thinking and logical reasoning skills through hands-on play.

Animal Explorers: Mondays, Sept. 8, 22 and 29, 4:30–5 p.m., grades K–2. Each week, we'll journey into the exciting Animal Battle series to discover two incredible animal competitors and their amazing super skills. You'll learn fascinating facts about each, then take part in a fun hands-on activity inspired by the week's animals.

Artbox, Gnome Peg Dolls: Wednesday, Sept. 17, 2:30–3:30 p.m., grades 3–5. Step into the magical world of gnomes where every child becomes a maker of their own whimsical woodland friend! In this fun-filled craft session, children will transform simple wooden pegs into delightful gnome characters using felt, fabric, glue and plenty of creativity.

Teen Programs at GPL

Dungeons & Dragons: Tuesday, Sept. 9, 3–5 p.m., grades 6–12. Join us for a thrilling session of Dungeons & Dragons with Dungeon Master PK. Prepare to face new challenges, exciting battles and explore deeper into the fantasy world. The adventure awaits—are you ready? Light snack provided. Sponsored by The Friends of the Granby Public Libraries.

Teen Nature Journaling, Delight in the Wonders All Around Us: Mondays, Sept. 8, 15 and 22, 1:30–2:30 p.m., grades 6–12. There is a whole universe in a pinecone, acorn, leaf or flower! In this mindfulness class, we will make close observations and record our findings in words and expressive drawings in our journals. Learn simple, meditative writing and sketching practices to help you connect with yourself, others, and Mother Earth. Learn the foundation for a regular nature journaling habit. Sponsored by The Friends of the Granby Public Libraries.

GRANBY PUBLIC LIBRARY

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

Granby Public Library Main Branch
Monday–Thursday: 10 a.m.–7 p.m.
Friday and Saturday: 10 a.m.–2 p.m.
Closed Monday, Sept. 1, for Labor Day

F.H. Cossitt Library Branch
Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday: 1–6 p.m.
Second and fourth Saturday of the month: 10 a.m.–2 p.m.

Registration is required for all library programs, except as noted. 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. For the most updated information on dates and programs, refer to the library's online calendar.

GPL = Main Branch **FHC = Cossitt Branch**

Adult Programs at GPL

Welcome Wags with Emmie: Monday, Sept. 8, 1–2 p.m. Catch some pawsitive vibes with our furry friend Emmie, a well-mannered Havanese with a gentle disposition and soft, silky coat. Register or drop in.

Monday Movie Matinee, *The Intern*: Monday, Sept. 8, 1:30–3:30 p.m. Critics praised the performances by Robert DeNiro and Anne Hathaway in this box office success. The 2015 comedy/drama runs two hours 1 minute, and is rated PG-13. Complimentary snacks are provided; you are welcome to bring your own beverage in a container with a lid. Sponsored by The Friends of the Granby Public Libraries.

Author Talk, Sarah O'Hare: Tuesday, Sept. 9, 6:30–7:30 p.m. Discover local hikes and hear information first-hand from author and avid hiker Sarah O'Hare. *Hiking With Kids Connecticut* is a guide to 45 amazing hikes for families with children and feature some of the best, yet family friendly, hiking areas in the state. Those interested in an author-signed book may purchase one at a program discount. Sponsored by The Friends of the Granby Public Libraries.

Conservation Conversation, Food Waste Solutions: Tuesday, Sept. 16, 6:30–7:30 p.m. Will Madsen and members of the Granby Conservation Commission share sustainable solutions to reduce food waste as well as composting methods to enrich soil and reduce landfill waste. Special guest presenters from Blue Earth Compost will answer questions about food scrap collection. Blue Earth Compost is a leading food scrap collection service that turns millions of pounds of wasted food into soil products. Sponsored by Granby Conservation Commission and Granby Public Library.

Crafters Café, Leaf Printing on Canvas Totes: Thursday, Sept. 25, 5–7 p.m. Choose favorite leaves and words of affirmation to create a design on a canvas tote bag. Art educator Denise Smith offers guidance using nature printing techniques. This craft program requires a $5 deposit to hold the reservation. Sponsored by The Friends of the Granby Public Libraries.

Tories, Spies & Traitors–Divided Loyalty In Revolutionary Connecticut: Tuesday, Sept. 30, 6:30–7:30 p.m. Which side are you on? That's the question that every single person in Connecticut had to answer in 1775, as the 13 colonies began a rebellion against British rule. Hear the stories from Connecticut's remarkable history as we begin our America 250 journey. Some are well known, some obscure, but you'll marvel at the Nutmeggers who risked and sacrificed to support their chosen side during this tumultuous jarring time of civil war. Sponsored by The Friends of the Granby Public Libraries, Salmon Brook Historical Society, and America 250.

Makerspace Programs at Cossitt (FHC)

Certified Volunteers Wanted

Ready to learn, educate and support your community? Become a certified volunteer at the Granby Public Library Makerspace located at F. H. Cossitt Library Branch, North Granby. Share your skills, learn new ones and help others explore the exciting world of technology, creativity and hands-on making. Reach out to learn how you can get involved. Email CossittLibrary@granby-ct.gov, call 860-653-8958 or stop by during library hours.

Maker Faire Celebrating Granby Open Farm Day: Saturday, Sept. 6, 10 a.m.–2 p.m. The Cossitt Creation Station welcomes visitors for maker activities that celebrate Granby Open Farm Day. Adults and children are invited to drop in to make custom buttons, fragrant sachets and more. Visit with Engine Rich and get a pic in his little blue truck, a 1934 Chevy DB half-ton pickup truck that looks just like the one in the children's book series, *Little Blue Truck*, by Alice Schertle. There are lots of fun things to do featuring Granby's agricultural roots. Sponsored by The Friends of the Granby Public Libraries.

Makerspace Equipment Training: Adults, Teens 16+, youth ages 10 and up with an adult. *Please see website for details.*

Let's Make Customized and Personalized Bookmarks: Wednesday, Sept. 17, 4–5:30 p.m. or Saturday, Sept. 27, 10:30 a.m.–12 p.m.; Adults, Teens 16+. Let's work together and design our own bookmarks and watch the Glowforge Pro cut and engrave them to reality. Learn how to use our Glowforge Laser Cutter and Engraver for future projects.

Sew Simple, Buttonholes and Buttons: Tuesday, Sept. 16, 1:30–3 p.m.; Adults, Teens 16+. Join instructor Sandra Salazar for a hands-on workshop using the Brother sewing machine and learn to make buttonholes. All materials provided, no fee. Space is limited. Sponsored by The Friends of the Granby Public Libraries.

Hooked On Stitches, Knit and Crochet Group: Saturday, Sept. 27, 10 a.m.–12 p.m. Adults, Teens 16+. The only difference between an experienced knitter and new knitter is that the experienced knitter makes bigger mistakes faster. All skill levels are welcome. Sponsored by The Friends of the Granby Public Libraries.

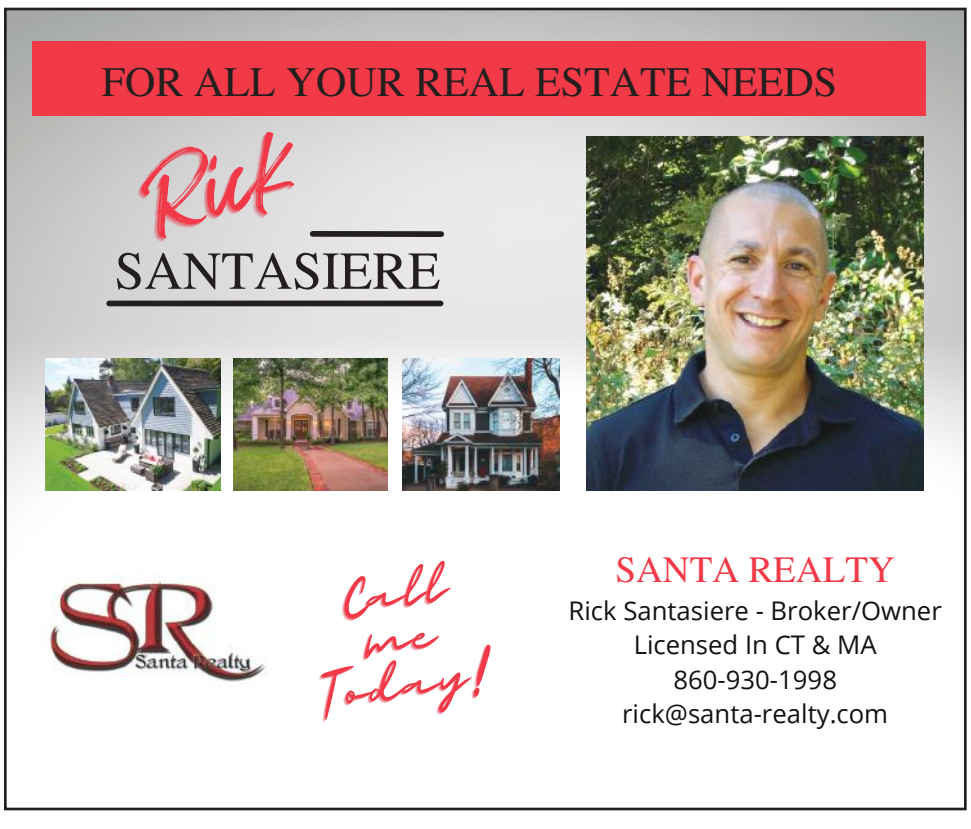
Book Clubs

Books for book discussions are available at the library, online and through curbside pickup.

Millennials Read Book-ish Club: Wednesday, Sept. 3, 6:30–8 p.m. at Los Potras Mexican Restaurant, Granby. At this no-stress book discussion, join readers in their 20s, 30s and 40s to talk about current book picks, watchlist and more. You do not need to be reading anything to participate. This is a partnership between Bloomfield, Granby and Simsbury libraries and open to all. Participants will be responsible for their own food and drink purchases.

Something About The Author: There is no discussion in September. Join us in October to discuss Old God's Time by Sebastian Barry. Books will be available Monday, Sept. 1.

Sci-Fi Fantasy Book Club: Wednesday, Sept. 24, 6–7 p.m. Discussing The Last Astronaut by David Wellington. Due to a failed mission to Mars, Sally Jansen, a leading astronaut, is convinced her days in space are over. But she's wrong. When a large alien object enters the solar system, NASA turns to her to lead a mission to intercept it before it reaches Earth. Jim Gorman leads the discussion.





Quilters Guild to hold show

By Kathy Gale

The Farmington Valley Quilters Guild will present From Fabric to Fabulous on Sept. 20 and 21 at the Kingswood Oxford School's Hoffman Field House on Trout Brook Drive in West Hartford.

The show will feature raffle baskets, boutique table fares and the Farmington River Quilt. This special display portrays 25 locations on the wild and scenic section of the Farmington River each made independently by local quilt artisans. Along with the displays of beautifully crafted quilts will be several local vendors.

Tickets are $15 and can be purchased at the door. Children under 12 are admitted free of charge. Parking is free and plentiful. More information can be found at fvquilter.org



Paula Baczyk has fun showing off this year's quilt to be raffled. Submitted photos

His photos look like paintings!

By Shirley Murtha

By the time you read this, Chris Fisher's photography exhibit at Lost Acres Vineyard will probably be closed, so you will have to go to the libraries in East Granby (September), Simsbury (October) or Avon (November) to experience it, but it will be well worth the drive. He started taking pictures on a seven-week summer Eurail trip in 1971 and hasn't stopped since!

Fisher enjoys creating prints that share his vision of the beauty found in the colors, patterns and textures of both the grand scenes and small details of our natural world. Recently, he is experimenting with creating large prints and building his own frames for them. His frames are made of hand-sanded spruce and fir. He does not firmly attach the print to the frame, nor does he paint or stain them, allowing a buyer to choose a finish that best goes with their décor. A few drops of glue or double-sided adhesive tape will easily work to re-attach the work to its frame.

When asked why his photos look like paintings, Fisher replies, "I use matte paper instead of glossy, and do not use glass, which can cause reflections that diminish the photo's clarity." In addition, when editing a photo, he returns it to a lower contrast, which increases shadow detail and reduces highlights.



Chris Fisher during his exhibit at Lost Acres Vineyard. Photo by Shirley Murtha

"This makes them look more the way they looked to my eye when I took the picture; a painter paints what his eye sees, so my photos look like paintings."

As mentioned above, Fisher's photographs will be appearing in Farmington Valley libraries through November, and on display at the Christmas Bazaar at Old Saint Andrew's Church in Bloomfield on the first weekend of December. Also, he can be hired to present audio-visual programs, many of which involve birding in various countries such as the Galapagos, Canada and the Yucatan.

For more information, visit NaturalExpressionsPhotography.net

SBHS paves way to brighter future

By Dave Roberts

As the Salmon Brook Historical Society prepares to celebrate 80 years of preserving Granby's history in 2025, it proudly reflects on the progress it has made—and the strong foundation it continues to build for the future.

The society's board of directors has remained steadfast as prudent stewards of the generous contributions received from members, donors and the community. Every dollar is thoughtfully invested to preserve and enhance the society's historic main campus, Wilcox House campus, and numerous collections (including the growing collection of Aaron Draper Shattuck paintings). In the past year, several major improvements have been completed, benefiting both visitors and volunteers for years to come. Highlights include the Wilcox House, basement, and barn improvements; the improvements ensuring these vital structures remain safe, functional and welcoming.

A fresh coat of paint for the Rowe House, preserving its historic charm and integrity.

The addition of a paved parking lot and access road on the main campus improves accessibility and convenience for visitors and volunteers.

One of the most visible enhancements is the new signage installed at the Preservation Barn, thanks to the dedicated work of board member Dave Laun and several volunteers. This marks a renewed commitment to the important work taking place inside, where Curator Martha Miller, Archivist Sarah Langdon, Textile Director Jean Potetz, and a team of committed volunteers continue their vital work to preserve and protect Granby's rich history.

The board looks ahead to SBHS's 80th anniversary with gratitude for the support of members, the dedication of volunteers and the shared belief that Granby's past deserves to be preserved for future generations.

We are, quite literally, paving our way to a brighter future.

M&M Educational Series

McLean & Me

Steps to Safety

A comprehensive presentation on
Fall Prevention and Fire Safety



Thursday, September 25, 2025 | 4:00–5:30 p.m.

Garmany Performing Arts Center | The Goodrich at McLean | 50 Sarah Lane, Simsbury, CT

Join us for a comprehensive presentation on Fall Prevention and Fire Safety, with experts from the Town of Simsbury's Fire and Police Departments, the Farmington Valley Health District, and McLean's Outpatient Rehabilitation.

To RSVP, call, email, or scan the QR code.
Call: 860-658-3718
Email: Margaret.Clark@McLeanCare.org

McLean

75 Great Pond Road Simsbury, CT 06070 | 860-658-3700 | ExploreMcLean.org

Purple Flag

Flood of 1955 remembered

By Todd Vibert

Seventy years ago, the state of Connecticut and the town of Granby experienced the worst flood in its history. Yes, the 1936 and 1938 floods were bad, but the flood of 1955 topped them all. What made the flood of 1955 so much worse were two hurricanes, Connie on Aug. 10, and eight days later, Diane. They crushed Granby and the state.

The summer of 1955 had been hot, and the month of July was one of the hottest on record. When Connie came up the coast and dumped eight inches of rain on Connecticut, it appeared to be a welcome relief from such a hot summer. Eight days later Diane came up the coast and the rain did not stop.

"In the morning it really rained," Edna Messenger wrote in a letter to her children, Polly and Bruce. "Hartford had over two inches of rain an hour and we got much more. The water just poured in streams from the hills and ran down the road like a brook. By afternoon our road was washed at the top of the hill so we could just about crawl over it with the car and a deep gully was washed on the left side as you go down the hill." Messenger later describes in her letter, "We went to bed about 10 p.m. and slept fitfully until 2 a.m. There was such a downpour that I got up and got dressed. We could hear the big brook, our little brook and we had a torrent pouring down the old road, so the noise was terrifying."

Diane dropped anywhere from 14 to 22 inches of rain on an already saturated ground. Brooks swelled into raging torrents, tearing out bridges and roads. David Hildreth, writing in the September 2005 *Drummer*, recalled how the town became an "island." With bridges gone and roads under water, no one could get in or out of Granby center.

Route 9, now Route 189, was washed out near Shaw's Garage. The Silver Street Bridge and the Goddard's Craig Mill were obliterated. Parts of East Street disappeared underwater. Salmon Brook Street flooded so badly that townspeople had to be reached by boat near the entrance to the McLean Refuge. Down Hartford Avenue toward Tariffville, three more bridges gave way. For five days, Granby stood alone. The two people to get out were Bill and Jane Ann Pease who traveled a circuitous route through East Granby and Windsor to the hospital to deliver their first child, Martha.

Chief Constable Harrison "Two-Gun" Hotchkiss stepped up to lead Granby through the emergency. With 10 assistants, he stationed men at impassable roads to keep travelers safe and worked side-by-side with the Lost Acres Fire Department to coordinate rescues. With phone lines dead and electricity out, Rathburn Griffin, a ham radio operator, kept the town informed of weather reports and news from surrounding towns.

The National Guard soon arrived to keep people from looting, but also to save lives. They flew helicopters over isolated farms and used the baseball field behind South Congregational Church to land and drop off food for people as well as feed and grain for the livestock. Granby's then resident physicians, Dr. Herman Edelberg and his wife, administered typhoid shots as well as tested water supplies. The National Guard built temporary "Bailey" bridges, so Granby citizens could leave town and get back to work.

Two families, the Bigelows and the Johnsons, lost their homes. Relief funds were organized to help them rebuild. Yet amid the destruction, Granby counted itself lucky as no lives were lost. The story was much different for other towns. In Unionville, 15 people, including two children, were killed and two lives were lost in East Granby.

Sixty days later, in October, another storm dropped 11 inches of rain on Granby and nearly wiped out many of the bridges that were replaced from the August storms. Fortunately, town people were resilient and Granby got through that storm too.

To learn more about Granby during the flood of 1955, join the Salmon Brook Historical Society by calling 860-653-9713 or visit online at salmonbrookhistoricalsociety.com

To learn more about Granby history, take a tour of the Salmon Brook Historical Society on Sundays from 2 to 4 p.m. Sept. 28 is the last tour of the season for the Aaron Draper Shattuck exhibition, which is also from 2 to 4 p.m.



Route 10 north of the high school. MeadowBrook now stands to the right side of the photo and Geno's Pizza is in the building on the left. Photos by Ed Wells, and courtesy of the Salmon Brook Historical Society



The entrance to Salmon Brook Park is now located where '55 flood waters ran deep and washed-out Route 10 and damaged the bridge.



Route 20 at the intersection of Canal Road. The water ran deep enough and fast enough to float a barn downstream.



National Guard forces from Bradley Field were brought in to assist with rescues, delivery of food, emergency rescues, etc.



Rte. 189, then Rte. 9, heading east towards where Brignole's Winery is now, and the intersection with North Road.

SALMON BROOK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

$5 PER ITEM

APPRAISAL FAIR

208 SALMON BROOK, ST - GRANBY, CT

Do you have a treasure you want to know more about?

Come meet our appraisers with over 100 years of experience among them!

Dave Kimball
Renowned art conservator
Tami Zawistowski
Rare books & ephemera
Mark Pierce - Auctioneer
John Burda
Jewelry & antique firearms



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2025
10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

No appointment is necessary; appraisals will be performed on a "first come, first served" basis.

Save The Date!

LAFD Auxiliary Bingo Night

Friday, September 26, 2025

Cash Prizes!!

Game Starts 6:30 pm
Doors Open 5:30 pm

Granby Congregational Church
North Campus
219 North Granby Road

10 Games Played
$25 for 1 Pack
(each pack contains all 10 games)

Drinks & Snacks Available for Purchase
(Alcohol is prohibited)

For more info, call Lynda at 860*653*3071



Collaboration and community

These events are the lifeblood of Granby's nonprofit Friends of Holcomb Farm. This month, we will highlight a few examples.

Granby Open Farm Day and Holcomb Hoedown

The first weekend in September will be full of activity and excitement at Holcomb Farm. Join us on Saturday, Sept. 6, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. for Granby Open Farm Day; and then come back kick up your heels on Sunday, Sept. 7, from 2 to 6 p.m. for our Holcomb Hoedown (see the insert in this month's Granby *Drummer* for details). We can't wait to see y'all there!

Fresh Access partners and heroes meet

Our Fresh Access program starts with the seeds planted each spring in our West Granby fields and ends in the hands of local and regional neighbors with limited access to affordable, healthy food. In between, the magic happens: members of our farm crew tend to the crops with care until they're ready to harvest, then drive vans full of fresh produce to each of our partners—organizations that serve people in a variety of ways. These include the Granby Senior Center distributing the fresh produce to its members, the Hispanic Health Council building nutrition education around the food, the Waste Not Want Not Community Kitchen using it to cook up community meals every Wednesday, and Healing Meals building it into their special meals for immunocompromised people. These Partners, along with Granby's Open Cupboard Pantry, Wheeler Health, Granby Social Services and Simsbury Food Pantry, all gathered in the CSA barn on a rainy morning at the end of July to connect with the source of the food, and to share their stories.

This year, the partners were joined by our Fresh Access heroes. To date, Fresh Access has been funded through grants (including the Granby Community Fund for Granby-based partners), partner contributions and annual fundraising. In response to ever-growing need, we have created a Fresh Access Heroes Fund. Launched with a challenge grant of $25,000 per year for the three years, others have joined in, and the Heroes Fund now stands at $90,000 annually. This assures we can continue to provide tens of thousands of pounds of produce to our partners each year, and look to grow the program, as needed, over time. To be a hero, we ask for a commitment to donate at least $1,000 per year for three years; other donations are always accepted and appreciated. If you are interested in becoming a hero, contact Jenny Emery at jenny@holcombfarm.org

Vizionara contributes talents to strengthen the Friends

One of our guests at the 2024 Harvest Dinner (a fundraising auction for Fresh Access) was Barbara DeLoureiro of Canton who was intrigued by what she learned about the work of the Friends of Holcomb Farm. DeLoureiro leads a team of technology consultants who help clients bridge gaps in their business technology systems. She and her team, Vizionara, are committed to supporting local nonprofits. When Vizionara approached the Friends with the offer of pro-bono assistance, the timing could not have been better. The Friends needed modern solutions for improved "customer relationship management" (CRM) systems, to improve communications and member support.

Over the course of three months, a curated team of Vizionara consultants learned as much as they could about the Friends and our current workflows, contributing many hours and providing answers to questions we hadn't even thought of yet. Through the consultation, the Friends selected a tool to improve both internal efficiency and member/donor experience, with the promise of becoming ever more responsive to the community. We are excited to implement the technology tools to better serve the Friends' mission; and we are so grateful to Barbara DeLoureiro for stepping in to help, and to the entire Vizionara team for their expertise and guidance.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, Sept. 6, 10 a.m.–4 p.m. Granby Open Farm Day at Holcomb Farm CSA Barn, 111 Simsbury Road, West Granby.

Sunday, Sept. 7, 2–6 p.m. Holcomb Hoedown at Holcomb Farm North Barn, 113 Simsbury Road, West Granby.

Thursday, Oct. 23, 6–9 p.m. Mark your calendar for Harvest Dinner at Holcomb Farm North Barn, 113 Simsbury Road, West Granby.

Meet the Farm Crew!

Hanna Malzenski, a member of the crew, took some great photos and prepared crew notes on her fellow farmers. Starting this month, we will share them with you.



Joe is the Farm Manager and mastermind behind it All!

Years at Holcomb Farm: 11. From Long Island, N.Y. Favorite Holcomb crop: beets. When Joe isn't farming, he is reading, cooking or spending time with the family. Field gear Joe can't live without: steel-toe boots. Beverages that sustain Joe in the summer: Reishi/Chaga/Honey/Lemon drink, Orange Mango Juice from the farm store, strong morning coffee and, as of this year, electrolyte salts. Dream Jeopardy Category: Lithuania



Tom is the Assistant Farm Manager and Farm Crew Lead.

Years at Holcomb Farm: nine. From Granby. Favorite Holcomb crops: snap peas and fall carrots. When Tom isn't farming, he is reading, cooking for friends, watching sports, playing with a soccer ball, caring for his potted fig trees, or watching a movie. Field gear Tom can't live without: sun hoodie, ankle high rain boots and a sharp harvest knife. Beverages that sustain Tom in the summer: morning cup of black tea, plenty of water and an afternoon electrolyte mix. Dream Jeopardy Category: Sports or Lord of the Rings.



Emma is the Wholesale Manager and Farm Crew member.

Years at Holcomb Farm: 11. From New Jersey. Favorite Holcomb crop: eggplant. When Emma isn't farming, she is parenting, reading, pickling, gardening. Field gear Emma can't live without: dovetail pants and her wide-brim hat. Beverages that sustain Emma in the summer: water with electrolytes and coconut water. Dream Jeopardy Category: Insects.

D'Agata-Perry Granite & Bronze
Granite & Bronze Cemetery Memorials
Distinctive Bronze Plaques
Memorial Cleaning & Lettering
739 Bloomfield Avenue, Windsor
860-688-5977 | www.dagatagranite.com

SI #0302317 FAMILY OWNED & OPERATED SINCE 1934 H.O.D. #115
CALL FOR SAVINGS!!
Senior Discounts
TROIANO OIL COMPANY
• Automatic Oil Delivery
• Boiler / AC Service
• Oil Contracts /Service Contracts
• 24 Hour Emergency Service
777 ENFIELD ST. • ENFIELD, CT • 860.745.0321

Mystery and Mayhem at the Library!

The Granby Public Library wrapped up another unforgettable Summer Reading Program, this year themed Mystery and Mayhem. More than 500 patrons of all ages took part in the excitement—solving riddles, cracking codes and getting lost in thrilling whodunits, all while earning raffle tickets for a chance to win great prizes, all for reading.

Highlights of the program included: the Cossitt Escape Room where teams used clues and cyphers to break out of the upper level of Cossitt, a mysterious magic show by George the Amazing, a dance-party kick off with DJ Red Supreme and Riverside Reptiles: Senses and Defenses. After another successful summer, the Granby Public Library is already planting seeds for next summer. Until then,enjoy some of the many photos taken over the course of the summer by library staff and patrons.



















Valley Brook Community Church celebrates its silver anniversary

By Ray Clark

More than twenty-five years ago a group of people gathered with a desire to help more people know and grow with God. That group included Pastor Clark Pfaff and his family and dozens of families from the Granby and the greater Farmington Valley area. After months of meeting and praying, they felt led to start a church called Valley Brook Community Church. The grand opening was held at Kelly Lane School on Sept. 10, 2000.

For the first 15 years Valley Brook rented space in Granby school buildings, every Sunday setting up and taking down a space for worship, classes for children as well as a space to gather to connect with one another. In 2013, the Reynolds family blessed Valley Brook with a God-sized gift of 85 acres and all the buildings of the Woodhaven estate at 160 Granville Road in North Granby. The church set about converting the standing equestrian center into a church. On June 28, 2015 weekly Sunday services began.

Over the past 25 years the people of Valley Brook have made serving God and serving people a priority. The Valley Brook vision statement is "Love God, Love People, Change the World." Pfaff says: "In these 25 years we have seen God do so many things. We've seen hundreds of people make faith commitments to God and we've had the privilege to baptize many of those people in the Salmon Brook that runs through our campus.

We continually look for ways to serve the community near and far. Many people probably have heard of the Live Nativity and the Egg Hunt that we give to the community, but Valley Brook serves near and far. Serving others is so important that we give over 10 percent of our offerings to missions locally and around the world, we've helped start a dozen churches and we've sent out several dozen mission teams as well as individuals on short-term mission trips and a few that began full-time missionaries. By loving God and loving people we know we're fulfilling our vision to change the world even if it's one person at a time."

In September, Valley Brook will be celebrating God's faithfulness during the last 25 years in many ways. Becca Smith, a native of Granby and the communications and creative director of Valley Brook, shared, "We're planning special ways to celebrate this anniversary. There will be a series of messages with worship and testimonies, a visual display of God's faithfulness over the years, a special meal and more! And we want everyone to know that they are welcomed and invited to join us for this celebration or anytime."

In the past year Valley Brook has also begun to offer a Sunday service for those who speak Spanish. That service takes place at the same time as the English service. And the pastor shared that Valley Brook's staff is actively working on learning Spanish to better serve the Spanish community in the area.



Photos by Rebecca Smith

SANDITZ
TRAVEL MANAGEMENT
HRW Associates Inc. Company
Real People, Real Ideas, Real Expertise

***** WE HAVE RELOCATED *****

Sanditz Travel is still serving your needs ~ only our address has changed!

Your favorite/preferred agent is available via the same telephone and email communications.

Please Visit Us in Our New Home: 945 Farmington Avenue, West Hartford, CT 06107

Office Phone: 860-523-5224 **Website:** www.sanditz.com

Thank you —we hope to see you again very soon!

CBH.BEER
Open Monday
@4pm
THE CAMBRIDGE HOUSE BREW PUB
GRANBY, CT
Also Open
Wed thru Sunday
@11:30am
Order Online
Takeout or Delivery
Much More
than Beer

OPEN FARM DAY — SEPT. 6

Blooms of Lost Acres participating in Open Farm Day

By Shirley Murtha

In 2023 when Gabrielle Galiatsatos decided to expand her flower-growing hobby to better serve the community, she told her neighbor Michelle Neidermeyer, part owner of Lost Acres Vineyard with her husband Kevin Riggott, about her "crazy idea." Neidermeyer enthusiastically offered the use of a segment of the Vineyard property and within a week, wood was delivered for the raised beds and a massive tulip bulb order was placed.

Galiatsatos discovered early on that people love to visit "pick-your-own" facilities, so in the spring of 2024, customers were able to happily select their own tulips at The Bloom Store on Lost Acres Road. As the season goes on, Galiatsatos offers peonies and dahlias. To be clear, this is not a typical florist shop. No custom pieces are made for celebrations or funerals. It is strictly a pick-your-own, priced by the stem, open only through the growing season enterprise. Galiatsatos does offer "do it yourself" buckets, and grows a few incidental flowers such as zinnias and snapdragons that customers might want to use as fillers when designing their own bouquet. During the season, Galiatsatos also offers a weekly CSA.

So, where did the "crazy idea" come from? It started back in the pandemic, when, to bring joy into her own house during those down times, Galiatsatos would cut flowers from her yard for the kitchen and family room. The result was so positive, she knew she needed to expand her garden so she could spread this joy around the community. "I bought a rototiller, and we purchased the small plot for sale next door, and the rest is history," she notes.



Gabby Galiatsatos amid her raised beds of dahlias that will be ready for picking on Open Farm Day. Photo by Shirley Murtha

Flower-growing is not Galiatsatos's only occupation. With a master's degree in education and an advanced graduate degree in educational leadership, she has been an elementary school teacher, an assistant principal, and now an administrator in local school systems. It might seem like adding another career onto the education one would be a bit much. For Galiatsatos, it's just an extension of the business ethic in which she was raised working in her dad's pizzeria in New Hartford.

The season for self-picking lasts for eight to 10 weeks beginning in mid-August. That time frame works perfectly for Blooms of Lost Acres to be a part of Granby's popular Open Farms Day, which is Sept. 6 this year. After you have checked out the other vendors at Lost Acres Vineyard, wander on over to the flower garden and pick yourself some beauty to take home.

Is A Recession Coming?



Tim Baker, CFA
Founder & CEO
Metric Financial, LLC

The "R word". It has been prevalent ever since the Federal Reserve began aggressively raising interest rates to slow the elevated inflation that accompanied the reopening of economies post-Covid. Whether one is coming has been a top question and Wall Street is all over the place with their predictions. We'll take this in a few pieces.

First, what is a recession? It is defined technically as two consecutive quarters of negative GDP (economic output) growth. However, it is important to note that the National Bureau of Economic Research is responsible for declaring recessions. We had two consecutive quarters of negative growth in 2022, but it was never officially called a recession because the labor market was too strong.

Second, why the fears of recession? Congress has been chastising Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell since the rate increase campaign started, insisting they would force the economy into recession. The central bank has avowed that they do not foresee one. Financial markets reacted poorly to two data points recently: one showing the US manufacturing sector continuing to contract, and one showing the US added less jobs than expected in July. Since then, the data has been more positive, and markets have recovered.

Third, should there be so much worry? Two points here: (1) the data is mixed on how recessions will affect financial markets. It depends on how they have fared leading up to the recession and how long it lasts. Don't assume a recession will spell disaster for your portfolio. (2) All data is backward-looking. Predicting the future is futile at best, even though economists and Wall Street get paid millions to do it.

So, what to do about it? How should you prepare for a recession? The short answer is don't. Changing a portfolio for what may and may not come can often lead to mistakes. Instead, focus on what you can control. Keep your fees (advisory and investment) as low as possible and make sure your portfolio is allocated according to your time horizon. More aggressive if you won't need to withdraw for a long time and more conservative if you need to withdraw in the near future

For more information, a description of Metric Financial and disclosures, please visit metricfin.com. Contact us at (860) 256-5895 or info@metricfin.com

Data sourced from Morningstar, unless otherwise noted.
For more information, a description of Metric Financial and disclosures, please visit metricfin. com.

metric financial
lower costs. better results.
www.metricfin.com

Paid Advertisement

Open Farm Day Descriptions and Event schedule

See map included in this issue's insert

Angel Horses Inc.
12 Knollwood Lane
angelhorses.org

The mission of Angel Horses Inc. is to provide a permanent retirement sanctuary for horses that have been teachers and healers in the therapeutic world. These special horses receive nurturing, companionship and love for the rest of their days. In addition, this past year Angel Horses Inc. partnered with other rescues to save three horses from the slaughter pipeline and provide them a permanent and peaceful home. These efforts are made possible through volunteers and generous donations. Angel Horses Inc. is also a place where humans can connect with such sensitive beings. On Open Farm Day, visitors can experience a farm tour and meet the horses, mini donkeys, goats and sheep that call the farm their home. Experience the soothing effect live flute and harp music has on the animals, plus a fun demonstration with miniature horses.

Blooms of Lost Acres
80 Lost Acres Road, North Granby
bloomsoflostacres.com

Blooms of Lost Acres is a woman-owned micro flower farm located at Lost Acres Vineyard in North Granby. Founded by Gabby in 2020, Blooms partners with local businesses throughout the Hartford County region to spread happiness through beautiful flowers. Services include flower subscriptions, event decor, DIY buckets, and pick-your-own experiences. Stop by their white barn on Granby Open Farm Day to grab some locally grown flowers at the bloom bar, pick-your-own dahlias, shop exclusive merchandise, learn more about the new farm and enjoy a kid-friendly activity!

Clark Farms at Bushy Hill Orchard
29 Bushy Hill Road
Bushyhill.com

Clark Farm at Bushy Hill Orchard in Granby is one of three farms run by the Clark family. Bushy Hill is a 75-acre farm/orchard growing apples, blueberries, peaches, plums, pears, nectarines and vegetables. The farm is open seasonally, offering a farm to table café, the new Bushy Hill Cidery Pub, ice cream and a full bakery (including its famous apple cider donuts) plus pick your own apples and blueberries. The farm offers a great location for family outings and small events. There are many things to check out at the farm and farm store: sweet and hard apple cider pressed fresh from the farm, a variety of local products, and flowers from their Clark Farms location in Suffield.

On Open Farm Day you will have the opportunity to pick-your-own apples from their 17 varieties, take a wagon ride, and sample those famous homemade apple cider donuts!

Cossitt Makerspace
388 North Granby Road

The F. H. Cossitt Library has served the community since opening in 1891. The branch maintains a full-service lending library including a seasonal Seed Library in the upper level of the building and a maker space in the lower level. The Cossitt Library Branch will offer drop-in activities for adults and youth ages 8 and older from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Open Farm Day. Come by to enjoy complimentary "seeds you can eat," a quick maker project and have a pic taken with the Little Blue Truck on the library lawn.

Friends of Granby Wildflower Meadow
Stationed at Maple View Farm on Open Farm Day
granbywildflowers.org

The Friends of Granby Wildflower Meadow planted and is maintaining a native wildflower meadow. It is a welcoming habitat for birds, bees, butterflies, other pollinators and small animals that live in such meadows. The meadow is located on Salmon Brook Street (Routes 10/202) across from Maple View Farm just south of the town center. On Open Farm Day, The Friends of Granby Wildflower Meadow will be stationed at Maple View Farm to offer resources and sell packets of native wildflower seeds.

Granby Grange
212 North Granby Road
granbygrange.org

Granby Grange #5 has been an integral part of the Granby community for more than 100 years. Originally founded by and for farmers, the Grange has evolved into a vibrant public interest organization where people of all ages come together to network, build leadership skills and enjoy educational and recreational activities. It hosted its third annual Rubber Duck Race and continues to maintain a community garden, sharing the harvest with the Scouts and 4-H members. Granby Grange regularly hosts workshops, dances and a variety of fun and enriching events open to both members and the public.

As part of Open Farm Day, Granby Grange will host its annual Agricultural Fair, open to all home producers. Whether it's homegrown vegetables, homemade crafts or baked goods, everyone is welcome to enter. Ribbons and cash premiums will be awarded to top entries in each category. Visitors can also enjoy: Teacup Auction and Bake Sale, Scavenger Hunt, Pie Eating Contest, Classic outdoor games including the Skillet Toss, Grange tours, vendors, a mum sale and more.

Granby Horse Council
Stationed at Angel Horses on Open Farm Day
granbyhorsecouncilct.com

The mission of the Granby Horse Council is to promote the value of horses to individuals and the community. On Granby Open Farm Day, the Granby Horse Council will be stationed at Angel Horses Inc., with an exhibit providing examples of programs about equine care and disciplines. They will also show how the club educates the public about safety and supports the community through scholarships and donations to local organizations. Visitors will also learn about the Horse Council's activities such as the parade team, trail rides and de-spooking sessions.

Granby Land Trust
Stationed at Sweet Pea Cheese on Open Farm Day
GranbyLandTrust.org

The Granby Land Trust (GLT) works with local farmers to help them hold onto, and perma-

OFD Farms cont'd. on p. 33

ASPHALT BY AYOTTE
PAVING • EXCAVATION • DRAINAGE • CONCRETE
860.805.0020
Paving America Since 2001
asphaltbyayotte@gmail.com

OFD Farms cont'd. from p. 32

nently protect their farms. In some situations, the GLT will acquire agricultural parcels to prevent them from being developed, then lease the land to local farmers at no cost. Farmland is a finite and irreplaceable natural resource. Preserving it is crucial for ensuring a stable and reliable food supply. Preserving farmland also helps us control flooding, protect wetlands and watersheds, conserve biodiversity, improve air quality and mitigate climate change. Perhaps most importantly, it helps ensure that our children will have enough land on which to grow their food. To show your support for this work, become a member of the GLT. Visit us at Sweet Pea Cheese on Open Farm Day; or the website to learn more!

Granby Native Plants
Located at Holcomb Farm CSA
GranbyInvasivePlants.weebly.com

David from Granby Native Plants has been writing the NOT WANTED column on invasive plants for the Granby Drummer since 2019. Granby Native Plants grew out of David's work against invasives, and his goal to produce and distribute native plants at scale to replace invasives. On Open Farm Day, Granby Native Plants will be offering more than 500 perennial plants native to Granby (or very near), grown from seed and free of jumping worms—they will be in half-gallon containers for $10 or less. Take home information about the plants, such as growing conditions and the benefits to bugs, bees, beetles, birds and the rest of us. Ten percent of sales will go to the CSA in recognition of their leadership.

Plants include cardinal flower, two types of liatris, hairy wood mint, four garden-friendly varieties of goldenrod, Culver's root, spotted bee-balm, Joe-Pye, and two varieties of spirea.

Holcomb Farm CSA
111 Simsbury Road, West Granby
Holcombfarm.org

Holcomb Farm is a 312-acre historic working farm that is open to the public year-round. Farmed from the mid-1700s to the mid-1900s by the Holcomb family, this "jewel of Granby" is now owned by the Town of Granby and managed by the nonprofit Friends of Holcomb Farm (FOHF) for the benefit of the Granby community and beyond. The property includes extensive fields of produce, all grown without chemicals, a Farm Store that stocks a range of products from a number of local farms, 10+ miles of maintained and marked trails, and an educational arboretum (our "Tree Trail"). The farm offers both summer and winter CSA subscriptions, which are very popular.

On Open Farm Day, learn about Tools of the Trade and see our lineup of small-scale agriculture equipment in the field next to our parking lot. We will also host a Farmer, Potato Carnival Games, and a Holcomb Farm Trivia Contest.

Lost Acres Orchard
130 Lost Acres Road, North Granby
lostacresorchard.com

Lost Acres Orchard grows peaches and apples, along with sunflowers, raspberries, blueberries, and a variety of vegetables from the farm gardens as the seasons permit. In the later summer and fall, you can buy peaches and apples by the box/bag. The orchard's kitchen/bakery stays open year-round selling pies along with a variety of baked goods, dinner entrees, soups, quiches, jams and more. Please visit our website, Facebook, or Instagram for the latest information and hours of operation.



From 2024 OFD, photo by Rae Cameron

On Open Farm Day, enjoy complimentary wagon rides through the orchard between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. The bakery will be open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. with pastries, pies, jams and more. Farmhouse (grab and go) lunches will be available 10:30 a.m.– 3:30 p.m.

Lost Acres Vineyard
80 Lost Acres Road, North Granby
Lostacresvineyard.com

A former apple orchard, Lost Acres Vineyard reclaimed this land and it is now home to five acres of wine grapes. Established in 2008, Lost Acres Vineyard opened for their first wine tastings in 2011. Owners Kevin Riggott and Michelle Niedermeyer continue the Lost Acres Road long tradition of free-spirited, cider-distilling farming with the production of grape wine.

On Open Farm Day, the Lost Acres Vineyard will have free samples of their popular estate grown Clemons Spring wine. Grape pressing demonstrations with an old-style wine press will yield grape juice for sampling. Visitors can take a winemaker's tour of the cellar to learn about the winemaking process. Food by Avon Prime Meats will be available 12 to 5 p.m. See the sport of Equestrian Vaulting up close, with a demonstration by Copper Hill Equestrian at 1:30 p.m. Sepe Farm will have sheep shearing demos, a felting activity, a wool spinning demo and knitting classes.

Sepe Farm
Stationed at Lost Acres Vineyard on Open Farm Day
sepefarm.com

Sheep shearing team—Peter and Carolyn Sepe, Erin Sepe Pirro and Jonathan Pirro—will be at the Lost Acres Vineyard to demonstrate fall sheep shearing, wool spinning and a felting craft for kids. Knitting classes will take place at 10 a.m. and 12 p.m. Pre-registration is required for knitting classes at morehousefarm.com/granbyag

Lyric Hill Farm
134 Hungary Road
lyrichillfarm.com

Lyric Hill is a small family farm dedicated to sustainable growing practices and educating the public. It uses fresh milk from a herd of Alpine dairy goats and a variety of herbs and wild harvested botanicals (grown and collected on the farm) to make soaps and other eco-friendly, farm-based products. The farm store is open year-round.

Our farm store will be open all day on Open Farm Day.

Maple View Farm
192 Salmon Brook Street
mapleviewhorsefarm.com

Maple View Farm is a fourth-generation livestock farm on 50 beautiful acres right in the center of town. Over the years the farm has been operated as a dairy, beef production and retail meat sales. Now the farm offers comfortable and charming accommodations in the farmhouse. Walk through the flower garden, say hi to the horses and wake up to the sounds of the farm. Currently the farm grows a large garden, makes hay on their fields and operates an apiary. In addition to the farm family, two horses and a handful of chickens call Maple View Farm home. On open Farm Day, stroll the grounds, meet Farmer Kate to hear about the history of the farm and learn about bees from a full-time beekeeper in the apiary.

Michaud Family Farm
249 Granville Road
michaudfamilyfarmgranby.com

Nestled on 16 acres, Michaud Family Farm is a family-owned operation that was established in 2024. The farm operates on a 200+ year old property that was once a small dairy farm. The Michaud family has spent the last few years revamping the farm back to its formal glory as a working farm. They specialize in growing a variety of crops, including vegetables, specialty pumpkins and cut flowers with their famous U-Pick sunflower field in the summer. They will be offering U-Pick cut flowers on Open Farm Day, as well as a kid-friendly gardening activity.

O'Brien Nursery
40 Wells Road
OBrienHosta.com

O'Brien Nursery is known far and wide for their hosta offerings and has grown into a destination for unique shade perennials, in addition to a wide selection of conifers, special Japanese maples, and numerous dwarf ginkgo selections. On Open Farm Day, Nurseryman John O'Brien invites the community to discover the pleasure of plants and explore an impressive six acres of display gardens. Hosta dividing demonstrations will be held at 10:45 a.m. and 1:45 p.m.

Salmon Brook Historical Society's Colton-Hayes Tobacco Barn
208 Salmon Brook Street
salmonbrookhistoricalsociety.com

The Colton-Hayes Tobacco Barn was built in 1914 by Fred M. Colton and donated to the historical society by his daughters in 1976. The front part of the barn provides a view of village life in the late 1800s. It includes representations of an old meeting hall, post office, village store, dressmaker's shop and more. The back of the barn offers a look at Granby's agricultural past with a sampling of farm tools and machinery, items used in cider mills, grist mills, blacksmithing, maple sugaring, hog slaughtering, bee keeping, harness making, ice cutting and a large tobacco section. On Open Farm Day, visitors can tour the barn, including historic farm implements.

Salmon Brook Historical Society's Wilcox House and Barn
143 Simsbury Road
salmonbrookhistoricalsociety.com

The Captain Sadoce Wilcox House, built c.1800, and the Lyman Wilcox Barn, built c.1857, are part of the West Granby Historic District. Until 2019, when the property was purchased by the Granby Land Trust and the house and barn were given to the historical society, the property had been in the same family for six generations. For the last century, the family used the house as a summer residence, leaving much of the interior unaltered. The property provides visitors with a unique view of the life of 19th century farmers and artisans in Granby. On Open Farm Day there will be two special presentations—weavers will be operating our restored four-post loom and a hearth cooking expert will be demonstrating how foods were prepared and served.

Sweet Pea Cheese
151 East Street

Sweet Pea Cheese is a seventh-generation dairy farm run by the Hayes family. Both dairy cows and goats are milked on the farm. The milk is used to bottle and make many yummy dairy products, including soft cheese, feta, yogurt and cheese curds. On Open Farm Day you can visit the animals and sample some of the many flavors of chèvre (soft goat cheese). The farm store will be open too, so bring your cooler.

Wilhelm Farm
329 North Granby Road
wilhelmfarm.com

Wilhelm Farm is a family-owned farm and forest. From the road, passersby see hayfields, gardens, and farm buildings, but beyond this lies an additional 35 acres of woods. Wilhelm Farm has a conservation easement on it, held by the Granby Land Trust, which preserves the land for agriculture and forestry and restricts future development. The owners, Ann Wilhelm and Bill Bentley, are the third generation of the Wilhelm Family to own and steward these resources. Ann, Bill, and their sons Russell and Rick manage the land to produce environmental services (bird and wildlife habitat, water and air quality, hydrologic control, and carbon sequestration), while sustainably producing food for the family, timber and non-timber forest products. They are investing in several agroforestry practices, including silvopasture, forest farming and living snow fence.

On Open Farm Day, enjoy self-guided tours all day of the forest and farm and guided tours at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Experts from service-providing agencies will be on site to answer questions and provide information. Points of interest include a pollinator habitat, goats at work clearing invasive plants, and beautiful, tranquil Mountain Brook.



From 2021 OFD, photo by Shirley Murtha

NEED EXTRA SPACE?
GRANBY SELF STORAGE
Clean, Convenient & Secure
Granby Self Storage has brand new storage units ready to be rented.
Leasing is easy, visit granbyselfstorage.net
Call or email our friendly staff today!
manager@granbyselfstorage.net
(860) 323-3930
Granby Self Storage, LLC
512R Salmon Brook Road
Granby, CT

Go Ductless!
Let us design a system that works for your environment.
Looking for an AC solution for your home or office?
Carrier
Turn to the experts
AC Tune-Ups & New Installations
STATE LINE PROPANE • OIL
SALES • SERVICE • INSTALLATIONS
StateLinePropaneOil.com
Lic. S1: 303179 • P1: 204150 • HOD: 737 • 478
OIL • HVAC
860-653-7241
PROPANE
860-653-8076
500•514 Salmon Brook St.
Granby, CT

Winners' Spotlight

Shirley Murtha, advocate for bugs, birds and things environmental

By Faith Tyldsley

For the second year in a row, Shirley Murtha has won an award in the Connecticut Press Club's 2024 annual competition. Her article, *How the loss of insect populations affects bird life*, placed second in the Green/Environmental category.

Murtha relates, "As a biology teacher for many years, I did my best to teach my students to not just squish every insect they encountered, but to attempt to find out what it is and escort it out if it's in the house and please just let it be if it is already outside. The only things exempt from my rule are mosquitoes and ants in the kitchen!"

Decline in migratory bird populations, Murtha explains, is unfortunately connected to an accompanying decrease in insect species. Insects are one of the most important food sources for birds—especially critical for migratory birds that binge eat before taking off on their yearly trips south.

Murtha does her part to boost insect and bird life on her property. "I have lots of flowers: bee balm, trumpet vine, peonies, anemones, black-eyed Susans, lilies, hydrangeas, iris, forsythia, Clethra and Daphne. My oaks, hemlocks, maples, birches, tulip tree and wolf-eyes dogwood are my allies—Mother Nature's benevolent sources of food and shelter."



Shirley Murtha in her Granby garden. Photo by Rita Isaacson

Murtha's winning article concludes with a plea to property owners to do what they can in support of birds and insects. "Hopefully it goes without saying that the use of herbicides and pesticides is totally detrimental to the health of insects and have their effects far up the food chain."

How the loss of insect populations affects bird life can be read by visiting the archives section of the Granby Drummer's website granbydrummer.com Click "read online," select the November 2024 issue and go to page 17.

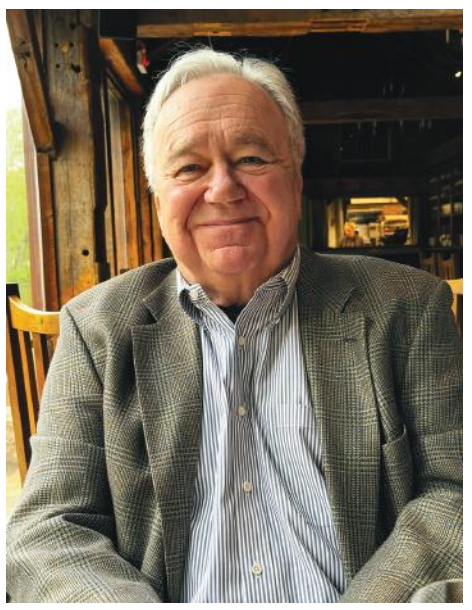
Reinhard Maier's opinion piece wins award in Connecticut Press Club competition

By Faith Tyldsley

How electricity is supplied to our town of Granby is not something everyone thinks about. But for Reinhard Maier, Granby resident for 37 years, the field of electricity is his bailiwick. He holds certification from the state of Connecticut as a licensed professional engineer with more than 50 years of experience in the electric power generation industry.

Maier's opinion piece, *Key Capture Energy project is not in Granby's best interests*, appeared in the Granby *Drummer's* September 2024 issue. It won second place in the Editorial/Op-Ed category of the Connecticut Press Club's annual competition. Maier explains, "The purpose of my writing was to provide readers an understanding of battery energy storage systems (BESS)." In delineating the potential side effects of BESS installments, he cited multiple reasons why Granby was not equipped to deal with consequences of BESS projects.

"I'm supposed to be retired," Maier says, "but I continue to do 'pro bono' work for the town of Granby in our battles with developers." Maier's happy place is the outdoors, in the open air—with bicycling, fishing and hiking favored. Hiking along the Appalachian trail and in the Adirondacks were peak experiences for him. "This year, my wife Karen and I completed one of my bucket list trips with a visit to the Canadian Rocky Mountains where we boarded a train at Lake Louise (Alberta, Canada) for a two-day trip to Vancouver, British Columbia."



Reinhard Maier, submitted photo

Thank you to Maier for having the expertise and willingness to look out for Granby's future. In an area not readily understood, he acts as protector of Granby's best interests. Maier's opinion piece can be read by visiting the archive section of the Granby *Drummer's* website granbydrummer.com Click "read online," select the September 2024 issue and go to page 6.

UNICO golf tournament held in June

The Granby UNICO held its annual golf tournament June 6 at the Simsbury Farms Golf Club, which offered a challenging and fun day filled with raffles and prizes. A delicious buffet and beverages followed for all participants.

This sponsored event allows UNICO to continue to donate funds for scholarships to senior high school students, as well as other programs. Join other local Italian-Americans today and become a member of UNICO. Please contact Tom Grimaldi, membership chair at granbyunicomemb@gmail.com

School Records Notice

On or about November 1, 2025, the Pupil Services department of the Granby Public Schools will destroy all special education and related records of students **no longer enrolled in the school system** for a period of six years or greater. Parents and students should be aware that these records are sometimes necessary or useful in acquiring certain other government benefits such as Social Security.

No records of students presently enrolled in the school system will be destroyed.

Former students over the age of 18 or parents/guardians of minors may contact the Pupil Services department at 860-844-5257 with any questions in this matter.

Carroll Sisters Trio releases second Celtic album

By Bill Ross

The Carroll Sisters Trio is set to release its much-anticipated second album, Radiance, as part of Granby's beloved Salmon Brook Music Series on Sunday, Sept. 28, 4 p.m. at the Granby Congregational Church. The trio, a dynamic Celtic fiddle band with deep roots in the Farmington Valley, is best known for their old soul connection to the Celtic tradition and their youthful energy and creative arrangements. Inspired and taught by some of the biggest Celtic music legends, this local trio transports audiences and builds connections through music.

Fiddler Emilie Carroll remarked, "We chose the name Radiance to both build on our first duo album (Daybreak) and to highlight the guiding light the New England Celtic music community has been for us individually and collectively. We all grew up in Simsbury without many Celtic music mentors, so we each had to make our own way into the larger New England music community. We are now part of that community fabric, and the tunes and arrangements chosen for the album reflect that warm embrace and inspirational influence."

For information and tickets for the Sept. 28 event, visit onthestage.tickets/salmon-brook-music-series. For more information on the band, visit CarrollSisters.com or follow them on Instagram and Facebook @fiddlingcarrollsisters.

Evans AUTOMOTIVE
QUALITY AUTO REPAIR & USED CARS
General Repairs on most makes & models
WE BUY CARS!
EvansAutoCT1@gmail.com 860-413-3533
541 Salmon Brook St. • Granby, CT 06035

Karen Lee HOME SERVICES LLC
A reliable extra hand...
• House Cleaning
• Yard/Garden Help
• Misc.
Call or Text: 860-733-5167
Email: karen@karenleehomeservices.com
www.karenleehomeservices.com

NOT WANTED

A campaign to raise awareness of and control invasive plants sponsored by Granby's Conservation Commission

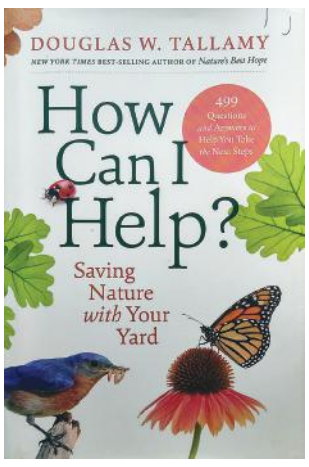
By David Desiderato

Dr. Doug's Daily Don'ts and Dos

Dr. Douglas Tallamy may be doing more than anyone in our time to illuminate the crucial and imperiled interdependence of insects, birds, bees, plants, and the rest of us.

From his perch as a professor of entomology and wildlife ecology at the University of Delaware, Tallamy has given countless presentations (including for the Granby Public Library during the pandemic), founded Homegrown National Park, a national group dedicated to increasing our yards' potential to support a healthy ecosystem, and written bestsellers like *Nature's Best Hope*.

He's done it again. *How Can I Help? Saving Nature with Your Yard* uses 500 questions raised during his presentations to provide detailed, practical, science-backed answers. Here is a sample of his Dos and Don'ts; for more, buy the book, or check out copies at the Granby Public Library.



Don't ...

Don't pay for fogging or spraying treatments for mosquitoes. Companies like Mosquito Joe use chemicals that kill mosquitos but also their predators, along with monarchs and a host of pollinators. It's a waste of money that demolishes food supplies for birds, bats, spiders and others. Don't use bug zappers—99 percent of the insects they kill are not the biting kind.

Don't kill tent caterpillars or fall webworms. These are native and turn into night-flying moths, important food sources for bats and birds. They are eruptive—plentiful one year and sparse the next—and don't greatly harm their tree or shrub hosts. Don't brush off outdoor spider webs. Web silk, elastic and tough, is important for nest construction for hummingbirds and blue-gray gnatcatchers, among others.

Don't value butterflies over caterpillars. Butterflies are beautiful but not an important food source. It's caterpillars that are the essential link between the sun, plants, and everything that depends on them; they transfer more energy from plants to animals than any other plant eaters. Chickadees need 4,000–6,000 caterpillars to raise a single nest of chicks; some birds need twice that.

Don't use neonicotinoids. Neonics are systemic pesticides that pervade plants, including pollen and nectar, and poison everything that eats them. Connecticut defines neonics as responsible for killing at least 50 percent of exposed bee populations. They will be banned for use in the state by non-certified applicators starting in October 2027 as a result of Public Act 25-33. Granby State Representative Mark Anderson, a member of the Environment Committee, repeatedly opposed bills to control neonics.

Don't prune oak trees during the growing season. New invasive diseases like sudden oak death, bacterial leaf scorch, and oak wilt are deadly to this most important tree family. Open wounds during the growing season help the diseases gain access. Prune oaks when they are dormant—leafless.

Do ...

Control mosquitoes. Make simple, effective traps by putting organic matter in buckets of water in sunny locations; after a few days, the "cow's breath" smell is irresistible to female mosquitoes looking to lay eggs. When wriggling mosquito larvae appear, add mosquito dunks, available at Beman Hardware and elsewhere, that contain a strain of *Bacillus thuringiensis* (BT) that only kills the larvae. Position several buckets around the yard. Mosquitoes typically travel no more than 100 yards from where their eggs are laid; don't let "dunkless" standing water sit for more than a few days.

Plant keystone natives. Keystone plants support caterpillars and pollinators better than other plants; 14 percent of native plants support 90 percent of the caterpillars that, in turn, feed other animals. Among the top keystones in our area: oak, cherry, willow and birch trees; goldenrods, strawberries, sunflowers and Joe-Pye. Use the National Wildlife Foundation's Native Plant Finder to identify keystone plants and their specific benefits.

Reduce lawns. Tallamy writes, "When it comes to accomplishing the … ecological responsibilities of every landscape (supporting pollinators and the local food web, managing the watershed, and sequestering carbon), turf grass is the worst plant choice imaginable." He describes strategies for gradually or rapidly reducing lawns, including using materials that block light, like cardboard and mulch, and planting trees surrounded by dense native groundcovers, like wild ginger (*Asarum canadens*), foamflower (*Tiarella cordifolia*), Mayapple (*Podophyllum peltatum*) and ferns.

Plant small trees, not big trees. Transplanting larger trees requires severing roots, forcing trees to rebuild underground for years before they can grow much above ground. Small trees, with minimal root damage, catch up quickly. Including a bit of soil from parent trees transfers the appropriate mycorrhizal fungi species to help the newbies thrive and resist disease.

Switch out white outdoor lights. Tallamy reports that "Light pollution is one of the major causes of global insect decline," and the nightly carnage is easily averted. Use yellow lights instead, or LEDs in the 2500–3000 Kelvin range, as these are warmer and yellower.

Native Plants for Sale—Open Farm Day, Sept. 6

More than 500 affordable native plants, grown from seed and free of jumping/snake worms, will be available on Granby's Open Farm Day, Sept. 6, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the Holcomb Farm CSA. Plants include garden-friendly goldenrods, liatris, cardinal flower, spotted beebalm, Culver's root, Joe-Pye, hairy wood mint, spirea, and dozens of oak seedlings. More info at GranbyInvasivePlants.weebly.com

St. Therese announces charity golf tournament

Golfers of all skill levels are invited to hit the links for a great cause at the St. Therese Catholic Church Charity Golf Tournament taking place Saturday, Sept. 20 at the beautiful Airways Golf Course in West Suffield. The event promises a day of friendly competition, great camaraderie and community spirit, all while raising funds for programs and services that directly benefit the local community served by St. Therese Catholic Church.

Registration for the tournament will be 7:30–8:15 a.m., with a welcome and introductions at 8:30 a.m. The shotgun start will be at 9 a.m.

The tournament will feature an 18-hole "Shamble" format—players scramble their drives, then play the best ball score from there. Whether you're a seasoned golfer or a weekend enthusiast, the format ensures a fun, relaxed day on the course.

Single players, pairs, and full foursomes are welcome. The registration includes greens fee, cart, a breakfast sandwich with beverage, lunch at The Turn (includes a draft beer), access to the practice green, and the chance to win great prizes. Fees: $125 per player, $500 for a foursome. Awards given for first, second, and third place finishes, as well as closest to the pin on all four par-3 holes. Raffle prizes and a 50/50 drawing will add to the excitement. To register, visit stpgranby.org/golf

Make an impact. Sponsorship opportunities are available for individuals and businesses looking to support a worthy cause while gaining valuable community recognition. Don't miss your chance to enjoy a day of golf, great food, and community connection—while making a difference. To inquire about sponsorships, contact Jim Kline, 860-490-4957.

The Elite Residential Cleaning & Maintenance Services

Insured ▪ COVID Compliant ▪ Hourly Rate

All necessary supplies provided ▪ Free in-person estimates

Excellent References ▪ 30 years experience

All work guaranteed!

Call 860-944-7735

ROUTE 10 TIRE

Tire & Wheel Experts

Roger Fecteau
860-844-8719
561 Salmon Brook Street
Route 10/202 • Granby, CT
Hours: M - F 8-5 • Sat. 7:30-12
Visit: www.rt10tire.com

Continental DUNLOP BFGoodrich BRIDGESTONE MICHELIN GENERAL TIRE UNIROYAL Firestone Cooper TIRES KUMHO TIRES PIRELLI GOODYEAR

Granby Community Fund
Supporting a Caring Community since 1960

Granby Community Fund,
a Chamber of Commerce member,
thanks all our Granby businesses for their support of our mission.

Ironwood a favorite of pollinators



A great spangled fritillary butterfly sips nectar from a native ironweed plant (a valuable late-season nectar source for a variety of pollinators) on the Mary Edwards Mountain Property in North Granby. The Granby Land Trust manages this field, delaying mowing until after Oct. 1 to encourage wildlife and pollinator habitat. Photo by Rick Orluk

October 2025 deadlines

ADS: Monday, Sept. 8 at noon. Ad Team 860-653-9222, please leave a message. Email: ads@granbydrummer.org

ARTICLES: Monday, Sept. 15 at noon. Drummer phone: 860-653-9222. Email: editor@granbydrummer.org

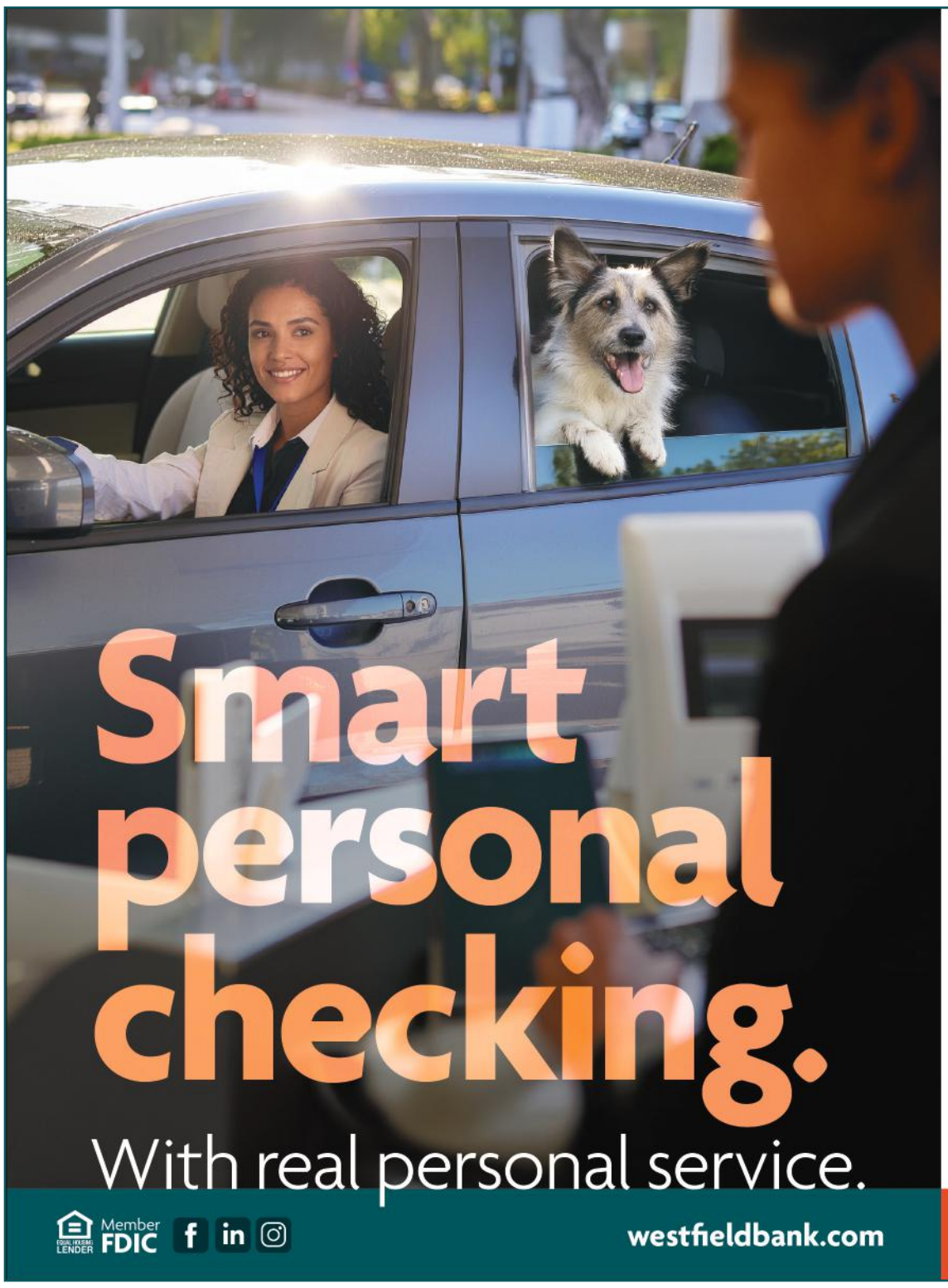
WORK DATES: Sept. 8 to 21. Call or email for times.

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

Closer to Home

Support our advertisers while saving some gas and time. Tell them you saw their ad in the ***Drummer.***

Advertisers	Page	Advertisers	Page
Asphalt by Ayotte	32	McLean Care	12, 28
Beman Hardware	13	Metric Financial	32
Berkshire Hathaway - Nancy Reardon	7	Morawski Cleaning	27
Brignole Bush & Lewis	2	Necker's Toyland	6
Cambridge House Brew Pub	31	O'Brien Nurserymen	14
Carmon Funeral Home	10	O.P. Painting	11
Carter, Robert Painting	16	Ravenswood Natural Health	5
Chiropractic Care of Granby	3	Rider Productions	6
Christopher Bryant	22	Route 10 Tire	35
D'Agata-Perry Granite & Bronze	30	Salmon Brook Historical Society	29
Evans Automotive	34	Salmon Brook Music Series	8, 25
Gallery One	9	Sanditz Travel	31
Gary's Mowing & Yardwork	18	Santa Realty	27
GMHS Athletic Boosters	20	Sarah Byrnes Jeweler	26
Granby Community Fund	35	Shaffer Beacon Mechanical	5
Granby Congregational Church	19	Skip Mission	26
Granby Dental	22	Small Town Septic	18
Granby Dental Center – Dr. Ungerleider	10, 24	State Line Propane & Oil	33
Granby Food Bank	4	Sullivan Hardwood Floors	9
Granby Lions Club	23	Swim Center at Westminster	13
Granby Public Schools - Records Notice	34	The Elite Cleaning & Maintenance Srvcs	35
Granby Republican Town Committee	15	Thomas Sullivan - Morgan Stanley	10
Granby Self Storage	33	T.J. Bark Mulch	16
Granby-Simsbury Chamber of Commerce	21	Troiano Oil Company	30
Higleyville Coin Co.	3	Two Park Place	3
Judy Guarco – Berkshire Hathaway	17	Valley Brook Church	14
Karen Lee Home Services	34	Westfield Bank	36
Lost Acres Fire Dept. Auxiliary	29	Windsor Federal Savings	11



Checking that **fits your life.**

Online, in person, or both.

When it comes to checking, you can do better. Westfield Bank makes it easier than ever to manage your money your way, whether you're depositing a check with your phone, visiting a branch lobby, or using a drive-thru teller or ATM on the go.

We combine powerful digital tools like:

- **Mobile Deposit**
- **Digital Wallet**
- **Zelle®**
- **WB Debit Card Manager**
- **Identity Theft Protection**
- **and much more**

...with the kind of local, personal service you just don't get everywhere else. No matter how you like to bank, we're here to make it better.

Choose the account that's right for you at

westfieldbank.com/personal/checking-accounts

or stop by your local Westfield Bank branch today.

WB WESTFIELD BANK

What better banking's all about.

Zelle® and the Zelle® related marks are wholly owned by Early Warning Services, LLC and are used herein under license.

413.568.1911 | 860.838.3766 | 800.995.5734