

PROGRAM from page 1

State Senator Jake Oliveira applauded HIP’s milestone and called it a “great program.” As he stood on Red Fire Farm’s campus, the senator took a moment to appreciate how hard the agricultural business was to operate.

“It is not easy to keep and maintain a farm,” Oliveira said. “There are a lot of things out of your control.”

Oliveira stressed HIP was a way to invest in local farms and called them “the backbones” of the regional food system. He stated though most state farms were run by “big agricultural businesses that are owned by corporations,” it wasn’t the case with-in Massachusetts.

“Most of our farms are run by families,” Oliveira said. “That’s why it’s important for programs like the Healthy Incentive Program because it has dual benefit. Number one, it benefits those one in seven Massachusetts residents that receive DTA benefits, but allows the to access healthy foods.”

Linking state benefits to the local food supply, Oliveira explained, was a great way



Turley photos by Ben Hernandez

Red Fire Farm was one of the first local farms enrolled in the state-wide Healthy Incentives Program.

to both support regional business and to offer widespread access to nourishing organic food. The senator also argued the state and insurers spent less money as a result of the program.

“Every dollar that we in-

vest in the Healthy Incentives Program is double in economic activity,” Oliveira said. “Since many farms are located here in western Massachusetts, that’s an economic boost for our region. Which means that, even though we

were celebrating \$100 million today for the Healthy Incentives Program, that’s \$200 million in economic benefits.”

Koredebein thanked community partners, customers and farmers for making the program possible, as well as



State Senator Jake Oliveira learns about garlic bulb planting from resident farmer Ryan Volland.

the state for the continued assistance. She stated HIP was an example of “government innovation actually working at its best” and a stellar example of what happens “when we all work together.”

“If you think that families

should eat well, if you want to eat well yourself, if you think that farmers should be viable and local farms should have a shot at surviving, you’re going to think this program is a good idea,” Koredebein said.

PRENTISS from page 1

South Hadley put together,” Prentiss said. “It was a great experience and helped me understand the financial difficulties that the town is facing.” In addition to that municipal experience, he is also a teacher who has spent years working in schools, giving him firsthand knowledge of the challenges educators and students face every day.

As he begins his first term, Prentiss says he has two primary goals.

“My first priority is continuing to learn about how the school district operates and working with the rest of the committee as we set the goals and policies for the district,” he said. “My second priority is advocating for the level of funding that the school district needs to provide students with the education that they deserve.”

That advocacy comes as South Hadley confronts budget constraints affecting districts across western Massachusetts. Prentiss noted that neighboring communities, including Easthampton and Hadley, are facing similar financial pressures. While he praised district leadership for finding savings wherever possible, including creating

an in-house special education transportation department that has already saved more than \$400,000, he said many of the district’s largest expenses, including health insurance and legally mandated services, remain largely outside local control.

“The only sustainable way forward is an override,” Prentiss said. “School districts need an average yearly budget increase of four to six percent just to provide the same level of services year to year.”

Prentiss believes preserving extracurricular opportunities should remain a priority despite financial challenges. He describes athletics, arts programs, advanced coursework and after-school activities as essential components of a student’s education rather than optional extras.

“These programs provide students with unique opportunities that they can’t get elsewhere,” he said. “They help students discover who they are and what they want to do in the future. Many students specifically come to school every day because of those programs.”

While one-time use of free cash has preserved those offerings for the coming school year, Prentiss argues

that a successful override is necessary to sustain them over the long term.

Looking beyond the current budget debate, Prentiss says South Hadley’s greatest strength is its people.

“South Hadley’s teachers and paraprofessionals are what make it an excellent district,” he said, pointing to student achievement that consistently exceeds the state average on the high school MCAS. He also hopes to see continued expansion of vocational programs and career pathways for students.

Prentiss acknowledges that budget debates can divide communities, making communication especially important. He encourages residents to attend or watch School Committee meetings and points to the superintendent’s regular newsletter as another valuable source of information about district initiatives.

He also has a simple invitation for community members interested in seeing the schools up close.

“Schools always need substitute teachers,” Prentiss said. “I encourage anyone who wants a first hand experience of what our schools provide to come and work in the schools for a few days.”

Town administrator, school supt. holding community meeting

SOUTH HADLEY – Join town and school officials for an important community meeting. Learn more about town finances and operations on Saturday, Aug. 1 at 9:30 a.m. at

the South Hadley Senior Center. Share your ideas and concerns. The discussion is moderated by TA Lisa Wong and School Superintendent Jennifer Vodik.

Can’t make it in person? Join on Zoom: tinyurl.com/SHCommunity1

Send comments and questions to Selectboard@southhadleyma.gov or call 538-5030 ext 6181.

Legal Notices

TOWN OF SOUTH HADLEY NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing pursuant to the Wetlands Protection Act and the Local Wetlands Bylaw to consider a Notice of Intent filed on behalf of Hillcrest Park Condos proposing to address and remedy the multiple deficiencies identified in the latest dam inspection report. The project includes but is not limited to removing woody vegetation growing too close to the

dam, repair erosion, repair deteriorated concrete, fill holes and install a floating safety barrier at the spillway. Said activities are within the 50-foot Conservation Zone and 100-foot Buffer Zone to Bordering Vegetated Wetland, Bank, and Land Under a Waterway. The project is also located within Riverfront Area. (Map 16, Parcels 116 & 185).

The hearing will be held on Wednesday, August 5 at 6pm virtually. Login information will be provided with the posted agenda on the Town website.

A copy of the request is on file in the Conservation Commission office, Room U6, in the Town Hall, and is available to the public for inspection between the hours of 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM Mon – Thurs. Plans are also available online at www.southhadley.org/603/Project-Plans.

Any person interested or wishing to be heard should appear at the time and place designated.

April Doroski
Conservation Chair
07/24/2026

Read the Town Reminder online at www.townreminder.turley.com

Turley Publications is looking for an outgoing, energetic person interested in selling advertising for our community newspapers plus more! The right candidate will assume an established territory with a portfolio of customers.

LET’S WORK TOGETHER

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

Join Our Team!
FAMILY OWNED & OPERATED

Turley Publications
Send resume & cover letter to:
Jamie Joslyn
24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069
Email: jamie@turley.com

NOW HIRING: Advertising Representative

Offering a competitive commission structure, 401k, and health plan.



1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
17					18						19			
20				21		22				23				
			24		25				26					
27	28	29		30				31				32	33	34
35			36				37				38			
39						40				41				
42					43				44					
45				46				47				48		
			49				50				51			
52	53	54				55				56		57	58	59
60						61				62		63		
64						65						66		
67						68						69		

CLUES ACROSS

- Listen to
- Presents
- A type of guitar
- Actor Idris
- A citizen of Iran
- Pretentiously artistic
- Harness
- Diamond weight measurement
- “Better Call ___”
- Fervent support
- Male cat
- Jewish spiritual leader
- Disposed to venture or take risks
- A way to nail
- Cool!
- Women’s ___ movement
- “Losing My Religion” rockers
- Step-shaped recess
- A princess can detect it
- Tractor-trailer
- Leslie and Leon are two

- Color at the end of the spectrum
- Lines where fabrics are sewn
- Dodgers great Hershiser
- Floor covering
- Traveled aimlessly
- Rocker Stewart
- Body art
- Congressman (abbr.)
- No seats available
- Breaks apart
- Hand gesture
- Ballplayer’s tool
- Sword
- Baseball team
- Upper bract of floret of grass
- Italian Seaport
- Mars crater
- Tube on a shoelace
- U. of Miami mascot
- South American nation
- Video game series “Max ___”

CLUES DOWN

- German courtesy title
- Ancient Greek personification of mercy
- Jewish calendar month
- Family of long-legged frogs
- Photo
- Delivered a speech
- Lute used in Indian music
- Decorated
- Cease to stand
- The bottom layer
- Member of a Semitic people
- Part of a ticket
- Defunct monetary unit
- Challenges
- Body part
- Tell on
- By way of
- Shady green alcove
- Egyptian city
- ___ and flowed

- Widens a hole
- Eurasian wheat
- Act incorrectly
- “Be back later”
- Al Bundy’s wife
- Ocean
- Large root eaten as a vegetable
- Units of subjective loudness
- Music genre
- A way to drench
- Popular hot beverage
- Silk-like cotton fabric
- Rumanian city
- Come back
- Vaccine developer
- Canadian law enforcers
- Wings
- Observational comedian Bill
- Small fry
- ___ Clapton, musician
- Take a chance
- Semi-liquid food for babies
- Consumed food