

Spotlighting the kindness of Dr. Roland and Claire Stebbins

There are so many wonderful things about this couple, Dr. Roland and Claire Stebbins. They both have jovial personalities with him joking that after celebrating 69 years of marriage this past May, they still liked each other and even enjoy doing nothing together! They've lived very full and productive lives, he as a Pediatrician and she as a Lab Technician. That is of course besides raising three sons and a daughter. Their four children have blessed them with nine grandchildren and Roland kidded, the family's growing with 11 and three quarters great-grandchildren, the newest addition arriving in November. Claire also worked at Holyoke Hospital; her expertise was with pediatric patients and was often called to draw a baby's blood. She explained that Roland has what's referred to as "rolling veins" which can be difficult to draw blood from. She chuckled saying when

they went for their blood tests to get married, she offered to take his blood, being a professional. The "rolling veins" threw her a curve so had to have the specialist do it after all, but has since become an expert. After raising their four children, Claire went back to Holyoke Hospital but as a volunteer in their gift shop. Her eyes lit up as she explained how much she enjoyed doing that. It entailed not only helping the store customers but also visiting patient rooms. Roland and Claire lived pretty sparsely in the beginning as she became pregnant when he was still in medical school. Luckily, she enjoyed cooking which helped with costs, boasting that she made a delicious spaghetti sauce. Roland shared some of his experiences, one being his first disastrous speaking engagement at Mt. Marie in Holyoke. They were supposed to supply the movie with him answering questions after the viewing. He got there, they

thought he was bringing the movie so instead, after giving a 10-minute lesson to a totally nonengaged audience, he had one of the nuns ask him some prepared questions which still brought no participation. He considered this his worst teaching moment. Two other pediatricians joined Roland when creating the Holyoke Pediatrics practice. Every three weeks the doctors volunteered at the "Milk Station" in Holyoke's most needy community. He reminisced fondly about the dedication of all the nurses and staff, making sure the children and families were helped with not only their medical necessities, but offered help wherever needed. Their practice wound up with four doctors, but now has about a dozen. Roland was also involved with the Western New England Golden Gloves boxing tournaments by volunteering with preflight exams and sometimes staying during the fights as there always had to be a physician present. Most boxers he passed through but

remembered one young man devastated when he had to reject him due to a ruptured ear drum and didn't want to take the chance of further injury. In order to play high school sports, students needed a yearly physical exam prior to participating. Needless to say, the coaches were very appreciative as they had two pediatricians from his practice doing free exams for three nights so the kids who didn't have a regular doctor could still play. Roland accepted a volunteer position and served for 15 years on the Holyoke Board of Heath along with other medical professionals. He said here he learned more about public health than he had in medical school. His working years were when house calls happened and there were no cell phones, so had to find a landline for all communication. When on call for the Emergency Room, with no modern technology, you just always had to show up. Both Roland and Claire were co-chairs along with



By Barb Turcotte

Jim and Rosalie Hobert for Holyoke's 200th anniversary festivities. Laughingly Roland said he really only did about 10% of the work, that it was really Claire who was on the committee to organize five different venues at various locations throughout the city that included excellent food, ballroom dances and fun for all. He revealed they agreed no drinking otherwise by the fifth site they wouldn't be standing! Roland shared when he started his practice, an Irish couple came in with the baby who had meningitis. It was touch and go, then several months later they brought in the healthy baby along with a treasured authentic Irish stein as a thank you. He fondly reminisced

while vacationing in Jamaica, they stopped by a Catholic Church unknowingly that it was a children's communion service. They were so excited to witness this, giving each child a congratulatory dollar bill and described how much fun it was to watch them giggle with acceptance. I would have loved to have him as my son's pediatrician, how about you or maybe he was yours! If you'd like to share a Random Act of Kindness story or if this one has touched you, please contact me at bdt514@aol.com or 413-575-9385. Who knows, you might see your story, "just 'cause" you witnessed, you did or were the recipient of a kind gesture. See you soon with another Random Act of Kindness.

Legal Notices

TOWN OF SOUTH HADLEY PLANNING BOARD NOTICE OF HYBRID PUBLIC HEARING Amendments to the Zoning Bylaw Regarding Signs The Planning Board will hold a hybrid public hearing on **October 5, 2026 at 6:30 PM** to consider comments from the Office of the Massachusetts Attorney General regarding their review and denial of certain provisions of Section 255-85 Signs as amended by Annual Town Meeting on May 13, 2026, specifically 255-85 (G) (2) fine provision and Section 255-85 (G) (3) enforcement mechanism because this text conflicts with state law. Such provisions were disapproved by the Attorney General. The Planning Board will consider amendments to the above referenced sections of the bylaw for submission to the November 9, 2026 Special Town Meeting for adoption. The public hearing will be held through hybrid format with in-person attendance to be located in the multipurpose room of the South Hadley Senior Center, 45 Dayton Street South Hadley MA 01075. Virtual attendance will be hosted through the log-in information below: URL to join: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86811043641?pwd=gutF0ZiarQRLVb14EDXwdYBhwnVt.1 Or join by phone: +1 (646) 558 8656 Webinar ID: 868 1104 3641 Passcode: 751020 Materials are available on file in the Planning & Conservation Department Office (Room U6) in Town Hall and is posted at www.southhadley.org on the Planning Department page un-

der 'Proposed/Draft Bylaws' or can be viewed at: https://www.southhadley.org/1318/Proposed-Draft-Bylaws. Any person interested in, or wishing to be heard, should appear/join the hearing at the time and in the manner designated. Brad Hutchison, Clerk South Hadley Planning Board 09/18, 09/25/2026 TOWN OF SOUTH HADLEY PLANNING BOARD NOTICE OF HYBRID PUBLIC HEARING Amendments to the Zoning Bylaw Regarding Data Centers The South Hadley Planning Board will hold a hybrid public hearing on **October 26, 2026 at 6:30 PM** to consider amendments to the Zoning Bylaw to prohibit the construction of data centers by amending Section 255-10 Terms defined and inserting a definition for "data center," and by amending Attachment 1 Use Regulations Schedule by adding a new use under Industrial Uses called "Data Center" and prohibiting it in all zoning districts. The public hearing will be held through hybrid format with in-person attendance to be located in the multipurpose room of the South Hadley Senior Center, 45 Dayton Street South Hadley MA 01075. Virtual attendance will be hosted through the log-in information below: URL to join: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81812202761?pwd=2rtbd16Ad2pBXIXODSUslMJmdRyc6M.1 Or join by phone: +1 (646) 558 8656 Webinar ID: 818 1220 2761 Passcode: 552920

Any person interested in, or wishing to be heard, should appear/join the hearing at the time and in the manner designated. Brad Hutchison, Clerk South Hadley Planning Board 09/25, 10/02/2026 TOWN OF SOUTH HADLEY PLANNING BOARD NOTICE OF HYBRID PUBLIC HEARING Amendments to the Zoning Bylaw Regarding Special Permit The South Hadley Planning Board will hold a hybrid public hearing on **October 5, 2026 at 6:30 PM** to consider amendments to the Zoning Bylaw Article IX Chapter 255-128 (H) regarding Special Permits to enable the transfer of a special permit granted for use with the approval of the Special Permit Granting Authority. The public hearing will be held through hybrid format with in-person attendance to be located in the multipurpose room of the South Hadley Senior Center, 45 Dayton Street South Hadley MA 01075. Virtual attendance will be hosted through the log-in information below: URL to join: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86811043641?pwd=gutF0ZiarQRLVb14EDXwdYBhwnVt.1 Or join by phone: +1 (646) 558 8656 Webinar ID: 868 1104 3641 Passcode: 751020 Any person interested in, or wishing to be heard, should appear/join the hearing at the time and in the manner designated. Brad Hutchison, Clerk South Hadley Planning Board 09/18, 09/25/2026

State election early voting information

SOUTH HADLEY – Vote-by-mail postcard applications have been mailed to South Hadley voters who have not yet applied. Interested voters must return the postcard to the Town Clerk's office by 5 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 27. • The Town Clerk's office is waiting to receive ballots from the State. As soon as the Clerk's Office

receives ballots, they will begin mailing the ballots out to voters. Ballots are currently expected in early October. • You can track the status of your ballot here: https://www.sec.state.ma.us/WhereDoIVoteMA/TrackMyBallot/ In-person early voting begins on Saturday, Oct. 17. A full calendar of dates and times will be posted

to the Elections webpage: https://www.southhadley.org/620/Elections Voters can check their voter registration online here: https://www.sec.state.ma.us/OVR/ Please direct any election-related questions, comments, or concerns to the Town Clerk's office at 413-538-5030, ext. 6183, or elections@southhadley-ma.gov.

GARDEN from page 4

If I need to get into my beds, say to separate crops, sometimes I will position a plank across the width of the bed, and step on that to disperse my weight, therefore avoiding compaction. Plants always grow better in loose soil. I almost forgot the obvious! Raised beds are easier to work with. Beds are typically a foot or so tall, some-

times a bit taller. Bring out a short stool to the garden and you can comfortably sit and work in the beds. No more long periods of stooping or crouching. Well, I hope you enjoyed reading this luck of the draw column as much as I did writing it! And if you haven't gardened in a couple of years, give raised beds a try and maybe you will be as fortunate as my friend, with six foot tomato plants still

going strong at the end of September! Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 34 years she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to pouimette@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.

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www.turley.com

Contact Paige at PLawor@turley.com or 413.283.8393

Job Connection

HELP WANTED

TOWN OF WARE IS SEEKING:

- Director of Planning and Community Development
- Principal Assistant
- Assistant Coordinator
- Truck Driver/Laborer

Please see www.townofware.com for further information and other employment opportunities.

TOWN OF HADWICK HIGHWAY WORKING FOREMAN

Provides direct in-field supervision of employees working on all phases of Highway Department construction, maintenance, repair operations and performs all other related work as required. Requires heavy equipment operation skills. Position is essential to the public's safety and efficiency of the Highway Department.

Send resume and application to:
Hadwicks Highway Department
PO Box 575, Hadwicks, MA 01031-0575
or by email at agawam@turley.com
For full job description see www.townofware.com

TOWN OF HADWICK HELP WANTED

The town of Hadwicks is seeking qualified candidates to perform high-level architectural, clerical, and administrative work assisting the Town Administrator and Select Board.

For full job description, go to www.townofware.com

Qualified applicants should send cover letter and resume to: hadwicks@turley.com or send to PO Box 575 Hadwicks, MA 01031.

DRIVE FOR THE QUABOAG CONNECTOR

Seeking qualified drivers for the Quaboag Connector, a new toll road connecting the Quaboag Reservoir to the Quaboag Dam. Drivers will be responsible for transporting materials and equipment to and from the construction site. Drivers must have a valid driver's license and a clean driving record. For more information, contact the Quaboag Connector project manager at (413) 283-8393.

Health Director Full-Time

The Town of Ware is seeking a full-time Health Director to oversee the town's public health services. The position involves a variety of duties including: monitoring and reporting on the town's health status, coordinating with other town departments and the state health department, and implementing public health programs. The Health Director will also be responsible for managing the town's health budget and for ensuring that the town's health services are of the highest quality. For more information, contact the Town Administrator at (413) 283-8393.