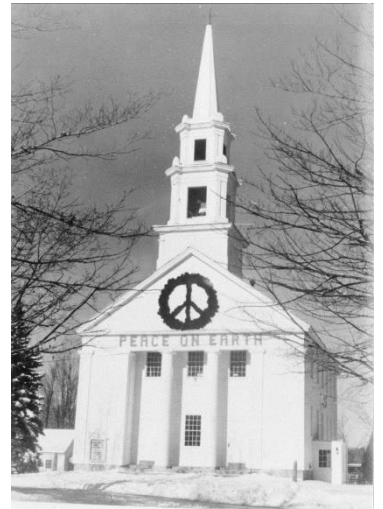


Congregational Church of Phillipston, U.C.C.
60 The Common
Phillipston, MA 01331



Phillipston
Community
Newsletter
Vol. 40 No.9

September 2026



The Phillipston Congregational Church, U.C.C.
Our Community Church

Dear Friends,

I just finished reading (former Phillipston resident), Thelma Mc Mahon's book Thelma E. McMahon, Love, Laughter and Lessons. The book is her personal autobiography assisted by her niece, Deborah Kelly. The story is filled with courage in adversity and life lessons. This reminds me of the Scripture from Isaiah 41: 10 "do not fear, for I am with you, do not be afraid, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my victorious right hand."

Her stories include being one of eight children, and sharing toys, because as a child from such a big family, no toy simply belonged to one child. During World War 2, the family put up black out shades, and made sure they had an extra supply of food and water. At school, the girls stopped wearing dresses and instead wore long pants and sweaters. Each student was required to leave a blanket and pillow at school in case they were stranded. They also had to contribute supplies to the school pantry. Thelma's mother, worked as an inspector at Metler Brothers, an airplane company in New Haven, Connecticut. Thelma's older brother, Phil, Jr. was a tail gunner on a plane, so her mother, Bessie Nickerson Mescall, felt that if she inspected every part of the aircraft, it would keep her son safe.

Thelma, who is a previous recipient of the Citizen of the Year award, gives this advice: "Get involved. Make a difference. Find something for which you have a passion and lend your heart and skills to it. Believe me when I say you will get back much more than you give." And lastly, "life is full of ups and downs. Endure the hard times and cherish the good ones. Stay close to one another. Be proud of who you are and where you came from. Make a difference in the world. And never forget how deeply you are loved." Preach it, Thelma!
Your sister in Christ, Stephanie C. Flynn

THE NEWSLETTER IS ON www.phillipston.com
October 2026 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE IS September 23rd
For more info go to : www.phillipston.com/priceinfo.pdf
Email to: newsletter@phillipston.com



Franklin County Solid Waste Management District

117 Main Street., 2nd Floor, Greenfield, MA 01301 • (413) 772-2438 • Fax: (413) 772-3786
www.franklincountywastedistrict.org • info@franklincountywastedistrict.org

ANNUAL HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION DAY

Franklin County Solid Waste District will hold the 2026 household hazardous waste collection on Saturday, September 19, at Greenfield Community College (GCC) and the Orange Transfer Station.

Residents and businesses must pre-register by September 9th. Online pre-registration for the 2026 collection will open in mid-August at franklincountywastedistrict.org. Mail-in registration forms will be available in mid-August at town transfer stations (as supplies last) and in local newspapers.

Participants will be assigned an appointment time to bring waste to the collection; an appointment time and instructions will be provided by mail after registration is processed.

The participating towns are Athol, Barre*, Bernardston, Buckland, Charlemont, Colrain, Conway, Deerfield, Erving, Gill, Hawley, Heath, Leverett, Montague, New Salem, Northfield, Orange, Petersham, Phillipston, Rowe, Royalston, Shelburne, Sunderland*, Warwick, Wendell, and Whately.

This collection event is free for residents of most participating towns. *Barre and Sunderland residents must pay to participate in 2026. Greenfield and Leyden residents are not eligible; call 413-772-2438 for disposal information. Businesses may participate but must pay for disposal costs. For business registration information, call (413) 772-2438.

This event provides an opportunity to dispose of hazardous items that should not be put in the trash, such as leftover oil-based paints, stains, thinners, pesticides, herbicides, pool chemicals, motor oil, antifreeze, household cleaners, and other household chemicals. A more complete list of acceptable items is at franklincountywastedistrict.org.

Batteries and mercury-containing items such as fluorescent light bulbs, thermometers, and thermostats are not accepted at this collection. However, these items, which may contain mercury or heavy metals, should not be put in trash or recycling. Handle them carefully, bring them to a municipal transfer station or a [Regional Hazardous Waste "Super Site"](#) and hand to the attendant. In addition, fluorescent light bulbs are accepted free of charge at Lowe's Stores (all types of fluorescents), and Home Depot (CFLs only).

For more information, visit franklincountywastedistrict.org or contact the District at info@franklincountywastedistrict.org, (413) 772-2438. MA Relay for the hearing impaired: 711 or 1-800-439-2370 (TTY/TDD). The District is an equal opportunity provider.

Phillipston Lions

Phillipston Lion Club meeting Tuesday, September 8 at 7 PM at Phillipston Library find out what is going on the months of September and October. All are welcome.

Phillipston Community Lunchroom

Wednesday, September 9 from Noon – 2 PM at the Phillipston Church.

Soup, meal and dessert – FREE (donations are welcome). Children are welcome.

Breakfast on September 19, 2026 Special Rueben Omelet or Waffle and French Toast.

Enjoy Breakfast \$9.00 Come join a great breakfast.

Senior meals/delivery is September 29 around 11 AM – 2 PM. Bean salad, meal desert.

Vendor Fair: Sat., Sept. 12 9am to 2pm– Inside the school gym. Still have room for a few more vendors. Set up Friday night by calling Marilyn 978-503-2269 or Saturday morning at 7:30 for more information.

Haunted School - October 24 5:30 – 8:00 PM Phillipston School - \$8.00 Cash

“Get your socks knocked off” Fun, games and snacks too!

The Fire Dept. will be there also!

Citizen of the Year Committee

and

Historical Society

on

Sept. 10 at 6:00 PM

As the Citizen of the Year Committee prepares for its annual meeting in November, we are reminded that another preliminary meeting is scheduled for Thursday, **September 10th** at 6:00 PM in the Church Vestry. This meeting is combined with the Historical Society of Phillipston which hosts the annual Memory Tree Ceremony in December. This extra September meeting will discuss ideas about enhancing the Memory Tree ceremony so that it can enhance the Citizen of the Year award presentation. For more info contact Linda at 978-939-5656.

Phillips Free Public Library

Library Hours

Tuesday 9-2pm

Wednesday 5-7pm

Saturday 9-1 pm

Board of Trustees Meeting:

September 1, 2026, 2pm.

* “like” our Facebook page

Phillips Free Public Library

New Materials

New Books include: Meet me in Paris by Kristin Harmel, The Last to Drown by Noelle Ihli, Ransom by Daniel Silva and The Housemaid’s Wedding by Freida McFadden

New movies include: ‘The Devil Wears Prada 2’ and ‘Hoppers’

BOOK CLUB

Our next read is: Nomadland by Jessica Bruder. We will meet on **Tuesday, October 6 at 5:30** to discuss. New members always welcome.!

PASSES

We offer passes to Davis Farmland and the New England Botanic Garden which have deep discounts for admission and a FREE DCR parking pass. Stop by or call the library (978) 249-1734 to learn more

Upcoming Programs

We have 2 upcoming programs (funded through the Phillipston Cultural Council):

September 17 6pm ‘New England Ghosts’ with Johah Knight

September 30 5:30-7:pm – Copper Bookmark Workshop with Heather Beck
(limited space- stop by the library or call (978) 249-1734 to sign-up)



It’s Time to Think About...

The choice of the 2026 Citizen of the Year will be coming up on November 2nd, so now is the time to start thinking about who you would like to nominate for this important award. If you already have a person in mind, just write the reasons why your nominee should receive this award and place it in an envelope, or fold your paper and tape it closed. Write “Citizen of the Year” on the outside and either drop it off at the Town Hall for the Town Clerk or mail it to *Town Clerk, 50 The Common*.

If you’ve thought a person is “two thumbs up” then nominate her/him!!

CPC Can Grant Funds *Find Out How* – 9/14/2026

The Community Preservation Committee (CPC) is inviting residents to its annual public meeting on **September 14, 2026 at 7:00 PM in the Phillipston Memorial School Building** to learn about the Community Preservation process and share with the committee their ideas for use of the Community Preservation Funds.

The funds can be used for public or non-profit projects in the following categories:

Open Space funds can be used for the acquisition, preservation and creation of open space, including aquifers and watershed lands, agricultural lands, grasslands, fields and forest land, river, stream, lake and pond frontage, or lands that protect scenic vistas, wildlife or nature.

Recreation funds can be used for the acquisition, preservation and creation of recreation lands, including community gardens, trails, non-commercial youth and adult sports, parks, playgrounds and athletic fields.

Historical Preservation funding can be used for the acquisition, preservation, rehabilitation or restoration of properties listed on the State Register of Historic Places or determined by the town's Historical Commission to be significant in the archaeology, architecture, history or culture of the town.

Community Housing Funds can be used for the acquisition, creation, preservation and support of Community Housing in Phillipston.

For more information email: communitypreservation@phillipston-ma.gov

A reminder to residents that Phillipston does offer the following Real Estate Tax Exemptions

- Service-Connected Disabled Veterans – as determined by the VA
- Seniors over 70 – income must be less than \$26,147/yr single and \$34,220/ yr married.

Asset limits (not including home or vehicle) Single \$35,000, Married \$40,000. Must own & occupy home for 5 years and lived in Massachusetts continuously for 10 years.

- Blind – as determined by the Massachusetts Commission for the Blind

Please contact the Assessors' Office for an application or more information
email assessors@phillipston-ma.gov tel. 978-249-1732



The Historical Society of Phillipston, Inc.

80 State Road, Phillipston

Wednesdays 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Saturdays 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

The Museum is Open – Please Note the New Museum Hours. We are celebrating the 250th anniversary of the birth of our country. New displays focus on the Revolutionary War and Phillipston's place in it, as well as special items on loan from town residents and members. Can't make it during regular hours? Call curator Jane French and leave a message 978-249-4356.

Next Society Meeting: Tuesday, September 15, 2026 at 6:30 pm in the museum. Everyone is welcome. You do not have to be a member. Prep for Ghost program and North Quabbin History Tour.

New England Ghosts – Thursday, September 17, 2006 at 6:00 pm in the Congregational Church Vestry. The historical society and the Phillipston library are jointly sponsoring paranormal researcher Johah Knight's presentation on New England ghosts. Bring your stories and share them with us! Funded by the Cultural Council.

North Quabbin History Tour – Sunday, September 20, 2026 11:00 am to 4:00 pm. Make Phillipston's museum the first stop on your history tour. Learn about Phillipston's revolutionary soldiers; view a banner from George Washington's inauguration; hear about war-time canons; see the doodlebug and antique cars. Also, get a map and directions to the other museums.

Columbus Day Weekend will be the last weekend the museum is open this year. So if you haven't visited the museum yet and you miss September's tour, you still have a few more weeks to see our 150th anniversary exhibits.

Please pass the word: We need a volunteer to manage our WordPress website. This includes working with various members of the Board of Directors and committees who provide content. If you, or someone you know is interested, please call or email our clerk, Kay Deans, at 978-835-9088, cdeans4025@comcast.net

SENIOR LUNCH MENU

Sept. 1: BBQ Chicken Thigh, Roasted Sweet Potato, CA blend veggies, dinner roll, Lemon white chocolate cookie

Sept. 15: Cheese lasagna with turkey bolognese parm, Tuscan blend veggies, garlic bread, pound cake

To make a reservation, please call Paula at 978-407-9504

Lunch is served at noon at the Phillipston Congregational Church

A donation of \$3.50 is appreciated.

The Phillipston Agricultural Commission

The Agricultural Commission meeting is on the second Thursday of every month at 7pm, if you would like to come to a meeting.

The Community Garden had a good growing season with most of the plots taken this year. Dennis made improvements of fixing the fencing so that the animals cannot get under it to get the vegetables and a water collection system off the shed to gather water. If you are interested in a plot for next growing season, you can reach out to Dennis as early as now to put your name on the list. As fall is coming fast if you want to get rid of those leaves, we are always taking them for our compost pile. Please just give Dennis a call at 413-658-7889.

The Farmer's Markets- The Farmer's Markets are open every Wednesday from 4pm- 7pm weather permitting, you can always check out our Facebook page to see if there is any cancellation and for any updates at Phillipston Farmers Market. You will see a picture of one of your road signs. The Farmer's Market is also open on the first Saturday of the month. That will be September 5th and October 3rd the last two Saturday from 10am -1pm. If you want to be a vendor stop by any time and see Marilyn or call her at 978-503-2269 or emailing Julie at jhockcty2014@gmail.com.

The Giant Pumpkin Contest/Fair- The Time is coming fast so we hope you are growing your pumpkins! The Giant Pumpkin Contest/Fair is on October 11th, 2026, at 9am on the Phillipston Common. The Fair portion of the starts at 9am with the vendors and the Lions Club with be there with Cook Tent. Part of the vendors this year will be educational and information for children. In addition, top the weigh-in, there will be several fun contests, including:

- Homemade canned fruits and vegetables
- Vegetable and floral arrangements
- Handmade goods such as crochet and knitted items
- Homemade pie made contest

We will be having live music all day to entertain you. Registration for the pumpkin starts at 11am and the judging is at 1pm.

There is still space for any vendor who would like to join us, please contact either Bob at 978-314-9853 or email branaud@me.com or Julie at jhockcty2014@gmail.com

Come join us for a day of fun and a good time.

HARVEST SUPPER COMING SOON SAVE THE DATE

November. 7th

Phillipston Congregational Church

Tickets available soon. Call Paula for more details 978-407-9504
