

Hadleigh Woods Gazette

December 2025

www.hadleighwoods.org

Volume 206

P·R·E·S·I·D·E·N·T·'·S M·E·S·S·A·G·E

President's Message,

It was great to see 37 people at our Annual Meeting. Thank you for the great turnout.

There seemed to be an issue with understanding the ballot. We will work on correcting that.

I also apologize for not using the sound system more. We need to be aware that a number of us are hard of hearing.

Below is the pie chart that I used at the meeting but was unable to project. You will see that our largest expense is for landscaping/snow removal. There is not much we can do about this expense due to unknown weather factors related to snow & ice.

Our next largest is the Capital Reserve. Although not an expense, it is present in the budget because \$5000 each month goes into it. Additionally, in January we take 25% of what is in our checking account and move it into the Reserve.

Insurance is the next largest chunk which usually goes up substantially but this year the increase was much smaller.

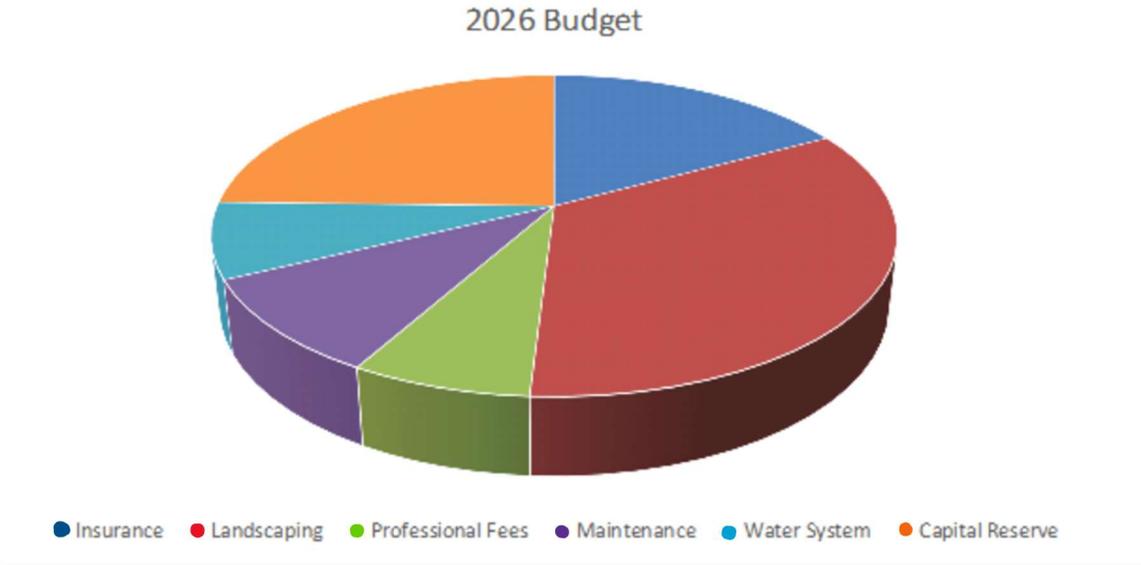
It was brought up at the meeting that our water testing was more extensive and expensive. We also have an issue with manganese. We have met with Second Wind looking for maybe another solution for controlling this.

The Maintenance Fund is used for any number of things and is used sometimes to supplement a budget item that runs over.

All of this put together; the increased water testing, landscaping and insurance increases sets our 2026 condo fee at \$336. If you have auto-payment with your financial institution, please remember to update this payment.

Thanks to Gene's efforts, we had a number of our contractors donate items to be raffled off. The winners were: Andrea – Market Basket \$100, Tom – MB \$100, Paul W. - East Coast Lumber gift certificate, Bob S. - Amazon \$200, Pat S. - MB \$50, Gratia – MB \$50, Al – MB \$50, Debbie – MB \$50, Nancy G. - MB \$50, Cecilia – T-Bones, Ed – Copper Door \$200, Joanne – Red Sox tickets.

Merry Christmas to you all.



Richard M



Property Management of New England

Dear Homeowners,

It was great to see you at the annual meeting. The Board is consistent with holding their meetings and sharing information. The annual meeting is a great resource for a re-cap of the repairs and projects from the previous year and projections into the next. 2025 was a significant maintenance year with the sizable water tank cleaning project. Many thanks for the owners that were on the ballot for a director's position. It is always hard to announce the results when not all on the ballot can be on the Board. But, please don't let that discourage anyone from trying again. Your willingness to serve on the Board is always appreciated and admirable. December is here again and the seasonal spirit at Hadleigh Woods is always great to see. Thank you all for another year of contributing your time to the community whether it is joining a committee, sharing helpful information or paying your fees on time. It all helps in running the association in an effective and productive way.

Sincerely,
Ken Foley,
NextGen

Dear Neighbors:

We, the Christmas Tree Committee, wish to acknowledge and express our gratitude to those who have made our community so festive due to your very generous donations.

It takes a lot of people to make this event happen; therefore, we are asking for some help with this committee. Some of us are aging and wish to step back. If other people would make a commitment to be involved, this event could continue. Otherwise, this is our last year.

If interested, please contact Linda A.

Finally, a BIG thank you to all who attended and brought delicious food and helped decorate the tree.

We wish you a Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.

Purple Finch



From left to right: male purple finch; female purple finch; male house finch; female house finch

Our state bird breeds throughout New Hampshire but is far more common in the North and West in coniferous and mixed forests. It is one of our “irruptive” species, meaning that the numbers we see in the winter fluctuate widely depending on food supply to the North. During the winter, they feed on a variety of seeds including conifers and mountain ash (plus sunflower seeds at feeders). When food is scarce to the North higher numbers migrate south and the species is common in winter. Here in NH, peak fall migration generally occurs in October and November, and birds move back North in April.

NH Audubon

The Purple Finch is the bird that Roger Tory Peterson famously described as a “sparrow dipped in raspberry juice”. For many of us, they are irregular winter visitors to our feeders, although these chunky, big-beaked finches do breed in northern North America and the West Coast. Separating them from House Finches requires a careful look, but the reward is a delicately colored, cleaner version of the Red Finch. Look for them in forests too, where you’re likely to hear their warbling song from the highest parts of the trees.

COOL FACTS:

- The Purple Finch uses its big beak and tongue to crush seeds and extract the nut. They do a similar trick to get at nectar without eating an entire flower, and also to get to a buried seed inside a fleshy fruit.
- Purple Finches seem to be losing numbers in eastern North America as House Finches have moved in after being brought to New York City in the 1950s.
- Into their rich warbling songs, Purple Finches sometimes add in the sounds of other species, including Barn Swallows, American Gold Finches, Eastern Towhees, and Brown-headed Cowbirds.
- The oldest recorded Purple Finch was at least 12 years, 8 months old when it was recaptured and re-released in North Carolina.

HABITAT:

In summer, Purple Finches are primarily birds of moist, cool evergreen forests. You’ll also find them in mixed forests, along wooded streams, and in tree-lined suburbs. In winter, they’re more widespread, using forests, shrubby areas, weed fields, hedgerows, and backyards.

FOOD:

Purple Finches eat mainly seeds of coniferous trees and elms, tulip poplars, maples and others. They also eat soft buds, nectar (extracted by biting the bases off flowers), and many berries and fruit,

including black berries, honeysuckle, poison ivy, crabapples, juniper berries, cherries and apricots. In winter you may see Purple Finches eating seeds of low plants like dandelions, ragweed and cocklebur. They eat some insects, including aphids, caterpillars, grasshoppers and beetles.

NESTING:

Look for Purple Finch nests far out on the limb of a coniferous tree. Nests can be 2.5 feet up to 60 feet off the ground and are often built under an overhanging for shelter.

NEST DESCRIPTION:

Nests take 3-8 days to build, with the female doing most of the work. She makes the base from twigs, sticks, and roots, then lines the cup with fine grasses and animal hair. The finished nest is about 7 inches wide and 4 inches tall.

NEST FACTS:

Clutch Size: 2-7 eggs

Number of Broods: 1-2 broods

Egg Length: 0.7-0.9 inches

Egg Width: 0.5-0.6 inches

Incubation Period: 12-13 days

Nestling Period: 13-16 days

Egg Description: Pale greenish blue marked with brown and black.

Condition at Hatching: Naked, eyes closed, helpless

BEHAVIOR:

Aggressive Purple Finches show their agitation by leaning toward their opponent, neck stretched out and bill pointed at the other bird. This can intensify to standing upright, opening the beak or pointing it downward at opponent, and sometimes results in actual pecking attacks. During disputes at food sources and in flocks, females usually win out over males. Courting males sing softly while hopping and fluffing feathers in front of the female, often holding a twig or grass stem in the beak. If things go well, the next step is a short flight about one foot straight up, followed by drooping the wings and pointing his beak to the sky. Mating may follow.

CONSERVATION:

Purple Finch populations decreased by 0.73% per year between 1966 and 2019, resulting in a cumulative decline of about 32%, according to the North American Breeding Bird Survey. Low conservation concern. Populations may suffer in some areas from competition with the recently arrived House Finch

DIFFERENCES BETWEEN PURPLE FINCH AND HOUSE FINCH:

Male Purple Finches are a deep cranberry or raspberry color on most of their body.

Male House Finches are more orange and red with color concentrated on their heads and chests.

Females are difficult to tell apart. Look closely at their faces: Purple Finches have a bolder face pattern, with two white stretching from their beaks to the nape of the necks.

Credits:

NH Audubon

All About Birds-Cornell Lab of Ornithology

Birds and Bloom Magazine

Thank you to everyone who donated their pumpkins to the sanctuary farm in Derry!!

Elaine G

Free Printable Crossword Puzzle #5

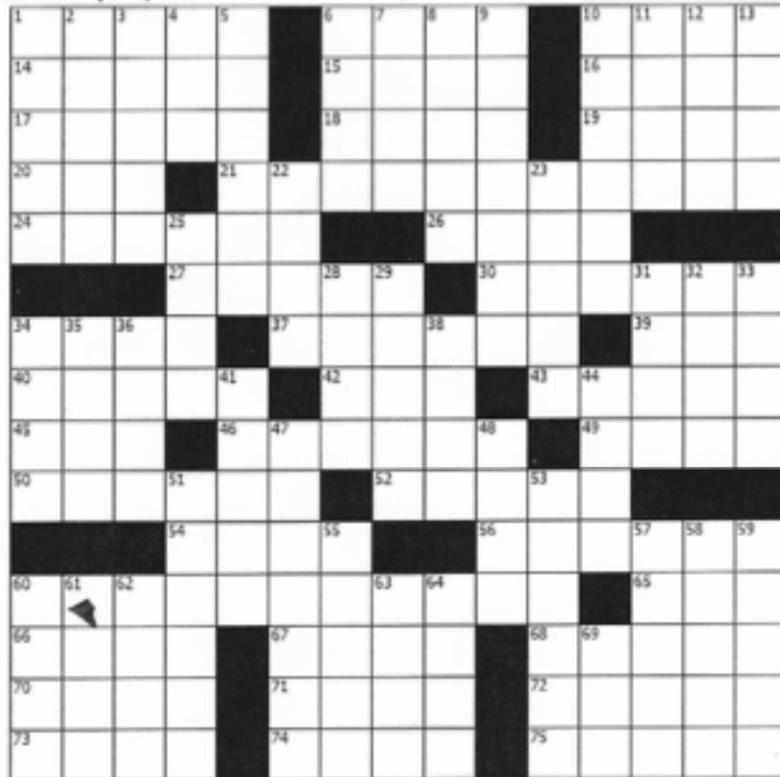
This is the Daily Crossword Puzzle #5 for Sep 24, 2025

Find the solution at

<https://onlinecrosswords.net/79516>

Across

1. Proverb
6. Citi Field predecessor
10. Short play
14. Cantaloupe, e.g.
15. Boat paddles
16. Singer ____ Williams
17. Mete out
18. Wine bottle word
19. Basketball rim
20. Train depot (abbr.)
21. Impossible to part
24. ____ Day O'Connor
26. Level
27. Plant again
30. The Grim ____
34. Prima donna
37. Concurred
39. Water (Fr.)
40. Prepares copy
42. Curtain holder
43. Singes
45. Overhead railways
46. Seesaw
49. She, in Paris
50. Add spices
52. Growl
54. Besides that
56. Annoy
60. New Jersey's nickname (2 wds.)
65. Bullring cheer
66. Diva's offering
67. Office acronym
68. Fine fabric
70. Posted
71. Lawn tool
72. Construct
73. Book leaf
74. Watched
75. Moves quickly



Down

- | | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Pile up | 23. Marsh grasses | 48. Engrossed |
| 2. River mouth | 25. Mild expletive | 51. Calm |
| 3. Edgar ____ Poe | 28. Mythical giant | 53. Felt dizzy |
| 4. Sticky substance | 29. Horses' gaits | 55. Writing assignment |
| 5. Total | 31. Chime | 57. Copier's need |
| 6. Cries loudly | 32. Certain nobleman | 58. Vote into office |
| 7. Rabbit's kin | 33. Pretense | 59. Subtleties |
| 8. Explode | 34. Bad grades | 60. Struggle for breath |
| 9. Dancer Fred ____ | 35. Inactive | 61. Vicinity |
| 10. Largest desert | 36. Travel document | 62. Wedding band |
| 11. Door feature | 38. Genesis garden | 63. Swipe |
| 12. Reversed one | 41. Pilfered | 64. Mocked |
| 13. Sort | 44. Long fishes | 69. Savings plan (abbr.) |
| 22. Wine-producing valley | 47. Catch | |

Eat to “Squash” SICKNESS

In the past I have mentioned the health benefits of eating colorful fruits and vegetables. During the month of December and January, nearly every health promoting magazine will try to get you to consumer new and old “power foods”. If you like any of the different members of the squash family, you will be ahead of everyone else in improving your health.

There are over 100 kinds of winter and summer squashes. Members of the winter squash family include Acorn, Banana, Boston Marrow, Buttercup, Butternut, Calabaza, Cushaw, Delicata, Dumpling, Fig-Leaf gourd, Honeynut, Hubbard, Kabocha, Red Kuri, Spaghetti, Sugar Pumpkin.

Members of the summer squash varieties include Crookneck (Summer), Round Zucchini, Zucchini, Patty Pan, Chayote, Gem, Tatume, Tromboncino.

The winter types are more nutrient dense than the summer types, both having different healthy components. The winter ones are high in beta-carotene which is helpful for over-all cell health. Fiber content, magnesium, manganese, potassium are higher in the winter ones which are richer in the yellow and orange hues they possess. Acorn, Butternut, Hubbard could have between 5-9 grams of fiber per cup serving. For anyone trying to monitor their carbohydrate intake, Spaghetti squash is a reasonable alternative to regular pasta for helping you feel full and tasty with red sauce or pesto over it. You may read that the squashes are a good source of vitamin C. This is true if eaten raw. Vitamin C is heat sensitive so mostly destroyed while cooking. Roasted winter squashes can be incorporated into many dishes like stews, pasta, rice, quinoa, over pizza crust, the possibilities are endless.

Roasted Butternut Squash Recipe

1 lb butternut squash, cut into smaller pieces

1-2 Tbsp olive oil

Salt & pepper to taste

½ tsp ground cumin

Add salt, pepper and cumin to olive oil. Place cut butternut squash in a plastic bag, add oil mixture. Coat squash pieces well. Place on baking pan with sides, roast for 25 minutes at 400 degrees.

References: Prevention (Nov 2025), Country Living.com, Health.ucdavis.edu

Claudette



FIND the WORDS

Happiness – Jingle – Family – Garland – Winter – Wonderland – Hockey – Stockings
 Kwanza – Freezing – Skating – SantaClause – Movie – Holiday – Lights – Festival

T	S	N	S	G	N	I	K	C	O	T	S	A
R	T	C	R	M	O	N	S	W	P	O	H	U
A	H	O	L	I	D	A	Y	A	E	J	T	C
N	G	K	E	T	F	E	S	T	I	V	A	L
S	I	H	T	A	K	R	W	M	N	S	S	U
I	L	W	S	C	U	E	G	I	S	A	C	B
E	D	Z	O	D	B	N	Y	E	P	T	H	M
C	U	H	T	N	I	T	N	S	S	I	O	G
N	S	A	S	T	D	I	N	N	A	V	L	N
A	I	W	A	D	P	E	P	I	I	U	L	I
R	C	K	I	P	C	E	R	E	W	D	Y	Z
B	S	S	A	N	T	A	C	L	A	U	S	E
M	R	H	Z	B	T	A	R	V	A	S	T	E
E	J	I	N	G	L	E	Z	O	D	N	R	R
M	E	F	A	E	G	A	R	L	A	N	D	F
E	D	I	W	Y	L	I	M	A	F	S	E	H
R	R	C	K	T	R	I	N	E	G	G	I	B