

## Community stands out for students

By Emily-Rose Pappas  
Staff Writer  
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BELCHERTOWN – A group of residents organized a standout Monday evening to raise awareness of the funding issues coming with the next fiscal year's budget.

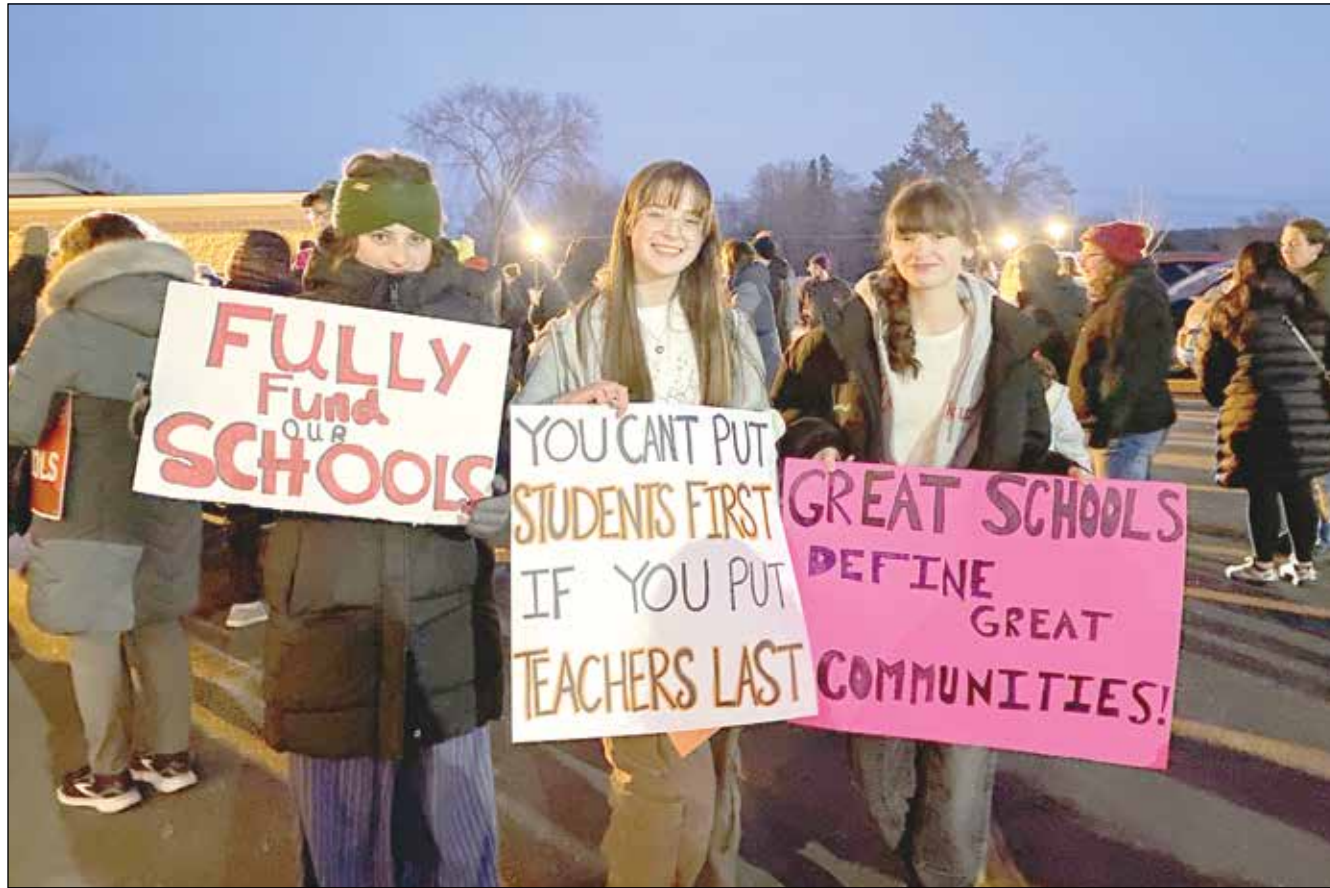
The budget this year has brought high anxieties to towns across the state, where they are finding the difficult tasks of facing budget deficits and complications that are resulting in cuts.

These cuts, especially within the schools, have stirred up intense anxieties, and a group of parents and teachers came together, knowing that they wanted to do something to address these cuts, and figure out what is happening regarding the future of the schools.

The group created a Facebook page, called S.O.S. Belchertown, for Save Our Schools, and organized a stand out outside the Selectboard Meeting on Monday evening, drawing pictures with chalk, holding signs, and more to fight for their beloved schools.

The School Committee went over the budget for the fiscal year 2026, and after reviewing the effects of inflation, as well as what is being received as a budget from the governor, and then taking into accounts things like school choice, transportation, class sizes, and more to fund the year, came up with a list of impacts.

These impacts include reducing performing arts offerings and world language instruction, eliminating an IT Director position, reducing the Food Service Director position, eliminating or reducing after-school clubs, reducing sports programs,



Students show their support and stand out for teachers.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

increase the need for grant funding to help professional development, and increase class sizes.

Other areas that may be affected include longer bus rides, which in turn affects traffic, as well as the potential of reorganizing the schools with the grades.

The school systems have also found other areas of need, and the budget decreased has made them difficult to obtain, including safety measures, teaching and learning resources and materials, technology, health and wellness resources, and maintenance needs.

The School Committee provided an overall overview

Please see **STAND OUT**, page 8



Holding signs and looking to the Selectboard as the community desires to see a change.

TURLEY PHOTO BY EMILY-ROSE PAPPAS

## Town debates Prop 2 1/2 override

Committee formed to explore options

By Melina Bourdeau  
Correspondent

BELCHERTOWN – The Selectboard met on March 6 to discuss a potential Proposition 2 1/2 override and the formation of a committee to explore the town's financial options.

The meeting began with approvals of mural designs and liquor license applications before moving to the central topic of the evening - the town's fiscal challenges.

After extensive discussion, the Selectboard voted to form a committee to explore the Proposition 2 1/2 override and debt exclusion options.

The committee will be composed of seven members, representing various town interests, including the schools, finance committee, Selectboard, superintendent and Town Manager.

The timeline for the committee's work is tight, as the town faces a May 19 election deadline. Town Manager Steve Williams explained, "We would essentially need to bring two budgets to town meeting, a base budget and a contingency budget. If we didn't have it on that election, we would have to have a special election before the end of June to make sure that we were able to have the budgets ready for FY 26."

Please see **PROP 2 1/2**, page 5

## Belchertown explores opioid settlement funds for social worker position

By Melina Bourdeau  
Correspondent

BELCHERTOWN – The Belchertown Opioid Settlement Funds Advisory Committee discussed the possibility of using settlement funds to create a new social worker position to serve the community.

The meeting, chaired by Gail Gramarossa, brought together a diverse group of committee members, including representatives from the police department, public health programs and local organizations.

A key focus of the discussion was the work being done by the Mill Towns Public

Health Program, which covers Palmer, Ludlow, Warren and West Brookfield. Ashley Jediny, a shared services social worker with the program, provided an overview of her role.

"My goal is to connect individuals to a wide range of services and supports, substance use, mental health,

housing, transportation, elderly support, food resources, health insurance," Jediny said. "Every day is different, so it's just trying to figure out what the need is."

Jediny described her weekly meetings with local police and fire departments, as well as her drop-in hours at the Ludlow library and partici-

pation in community events. She emphasized the importance of not duplicating existing services and working closely with organizations like the Community Health Center of the Berkshires.

The committee members raised questions about the funding and sustainability of the Mill Towns program,

which is currently supported by a state grant.

Kim Dewey, a pediatrician and committee member, asked, "What's the sustainability of it? How do you have the opportunity to go for this grant again?"

Please see **FUNDS**, page 4

## Cultural council awards 30 grants

By Emily-Rose Pappas  
Staff Writer  
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BELCHERTOWN – Being able to support the town and its projects to help support the community is something the cultural

council values, and awarding grants is one of the ways it does this.

Last week, the Cultural Council hosted a grants award ceremony, and awarded thirty grants this year, ten more than what was awarded last year.

The Belchertown Cultural Council is a part of a Local Cultural Council, or LCC, network that is run by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, which awards grant money to town councils like the BCC to fund projects.

"In addition to the MCCs

Please see **GRANTS**, page 4

People gathered together sharing some snacks and each other's company, celebrating not only the awards, but community most of all.



## Speakers to share importance of Black History

Submitted by  
Magda Harrison

BELCHERTOWN – Black History Month celebration at Belchertown High School was a truly special and meaningful event, enriched by the presence of Dr. Patrick Tutwiler, the Secretary of Education.

Dr. Tutwiler's visit provided an opportunity for students to hear firsthand about the importance of education, diversity, and inclusion. His inspiring words encouraged reflection on how we can all contribute to a more inclusive society, and his message resonated deeply with everyone in attendance.

The event also featured a variety of performances that showcased the creativity and talents of students across grade levels. The high school's jazz band energized the crowd with their vibrant performance, setting an upbeat tone for the event.

The first graders from Swift River brought smiles to everyone's faces with their heartfelt songs, offering an uplifting and joyful contribution to the celebration. Their voices filled the room with warmth and innocence, highlighting the spirit of unity and community.

Students from Jabish Brook Middle School participated by reciting their "No Place for Hate" pledge, emphasizing the importance of respect, kindness, and standing against discrimination. Their words were a powerful reminder of the values we strive to instill in our school community.

Additionally, Chestnut Hill Community School students captivated the audience with their thought-provoking poetry, expressing powerful messages about equality, history, and the significance of Black History Month.

The celebration was a beautiful blend of perfor-



Speaker Patrick Tutwiler hearing from a young boy.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

mances, speeches, and reflections that honored the rich history and culture of Black Americans. It was a day full of learning, inspiration, and connection that truly brought

our community together. Comments by Heidi Gutekenst

I am so proud to be the  
Please see **HISTORY**, page 4

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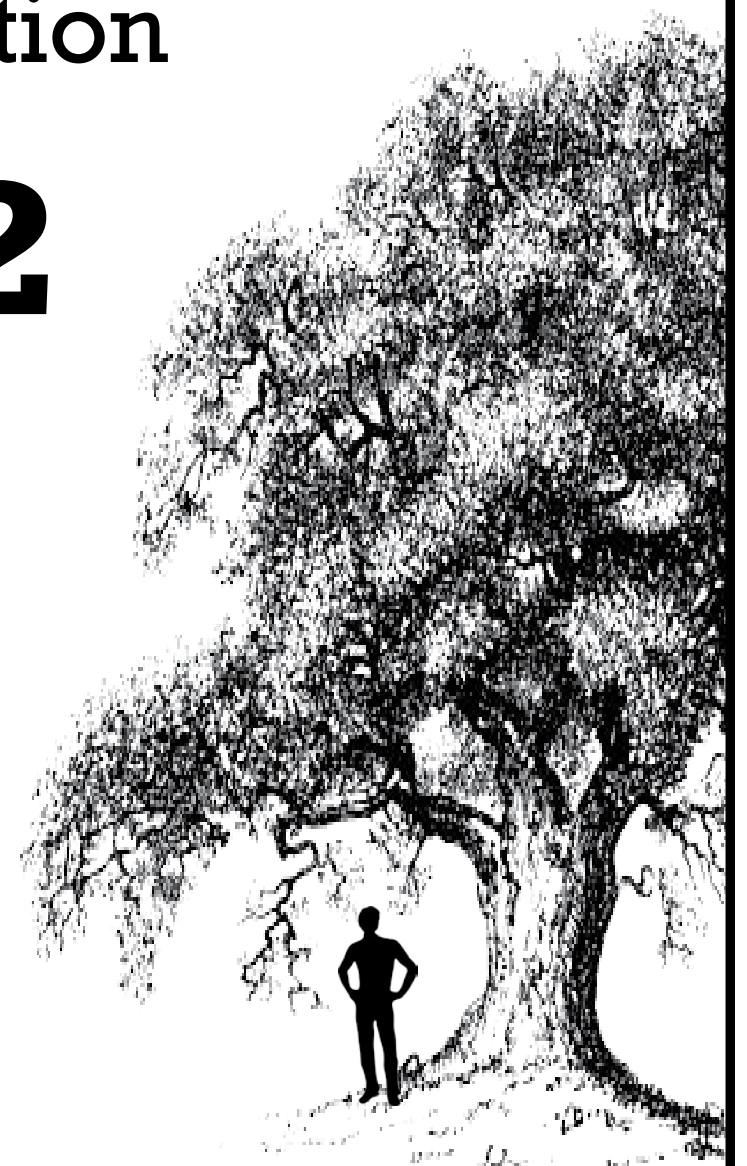
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# Art Exhibit



Cian Lindsay and a beautiful self-portrait from Honors 2.



Sakura Hartsfield from Honors 2 and her animal portrait.



Giselle Bourgeois with her animal piece from Honors 1.

## Honors students have art reception at the library

By Emily-Rose Pappas  
Staff Writer  
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BELCHERTOWN – Art is one of the ways we as humans can truly express ourselves, and whether its picking up a marker, pencil, or paint brush, that creativity truly blossoms in a select few.

The Clapp Memorial Library hosted a reception to show off the Belchertown High School's artwork at the

beginning of February, the honors art students had their art up on the walls for all to admire.

"I love showing off the kid's work. I'm proud of what they do," said their teacher, Lori St. Pierre. "They are full of great ideas and energy. I learn just as much from them as I teach them. My job is fun when the kids get excited."

Each student exhibited one piece of art, and there were 36 students total from

Honors 1, who painted animals, and Honors 2, who painted self-portraits.

"Every student is creative. You just need to find the right inspiration to pull it out of them," said St. Pierre.

St. Pierre has been teaching art for 21 years, and has been at Belchertown High School for 16, showing her love for art and her students, the show revealing how much love the students have for art and her classes.

She got her undergrad in

fine art, graphic design, and art history at Westfield State, and her master's in art education at UMass.

"Unfortunately, I did not get to go to the reception, but I always get positive feedback from the public and that is the best part," said St. Pierre.

The students in the high school's honors art classes truly are talented, and they have worked hard to show and represent their inner selves through art.



Two friends enjoying their time at the art reception.



Animals of all different kinds, with words, outfits, and other items to represent the artist.



Cheese and crackers were served at the show.

SUBMITTED PHOTOS



The talent of students in Honors 2 with their multi-colored self-portraits.



Friends gathered to enjoy an evening at the library and look at the art.

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**GRANTS** from page 1

guidelines, our main criteria is that the project or program must take place in Belchertown and the application must clearly articulate the benefit it brings to our community," said Melanie Donovan, the Cultural Council Chair.

"We also look for letter of support from other entities who might be involved, for example, a lot of grant events take place at the Clapp Memorial Library or the Senior Center. We want to make sure applicants have had prior conversations with those venues before applying for a grant," said Donovan.

"Another consideration is the scope of the project, these grants are typically small, \$1,500 and under, so the BCC cannot always be the sole source of funding," said Donovan. "In general, we give preference to grants that are for public events, nature, science and environmental education, and programs celebrating local history and cultural diversity."

The Cultural Council held their evening gathering at the Lacey Rose Bed and Breakfast, where they had plenty of tasty appetizers, and live piano music to celebrate the awarded grants.

"Guests had a chance to connect in-person, discuss their projects and plans. We opened a space for networking and learning deeper about our grantees and their amazing efforts past and present. I'd estimate about forty-five attendees over the evening, which provided an intimate setting for conversations," said Trista Hevey, the council's treasurer.

The rooms were filled with a wide range of people, all sharing ideas about different topics and ideas, and an eagerness for these projects to come together in 2025.

"The reason I joined the BCC was because I fell in love with Winter Light Night and Food Truck Fridays. Seeing all my friends and neighbors out together, having fun, being together as a community was the best feeling, and I wanted to be a part of that," said Donovan.

"At first I had no idea that so many of the events

I brought my children to at the library were funded by the BCC, but once I got involved, I saw how much the LCC program can really bring to a small town like ours," said Donovan.

The evening brought together many people, and brought in a connection between people where ideas and more were able to be shared.

"Sometimes we get so wrapped up in our own projects and plans, we don't always have a moment to pause and listen to others," said Hevey. "Those moments when you see synergy, support and collaboration is the reason why BCC members love hosting opportunities to gather our community."

"Everyone was excited to meet each other, and network on a Friday evening in Belchertown. It was a true celebration of community, culture and connectivity," said Hevey. "We're excited to see all of the 2025 grants come to fruition for Belchertown. And we continue to celebrate the success and efforts of all past awardees."

**The winners of the 2025 grants:**

**Daniel Kirouac:** Concert for COA (Council on Aging) Valentine's Day Luncheon Feb 14, 2025 at the Senior Center

**Paint Sip Fun:** A wood sign workshop March 2025 at the Senior Center

**Roger Ticknell:** From Ireland to America March 21, 2025 @10:30 am at the Senior Center

**Patricia Barry:** Your Back in the Garden; Taking care of your body as you work March 22, 2025 at 10:00 AM in the Town Hall

**The ABC's Of Genealogy - Getting Started with Family Research 3/17/25 and 3/24/25 at the Senior Center**

**Julie Stepanek:** Saturday Music Series (a music programs for young children) Spring 2025 at the Clapp

**Laura Hicks:** Lady Singers of the 70's; Spring 2025 at the Clapp

**Nature Photography Workshops;** Spring 2025 at the Clapp

**Jay Mankita:** Artful Mechanisms (a STEAM-



SUBMITTED PHOTO

**Nothing says "welcome" like a plate full of cookies!**

themed maker-skills workshop for 4th graders) ; Spring 2025 at Chestnut Hill Community School

**Birds of Prey** (presented by Tom Ricardi, from Massachusetts Bird of Prey Rehab Facility) April 2025 at the Senior Center

**Springfield Symphony Musical Petting Zoo** (a hands-on traveling exhibit of musical instruments) April 2025 at Christopher Heights.

**Life With Bill A New Model for Aging** (Nick Kachulis shares stories about being a primary caregiver for his father as he struggled with dementia) May 13, 2025 At the Senior Center

**Literary Journal** (The Belchertown High School writing club plans to produce a magazine called "The Nest: A Literary Journal" which will be distributed for free at their Coffee House event at BHS on May 2, 2025)

**Jafar Manselle:** West African Drumming Workshop - Come out to play Spring/Summer 2025 at the Clapp

**West Mass Brass Band Concert** on the Common. June 28, 2025

**Scarboro Art Garden - A Dwight-Inspired Art and History Day** at the Scarboro Bowl. A Sunday in June 2025

**Summer Concerts** on the Common 5 FREE concerts by the Belchertown Community Band during July & August.

Accoustica will perform again at one of our Food Truck Friday events this summer

**Eli Elkus:** Musical Storytelling & Folk Music at the Belchertown Farmers Market 2025 season.

**The Pioneer Valley Concert Band:** Sounds of Summer will be performed at Christopher Heights Summer 2025

**David R Bates III - Ghosts, Goblins & More:** Performance & Workshop for Tweens and Teens at the Clapp. October 24, 2025

**Concert by the Jazz Bones.** 10/26/25 at United Methodist Church.

**Live Music Making History Live - Popular music and Veterans.** Presented by John Waterman Nov.14, 2025 at the senior Center

**Echoes in Nature:** Hampshire County: (A collaborative arts project) April-Nov 2025 at the Clapp

**Belchertown Cemeteries.** (Robert Comeau provides guided tours of Lake Vale Cemetery, Rural Cemetery, and Warner Pine Grove Memorial Cemetery) 1 tour in Spring, summer and fall.

**Sensory Garden Opening** (The Belchertown pollinators garden is adding a music area in the spring, as well as a Dutchman's pipe plant (Aristolochia Macrophylla) , a host plant for pipevine swallowtail butterflies. They will also host a Halloween Spook-tacular

in October with Jennifer the librarian)

**Energy and Sustainability** run by John Piekara. (The Belchertown Energy and Sustainability Committee has several projects to provide services and information that bring about the changes needed to improve and promote public knowledge for environmental consciousness and actions, including promoting composting at public events such as Food Truck Friday on the common

**Blue Heron A sculpture** by Don Longley, crafted from upcycled mild steel to be installed at Lake Wallace. This ties in with efforts to have that area designated a Cultural District.

**Reading and Signing for Emma and Belley:** Sister Detectives, A Bilingual Book (A self-written, bilingual (Chinese American) book written by two young sisters.) This event will be at the Clapp

**Community-Centric Entertainment and Events at Arcpoint Brewery.** (Committed to fostering community engagement and providing a welcoming space for families and individuals to gather, relax, and enjoy local culture, Arcpoint plans on hosting a variety of entertainment and community-oriented events in 2025.)

**FUNDS** from page 1

Erin McMurray, the shared services coordinator for the mill towns program, explained that the grant is set up for the next 10 years, but acknowledged the need to explore additional funding sources, including the possibility of using Belchertown's opioid settlement funds.

The committee discussed the potential for collaboration with the Quabbin Health District and the possibility of using opioid settlement funds to support a social worker position that could serve multiple communities.

**Belchertown Overcoming Adversity Together (BOAT)** member and committee member Kris Hoag, suggested exploring the idea of integrating the social worker position with the existing Drug Free Communities grant, should that funding not be renewed.

"Do we want to create this position and something to integrate what we were just talking about with, not necessarily drug free communities, but kind of integrate both positions together?" Hoag said.

The committee agreed to invite Andrea Crete from the Quabbin Health District to the next meeting to discuss potential collaboration and the possibility of hosting a social worker.

Gramarossa emphasized the importance of aligning any proposed position with the purpose of the opioid settlement funds.

"We got to make those really clear connections in order that everybody is, you know, not, nobody gets in trouble for using money in a way that you're not supposed to," she said.

The committee plans to continue exploring the feasibility of a social worker position and the potential use of opioid settlement funds to support it, with the goal of presenting a proposal to the Belchertown Selectboard in the coming months.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Jason Law, Shawn Fortin, Brian Cameron, Patrick Tutwiler, Magda Harrison, Antoine Harrison, and LaMar Cook after the ceremony for Diversity Day.

**HISTORY** from page 1

chair of the School Committee in a district that embraces, celebrates and encourages diversity. Our leadership, our teachers and our students have such amazing talents and I am inspired by their bravery, honesty and the way they embrace acceptance of others.

**Comments by Brian Cameron**

I was honored to have Dr. Patrick Tutwiler, the Secretary of Education, Antoine Harrison, MA Secretariat Chief Information Officer, Senator Jake Oliveria, Representative Aaron Saunders and other representatives from the Commonwealth see the rich diversity our students embrace here in Belchertown.



Magda Harrison sharing a few words about diversity and the community.



Diversity is an essential element of our communities, and Tutwiler shares many ways this is true.

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# Your Voice, Our Future: Help Shape a Climate-Ready Belchertown

BELCHERTOWN—Our town has been listening – through events and conversations, we’ve gathered valuable insights on how we can better support each other and build social resilience to climate change. We’re welcoming all Belchertown residents to join us for a community meeting to help shape a stronger, more resilient Belchertown and have your voice heard.

We are providing two opportunities to participate in this resilience building effort. We will gather on Saturday, March 15, 2025 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. and on Wednesday, March 19, 2025 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the Lawrence Memorial Town Hall Auditorium.

At these meetings, we’ll share the results of what we’ve learned; break into small, friendly discussion groups to brainstorm ideas:

and vote on a ‘seed project’ to kick start our community’s climate resilience efforts.

So come enjoy a delicious meal, connect with neighbors, and make your voice heard. Together we can plant the seeds for a safer, stronger Belchertown for everyone!

These meetings are sponsored by the MVP 2.0 program. The MVP 2.0 program, funded by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy

and Environmental Affairs, aims to address climate vulnerabilities and invest in community resilience.

Interested? Please contact Sarah Fortune, Belchertown Conservation Administrator at 413-323-0405 or email sfortune@belchertown.org to RSVP or for more information.

Please RSVP no later than Wednesday, March 12, 2025 at 5 p.m..

## Hope United Methodist Church 2025 Lenten/Easter Schedule

**Worship during Lent**  
Sundays 10 a.m.  
March 9-April 6, 2025  
Play “The People vs. Judas Iscariot” Culminating with a verdict by the congregation  
**Lenten Study**  
Tuesdays 10 a.m.  
March 11 - April 8  
“The Gospel of John” by Amy-Jill Levine. Study books are available from Pastor Michelle  
**Palm Sunday**  
April 13 10 a.m.  
Service of Holy Communion, Distribution of Palm Branches  
**Holy Thursday**  
April 17 7 p.m.  
During the service we will be with Christ at the Last Supper. We will be with him in the Garden of Prayer. And we will be with him in

the dark night of betrayal.  
**Good Friday**  
April 18 1 to 3 p.m.  
Sanctuary open for prayer and reflection followed by steeple bell tolling at 3 p.m.  
**Tenebrae Service**  
7 p.m.  
The service of Tenebrae meaning darkness or shadows has readers trace the passion story through reading of scriptures. As candles are extinguished and lights dimmed, we ponder the depth of Christ’s suffering and death.  
**Easter Sunrise Service**  
April 20 6 a.m.  
Quabbin Reservoir – Tower Parking Lot; Ecumenical Service  
**Easter Sunday Worship**  
April 20 10 a.m.  
Resurrection Celebration

## March programs at Clapp Memorial Library

**Jazzified Pop**  
On Friday, March 7 at 6:30 p.m., embark on a captivating musical journey with “Jazzified Pop,” and immerse yourself in an evening that not only celebrates the enduring appeal of popular music but also delves into the boundless realms of jazz interpretation. From iconic melodies of The Beatles to the timeless tunes of Elvis Presley and the legendary tracks of Queen, both jazz enthusiasts and devoted lovers of pop melodies will experience an unforgettable night that showcases the power of musical innovation. This program will take place at the Belchertown

United Church of Christ, 18 Park St. Sponsored by the Friends of the Clapp Memorial Library.

**Create Better Health**  
The Food Bank of Western Massachusetts, in partnership with SNAP-Ed, will offer a “Create Better Health” nutrition education program at the Clapp Memorial Library on Monday, March 10 at 6 p.m. Learn about Explore MyPlate healthy eating guidelines, learn to decipher the nutrition facts labels and how to make a budget-friendly meal, and get tips to add more exercise into your daily routine.

## PROP 2½ from page 1

Superintendent Brian Cameron acknowledged the significant budget increase facing the school district, stating, “We have looked at teachers, parents, custodians, food service [and] administrator” positions for potential cuts.

“We clearly have a growing gap between money coming in and money needed to maintain all town services,” said Select Board member Jen Turner. “The gap gets larger each year. There’s no immediate external sources of funds to fill it.”

The discussion highlighted the need for transparency and collaboration between the town and school departments.

Selectboard Chair Ed Boscher expressed frustration with the lack of line-item budgets.

Turner emphasized the importance of accurate data, noting, “The information needs to be correct, and if it’s presented to the community and it’s organized, I think the other two pieces is, if you’re organizing, you should take this to the state because we can do Chapter 70 organizing.”

Resident Kevin Nolan

urged the town to find a solution, stating, “This is about the kids. We have to protect our kids. I’m a public school guy until I’m not. As soon as I’m not, other people are going to leave this town too.”

Selectboard member Lesa Lessard Pearson emphasized the need for a strategic plan.

“This is about fiscal responsibility, not opposition to public education,” she said. “The debate over the override isn’t about whether or not we support education itself. It’s about how we fund education responsibly.”

Select Board member Whitney Jorns-Kuhnlenz

stressed the importance of the committee’s makeup.

“If you have an odd number of people, you’ll get a vote,” she said. “If you have an even number of people, you could have deadlock.”

The meeting highlighted the town’s complex financial challenges and the need for a collaborative, transparent approach to finding a solution. As resident Melissa Gordon stated, “We moved here for our children. We want to stay here for our children, and if it comes down to it, we will be a family that leaves for our children.”

## Wine tasting a success

BELCHERTOWN—The Friends of Clapp Memorial Library successfully held their annual free wine tasting event the evening of March 1st at the library.

Over 50 people attend to sample a variety of affordable wines from national and international vineyards and enjoy some light refreshments.

“We intend to continue sponsoring this community event again next year,” said Jim Knittel, the President of the Friends, “as it is a way to showcase the library and promote the Friends group”.

The next Friends event is their Spring Book Sale to be held the second week of April.

## MARCH IS NATIONAL NUTRITION MONTH!



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  - Fresh Blackberries 6 oz pkg .. 2 for \$5.00
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## OPINION

# SOCIAL SECURITY Matters

By Russell Gloor

## Should I wait until age 70 to claim Social Security?

Dear Rusty:

I am a married woman, at my full retirement age and the primary earner in my marriage.

How do I know if I should take my Social Security now or wait till 70? I will lose quite a bit if I take it now. How will it affect my taxes if I take it now while still working a full-time job?

Signed: Undecided

Dear Undecided:

As you apparently already know, waiting until you are 70 to claim Social Security will result in you getting your maximum possible monthly SS retirement benefit. After your full retirement age, you get about 8% more each year you delay claiming up to age 70. But deciding exactly when to claim should consider both your financial needs and, importantly, your life expectancy.

If you don't urgently need the money now and your life expectancy is at least "average," then waiting until age 70 to claim is usually the right choice. But if you urgently need the money or your life expectancy is less than average (mid-80s for a woman your current age), then claiming before age 70 is usually prudent.

Regarding taxation, Social Security benefits may be taxable if your combined income from all sources exceeds the threshold for your IRS filing status. If you file taxes as "married/jointly" and your combined income including your work income exceeds \$32,000, then half of the SS benefits you received during the tax year becomes part of your taxable income.

But if your combined income is over \$44,000, then up to 85% of your SS benefits becomes taxable income (the thresholds are lower for those

who file as a single). So, your full-time work income will likely affect how much of your Social Security benefits are subject to income tax by the IRS.

In the end, only you can decide when you should claim Social Security. Taxation of benefits may be a factor to consider since you are still working full time (thus more of your SS benefits will be taxable). But waiting longer to claim results in a higher benefit for the rest of your life (your SS retirement benefit will be .667% more for each month you delay, up to age 70). If the "rest of your life" is a long time and you don't urgently need the money, waiting is often the right choice. If not, claiming earlier may be wiser.

If you want to get a more personalized estimate of your life expectancy, I suggest you use the tool we use here at the AMAC Foundation: [www.socialsecurityreport.org/tools/life-expectancy-calculator/](http://www.socialsecurityreport.org/tools/life-expectancy-calculator/).

*The Association Mature Citizens Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. This article is intended for information purposes and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the Association Mature Citizens Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association. To submit a question, visit [amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory](http://amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at [ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org](mailto:ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org). Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.*



## LETTERS

### Supporting the Belchertown School Garden

To the editor,

As you may have heard, the proposed town budget is going to be unable to fully fund the Belchertown schools for the 2025-2026 school year. The schools are trying to work with the money they will be given, but are looking at the potential for the loss of over 20 full time employees, the closing of one of the school buildings, and cuts to enriching activities such as sports and music. For more information, you can visit the Facebook group "S.O.S. - Belchertown (Save Our Schools!)" at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1391222345374163> if you are on Facebook, look over a slide presentation

from Superintendent Brian Cameron available at <https://shorturl.at/odqTe>, read a summary of the situation in a PDF at <https://tinyurl.com/BTownSOS> and attend the selectboard meetings Monday March 3 and 17, at 6:30 in the town hall.

I want to let you all know that there should be no direct financial effects on the school gardens as they are managed and funded by volunteers. With fewer teachers and less resources, the garden will be more important than ever. We will be doing our best to keep kids engaged with all the benefits that a garden can provide, and there are so many! Please consider volunteering in the garden this Spring to support teach-

ers and students, or over the summer to keep the garden producing fresh produce that is donated (yes, for free) to our community. There are many ways to volunteer. Contact Holly at [btowngarden@gmail.com](mailto:btowngarden@gmail.com) to let me know you are interested.

To paraphrase Robin Wall Kimmerer: Volunteering is an invitation to respond to the needs of our community, and a way to multiply the benefits of our work beyond the boundaries of ourselves.

I hope to meet you in the garden.

**Holly Field**  
Volunteer Garden Manager  
Belchertown School Gardens  
[btowngarden@gmail.com](mailto:btowngarden@gmail.com)

### Belchertown for rematriation

Dear Editor,

Now is the time for gestures of goodwill, both symbolic and substantial. I'm writing to encourage widespread community support for Bill HD.3659 authorizing the conveyance of Lampson Brook Farm to the Nipmuc and the Jepson Farmstead Parcel to NESFI.

The previous version of the bill filed with the Statehouse was opposed for technical reasons as well as reluctance from some residents and other vested parties to transferring ownership of any land to indigenous peoples. This new bill includes language recommended by the Massachusetts Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance (DCAMM) to fix the technical issues within the first version. No wording in a bill can address exclusionary attitudes, only tangible actions can do this.

Rematriation of 421.6 acres of Lampson Brook Farm to the stewardship of the Nipmuc is important to living well as neighbors in an unavoidably diverse community. For several years, Chief Holley of the Hassanamisco Band of Nipmuc and the NIDC have negotiated in good faith and trust in the best ambitions of the Commonwealth. The competing interests of the New England Small Farm Institute (NESFI) have been satisfied - they will receive ownership of the Jepson Hill Parcel (8.4 acres). Significantly, protections for current lessees will be extended with passage of this bill.

The environmental importance of restoring land management practices to indigenous peoples has scientific credibility: study after study confirms the stewardship practices of indigenous Native Americans and

indigenous peoples globally are a template and roadmap for regaining climate equilibrium. Note that the acreage of the ownership transfer is a mere 1.25% of Belchertown's total property. It is an adequate amount for the Nipmuc to apply their traditional practices, becoming a reference and resource to our community and beyond. Please strongly encourage Senator Jake Oliveira and Representative Aaron Saunders to champion Bill HD.3659. The best acts made by the legislature for the Commonwealth will have the longest arc of positive outcomes. This Bill will have a very long, very positive impact on the multicultural resilience of Belchertown and Massachusetts.

Sincerely,

**Steph Kent**  
Belchertown resident

your health

By Teri (Dreher) Frykenberg, RN  
Guest Column

## When Mom or Dad won't accept help

Scientists have found that humans age dramatically in two bursts - at around age 44, then at around 60. As people get beyond middle age, a fairly significant number don't want to admit to themselves that they are getting older because of a variety of factors:

Society portrays aging negatively. (At least we have Kathy Bates as "Matlock" showing us a seventy-something smart cookie.)

Psychologically, people associate aging with decline and loss of abilities, so they avoid thinking about it.

Ageism, the last acceptable form of discrimination, is still present in workplac-

es. Preserving a younger self-image is a boost to the ego.

This denial manifests itself in many ways - for example, buying a three-story house or getting a 50-pound dog when you're in your 60s or 70s. And I think it's at the root of why, when our parents are getting older, they resist accepting help from their children and their caregivers.

**It's a process**

We may age more quickly at certain times, but getting older is a process, and processes take time. Which is why the first time you

Please see **HEALTH**, page 11

## And just like that it's spring

Well, maybe I am getting a bit ahead of myself. This coming weekend the days will feel a little longer because of Daylight Savings, when we "spring forward" an hour.

The evenings will begin to lure us outside after supper, maybe for a walk or just a look-see around the yard. For, me, one sign of "spring" is starting my pepper seeds indoors.

They are the earliest transplants I grow at home, and I am so excited to get started!

Regular readers of the column may remember that

I love growing peppers. Perhaps it is because I have the perfect spot - stone edged raised beds - that contain the

heat and help them to grow quite successfully.

By week's end my pepper seeds will have been sown in moist lightweight seed starting mix and placed on bottom heat. Seventy-eight to 80 degrees is perfect for germinating pepper seeds; at those temps I expect to see sprouting in eight days or so.

Once they sprout, I will place the flats within inches

of my shop lights and adjust the lights as they grow. When the second set of leaves form, known as the "true leaves," the pepper seedlings will find their way into six packs or their own two inch pot.

By late April or early May, they will be given a larger pot once more; usually a four inch pot will do. After a hardening off period, I will transplant them into the ground once it has warmed considerably - usually by June first.

A couple weeks prior to that I provide black plastic mulch on top of soil to get it pre-heated and ready for these tropic loving plants.

Although there are over 20 species of pepper, just one is

Please see **GARDEN**, page 7

## Turley Publications Letters to the Editor Policy

Letters to the editor should be 350 words or less in length. No unsigned or anonymous opinions will be published. We require letter writers to include his or her town of residence and home telephone number. We must authenticate authorship prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit or withhold any submissions deemed to be libelous or contain unsubstantiated allegations, personal attacks, defamation of character and offensive language. All unknown or alleged facts and quotations offered by the author need to cite credible, unbiased sources. Send letters to: Sentinel, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069 or via email to [sentinel@turley.com](mailto:sentinel@turley.com). The deadline for submissions is Friday at 5 p.m.

## Turley Election Policy

This newspaper will print free self-submitted statements of candidacy only four weeks or more out from the election. All candidates running in both contested and uncontested races are asked to submit their statements to the editor to include only biographical and campaign platform details. Total word count for statements is limited to between 300-500 words maximum. Please include a photo. We will not publish any statements of candidacy inside the four weeks from election threshold. To publish any other campaign publicity during the race, please contact our advertising representatives. We also do not allow personal attacks against other candidates or political parties in statements of candidacy, nor do we publish for free any information about key endorsements or political fundraisers.

Letters to the editor of no more than 250 words from supporters endorsing specific candidates or discussing campaign issues are limited to three total per author during the election season. No election letters will appear in the final edition before the election. We reserve the right to edit all statements of candidacy and letters to the editor to meet our guidelines.

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The Sentinel is published every Thursday by Turley Publications, Inc., 24 Water St., Palmer, Mass. 01069. Telephone (413) 283-8393, Fax (413) 289-1977.

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## GRANBY

# Zoning board considers variance for RV carport, discusses updating bylaws

By Melina Bourdeau  
Correspondent

GRANBY – The Zoning Board of Appeals held a joint meeting with the Planning Board on Feb. 18, to consider a variance request and discuss potential updates to the town's zoning bylaws.

The board agreed to work with the Planning Board to draft updates to the zoning bylaws, with the goal of aligning them with state law and providing more clarity for businesses. The two boards plan to hold another joint meeting to further discuss the proposed changes.

The meeting began with an application from Jason Richard, who was seeking a variance to construct an RV carport on his property. Kathleen Bronner, chair of the Zoning Board of Appeals, read the formal announcement into the record, noting that Richard was requesting an advance of section three regulations

regarding insufficient minimum setbacks.

"Your house is in an angle, if you look at the picture...So from there is 30 from this front corner, that's 32 feet to the room, and then where you're looking to construct to the right side of the right side for the campers Park," Bronner said.

Richard explained that the proposed carport would be 15 feet from the side, 12 feet from the front corner, and 40 feet from the road. He noted that the structure would be made of aluminum and green cardboard and would be attached to the house for stability.

Board members expressed concerns about the 15-foot setback, as Richard's house was already non-conforming.

"My only concern is to set back because it is so close, but so I'm just sharing that's what my concern, and that meets all the three criteria. Is a real hardship, but I also, we also want to work with

and my input mitigating," Bronner said.

After discussing the temporary nature of the carport and its potential impact on the neighborhood, the board voted to grant the variance.

"I think that Mr. Richard has really identified the properties drawbacks in terms of satisfying 48 section seven, regarding shape, size. I also believe that inherently, the hardship is protection of a probably fairly expensive travel trailer," said board member Dakota Richards.

The meeting then shifted to a discussion of the town's zoning bylaws, with the board acknowledging the need for updates and clarification.

"Our bylaws, it's a living document. We should be updating it as right as necessary," said board member Ronald Harrop.

The board discussed the recent state law allowing for in-law apartments, with Bronner noting the impor-

tance of aligning the town's bylaws with the new legislation.

"I think we should be supportive of our business community, you know, whenever we can, and having an attractive kind of go to destination point of business is there, you know, I think it's a great idea," Bronner said.

The board also addressed a proposal from Marilyna Cohen, who owns the Chateau Chatelain property, to sell outdoor agricultural structures such as sheds and greenhouses. The board acknowledged the need for clarification on what constitutes "goods and wares" under the current zoning bylaws.

"Clearly, what's been allowed, either by right or just by...outdoor display of goods and wears. So, CBA doesn't even have right. Nobody has authority to do it," said board member Brian Trompke.

# Gravel permit postponed

By Emily-Rose Pappas  
Staff Writer  
epappas@turley.com

GRANBY – The Selectboard met last week to continue a public hearing to consider a Gravel Permit application from LJ Development, LLC.

The meeting on February 27 was held by Chair Drystal Dufresne, Clerk David A. Labonte, and member Glen N. Sexton, as well as Interim Town Administrator Ira Breszinzky, Assistant Town Administrator Cathy Leonard, and Selectboard Clerk Dayle Clark.

Applicants and owners James and Cathie A. Slate came to the board for the continued hearing regarding their gravel permit request.

According to state law, special permits are required for big projects, and there were several meetings already in place for this application, with several setbacks regarding lawful approval.

Because this gravel per-

mit hearing has been going on for so long, the voting members of the Selectboard have changed, and there were meetings even before Attorneys Costa and Berthume were involved for the town and applicants.

"The problem here is this is a special permit, and the law says for a special permit, the three-member board can only approve that special permit by way of a unanimous vote... in favor of the special permit for the permit to be granted," said Attorney Christopher Costa.

Because some of the voting members of the Selectboard have changed from when these hearings first began, not all three of the members of the Selectboard are eligible to vote on the permit.

Costa offered a few ways to fix this voting dilemma, which would be to "reconstitute" the board, which would mean that the board would "re-notice" the public hearing as if it were starting from

Please see **PERMIT**, page 11

## GARDEN from page 6

known to American gardeners. It goes by the Latin name *Capsicum annuum*. Five categories of peppers fall under this heading, but I typically grow only the sweet types.

Green when immature, sweet bell peppers ripen to a rainbow of colors: yellow, orange, red, purple, ivory and even chocolate brown. We eat them in the green stage more so than when fully ripe, and that's a shame. A little patience and a week or two longer in the garden will yield a sweet treat.

If I had to choose only one variety to grow it

would be AAS award winner "Carmen," bred right in Maine at Johnny's Selected Seed. Numerous six inch by two and a half inch red peppers make an appearance beginning in late July and continue through the first frost.

Yes, I did say "late July!" If I'd dare to guess at the total yield of peppers per plant, one dozen would be a fair estimate. They are great fresh, frozen or fire roasted!

Renee's Garden sells a lovely little pepper by the name of "Yummy Belles." The description is accurate when they say that the plants are "highly productive" and

"load up" with lots of little three to four inch bright orange peppers.

They call them snack peppers, and they are just that. Make a decadent snack by filling with veggie cream cheese, or stick to healthier eating by adding one or two to a personal salad.

Paprika peppers also fall into the sweet pepper category. Fruits are up to six inches long and three inches wide at the top and come to a blunt point.

Dry and grind to make your own paprika spice in a coffee grinder. Indispensable when sprinkled on deviled eggs!

Frying or pickling peppers go by the names Sweet Banana, Sweet Hungarian, or Cubanelle among others. They are good candidates for frying because of their thin walls and scant water content.

Sweet Banana was noted in 1941 as an All American Selections winner and is still growing strong 60+ years later!

Pimento peppers are those used to stuff with green olives. My Italian husband

just loves it when his sister Denise makes this holiday treat!

They grow a squat three by four inches and are ripe when red or orange, depending on variety. Expect these to take a bit longer than the other types, a full 85 or more days from transplant to harvest.

If you too are a pepper lover, and want to see the earliest yields possible, get ready, get set, and get sowing those pepper seeds!

*Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 33 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.*

## COOK & ASSISTANT ELDER NUTRITION PROGRAM COORDINATOR - FULL TIME

The Town of Belchertown is accepting applications for a Cook to perform specialized food preparation work in providing meals for elderly residents at congregate meals and for home delivered meals through the Town's Senior Center.

Minimum qualifications: High school education; associates degree desired; three - four years' experience in the food service industry; or any equivalent combination of education and experience.

Special Requirements: Possession of a Sanitation certification, mandatory; Certified in Serve-Safe; Valid Driver's License helpful

This is a Grade 4 position with a salary range of \$22.73 - \$29.02/hour for 35 hours per week.

To complete an online employment application, please visit: [www.belchertown.org/jobs](http://www.belchertown.org/jobs). Applications will be accepted until the position is filled.

The Town of Belchertown is an EEO employer; we encourage women, minorities and veterans to apply.



## ANNUAL CEMETERY CLEANING NOTIFICATION

The Department of Public Works, Maintenance Division will be conducting the annual removal of ALL seasonal decorations within the Towns' Cemeteries.

For anyone wishing to retrieve personal graveside items, please do so before March 21, 2025.

**All items will be removed beginning March 21, 2025.**

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**STAND OUT** from page 1

of the total reductions from level service requests from fiscal year 2021 to fiscal year 2026, where we are now, which results in \$4,784,187, or 30.5 positions eliminated, and 3.6 full-time employees reduced.

All school systems are facing horrifying results, and it has been happening since 2021, where every year there are documented rising prices, as well as decreasing funds to support inflation.

The parents and teachers of the community have come together, because they care about Belchertown, and their schools and students above all in a school system that prioritizes its students.

Concerned residents came forward at the Selectboard meeting on Monday after the standout, including Jake Hulseberg, and a few students, who shared how much these schools mean to them, and the need to look at our expenses, and figure out how to make this work for the good of the community.

“As long as I have been a school committee member, the district has faced cuts,” School Committee Chair Heidi Gutekenst. “I know the town hasn’t received level service either, but with the schools getting a larger portion of the funding, we get hit harder and it has, unfortunately, been in terms of personnel. I can accept that revenue has not matched the increase in expenses. I like many others, want to know a solution. I would certainly advocate for a 2 1/2 override before reducing non-essential town services, but something has to be done.”

“I’m here to ensure that the quality of education my children receive remains consistent with the excellence we have seen thus far,” said Sarah Hartmann, a parent of two students. “I’m here to fight for performing arts to remain a mainstay in our community’s curriculum from kindergarten all the way through high school. Music and art is so important to a well-rounded education. This



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Community members come together to show their support for teachers and students.

community already knows this to be true - let’s fight to keep it in place.”

Maggie Chen, a fourth grader, spoke about losing special classes from lack of funding.

“Last year, when I was in third grade, we had specials every day of the week,” said Chen. Everyone looks forward to specials, like music, art, library, and gym. This year, because the schools were not fully funded, they had to cut one special. I really miss having that time during the day to get up and run around in gym. If the school can’t get the money they need for next year, what else are they going to cut? My older brothers all got to play in the band, run track, and do after-school clubs. Will those things even be there for me when I get older? Please find a way to keep the parts of school that we love so much.”

Parent Kathryn Wakefield said she has seen the schools be hurt by recent budget cuts.

“I have 2 children (7th and 4th) in our public school system and have seen over the past year the effect of last year’s large cuts,” Wakefield said. “Larger class sizes, gym once a week instead of twice at CHCS, and our amazing teachers being asked to do more with less. And that was cutting \$1.2 million. What



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The community made signs to show their support.

damage an additional \$2.1 million in cuts would bring to our schools. Music, arts, sports, foreign language, these are all things that make our schools great over and above purely academic classes and those are all on the chopping block. To lose these opportunities would be a huge loss for all current and future BPS students as

well as make our town a less attractive place to live for young families looking for a good school system.”

Melissa Gordon said the Belchertown schools suffered because of the recent cuts. She encouraged the community to stand up for the school district.

“For the longest time, Belchertown has been known



TURLEY PHOTO BY EMILY-ROSE PAPPAS

Standing out with signs outside town hall to share support for the schools.



TURLEY PHOTO BY EMILY-ROSE PAPPAS

Geoffrey Gould singing at the stand out.

to have some of the best public schools,” said Gordon. “I currently have a daughter who’s in first grade at Swift River and we just expanded our family to include a second daughter. Our first grader has fallen in love with school here in Belchertown. We wanted better for our kids. Belchertown offered that. We’re watching our taxes go

up (whether in percentage, amount paid, or additional taxes) but seeing the thing that brought us here in the first place suffer. Yes, this is happening everywhere. It doesn’t mean we should sit back and let it. As parents, we are choosing to stand up for our children because they can’t do it themselves (yet) in this capacity.”



The Selectboard meeting was flooded with parents, teachers, and residents looking for the Selectboard to hear them.



Standing up for the schools, and for the students and teachers.



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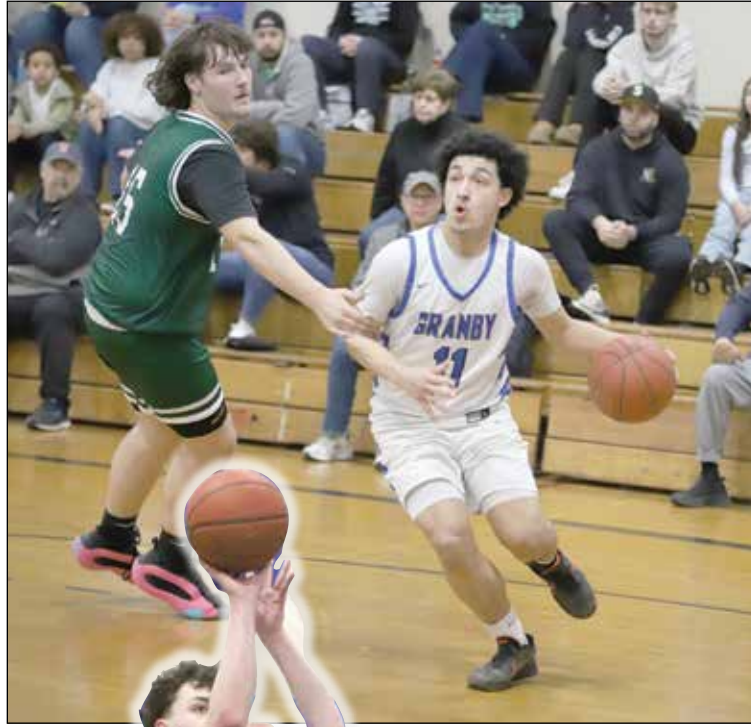
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## Offense turns out for Rams in first round



Gavin Moreno swings the ball around the perimeter.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI  
Raymond Colon heads for the hoop.



Gavier Fernandez looks for a path to the hoop during a first-round state tournament game against Bartlett. Fernandez scored an amazing 47 points in the Granby win.



LEFT: Sawyer Clarke takes the free throw.

GRANBY – Last Thursday night, Granby had a hard-fought battle with Central Mass. School Bartlett and came away with an 82-72 win to start the Division 5 State Tournament in the Round of 32. Gavier Fernandez had a career night for the Rams with 47 points. Of that, he had 12 points on four treys and an incredible 21 made free throws. Riley Goodhind was next with 13 points. The Rams headed for the Round of 16 earlier this week against Rockport.



Cody White tries to control the ball in the middle of the court.

## Registration now open for Quabbin Valley baseball

The Quabbin Valley Over-28 Baseball League is looking to infuse new talent into its league for the 2025 season.

Registration for the 2025 season is now open and any interested players can go to [www.quabbinvalleybaseball.org](http://www.quabbinvalleybaseball.org) to get registered, or to seek more information or make inquiries about the league. The league website will also be updated over the next month with information about the upcoming season.

There are many open roster spots available in the league for the 2025 season, which is tentatively scheduled to begin on Sunday, April 27. The league plays most Sunday from late April through mid-August with play-offs following that. The league plays a 15-game schedule and typically fields six teams each year. Games are usually played at 10 a.m. with fields in Easthampton and South Hadley normally used.

The Quabbin Valley league is an all-abilities league and all are welcome to join. Eligibility is players who are age 28 and over. You must be 30 to be eligible to pitch in

Please see **BASEBALL**, page 10

## Ludlow-B-Town co-op defeated in opening state playoff game

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

WEST SPRINGFIELD – Both the Middleborough Sachems and the Ludlow Lions had .500 overall records entering the preliminary round game of the Division 3 state hockey tournament.

The 32nd-seeded Lions, who started a co-op with Belchertown High School this season, managed to overcome deficits of 1-0, and 2-1, but were unable to score the tying goal late in the third period.

The 33rd-seeded Sachems, who co-ops with both Carver High School and Wareham High School, advanced into the round of 32 following a 4-2 victory at the Olympia Ice Center in West Springfield, last Monday night (Feb. 24). “It was an evenly matched game tonight,” said Ludlow head coach Paul Rivest. “We really didn’t know anything about them other than their record and how many goals that they had scored. If you qualified for the state tournament, you’re not a bad hockey team. We had a very good season.”

Rivest completed his 26th season as the Lions varsity hockey coach. He was previously the varsity hockey coach at Palmer High School for 14 years.



TURLEY PHOTO BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHTOS.COM  
Charlie Fijal prepares to shoot.

“I love coaching hockey because I enjoy watching the kids develop their skills during the season,” Rivest said. “I also love teaching the players at practice. If I wasn’t coaching, I would probably still come to all the games. I have no plans to retire.”

The Ludlow hockey team has only had three head coaches since 1966.

Richard Malek, who’s known as the father of Ludlow High School hockey, was the Lions hockey coach for a total of 30 years over two different stints. Malek, who also coached the softball and golf teams at Ludlow High

School, passed away ten years ago. He’s a member of the school’s Athletic Hall of Fame. Michael Parent coached the hockey team from 1977-81.

The Lions finished the 2024-25 campaign with an 8-9-4 overall record. They qualified for the state tournament for the fourth consecutive year.

The Belchertown players listed on the Ludlow hockey roster are freshman Andrew Lambert, sophomore William Mitus, sophomore Gavin Harrington, junior Donald Rogers,

Please see **HOCKEY**, page 10

## Pioneers win first-ever state tourney game

PALMER – For the first time since the MIAA changed tournament formats, Pathfinder Regional High School girls basketball won a matchup in the Division 5 State Tournament. Last Tuesday evening, the Pioneers defeated Boston United 47-36. Megan Clark had a huge game with 24 points. Addison Doktor had 17 points and Greenly Lagimoniere scored six points. The Pioneers moved into the Round of 32 after that. Highlights from that game will be in next week’s edition.



Greenly Lagimoniere gets ready to shoot the three-pointer.



Ciam Green gets ready to receive a pass.



Addison Doktor tries to keep the ball in play.



Taylor Allen heads into the paint.

Megan Clark tries to get control of the loose ball.



Desiree Croteau eyes the hoop as she drives the lane.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

SPORTS

# T-Birds take the win in a shootout over Providence

PROVIDENCE, R.I. — The Springfield Thunderbirds (27-19-2-4) dispatched 2-0 and 3-2 deficits en route to a 4-3 shootout win over the Providence Bruins (30-17-4-2) on Saturday night at Amica Mutual Pavilion.

The game's scoring began with a flurry in the final three minutes of a first period that had been quiet until that point. Vadim Zherenko had a tremendous high-light-reel moment past the period's midpoint as he stretched out the right leg to make a breakaway save on a Vinni Lettieri backhand bid.

Providence, though, got back to work and took advantage of a 5-on-3 situation when Oliver Wahlstrom beat Zherenko as the first penalty expired to give the Bruins a 1-0 lead at 17:04. Wahlstrom's goal marked his first in the AHL in nearly five years, as he was playing his first game in the league since March 11, 2020.

The Bruins lead grew to 2-0 just two minutes later as Riley Tufté crashed the net to tip a Patrick Brown centering attempt by the skate of Zherenko. In the process, however, Tufté was penalized for interference on Zherenko after the puck crossed the line.

While Tufté's goal stood, the T-Birds' power play got a pivotal answer with just 12 seconds left in the first as Dalibor Dvorsky snapped a five-game goal drought with

a sizzling wrist from the right circle off a cross-seam pass from Nikita Alexandrov.

The Springfield power play continued its potent night just 2:07 into the second period, as Matthew Peca deflected a Matt Luff snapper past Michael DiPietro to tie the game, 2-2. Peca's goal tied his career-high in a single season (23) and tied Adam Gaudette for the longest goal-scoring streak in team history, as the captain has tallied a goal in six straight contests.

The Bruins generated most of the chances the remainder of the middle frame, but Zherenko stood firm in his crease, turning aside all 17 Providence attempts to carry the 2-2 game into the final period.

Tufté made things difficult on the T-Birds again when he broke in and beat Zherenko on a forehand chip shot 22 seconds into the final period, restoring the Providence lead to 3-2.

From that point onward, though, Zherenko made sure the home team would not get any insurance, keeping the deficit at a single goal. After getting a clutch penalty kill with less than 3:30 remaining in regulation, Corey Andonovski picked a fantastic time to net his first goal as a T-Bird. The newly acquired winger stopped at the bottom of the left circle and proved to be in the perfect spot as a MacKenzie MacEachern rebound off

DiPietro's pads found his stick. Andonovski snapped it by DiPietro, setting the stage for Springfield's third straight overtime game.

The visitors carried the play in the extra session with five of the six shots on net, but DiPietro fended off each bid, including a breakaway effort by Luff. For a third straight contest, the game advanced to a shootout. After neither team converted on the netminders in the first two rounds, Tanner Dickinson finally elevated a backhander under the crossbar to give Springfield the edge. Needing a goal from John Farinacci to extend the shootout, the Bruins got just that, as the centerman faked beautifully to the backhand side and forced a fourth round.

Alexandrov had his chance at redemption after coming up short on a game-winning attempt on Friday, and the T-Birds' jack-of-all-trades made a magnificent backhand-to-forehand maneuver to beat DiPietro. Tufté was unsuccessful in his bid to solve Zherenko in the bottom of the round, and the T-Birds completed their comeback and victory. Zherenko finished the night with 42 saves in regulation and overtime, followed by three saves on four shootout attempts. In defeat, DiPietro stopped 31 attempts in 65 minutes before the shootout.

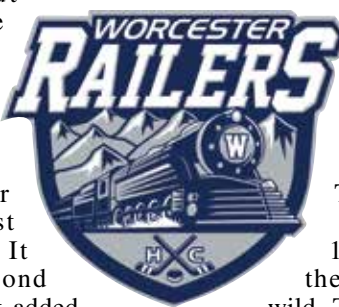
# Railers outlast Bloomington

WORCESTER — Officially, baseball is the only sport with double-headers, but it felt like the Railers-Wrenches played one Saturday night.

Worcester tied the first game, 4-4. It won the second one, 2-0. That added up to a 6-4 victory over the Bloomington Bison and two more points in the North Division playoff race.

The home team got big offensive performances from Griffin Loughran, Matthew Kopperud (again), Lincoln Hatten and Matt DeMelis. Loughran and Kopperud were 1-1-2. DeMelis scored two goals. Hatten had the first three-point game of his career going 1-2-3.

Worcester winger Ryan Mahshie did not record a point. He did, however, record a hit that changed the nature of the night. At 14:26 of the second period, Mahshie delivered a clean, hard body check that led to a fight. He knocked down



Bloomington's Josh Boyer with a couple of hard punches early and got the building energized.

"That hit by Mahshie was the turning point of the game," coach Nick Tuzzolino said.

The first 27 1/2 minutes of the match were wild. There are next-goal-wins games, but this was like next-shot-wins. The teams traded eight goals in that span and Worcester chased Bison goalie Yaniv Perets after Kopperud made it 4-3 at 2:43 of the second period.

Bloomington tied it at 7:30 on a goal by Jake Murray, who had a great night at 1-3-4. Kasimir Kaskisuo replaced Perets, but Tuzzolino stuck with Hugo Ollas.

Ollas played shutout hockey the rest of the way. Kaskisuo played well, also. The Railers finally regained the lead on DeMelis' goal at 7:24 of the third period then Anthony Callin hit an empty net at 18:21.

How did Worcester regroup and play shutdown hockey after the early barrage?

"I yelled loudly," Tuzzolino said.

"We talk about it all the time. Our biggest flaw as a team is goals against. If you look at the numbers, we have the worst goals-against stat in our division for the spot we're in. If we fix that, we're gonna win games, plain and simple."

"We have to understand that if we don't sell the farm and play systematically, we're gonna beat most teams."

The victory allowed Worcester to be able to control its fate. If it wins the rest of its games, it makes the playoffs no matter what anybody else does. That is the math, anyway. The reality is different, particularly since the home team faces a tough schedule.

Worcester plays three at first place Trois-Rivieres next week, then three against third place Norfolk here from the 13th through the 15th. Both teams can score. Tuzzolino is hoping he won't need a megaphone.

**BASEBALL** from page 9

the league. Your age for eligibility is whatever age you will turn in 2025.

The next league board meeting is scheduled for Sunday, March 23 at 11:45

a.m. at the Hangar Pub & Grill in South Hadley. The league has also scheduled two open practices on Sunday, March 30, and Sunday, April 6. Both practices are scheduled to be held at Beachgrounds Park in

South Hadley and are weather-permitting. The league website and social media accounts will have updates as the preseason continues.

**HOCKEY** from page 9

senior Jack Mandeville, and senior Charlie Fijal. Rogers, who was the starting goalie against the Sachems, was credited with 14 saves.

"I'm very pleased with how the kids from Belchertown and Ludlow came together to form a very good hockey team this year," Rivest said. "We were one point away from qualifying for the Western Mass. Class A tournament. We beat or tied the four teams that played in that tournament at least once during the regular season."

The hockey co-op with Belchertown High School will be continuing next year. Belchertown Principal Christine Vigneux and Athletic Director Kevin O'Neill attended the preliminary round game.

The other seniors listed on the Lions hockey roster are Nick Staeb, Kevin Lynch, Ryan Goodwin, Michael Rubin, and Owen Kumiega.

"Nobody wanted to see the season come to an end tonight," Rivest said. "We're really going to miss the senior class a lot next year."

Goodwin and Fijal were team captains, along with junior's Tannar Severyn and Sean Kefalas.

Neither team had very many scoring chances during the first 15 minutes of the contest.

Ludlow killed two penalties in the first period by allowing only a couple of



Nick Deroin reaches out to grab the puck.

shots.

The match remained scoreless for the first eleven minutes of the second period.

The Sachems took a 1-0 lead with four minutes remaining in the middle when junior Wyatt Goyette scored his team-leading 19th goal of the season. He also has a team-high 16 assists for a total of 35 points.

A little more than two minutes later, Ludlow junior A.J. Stupak scored a power-play goal, tying the score at 1-1. The Lions' first goal was assisted by the duo of Fijal and Severyn.

The contest didn't remain tied for very long.

Middleborough retook the lead following a goal from junior Brogan Wilson with 1:14 remaining in the second period.

The score was tied once again at 2-2 when junior Nick Deroin knocked a

rebound shot into the net past senior goalie Connor Mitchell (19 saves) with 9:30 left in regulation. Fijal, who led the Lions with more than 30 total points, picked up his second assist of the game.

Just like they did in the second period, the Sachems retook the lead four minutes later when junior Jake Deane fired a slap shot into the upper right corner of the net for an unassisted goal.

The visiting team looked like they were going to take a two-goal lead on a breakaway shot, but a Ludlow player was called for a hooking penalty which resulted in a penalty shot with 4:33 left in regulation.

Senior Keegan Wentworth made his way down the middle of the ice before taking the penalty shot. Rogers made a diving save which kept his team's comeback hopes alive.



Connor Kokosa fights to keep the puck.

The Lions had a power-play during the final two minutes of the third period and they also pulled their goalie following a time-out with 1:52 left.

Fijal had a couple of shot attempts during that span, but the home team couldn't score the tying goal.

Middleborough sealed the victory with an empty net goal from junior Levon Mulready with 2.2 seconds



Sean Kefalas gets ready to shoot.

showing on the scoreboard which hangs from the ceiling in the middle of the ice.

The Sachems (10-9-2) were scheduled to face top-seeded Nauset Regional (19-0-1) in the round of 32 two nights later.



Mike Rubin settles the puck.

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**PERMIT** from page 7

scratch, which also goes in with no notices of these public hearings being sent out other than the first.

“Be reconstituting the board, and re-noticing the public hearing, you’re essentially starting from scratch and therefore you’re rendering all members at that first new session as eligible to vote on the application,” Costa said.

After discussing this with Attorney Berthume, the two believed that having this happen, it will give time for the reports to be reviewed, and peer-reviewed, and ensure that the members of the Selectboard are stable. Berthume suggested a

“withdrawal without prejudice”, which is a term used in the courts for a case to be dismissed in order for parties to have more time to collect more information and evidence, and be able to come back at a later date.

Neil Jackson, one of the owners of LJ Development, came forward regarding a request from the board for a particulate study, and trying to find engineers to help and complete this request, but was uncertain about what the request was.

Particulate matter is the matter in the air during the digging of the pit, and the board had asked for a study in order to see how far it would travel in order

to ensure it would not have adverse effects on the people of the town.

Costa offered advice on how to go about finding and getting these tests done, as well as how to go about coming back at a later date.

Crystal Dufresne shared that she would urge the owners and applicants to do the modeling, traffic analysis, and other studies and tests that need to get done.

At the end of the meeting, the final decision was to postpone the special permit for the Gravel Pit, and the board made a unanimous vote to accept withdrawal without prejudice from the special permit.

**HEALTH** from page 6

ask Mom or Dad, “Do you want someone to come in a few days a week to help you out?” the answer may very well be, “I’m fine” or “Heck no,” or words to that effect.

So you have to keep at it and not give up at the first sign of resistance, especially if you can see their capacity to perform the activities of daily living (ADLs) is becoming diminished.

**What are the activities of daily living?**

ADLs are an indicator of a person’s ability to function independently. They include eating, bathing, toileting -- tasks needed to keep a body healthy and safe. ADLs can also include more complex tasks like managing money, managing medications, cooking and doing laundry, which are important for independent living.

If a parent has difficulty performing one or more ADLs, they may end up living in unsafe conditions and have a poor quality of life unless they receive assistance.

ADLs can be empirically observed and measured, which takes emotions and assumptions out of the equation. You can also report to Mom’s or Dad’s doctor if you observe difficulty with ADLs, so the doctor can have that conversation with them.

Most importantly, you want to keep an eye on ADLs before there’s an

accident, injury or financial mishap: a stove or oven left on, a fall in the bathroom, or bills going unpaid.

**How to approach “the talk”**

Getting a senior to accept help is sometimes not easy, but it’s good to point out to them that they’re in control now. There may come a time when the decision to accept help is no longer in their hands.

**Some general guidelines:**

Involve others, such as their doctor. What may be difficult to hear coming from a child may be more acceptable from a third party.

Listen to their concerns and feelings. Show that you understand their thoughts about the perception of aging.

Hear them out about their wishes and focus on the options they seem interested in. “If you could wave a magic wand, how would you make your life better?”

Then ask questions: Find out why they might be reluctant to accept help, such as fears about the loss of independence or the cost.

Give them choices: Allow them to help make decisions about the type of help they would be most comfortable with, and from whom. Would they be OK with a family member helping out but not someone from a care agency? How would they feel about having meals delivered a few times a

week? Point out how today’s technological solutions can maintain independence. Have DoorDash deliver the groceries and a rideshare take you to the doctor.

Reframe the meaning of independence: Remind them that asking for help doesn’t mean they’re becoming less independent, but rather embracing interdependence.

As much as you can, let Mom or Dad control the decision-making. But the fact is that at some point, children and caregivers may have to assume control. It’s important to have in place powers of attorney for health care and financial matters.

Finally, keep in mind that you’ll be next in line for this conversation with your children or caregivers. How would you want someone to speak to you, and how accepting will you be when someone says, “I think you need help”?

*Teri(Dreher) Frykenberg, is a registered nurse and board certified patient advocate and founder of www.NurseAdvocateEntrepreneur.com, which trains medical professionals to become successful private patient advocates. Teri offers a free phone consultation to Turley Newspaper readers as well as to nurses interested in becoming advocates. Reach her at Teri@NurseAdvocateEntrepreneur.com*

**OBITUARY**

**Christopher Michael Whalen**

Christopher Michael Whalen passed away on Friday, Feb. 21, 2025, at the age of 40.



Chris grew up in Belchertown, Massachusetts, where he developed a deep love for soccer. He attended Cathedral High School, serving as captain of the varsity team before graduating in 2003. His talents on the field earned him a scholarship to the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts, where he once again took on the role of captain and went on to earn a Bachelor of Liberal Arts in English.

After graduating, Chris worked at NEARI School, where he demonstrated a deep love for education and a compassionate spirit. He also worked for 20 years at the Belchertown Recreation Department as a referee. Later, he worked at Czar Energy, where he built strong relationships with both employees and customers alike. In his free time, he volunteered at the local soldiers’ home, forming close friendships with WWII veterans. His passion for nature and the outdoors led him to hike the Appalachian Trail in 2021, where he assisted a fellow hiker in honoring his late brother, a military veteran, by spreading his ashes.

Chris also welcomed many hikers into “the Mayor’s Office”—his Otis home—where those pursuing their trail dreams could rest and enjoy a hot meal. Chris’s steadfast support for our troops and those in need, along with his profound love for this country, was limitless.

Known fondly as the self-proclaimed “Mayor of Belchertown,” Chris had a gift for lighting up every room he entered. His bright spirit and unmistakably loud—very loud—personality will forever be remembered.

He is survived by his mother and father, Carol and Michael; his brothers and sister, Jeromie, Ryan, and Michaela; his sisters-in-law, April and Sam; his niece and nephew, Autumn and Hunter.

A visitation was held Friday, Feb. 28 from 4 to 7 p.m. at the Beers & Story Belchertown Funeral Home with a continued remembrance time at the VFW in Belchertown. The family is wishing to consider donations to a local mental health organization and the information will be updated as soon as it is available.

**DEATH NOTICE**

**Christopher Michael Whalen**  
Died Feb. 21, 2025  
Services Feb. 28, 2025  
Beers & Story Funeral Home

*The Sentinel*  
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- CLUES ACROSS**
- 1. Cut a little bit off
  - 5. State with confidence
  - 11. River in NE Scotland
  - 14. Not narrow
  - 15. Lacking social polish
  - 16. Amount of time
  - 17. Frame
  - 19. Automobile
  - 20. Toadstools
  - 21. High school dances
  - 22. Utilize
  - 23. Challenged
  - 25. One-sided
  - 27. Showing extreme greed
  - 31. Potted plants
  - 34. Everyone has one
  - 35. Lake in Botswana
  - 38. E.T. rode in one
  - 39. Juniors’ parents
  - 41. Small amount
  - 42. Mother of Perseus
  - 44. Ornamental box
  - 45. Gov’t investigators
  - 46. Uncertain
  - 49. A cotton fabric with a satiny finish
  - 51. The vast grassy plains in S. America
  - 55. Your consciousness of your own identity
  - 56. Noted consumer advocate
  - 60. Spanish sports club
  - 61. Body part
  - 62. Tractability
  - 64. Woman (French)
  - 65. Ready and willing to be taught
  - 5. A number everyone has
  - 6. Marine invertebrate
  - 7. One who takes you to court
  - 8. Indicates outer
  - 9. Parallelograms
  - 10. Strains
  - 11. Cross
  - 12. A way to remove
  - 13. Some pages are dog-\_\_
  - 18. Ukraine city
  - 24. A citizen of Denmark
  - 26. Summer month (abbr.)
  - 28. Hindu queens
  - 29. Jewelry brand
  - 30. Fictional rider of Rohan
  - 31. Wet dirt
  - 32. Russian city
  - 33. Observed
  - 36. Furious
  - 37. Drivers’ licenses
  - 39. Musical composition
  - 40. Auction
  - 43. They \_\_
  - 45. Women
  - 47. Inspire with love
  - 48. Japanese ankle sock
  - 49. Appears
  - 50. Old World lizard
  - 52. The leading performer
  - 53. Type of protein
  - 54. Pennsylvania town
  - 57. Art \_\_: around 1920
  - 58. \_\_ Blyton, children’s author
  - 59. Abnormal breathing
  - 63. A place to sleep
  - 66. Muslim ruler title
  - 67. Depressed
  - 68. Gradually gave way
  - 69. Clear-thinking

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Will paint an average size room for \$200. Quality work. References available. Dave **413-323-6858.**

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**DL & G TREE SERVICE-** Everything from tree pruning, tree removal, stump grinding, storm damage and brush chipping. Honest and Dependable. Fully insured. Now offering a Senior Citizen and Veteran discount. Call today for free estimate **(413)478-4212**

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**FREE TOWING FAST SERVICE CASH PAID AS IS CALL OR TEXT 413-219-6839**

## HELP WANTED

**Executive Director for Community Survival Center** in Indian Orchard  
Resume and references to **survivalcenterio@gmail.com**  
Need experience in Management, Public Outreach, and Social Media  
Four-day work week; 5 weeks vacation; 5 days sick/personal time; holidays \$60,000 salary

**LOCAL TREE SERVICE** looking for climber and ground person. Must have driver's license in good standing. Call **413-507-1949.**

## HELP WANTED

### Worthington Police Department Full-time Police Officer

The Worthington Police Department is seeking qualified candidates for **Full-time Police Officer.** Applicants must be a minimum of 21 years of age or older, a U.S. Citizen and possess a valid driver's license. They should also have a high school diploma/GED, license to carry and be certified by Massachusetts Municipal Police Training Committee and be POST certified.

This is a benefited position with a salary range of: \$52,000.00 - \$75,733.00. The successful candidate shall be highly motivated, self-disciplined, possess a community policing philosophy and live in or near Worthington. This position has the potential to be elevated to Police Chief.

Send letter of interest, resume and three references with relevant contact information to:  
**Worthington Police Department P.O. Box 247 Worthington, MA 01098**  
Or via email to: **sboard@worthington-ma.us**  
Subject line: Employment

Responses will be accepted and reviewed until the position is filled.  
*The Town of Worthington is an Equal Opportunity Employer*

## REAL ESTATE

### FOR RENT

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**2025 TAX TIME**

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TAX PREPARATION SERVICE  
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or call: 413-283-8393

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13	14	15	16
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21 Base Price \$26.50	22 Base Price \$27.00	23 Base Price \$27.50	24 Base Price \$28.00
25 Base Price \$28.50	26 Base Price \$29.00	27 Base Price \$29.50	28 Base Price \$30.00
29 Base Price \$30.50	30 Base Price \$31.00	31 Base Price \$31.50	32 Base Price \$32.00
33 Base Price \$33.00	34 Base Price \$33.50	35 Base Price \$34.00	36 Base Price \$34.50
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**PUBLIC NOTICES**

**Legal Notice  
Belchertown**

**Zoning Board of Appeals  
Public Hearing**

In accordance with the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 40A, Section 11 the Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing on **Wednesday, March 19, 2025 at 6:00 PM.**

This hearing will be held in the Select Board's meeting room of Lawrence Memorial Hall, 2 Jabish Street, Belchertown, MA on the application from Steven Thelusma seeking a special permit §145-69, to change commercial space and apartments into a two-unit dwelling §145-11 (2) at 55 Main Street Map 243 Lot 113 in Zoning District B-1

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

Jennifer Sharrow, Chair Person,  
Zoning Board of Appeals  
02/27, 03/06/2025

**Commonwealth of  
Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Probate and Family Court  
Hampshire Probate and  
Family Court  
15 Atwood Drive  
Northampton, MA 01060  
(413)586-8500**

**Docket No.  
HS25P0047EA  
Estate of:  
Rene Joseph Bronner  
Date of Death: 12/27/2023  
CITATION ON PETITION  
FOR FORMAL  
ADJUDICATION**

To all interested persons:  
A Petition for Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Pamela C Bronner of Belchertown, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: Pamela C Bronner of Belchertown, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in unsupervised administration.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 03/26/2025. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

**UNSUPERVISED  
ADMINISTRATION  
UNDER THE  
MASSACHUSETTS  
UNIFORM PROBATE**

**CODE (MUPC)**

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. Diana S. Velez Harris, First Justice of this Court.  
Date: February 24, 2025

Mark S. Ames,  
Register of Probate  
03/06/2025

**Commonwealth of  
Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Probate and Family Court  
Hampshire Probate and  
Family Court  
15 Atwood Drive  
Northampton, MA 01060  
(413)586-8500**

**Docket No. HS25P0110EA  
Estate of:  
David G. Dupont  
Date of Death: 12/24/2020  
CITATION ON PETITION  
FOR FORMAL  
ADJUDICATION**

To all interested persons:  
A Petition for Late and Limited Formal Testacy and/or Appointment has been filed by Joyce B. Dupont of Belchertown, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 03/26/2025.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

**UNSUPERVISED  
ADMINISTRATION  
UNDER THE  
MASSACHUSETTS  
UNIFORM PROBATE  
CODE (MUPC)**

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of admin-

istration.  
WITNESS, Hon. Diana S. Velez Harris, First Justice of this Court.  
Date: February 25, 2025

Mark S. Ames,  
Register of Probate  
03/06/2025

**TOWN OF BELCHERTOWN,  
MASSACHUSETTS  
REQUEST FOR  
PROPOSALS  
SALE OF FRANKLIN  
SCHOOL PROPERTY  
720 FRANKLIN STREET**

The Town of Belchertown, Massachusetts (the "Town"), acting by and through its Select Board, is soliciting proposals for the sale of a parcel of Town-owned land located at 720 Franklin Street in Belchertown, Massachusetts, containing 1.6 acres, more or less, shown on Assessors Map 109 as Lot 51, and described in deeds recorded with the Hampshire Registry of Deeds in Book 388, Page 123 and Book 946, Page 490 (the "Property"), which Property includes the building known as the Franklin School.

Proposal packages may be obtained by contacting Steve Williams, Town Manager (email: swilliams@belchertown.org; phone: (413) 323-0403 x302).

The Town of Belchertown is interested in selling the Property at the highest price for uses that meet the best interests of the Town, as set forth in this Request for Proposals. The Town makes no guarantees as to the future development of the Property. Proposers are advised to review all federal, state, and local statutes, rules and bylaws required to develop the Property, including, without limitation, any bylaws.

The sale of the Property has been authorized by Town Meeting pursuant to the vote taken under Article 18 of the May 13, 2013 Annual Town Meeting. The successful proposer must be prepared to enter into a Purchase and Sale Agreement no later than thirty (30) days from the date the sale of the Property has been awarded to the successful proposer.

**Proposals must be received by the Town no later than 2:00 p.m. on Friday, March 28, 2025** in the Town Manager's Office, Belchertown Finnerty House, One South Main Street, Belchertown, MA 01007, at which time all proposals will be opened publicly. Please ensure that proposals mailed to the Town are delivered by the deadline. Proposals must be sealed and clearly marked "Town of Belchertown Purchase of Franklin School Property". Fax submissions and submissions by electronic mail will not be accepted.

No proposer may withdraw his or her proposal for a period of one hundred twenty (120) days after the date set for the opening thereof. The awarding authority is the Select Board.

The Town has determined that this transaction is subject to the Uniform Procurement Act, G.L.c. 30B. Therefore, the provisions of G.L.c. 30B are hereby incorporated by reference in this Request

for Proposals ("RFP"). The Town reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, to negotiate any and all non-mandatory contract terms with the successful proposer, or to cancel this procurement at any time if it is in the Town's best interest to do so.

By: Steve Williams  
Belchertown Town Manager  
Date: February 27, 2025  
03/06, 03/13, 03/20/2025

**Commonwealth of  
Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Probate and Family Court  
Hampshire Probate  
and Family Court  
15 Atwood Drive  
Northampton, MA 01060  
(413)586-8500  
Docket No. HS25C0047CA  
In the matter of:  
Katharina Lilliaña Monroe  
CITATION ON PETITION TO  
CHANGE NAME**

A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by Katharina Lilliaña Monroe of Granby, MA

Katharina Villafana AKA Kariña Lilliaña Villafana AKA Kariña Lilliaña Monroe requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to: Kariña Lilliaña Monroe

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: Hampshire Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 03/27/2025.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.

WITNESS, Hon. Diana S. Velez Harris, First Justice of this Court.  
Date: March 03, 2025

Mark S. Ames,  
Register of Probate  
03/06/2025

**SALE OF MOTOR VEHICLE**

This ad is pursuant to MA Gen. Law Ch.255, Sec. 39A as of March 21, 2025 the following motor vehicle will be for sale to satisfy a garage keepers lien:

Vehicle: 2012 Nissan Titan  
Vin #: 1N6AA0CJ8CN314845  
Color: Black  
LKO: Alberto Andres Dejesus Vazquez  
Address: 204 Locust Street Holyoke, MA 01040

Relentless Towing  
Belchertown, MA  
413-530-3804  
03/06, 03/13, 03/20/2025

**WASTE WATER  
TREATMENT PLANT  
GENERATOR  
REPLACEMENT  
BELCHERTOWN,  
MASSACHUSETTS  
ADVERTISEMENT FOR  
BIDS**

Sealed Bids for the construction of the "Waste Water Treatment Plant Generator Replacement" will be received by the Town of Belchertown, Public

Works Department, 290 Jackson Street, Belchertown, MA 01007 until 2 p.m. local time on March 27th, 2025 at which time the Bids received will be publicly opened and read. Sealed Bids must have outer envelope marked as "Waste Water Treatment Plant Generator Replacement".

**Background:** The Town of Belchertown MA has an existing generator located at 175 George Hannum Street, Belchertown MA.

The work consists of demolition of the existing generators, feeder & power branch circuitry and their components. Installation of new generators with new feeder and power branch circuitry their components. Estimated construction cost is \$400,000.

**Bids shall be on a lump sum as indicated in the Bid Form.**

All Bids for this project are subject to the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 149, Section 44A - 44J inclusive or Chapter 30, Section 39M as amended.

In accordance with Section 44D of Chapter 149 of the General Laws of Massachusetts as amended, the prospective General Bidders and Filed Sub-Bidders must submit with their Bid, a certificate of eligibility issued by the Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance (DCAMM), showing that the Bidder has been approved to bid on projects of the size and nature as advertised herein. Prospective General Bidders and Filed Sub-Bidders must also submit an updated statement summarizing their record for the period between the latest DCAMM certificate and the date of the Bid submittal. The DCAMM certificate of eligibility to be submitted by the General Bidder shall be for the category of work defined as "Electrical".

Bidding Documents may be obtained electronically from the Tighe & Bond website at: [http://www.tighebond.com/Projects\\_Out\\_to\\_Bid.php](http://www.tighebond.com/Projects_Out_to_Bid.php)

Prospective bidders must complete a one-time registration process on the web site in order to receive log-in credentials. Bidders must log in to the web site to download bidding documents for the project. Bidders will be added

to the "plan holders" or prospective bidders list upon downloading the bidding documents for the project.

All general bidders shall furnish with their bid a bid deposit in the form of a bid bond in the amount of 5% of the total amount for the Bid and made payable to the Town of Belchertown.

Minimum Wage Rates as determined by the Commissioner of Department of Workforce Development under the provision of the Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 149, Section 26 to 27D, as amended, apply to this project. It is the responsibility of the Contractor, before Bid opening, to request if necessary, any additional information on Minimum Wage Rates for those trades people who may be employed for the proposed Work under this Contract.

There will be no pre-Bid conference for the Waste Water Treatment Plant generator replacement project.

Owner reserves the right to waive any informality in, or to reject any or all Bids, or to accept any Bid which in their opinion, is in the public interest to do so.

**TOWN OF BELCHERTOWN,  
MASSACHUSETTS**

Consulting Engineer:  
Tighe & Bond, Inc.  
53 South Hampton Road  
Westfield, MA 01085  
413-562-1600.  
03/06/2025

**Please check the accuracy of your legal notice prior to submission (i.e., date, time, spelling). Also, be sure the requested publication date coincides with the purpose of the notice, or as the law demands. Thank you.**

**Belchertown Fire Department log**

The Call numbers below represent a date range of 2/21/25 - 2/27/25

The department responded to a total of 48 Calls which represented combined EMS and Fire Calls.

Of these 48 calls, 39 calls were EMS - related Calls with The Department also responding to a total of 9 Fire Calls.

Our of the 48 total calls, 3 calls required the

Department to request Mutual Aid and for a total of 3 times, the Department Received Mutual Aid.

In addition to these EMS and Fire Incident-related calls answered by the Department, there were 2 Oil Burner Inspections, 2 Smoke Inspections and One Final Alarm Inspection performed by Officials within the Department during this week.

**BUSINESS & SERVICE DIRECTORY**

**AUTO BODY**

**REECE AUTO BODY** Complete Auto Body, Paint & Repair" auto glass, computerized paint matching, also routine car maintenance. Free estimates. Old Springfield Road, Belchertown. 413-323-6664.

**HAIRDRESSER**

**COUNTRY STYLIST**, 171 Federal St., Belchertown. 413-323-6012. Great cuts for men and women. A full service hair salon. Open Tue-Sat., evening hours available.

**OUTDOOR POWER EQUIPMENT**

**BOYDEN & PERRON INC.** Sales and service, Toro, Wheel Horse, Scag, Jonsered, Residential and Commercial. 41 South Whitney Street, Amherst, since 1956. Call today. 253-7358.

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**INSURANCE**

**BELL & HUDSON INSURANCE AGENCY INC.**, 19 North Main St., Belchertown, MA 01007. Tel. 413-323-9611, 800-894-9591. Fax 413-323-6117. Home, auto, life, commercial, group health.

**PLUMBING SERVICES**

**D.F. PLUMBING & MECHANICAL CONTRACTORS** are now offering plumbing services to Belchertown and surrounding town. Scheduling appointments Monday-Friday, 8 am to 4pm. Call 413-323-9966.

**WELDING**

**AMHERST WELDING, INC.** Snow plows, sanders, sales & service, hydraulic hoses & repairs, trailer hitches, trailer repairs, welding, fabrication, lawnmower repairs. 330 Harkness Road, Amherst 413-253-4867.



**TO ADVERTISE ON THE BUSINESS & SERVICE DIRECTORY PLEASE CALL 283-8393**

# CML hosts events for **POKÉMON** Day

By Emily-Rose Pappas  
Staff Writer  
epappas@turley.com

**BELCHERTOWN** – Playing Pokémon is universally loved by young and old, whether its watching the anime, playing Pokémon Go on your cell phone, or collecting cards, figurines, or stuffies, Pokémon has something for everyone.

The Clapp Memorial Library hosted a Pokémon Day themed event on Thursday, February 27, which was filled with different games and crafts to be enjoyed by all ages.

“We generally find what national days are to do fun themes at the library. We were looking up some upcoming national days and thought this one would be fun to do,” said Children’s Services Director Jennifer Whitehead.

February 27, 1996, was the day Pokémon was created in Japan by its founder, Satoshi Tajiri, for the Nintendo Game Boy. From there, it grew in popularity to become the manga series, anime tv series and movies, and card game



Will you win the ultimate Pokémon prize?

SUBMITTED PHOTOS

we know today.

“I grew up during the Pokémon craze, and in recent years I have noticed how intergenerational the love for Pokémon is,” said Teen Services Coordinator Ruthie Sterling. “When a Pokémon Club started meeting at the library, I got the idea in my head for a day of fun for all

ages!”

All day, there was a Pokémon themed scavenger hunt, where participants were given a form to check off each Pokémon they “caught”, and the forms were entered in a raffle for a prize basket of Pokémon gear perfect for all trainers and fans.

“I also had a lot of fun



Jennifer Whitehead, Charlotte Cassidy, and Ruthie Sterling with their Pikachu hats and headbands, ready for a day of fun.

watching library patrons participate in the Pokémon Scavenger Hunt. We hid 15 Pokémon in the library for folks to find, and people got really into it,” said Sterling.

“It’s something fun, and helps people look around the library a little bit different-

ly than just visiting,” said Whitehead. “I am most excited to see all the patrons and their excitement, because it goes across so many ages now.”

The Pokémon Day at the library featured things to do all day, with a Pikachu and

Friends Story Time with bingo and a craft for kids with Jennifer Whitehead.

There was also a Pokémon Cross-Stitch demonstration with instruction by Jon Ryman for all ages, and diamond painting an Eeveelution keychain for the teens, which both produced adorable and brightly-colored Pokémon to take home.

“I had so much fun running the Eeveelution Diamond-Painting program for grades 6 and up. Diamond-painting is so meditative and their Eeveelution keychains came out so cute,” said Sterling.

To end the day, there was couple rounds of Pokémon Bingo for all ages to test their knowledge of these adorable little creatures and win a sticker prize.

The day was full of fun for trainers and fans of Pokémon and plans for Pokémon Day 2026 are already in the works.

The Teen Advisory Board is also hosting a Community Can Food Drive from March 10 to 14, collecting canned goods for the local food pantries of Belchertown, so be sure to look out for that in the coming weeks.

## SUMMER CAMP GUIDE



### The benefits of attending summer camp

Summer camp is something akin to a rite of passage for millions of youngsters each year. Many adults look back fondly on their experiences at summer camp, often crediting such times as formative periods in their lives. Summer camp benefits children in a myriad ways.

• Campers continue to socialize throughout summer. Socializing isn’t just for the school year. While children in high school might be independent enough to come and go with their friends during summer break, kids who are still in elementary school or middle school might not be old enough to handle such freedom. That

can make it hard to stay in touch with friends, which in turn can contribute to feelings of boredom and loneliness. Camp provides ample opportunities for young children to socialize during a time of year when they might not see their school friends as often as they’re used to.

• Campers can expand their horizons. Though some summer camps are exclusive to residents of certain communities, many tend to feature children from numerous towns or municipalities. Such camps provide an opportunity for campers to expand their horizons by engaging with youngsters who come from different backgrounds.

• Camp can get kids off their devices. Modern children are growing up in a digital world, and parents know how hard it can be to get kids to put down their devices and get outdoors. But the key to making that pivot could be access to outdoor play spaces. Many summer camps are structured around outdoor play, making them a potentially invaluable ally as parents seek to help children cut back on the time they spend using their devices. Children who do not attend camp and live in households where both parents work or in single-parent households where Mom or Dad works may be forced to spend much

of summer indoors, which could increase the frequency with which they turn to devices to occupy their time.

• Camp adds structure to summer days. Once a school year ends, the structure a school day provides vanishes into thin air. Couple that with extracurricular activities that go on hiatus during summer vacation, and kids accustomed to structure are left with little to do and no need to schedule their time.

There’s no shortage of benefits to enrolling youngsters in summer camp, where kids can socialize, grow and get off their devices while engaged in structured but stress-free activities.

### Camp by the numbers

Each year, campers of all ages head off to nearby recreation centers or travel to rural areas to claim their cabins and bunks. Here’s a deep look at some of the statistics surrounding summer camps.

**1,467:** The number of day camps in the United States run by the YMCA. - YMCA

**\$3.91 billion:** The peak market size of the summer camp sector in the United States in 2019, before stay-at-home-restrictions affected statistics in subsequent years. - Statista

**14 million:** The average number of American summer camp registrants each year. - American Camp Association

**1 week:** The most popular session length for summer camp, although the majority of independent camp operators offer four-, six- and eight-week sessions. - American Camp Association

**50:** The percentage of respondents whose camps charge \$1,000 or more per session, with most programs costing between \$1,000 and \$1,500. - CampMinder

**58 to 63:** The percentage of female staff members at overnight and day camps, respectively. - American Camp Association

**200 to 300:** The average number of campers served each session. - CampMinder

**7 in 10:** The number of camps that run 10 or more different programs. - CampMinder

**79:** The percentage of camps that maintain a screen-free environment. - CampMinder

**The Hartsbrook School SUMMER CAMPS**

FARM CAMP	WILDERNESS CAMP	CREATIVITY CAMP
CODING CAMP	COUNSELOR IN TRAINING (CIT)	JUNE 23 TO AUGUST 1

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN  
Fun all summer long for ages 4-14!  
hartsbrook.org/summer-programs

**PACKARD MOUNTAIN Learning Center**

**We have summer enrollment options for school age children.**

Hours 8 a.m. - 4 p.m., \$350/wk. Accepting vouchers.

Structured daily schedule to include curricular content, free play, and arts and crafts.

Lots of outdoor and weather permitting water play.

[www.packardmountain.com](http://www.packardmountain.com)

**Girl Scout Camp For All Girls!**

DAY & OVERNIGHT

[www.gscwm.org](http://www.gscwm.org)

**Greene Acres Equestrian Center L.L.C.**

**April Vacation Riding Camp - April 22-24**

**2025 Summer Riding Sessions**

June 23-27 • July 14-18  
July 28 - August 1 • August 18-22

9AM - 3PM LUNCH NOT PROVIDED

Basic Horse Care, Daily Riding, English & Western, Ages 5 & up

Call to Register (413) 813-9291  
53 Ware Road, Belchertown  
Email: [Amanda.greeneacres@gmail.com](mailto:Amanda.greeneacres@gmail.com)

**Belchertown Kidz Club**

**TODDLER • PRESCHOOL • SCHOOL AGE**

Offering Flexible Care Programs For Kids Ages 15 mo. - 12 yrs.

Open 7:00 a.m.-5:30\* p.m. / MONDAY - FRIDAY  
Both Full Time & Sibling Discounts

**NOW ENROLLING FOR SPRING/SUMMER/FALL PROGRAMS**

**KIDZ SUMMER PROGRAM**  
Ages 5 - 12 yrs. • JUNE 23RD-AUGUST 22ND  
9 Weeks • Full & Part Time Options/Single Weeks or All Summer!  
Swimming • Field Trips • Close walk to Playgrounds & CHCS Pool  
Daily Creative & Educational Indoor/Outdoor Activities!  
\*Start of camp based on Belchertown School Schedule

**BEFORE & AFTER SCHOOL CARE**  
K-6th Grade • Full & Part-Time • Homework Support  
School Bus Pick Up & Drop Off • Indoor & Outdoor Activities

**PRESCHOOL** Year round program for Ages 3-5 yrs.  
Full & Part Time • Choose from Full Day or 3/4 Day Options  
Creative Educational Kindergarten Readiness Curriculum

**TODDLER/YOUNG PRE-K** Year round program for Ages 15 mos.-3 yrs.  
Choice of Full Day 7:00-5:00 or 3/4 day option 8:30-2:30  
Come Grow, Learn, and Play!

Join Our Toddler Room Waitlist

**4 Stadler Street • (413) 323-5439**  
[belchertownkidzclub@gmail.com](mailto:belchertownkidzclub@gmail.com)

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ECC LICENSED PROGRAM #177446

**THE MACDUFFIE SCHOOL**  
VERITAS  
1890

Co-ed • Grades 1-8  
June 30 - August 15

**Race Into Summer at Camp MacDuffie!**

Space is limited so don't wait!

Be part of this year's camps and discover the true meaning of summer...having fun and making friends!

**Camp MacDuffie offers seven weeks of exciting camp experiences:**

Week 1: June 30 - July 3	Week 4: July 21 - 25	Week 6: August 4-8
Week 2: July 7 - 11	Week 5: July 28 - August 1	Week 7: August 11-15
Week 3: July 14 - 18	• Arts • Athletics • Coding • Science • Dance • Lego's • Creative Writing • Theater • Science • And More!	

Monday-Friday 9am-3pm • Area fields trips and lunch included  
Extended care available if needed 7:30am-5pm

Register now for summertime fun at [MacDuffie.org/summer-camp](http://MacDuffie.org/summer-camp)

**The MacDuffie School • 66 School Street • Granby, MA 01033 • 413.255.0000 Ext.103**