



## Library hosts **MAGIC** card game

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

BELCHERTOWN – Magic: the Gathering is a fantasy table-top card game, its secrets and twists once learned leading to an endless array of possibilities and

adventures to have amongst friends.

The library once had a small group of teens that brought the game in, and its comeback to the community came with Skylar Whitehead, a lover of the game and its endless possibilities.

TURLEY PHOTO BY EMILY-ROSE PAPPAS  
Friends Tommy, Xavier, Wesley, and KJ having snacks and having fun playing Magic: The Gathering.

One of the artists for the illustrations on the cards, Scott Fischer, is the talent behind the summer reading logos the library has for the summer reading program.

“Continuing to build this community so more people

Please see **MAGIC**, page 7

## School committee holds public hearing on budget

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

GRANBY – The School Committee welcomed the President of the Granby Education Association, Michelle Tisdell, to speak on the budget and help to answer questions from those who gathered for the open comment and questions period during the hearing.

The March 25 meeting was held by Chair Jennifer Bartosz, and she was accompanied by Vice Chair Michael Durham, and members George Bahlke and Liz Lafond.

Also in attendance were Interim Superintendent Mary Jane Rickson, Todd Dorman, Director of Finance and Operations, members of the senior leadership team, and Student Representative Cole Fuller.

FY26 Budget: The Strategic Plans and Core Values

Michelle Tisdell, President of the GEA, came to the committee to bring a presentation on two specific budget scenarios for the upcoming school year.

Tisdell began by presenting the School Committee’s Strategic Plan, which was created in 2022, and goes until 2026.

“When we take a look

at the budget, we want to make sure that we continue to visit all of our priorities,” said Tisdell.

Some of the main items

**“When we take a look at the budget, we want to make sure that we continue to visit all of our priorities.”**

– Michelle Tisdell

of the Strategic Plan included fostering relationships with students and families, meet the needs of all students, support learning experiences, use relevant data in decision making, provide training and support, believe in everyone, and be a place that welcomes, respects, and embraces diversity.

“One other thing we do is when creating a budget is taking a look at our core values,” said Tisdell. “So whatever has the most impact, we really make sure we try to keep that in our hearts.”

Granby Public Schools looks to ensure students come first, success is built through relationship, that communication is productive, effective, and respectful, maintain a growth mindset, and to celebrate differences.

Tisdell went over the objectives of the FY26 Budget, and shared that these objectives help to ensure that the overall final budget will benefit the community to the best of their abilities.

A budget is developed through research,

analysis, management, and action, as well as making predictions based on what was done in the past and how current events can affect it, like in the case of transportation.

FY26 Budget: Reduced Service Budget

“This year we’re asking for a reduced service budget,” said Tisdell.

Reduced service budgets are a little different from a level service budget, where a current year’s level of services are projected at the same level of services, but forward one year.

Many items are looked at when considering a projection forward a year including enrollment changes, rates of expenses for things like utilities or insurance, staff, retirements, and con-

Please see **BUDGET**, page 8

## Planning Board opts to send letter about ongoing Pepper Ridge issue

By Melina Bourdeau  
Correspondent

BELCHERTOWN – The board discussed the Pepper Ridge development and decided to have the town planner draft a letter to the town manager about the ongoing issues with the subdivision. The town has spent nearly \$11,000 maintaining the subdivision (about \$8,600 for basin clearing

and \$2,200 for other expenses).

The developer has been non-communicative and has not been actively progressing the subdivision. The subdivision’s permit was extended by the state for two years, making it difficult to revoke.

Members discussed potential actions like billing the developer and collecting maintenance costs, but did

not take an official vote or make a final decision about the subdivision’s status.

Planning Board Chair Dan Beaudette said the last time the board heard from the developers was in November of last year.

“They said (they’re) actively exploring options to take care of cracks in the pavement. (They) wanted to update (us) on project completion,” he said.

He said they would be done before the end of construction season, but that date has passed, adding that the developers haven’t been communicative.

Beaudette expressed frustration.

“The subdivision is technically still on the books, but here we are having the town pay for it,” he said. “We’re in a period of sort of tight money...and here, the town

is paying to maintain this subdivision, and I find that distressful.”

Beaudette asked if the board would support a recommendation to the Department of Public Works to investigate billing or adding the funds to the tax load of the property to try to recoup the expenses to the town.

Planning Board member Mike Hofler said on a larger

scale, he believed that implementing a rule across the board.

“You’d have to get the DPW to say, effective whatever date, no subdivision gets plowed without being built,” he said.

The board members agreed, and requested Town Planner Doug Albertson to reach to the developer as well.

## Library holds knit sale to benefit club

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

GRANBY – Being able to support the community is a strong theme of libraries, and helps to create an open and welcoming space for all.

The library’s Knitting Group has been meeting since 2004, and is led by Jeanne Crosby, who’s love for knitting led her to open up the group.

“We love socializing with the other knitters, and we like to swap ideas,” said Crosby. “It brings us all together with a common love for knitting and yarn work.”

The group is dedicated to service work, and spends time creating things that will help benefit various members both within and outside the community.

The group makes many items for charities, as well as items like hats, mittens, and sleeping pads for the homeless, and helmet liners for the military.

The group also has made hats to send to those in Ukraine, and tiny, soft hats for preemie babies at the local hospitals.

“I wanted to help people in my mind, this has always been about helping other people,” said Crosby. “It’s a way to give back to the community, and I feel that all needlework is a gift that is meant to be shared.”

The knitting group spends lots of time creating things also for their annual sale in December, and also hosts a knit sale with all kinds of yarn and more that goes to support the Friends.

Lauren McIntyre, the former president of the Friends of the Granby Public Library, passed away last year, and left all of her knitting supplies to the group.

A bulk of the sale was once part of McIntyre’s collection, and seeing it go to new homes and also support the work of the library helps the Friends and members of the group remember her as the wonderful friend and supporter she was.

The sale was also composed of donations from the community and pieces from large collections for more people to find enjoyment from.

“It’s really a way to remember her, and all the



TURLEY PHOTO BY EMILY-ROSE PAPPAS  
Emma Mann selling some of her adorable handmade pom poms at the sale.

work she did for the library, and the Friends,” said Xander Huff, the current President of the Friends.

The sale had different col-

ors and types of yarns, needles for stitching and needles for sewing, bags for yarn,

Please see **SALE**, page 5

## Selectboard approves \$3.3 million number for Prop 2 1/2 override

By Melina Bourdeau  
Correspondent

BELCHERTOWN - The Selectboard voted to place a \$3.3 million override on the upcoming ballot, aiming to address critical funding gaps for municipal services and education.

After nearly four hours of deliberation, board members reluctantly agreed to support the comprehensive proposition 2 1/2 override, which includes \$1.6 million for schools, \$500,000 for capital improvements and additional funds for town departments.

Selectboard members Nicole Miner and Whitney Jorns-Kuhnlenz were opposed to the motion, and Selectboard members Ed Boscher, Jen Turner and Lesa Lessard Pearson

“We are one town. We need to do what’s right for our residents in the long term,” said Town Manager Steve Williams.

The override breaks down to approximately \$1.63 mil-

lion for the school district, \$437,000 for firefighters, \$198,244 for town department reinstatements, and \$500,000 for ongoing capital improvements.

Board member Lessard Pearson, who supported the measure, emphasized the financial challenges facing the community.

“If we do nothing, we’ll be right back here next year with even more significant cuts,” Lessard Pearson said.

However, not all board members approached the vote with enthusiasm. Miner said she was opposed to the motion because she doesn’t support the override.

Boscher expressed deep reservations about the approach, arguing that the town needs more strategic planning before seeking additional funds.

“We’re not really answering the question of how this is going to improve the lives

Please see **PROP 2½**, page 3

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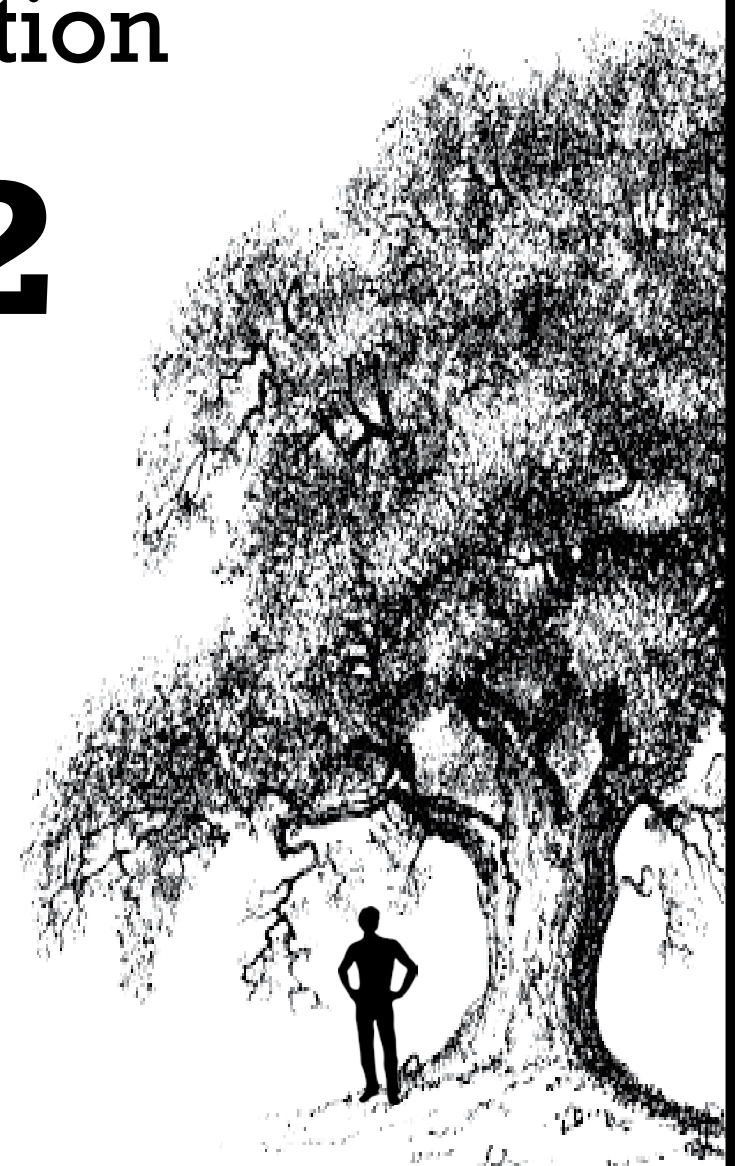
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# All About Town

BELCHERTOWN



## Get To Know Your Town Employee: Jennifer Whitehead

BELCHERTOWN – These town employees are what help keep our communities running, providing resources, help, information, fun events, organization, and more for us to enjoy.

Here is an interview with Clapp Memorial Library's Director of Youth Services, Jennifer Whitehead.

### What is your favorite thing about the town?

"There are too many wonderful things about Belchertown that I don't think I can pick a favorite. I enjoy all it has to offer in nature and beauty and visit our conservation areas often. The people are friendly and helpful. Volunteerism is strong in our community. Attending events like our town fair, farmers market and Food Truck Fridays is extra fun when you find yourself surrounded by friends."

### What do you do in your position?

"As Head of Youth Services, I have the pleasure of working with infants, children, teens and their caregivers. I run story time programs, our summer reading program, and special events like Take Your Child the Library Day, Noon Year's Eve Party or the Week of the Young Child. We have our Junior Volunteer Program during the summer and we work closely with our public schools. I also provide fun outreach visits with our child care centers, other town departments, and town committees. I am responsible for our collection and development for our youngest patrons up to grade 6, as well as our Parent/Teacher section."

### Describe an average day at the office?

"One of the reasons that I enjoy my job is because there really isn't an average day. Some days I barely see my desk because I am busy

with programs and outreach. Other days, I am busy planning for more programs, collaborating with others, or weeding the collection."

### Tell me a bit about you. Are you a resident? What's your education?

"My family moved to Belchertown over 25 years ago, a few years after I began working at the Clapp Memorial Library. I graduated from American International College with a degree in Elementary Education, minor in Psychology, and received a coaching certification. I coached basketball for many years in Southamptton, Belchertown, through AAU, and the MacDuffie School in Granby. I still play once a week with a lovely group of women. I also instruct pickleball through our Parks and Recreation Department and enjoy playing as much as possible."

### What other departments or committees/boards do you work closely with?

"I work with our Parks and Recreation, Senior Center, the Belchertown Family Center Committee, the Belchertown Cultural Council, the Friends of Lake Wallace, our public schools, the Creative Economy Committee, our Conservation Commission, homeschool groups, 4-H and Scouts, the Fire Department, and B.O.A.T. (It would probably be a shorter list to say who we don't work with!)"

### What is the most fulfilling part of your job?

"The people! I am blessed to have wonderful co-workers, friendly community members and so many enjoyable families. My work week often starts with story times with babies and toddlers, so for me, Mondays are good days. Teens and young adults will often use me as a reference for a job or education-



Jennifer Whitehead, Clapp Memorial Library's Children's Director

al opportunity. When I am asked "how long have you known this person?" I love it when I can answer, "all their life". I have had the honor to watch so many children grow into caring adults who are now bringing their children to our Library and some who I get to work alongside."

### What inspired you to take on the position?

"Hmm, that was some time ago! Who wouldn't want this career? I will admit, I wasn't looking for a job as a librarian. I was looking for a teaching position. I am so thankful I stumbled across the little job description in the paper so many years ago."

### Where is your office located? What are your office hours?

"Clapp Memorial Library, my hours vary but I mostly work 8 a.m. to 5 p.m."

### What is the history of your department? What makes it unique from others?

"The Clapp brothers carried out their eldest brother's (John Francis) wishes and opened this beautiful building in 1887. We are open 6 days a week, including week-nights."

### What do you want the community to know about your position?

"I would like the community to know that the Library is a safe place for everyone! If you can't find what you need, just ask me or one of my co-workers. We are here to help."

*If you or someone you know would like to take part in the Town Employee Interviews, please contact Emily-Rose Pappas at epappas@turley.com.*

## Hometown Hero Award

### Nominations now being accepted

BELCHERTOWN— The Hometown Hero Award is presented in two categories:

**Military:** Veteran, Active Duty, National Guard/ Reserve

**First Responder:** Police, Fire, EMT, Medical Personnel

To recognize on an annual basis a military person who has served our nation with distinction and performed significant community service in Belchertown.

\*Posthumous award allowed

**First Responder:** Police, Fire, EMT, Medical Personnel who has performed a one-time significant act that would not qualify for employee of the year, performed one act of heroism or performed in a manner that saved a life or acted in a manner that prevented severe damage to a person or property or acted in a manner that enhanced public safety.

Please submit nominations by April 15th to The Veterans' Services Advisory Board C/O Veterans' Services, 4 Berkshire Avenue, P.O. Box 670, Belchertown, MA 01007 or fax to 413-323-0445 or email to Charly Oliva at COLIVA@Belchertown.org, be sure to include in the subject Hometown Hero.

## Belchertown COA Travel Club

### Upcoming bus trips

Tuesday, April 29, 2025 - Ozark Jubilee and entire band at the Aqua Turf Club in Plantsville, Conn.

Direct from BRANSON the OZARK JUBILEE features and all star cast of Branson's top entertainers. This year the Ozark Jubilee presents the Branson Classic Country Show that salute's the music of the great Legends of Country Music. In addition, the Band of 15 members always honors Veterans.

The cost is \$135 per person and includes roundtrip transportation, lunch, meal tax and gratuity and driver gratuity. Bus departs St. Francis Church at 9:45

a.m. returning at approximately 5 p.m.

May 22, 2025 - Neil meets the Eagles at "52 Summer" Springfield, MA \$44 pp —Self Drive (pmt due at sign up)

June 25, 2025 - Newport Playhouse & Cabaret "It's Your Funeral" Includes transportation, luncheon, and show. \$143 per person, payment due by May 25, 2025.

July 15, 2025 James Taylor & Carole King Tribute at the Log Cabin Includes twin lobster or prime rib luncheon and show, \$98 per person, self drive payment due by June 15, 2025.

For more information contact Roseann 413-364-8161 or Tony 413-283-3966 for info.

## 10th Annual BARC Craft Fair

BELCHERTOWN— Please join us on Saturday, April 5 at Jabish Brook Middle School from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

We'll have a packed house with some of your favorite local artisans. We will have our 10th Anniversary BARC tees for sale along with other BARC swag, our famous

catnip fish toys and dog tails. Roosters Roaming Cantina will be on site starting at 11 a.m. for lunch and make sure you come say hi to Oliver, our Belchertown Police Department's Comfort Dog. Something for everyone, come on out and help celebrate BARC, Inc. turning 10.

### PROP 2½ from page 1

of residents right now and in the future," Boscher said.

He said he voted in favor of the motion as

The school department played a significant role in the discussions, having already reduced its initial budget request from \$2.1 million to \$1.6 million. School Committee Chair Heidi Gutekenst explained their efforts to be fiscally responsible, noting they had made substantial cuts to reach the current number.

Turner highlighted the potential consequences of not passing the override.

"If no money comes forward, the number of cuts that are going to happen is going to devastate the schools and

our town resources," she said.

The override would represent approximately a 5.3% increase to the town's total budget of \$61.6 million. For an average homeowner, this translates to roughly \$550 annually.

Key components of the override include:

Funding the school's requested \$1.6 million

Maintaining six firefighters currently funded by an expiring federal grant

Funding a grant manager position

Providing \$500,000 for capital improvements

Supporting various town department reinstatements

Jorns-Kuhnlenz noted the board's collective understanding of the challenge.

"Nobody feels good about

this," she said, "but we have to invest at some point."

The override will appear on the upcoming ballot, with town officials planning a comprehensive public information campaign to explain the proposed funding.

"We're not solving everything," Williams said. "This is about giving us breathing room to develop more strategic, long-term solutions."

The ballot question will ask voters to approve \$3,293,968 in additional funding, with the understanding that the money will be allocated across town and school departments.

The election date will be announced in the coming weeks, with town officials preparing detailed impact reports to help voters understand the proposed override.

## Easter Egg Hunt Extravaganza on April 12

BELCHERTOWN— Happy Spring! HOP over to Christ Community Church, located at 1255 Federal St., Belchertown, on April 12 for there annual Easter Egg Hunt Extravaganza.

This is a FREE event for the community. Registration begins at 10 a.m.

There will be several egg hunts based on age group (\*\*egg hunt is for ages 3-10, but kids of all ages are welcome to join in on any of the other activities!\*\*) .

In addition to the egg hunt, there will also be face painting, temporary tattoos, craft projects, interactive activity tables and more.

Complimentary Easter egg bags will be provided at registration (while supplies last).

The event will be held rain or shine, in the event of poor weather, all activities will be held indoors.

The egg hunt is intended to for kids ages 3-10, but all ages are invited to participate in the other activities.

To find out more check out the website at [www.gracefortheway.org](http://www.gracefortheway.org) or call the church office at 413-253-0292.



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## Belchertown Select Board announces board and committee vacancies

**BELCHERTOWN**—The Belchertown Select Board is looking for citizens interested in sharing their expertise by serving on a Town Board/Committee. If you have time and are interested in getting involved in your Town's activities, please submit a letter of interest to: Select Board, The Finnerty House, One South Main Street, P.O. Box 670, Belchertown, MA 01007 or by email to [selectboard@belchertown.org](mailto:selectboard@belchertown.org) (unless otherwise indicated below). You may also submit a volunteer form on our website: <https://www.belchertown.org/374/Volunteer>

All vacancies are posted until filled.

The Town wishes to fill the following vacancies:

**Agricultural Commission:** The Town wishes to fill one (1) associate member seat on the Agricultural Commission. This commission promotes agricultural-based economic opportunities; preserves, revitalizes and sustains the Belchertown agricultural industries, and encourages

the pursuit of agriculture as a career opportunity and lifestyle.

**Belchertown Buildings & Grounds Committee:** The Town wishes to fill one (1) full- community member seat on the Belchertown Buildings and Grounds Committee. The committee will advise the Town and the Select Board on funding opportunities for maintaining and developing Town buildings that fit the guidelines of repurpose and/or renovation to benefit the local economy and population as well as advising on historical and cultural development opportunities. Expertise with real estate/architecture, grant writing, or historical experience to strengthen the skill set of the committee is highly preferred.

**Communications Committee:** The Town wishes to fill a full member seat on the Communications Committee. The purpose of this committee is to develop a communication plan for the Town of Belchertown to improve information flow

from the Town to the public. Experience with marketing, communications, and/or social media is highly preferred.

**Historic District By-Law Commission:** The Town wishes to fill (1) full member Real Estate seat on the Historic District By-Law Commission. The Commission has regulatory control over new construction, reconstruction, alterations, movements, and demolition of all exterior architectural features of buildings and structures within the Historic District which are visible from any public street, public way, or public park.

**Pioneer Valley Transit Authority Advisory Board:** The Town is seeking an individual to represent and serve as a Liaison to the Town of Belchertown on the PVTA Advisory Board. Interested individuals should have the time and desire to attend respective meetings in Springfield and periodically review the PVTA's services to the Town and its contiguous communities.

## Got plants and old bags?

**BELCHERTOWN**—The Belchertown Historical Association is holding its Opening Day activities at the Stone House Museum on Saturday, May 10. There will be free tours of the museum, our famous "Old Bag" sale, and our plant sale, featuring locally grown perennials. Every year we look forward to the support of our community in making this a successful fundraiser through your contributions of old bags and plants.

The plant sale committee welcomes donations of perennials dug from your gardens and generously donated to the plant sale.

Please check your gardens now for new plants that can be potted and have time to recover to look their best in time for the sale. We are looking for flowering plants, shade plants, vegetable plants, trees, shrubs, bulbs, fruit bearing plants and house plants. Plants can be brought to the Stone House

during the week before the sale and left near the schoolhouse. Please email [sallyshattuck54@gmail.com](mailto:sallyshattuck54@gmail.com) if you have any questions.

**TAG SALE:** This year the trustees are trying out a new idea. The trustees are offering several 10' X 10' tent spaces to those of you who would like to hold a "mini" tag sale and sell treasures you collected over the years but are no longer using. Please contact Denise Smith at [dsmith39@charter.net](mailto:dsmith39@charter.net).



SUBMITTED PHOTO

## Belchertown Lions Club welcomes its newest member

**BELCHERTOWN**—James Auclair (center) of Wilbraham is welcomed here into the Belchertown Lions Club by his sponsor Lion Bobby Henrichon (L) and Past District Governor, Bill White. We look forward to James' help with our upcoming Saturday Meatball Grinder Sales to be held on April 19, May 17, June 21, and July 19 and at its Second Annual Memorial Cruisin' the Common Car Show on August 9. More updates on these sales and events will be forthcoming here in the Sentinel and on our website ([belchertownlionsclub.com](http://belchertownlionsclub.com)) and Facebook page.

## Hope Methodist Church announces 2025 Lenten and Easter Schedule

**BELCHERTOWN**—Hope United Methodist Church is located at 31 Main St., Belchertown, for more information go to [hopebelchertown.org](http://hopebelchertown.org). 413-323-7584, email: [btownhopeumc@gmail.com](mailto:btownhopeumc@gmail.com)

Michelle

### Palm Sunday

April 13 10 a.m.

Service of Holy Communion, Distribution of Palm Branches

### Worship during Lent

Sundays 10 a.m.

April 6, 2025

Play "The People vs. Judas Iscariot" Culminating with a verdict by the congregation

### Lenten Study

Tuesdays 10 a.m.

April 8

"The Gospel of John" by Amy-Jill Levine. Study books are available from Pastor

### 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



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## The Town of Belchertown is looking for a Full-Time Nutrition Aide for the Senior Center

**Major duties include:** Preparing sandwiches, soup, and desserts and bag meals for individual clients. Serve congregate meals to the dining room on a daily basis. Plan for the soup and sandwich menu for the next day's meal. Must be able to read and follow recipes for consistency and quality of food. Wash and clean dishes and follow food safety standards after each task. Assists other staff in general cleaning and sanitizing of all kitchen equipment, surfaces, utensils, and other areas.

**Minimum Qualifications:** High school education; up to one year of experience in the food service industry; or any equivalent combination of education and experience.

This is a grade 2 position, 30 hours per week, with a pay range of \$17.19 - \$21.97 per hour, benefitted position.

If you would like to join our team, please complete an application online at

[www.belchertown.org/jobs](http://www.belchertown.org/jobs)

Applications will be accepted until position is filled.

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

## HADLEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS SCHOOL CHOICE OPENINGS

2025-2026

Hadley Public Schools grades PK-12 is now accepting School Choice Applications.

They can be found at [www.hadleyschools.org](http://www.hadleyschools.org). The cut-off date for applications is April 16th.

Hadley Public Schools Offers the following advantages:

### HADLEY ELEMENTARY

- Small Class Sizes
- Art, Band, Chorus
- Tech & Makerspace Lab
- World Language Lab
- 7:30am Homework support (free)
- Afterschool Clubs: Newspaper, Robotics, Equestrian, Board Games
- Inclusive Special Ed Services
- New Playgrounds

### HOPKINS ACADEMY

- Small Class Sizes
- Advanced Course Offerings
- AP, PLTW, Early College
- Career Pathways in: Business, Clean Energy, Public Safety, Engineering, Computer Science, Health Care, Environmental Science
- Extracurricular Offerings: Athletics, Band, Chorus, Drama, Equestrian, Leadership
- Internships, Service Learning
- Travel Opportunities



Principal Vigneux, Meera's Family, Meera, Donna Helm during the reception.

## Betty Allen Chapter NSDAR recognizes BHS Senior

NORTHAMPTON—The Betty Allen Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution held a reception in Northampton on March 25th to recognize their recipient of the DAR Good Citizens Essay Program and Scholarship Contest.

All entries from schools in Hampshire County are reviewed and judged independently. The student's activities, scholarship, and references all weigh in the evaluation of the contest. This year's essay question was, "Service is an essential attribute of a good citizen. Discuss how service can foster a strong sense of community and strengthen our American identity?"

Meera Berryhill, a senior at Belchertown High School, was selected as the 2024-2025 scholarship recipient of the Betty Allen Chapter NSDAR. Meera Berryhill's achievement was joined by her family and Belchertown High School Principal Ms. Christine Vigneux at the Historic Clapp House on South St., Northampton. Massachusetts State Representative Aaron Saunders attended and shared some thoughts and greetings from the State House and presented Ms. Berryhill a certificate acknowledging her accomplishments from the Massachusetts State House as well. Betty Allen Chapter NSDAR then presented

Ms. Berryhill with a Good Citizen Certificate, Pin, and a cash scholarship.

The Betty Allen Chapter members and guests were then treated to a reception and opportunity to congratulate Meera and wish her well in her future endeavors.

One additional Good Citizen in Hampshire County was selected this year by his high school. Nicholas Uchneat of Hopkins Academy, Hadley. Nicholas will be presented a Good Citizen Certificate and pin. Congratulations Nicholas.

All state accredited high schools have an opportunity to name a senior as their good citizen. All named good citizens get recognized with a pin and certificate regardless of participation in the scholarship contest. The student selected as the school's DAR Good Citizen must have the following qualities: Dependability, Service, Leadership, and Patriotism.

The National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) is a women's service organization whose members can trace their lineage to an individual who contributed to securing American independence during the Revolutionary War. Today's DAR is dynamic and diverse, with over 185,000 members in 3,000 chapters in the United States and abroad. DAR members



Meera Berryhill receiving State House Award from Rep Saunders on March 25.

annually provide millions of hours of volunteer service to their local communities across the country and world. DAR chapters participate in projects to promote historic preservation, education, and patriotism. Over one million members have joined the organization since its found-

ing in 1890.

If you are interested in learning more about DAR membership, visit <https://www.facebook.com/BettyAllenChapterDAR> or contact Regent Denise Kindschi Gosselin at [dar-northampton2@gmail.com](mailto:dar-northampton2@gmail.com)

### SALE from page 1

books, and much more for anyone that utilizes needlework.

The sale is a wonderful way to not only further the group's goals of giving back to the community, but also to help the group itself, all the money raised going back to the Friends and their mission to support the library.

You can find the group meeting together once a week on Wednesdays at 2 p.m., and is open for anyone and everyone to stop in and bring your crocheting, knitting, embroidery, cross-stitch, and anything else you'd like to work on with some new friends.

If you or someone you know loves to stitch, stop by the Granby library and connect with some new friends, and spend some much-needed time on that project.



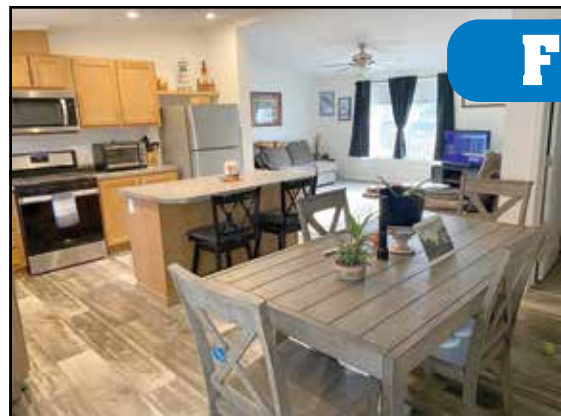
ABOVE: Selecting the perfect yarn for their future projects and plans.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY EMILY-ROSE PAPPAS

LEFT: Need a book of designs, a bag, or new needles? The sale has you covered.

## NOTICE

**ERRORS:** Each advertiser is requested to check their advertisement the first time it appears. This paper will not be responsible for more than one corrected insertion, nor will be liable for any error in an advertisement to a greater extent than the cost of the space occupied by the item in the advertisement.



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## THE BEST FRESH FOR SPRING!

### Spring Specials April 2 - 8

- Sweet Red Seedless Grapes .... \$1.99 lb!
- Red Raspberries 6 oz Pack ..... 2 for \$5
- Cluster Tomatoes On The Vine .. \$1.99 lb
- Sweet Red, Yellow & Orange Peppers ..... \$2.99 lb
- Green Peppers Extra Large ..... \$1.49 lb
- Broccoli Crowns ..... \$1.99 lb
- Boar's Head**
- Sweet B's BBQ Chicken ..... \$10.99 lb
- Boar's Head**
- Muenster Cheese ..... \$6.99 lb

## Welcome Spring!

### Pretty Smiling PANSIES

Hanging Baskets, Pots, Bowls & Six Packs

**Fresh Cut Daffodils**  
\$4.99 Bunch

**FRAGRANT HERBS**  
Great For The Kitchen Windowsill!  
Basil, Mint, Rosemary, Lemongrass & Lavender  
4-inch Pots **\$4.99**

**SPRING BLOOMING BULBS**  
Tulips, Daffodils & Hyacinths  
4-inch Pots **\$4.99**

**Time To Start Garden Seeds!**  
**2025 Flower & Vegetable Seeds**  
Heirloom And Organic Too!  
**ONION SETS, BABY GREENS & SPROUT SEEDS**

**Cool Weather Vegetable Starter Plants**  
Broccoli, Cauliflower, Cabbage, Kale & More!

**VISIT THE EASTER BUNNY!**  
**Saturday April 12th 2-4pm**  
**BABY LAMBS FROM HARRIS FARM**  
*Bunnies From The 4H Rabbit Club*  
94.7 FM WMAS Radio Will Be Broadcasting Live  
**Children's Cookie Decorating & Planting Workshops**

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## OPPORTUNITY

### newspaper correspondent

The Sentinel seeks **Experienced Writers/Journalists** to produce news and/or feature stories of local interest for various towns and cities.

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- **Salary based on a flat rate by story and photo**

Send writing samples with resume to

**Turley**  
Publications, Inc.  
[www.turley.com](http://www.turley.com)

Deanna Sloat  
24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069  
or email directly to [dsloat@turley.com](mailto:dsloat@turley.com)

## OPINION

### LETTERS

## Prop 2 1/2 Override and the exclusion processes - how they work

To the Editor,

By Massachusetts law there is a limit on how much money the Town can raise each year using taxes on personal property (think house and cars). That limit is the amount raised the year prior plus 2 1/2 percent. Obviously there are adjustments made for new homes added to the tax base or vacant land that is developed into housing lots, but the important thing is that each year the dollar amount of taxes allowed to be collected is based on the dollar amount collected the year before. It is not based on the overall housing market going up or down.

What if that's not enough money to run the Town? There is a process where we, the Town residents / voters, can vote to override that 2 1/2 percent increase and add an additional amount to the dollars collected. If we do that though, we also permanently increase the amount that is used to calculate how much the Town is allowed to collect in the following year and in every year thereafter. If we approve an override this year, that additional increased amount gets added to the basis for next year's tax calculation. That year then becomes the basis for the next year, etc. Thus the override has a permanent ripple effect.

What is the Exclusion process? This is a separate temporary tax assessed to finance capital spending. Temporary means it is for a fixed time period, even

if that's 30 years (think of your mortgage). Capital spending means it is to build or buy public infrastructure or assets. It is not for salaries or operating budget issues. There are two version, Debt Exclusion and Capital Exclusion, depending on how long the time period and if the money is borrowed or just assessed as an extra tax for one year. The critical thing is this money has to be spent on capital items and not to run the Town.

To get either the Override or Debt Exclusion passed, there are three votes that have to be "Yes". The Town Selectboard has to vote to present this to us, the voters. The Annual Town Meeting has to be a "Yes" vote on the spending / budget (for an override) or on the borrowing (if it's debt/capital exclusion) and finally there has to be a ballot on an election (special or otherwise) that also has to pass. Basically, the Annual Town meeting is the mechanism for allocating funds, the separate election is the mechanism for approving the levy limit increase. It's not easy.

For more detailed information Mass.gov has some excellent (short 2-5 minute) videos explaining all this at: [www.mass.gov/info-details/proposition-2-12-and-tax-rate-process](http://www.mass.gov/info-details/proposition-2-12-and-tax-rate-process)

Please stay an informed voter.

P.S. This is how I explain it, but I'm not an expert. All mistakes are mine.

Mike Hoffer,  
Belchertown

## Investing In Making A Difference!

To the Editor,

I am reaching out in my capacity as an acting board member of the Belchertown Education Foundation, to shine a light on an emerging community need. One of Belchertown's proudest institutions, our School System, is in need of additional support. Our goal as a community must be around supporting the students in any way that we can. It is a well established truth that youth need to feel safe, secure and supported in their learning environments, as well as afforded the opportunity for creative spaces, to truly learn and thrive academically; and it is on this behalf that I am outreaching to the community.

Our not-for-profit organization was created solely to help meet this need, in a very similar climate as we are facing today. Through our efforts of community engagement and fundraising, we have been able to create more than \$100,000 in grants awarded solely to Belchertown Schools over the last seven years. While the Foundation does not address many of the larger financial concerns that the schools have, it has served to fund 41 grants positively impacting thousands of students over the years, in every school; delivering innovative projects spanning academic, athletic and musical pursuits. With all of this said, the Foundation is currently looking to expand how we

engage within the community and school system. We are at a pivotal part of the Foundation's existence, in which, we have the opportunity to think outside of box and redesign our fundraising and grant efforts. To do this, we are actively working on building our governing board to strengthen our ability to make the Foundation's future strong; further ensuring a great partnership between the community and schools. We currently have several openings available for new Board and Committee members and are looking for impassioned individuals to share their expertise in our endeavor to make a difference for the students our schools serve.

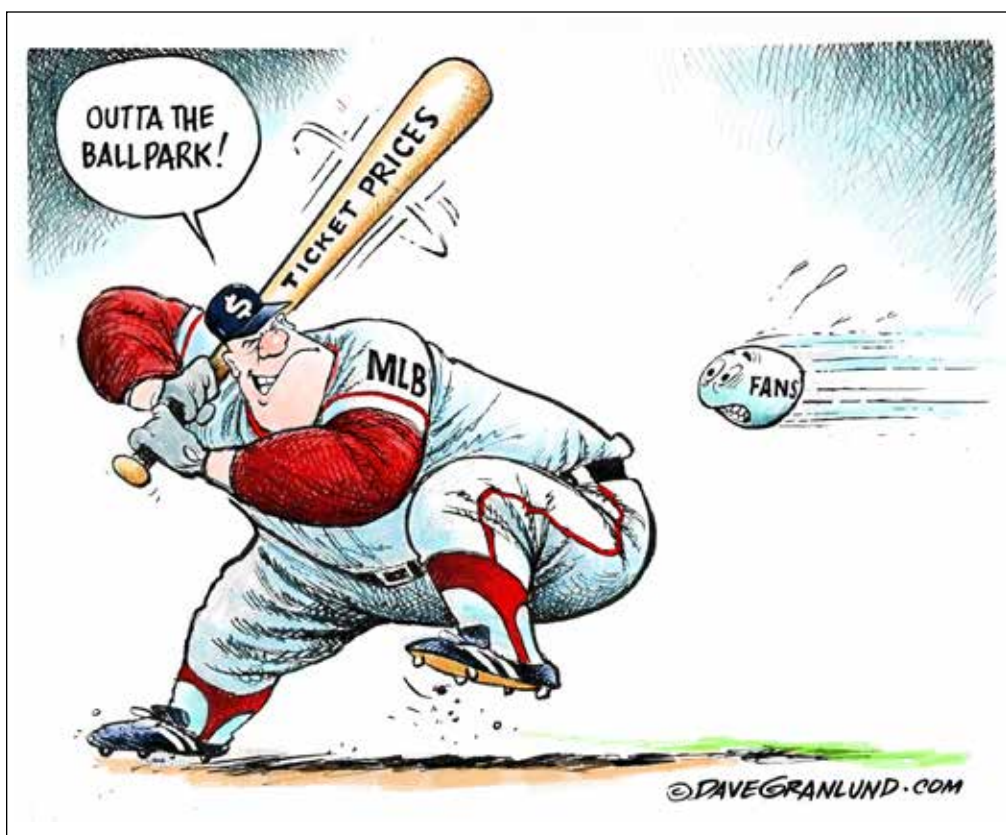
We extend an open invitation, to anyone who may be interested in learning more, to attend one of our upcoming Board meetings, or to talk to a Board member directly about their interest in joining. Our ability to make a difference is based on having many different personalities, expertise, and experiences making up our Governing Board; therefore, it is our hope that any community member, with ties to Belchertown, is willing to lend their voice to strengthen our mission.

If interested, please contact us at [info@BelchertownEducationFoundation.org](mailto:info@BelchertownEducationFoundation.org)

With Gratitude,

Steven Opalenik,  
MHC  
Belchertown

WE ♥ OUR READERS



## Germination tests give way to garden experiments

Although the temperatures did not cooperate this past week, I have to say that spring vibes are all around me.

I saw my first blooming crocus, and even some early daffodils. The phoebe bird that makes a nest above our porch door is back, and hanging around, much to my husband's dismay!

My pepper plants are almost in need of transplanting from their seed pack, and the tomato seeds I planted last weekend sprouted in under a week. It is all so exciting! I don't think that I will ever not be amazed at the miracle of it all.

The other day I was going through my seed stash and I found two year old seeds of Loofah Gourd, Mini Popcorn, Mouse Melon and a variety of "climbing" Zucchini all of which I never planted. These purchases were "impulse buys" I guess you'd call it. I bought them but when it came time to actually plant them, I decided that my garden square footage was too precious to waste on frivolity.

But here we are and my frugal nature shines through once more. Since I bought them I might as well try and plant them; maybe one will end up being a new favorite.

But alas, does one risk planting two year old seed? What if the seeds don't germinate? Partaking in germination testing gave me a chance to get my hands in the soil, (albeit indoors) and the outcome will help me determine how much I should "over-plant" or if that will even be necessary.

Wasting a few seeds now will save time later on.

First up, the Loofah Gourd. I planted four seeds as a trial and three popped up! That means I will be adding this to my garden come springtime.

Grow it like you would any other gourd or squash. It loves fertile soil, heat and a strong support.

When loofahs were first popular, I was a young adult and still living at home.

Growing them was a project for my parents and I.

Before the first frost we harvested the fat, wrinkly looking cucumbers and



allowed them to dry before peeling off the rind. What was left was fibrous matter, looking already very much like a scrubby sponge. It was a fun experiment then and it will be reminiscent to repeat it.

Next comes the Mini Colored Popcorn. This was the first to sprout in my germination test pack with five of the six seeds popping up.

I have never had extra space to grow corn, but I thought it would be fun to try these for both decoration and food. I am going to start them ahead of time, indoors in six packs and plant them out around the three week mark.

They will be spaced about a foot apart in rows about two and a half feet apart. Corn likes fertile soil, so I will amend the soil well with aged compost.

This type of corn will dry right on the plant, until the husks are brown. Then the ears will be harvested, shucked and dried some more. I have seen people remove the kernels first by using a blunt instrument such as the back of a spoon to start the kernels moving, then it looks somewhat easy to get the rest to push off.

Another fun thing to try, just to say I did it.

If you are growing sweet corn in your garden be sure to time these apart from one another, so that cross pollination won't taint the taste of your sweet corn.

I was really hoping that the climbing zucchini would sprout in my test pack. It took a bit, but they finally

did and therefore they will be added to my garden this spring.

This variety, known as "Incredible Escalator" has a vertical habit. Funny enough, there are all sorts of videos online about training zukes to grow upright, but this variety seems particularly suited to upward nobility.

Zucchini are not true "twining" plants, however, so they will need to be tied to a strong trellis or stake to maintain their vertical nature. Because the plant is off the ground, there appears to be improved disease resistance, too.

Stay tuned as to whether this zucchini lives up to the hype in terms of productivity and increased vigor.

Last on my list is Mouse Melon. I saw these for the very first time at the Hardwick Fair in 2022, hence my purchase. Also known as Mexican Sour Gherkin, these fruits grow to about the size of a grape, but taste somewhere between a cucumber and a watermelon, growing more sour as they mature.

The seeds were tiny, not what I expected at all and only half of what I planted came up, so I will definitely be sowing double the normal rate. The vine grows long - upwards of 10 feet, so be sure to trellis to make the best use of space.

I know little more than you do about this one, but I can't wait to try it out. Will it remain a curiosity or will Mouse Melon become a regular? Will any of these?

We'll have to wait to find out!

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](mailto:pouimette@turley.com) with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.

simple. One spouse may be eligible for additional benefits from the other, but only if that spouse's personal Social Security retirement benefit at their Full Retirement Age is less than half (50%) of the other spouse's FRA entitlement. Note that for spouse benefits, FRA amounts are used regardless of when you actually claim benefits. Full retirement age for both you and your wife is 66, so that means that if you both claimed at 62 your FRA entitlements were higher about 25% more than you are both currently receiving.

Please see SSI, 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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## Can my wife and I get spouse benefits from each other?

Dear Rusty:

My wife and I are currently collecting Social Security.

We both started receiving SS at 62 years old. That said, we get by on a tight budget. A retired friend told us about an option which allows a spouse to collect half of the other spouse's SS monthly

income. My question has two parts: Can we both collect on each other's SS? And Are there any pitfalls?

Signed: Seeking an Increase

Dear Seeking:

Well, I'm afraid spousal benefits aren't quite that

**MAGIC** from page 1

get to know each other and feel comfortable joining in on games,” said Children’s Director Jennifer Whitehead. “We have enjoyed seeing parents/caregivers wanting to learn so they can play at home with their kids.”

Skyeler Whitehead and his girlfriend, Trinity Gilles, both work with children, and Skyeler has taught some of the kids who attend the school he works at how to play the game.

“I really like the creativity behind it,” Skyeler Whitehead said. “You can create a deck that no one else has seen or thought of before, and it all comes right from your own interests, personality, and more.”

“There’s so many different ways to strategize and create something of your own to play with, and all the different combinations of powers and characters are so fun,” said Trinity Gilles.

The cards in the game feature characters of all kinds, including some from popular medias and series like Marvel, Lord of the Rings, Star Wars, Disney, Sponge Bob, and so much more.

There are more than 27,000 unique cards printed over the years, and each card can range in rarity and price, some cards selling for thousands, and other for just a few quarters.

The game is flexible and



**The West Family, Logan, Jassen, and Alison having some fun family bonding time with their favorite game.**

TURLEY PHOTOS BY EMILY-ROSE PAPPAS

can be played by the people how they want, whether for fun or competitively, the roll of the dice and the cards chosen help move the characters to battle.

“I really love this game, especially for the kids, because it involves a lot of reading and math, and thinking about your choices,” said Skyeler Whitehead. “It is a lot better than seeing the

kids just sit around on video games, too.”

While everyone usually brings their own mats, cards, and dice, the library received a donation of sets from the store X-9 at the Hampshire Mall to be used if you don’t have your own sets yet.

“We really wanted to have a group of our own, so its really exciting to see how many people are enjoying

this group,” said Gilles.

Dozens of people have come together to take part in this game, and many have found it as a way for family bonding time, and others as a way to play a game they have loved for years, or for some to find something new to enjoy.

“I think it varies depending on the player. Some are really enjoying sharing their love for the game that they have been playing for many years and finding a new group to start playing again,” said Jennifer Whitehead. “Others are newer to the game and enjoy the support and the excitement of learning about something new to them.”

You can find the group at the library next on Saturday, April 19 from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. after the spring book sale is over.

Whether you are a stranger to the game or not, head over to the library to enjoy some time with new friends, test your wits, and step into a new world of creative wonder.



**Matt DiBona with Trinity Gilles and Skyelar Whitehead, engage in a matchup/**

**SSI** from page 6

Since you applied for benefits some time ago at about the same age, one way to estimate if one of you may be entitled to an additional amount as a spouse is to evaluate your current monthly amounts. If either of you are getting a benefit which is less than half of the other’s amount, it’s possible that the one with the lower benefit may be entitled to more as a spouse. And note, only one spouse is eligible for benefits; you cannot both get spouse

benefits from each other.

Another way to explore this is for the spouse with the lowest monthly Social Security benefit to contact Social Security at 1-800-772-1213 to ask if spouse benefits are available. Noting that contacting SS these days can be a time-consuming process. Another way is for you to provide us (the AMAC Foundation’s SS Advisory Service) with both of your current monthly SS benefit amounts before any deductions and the exact ages when each of you claimed. Using

that information, we can do the math to see if either of you might be entitled to more as a spouse.

But, in the end, only the spouse with the lower benefit may be eligible and then, only if their FRA entitlement (not their actual current amount) is less than 50% of the other spouse’s FRA entitlement.

*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 amac-foundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory or email us at ssadvisor@amac-foundation.org. Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.*

**Garden plots still available at the Community Garden**

BELCHERTOWN— Individual, fully prepared, 300 square foot garden plots are still available to all Belchertown and surrounding area residents at Lampson Brook Farm, located at 275 Jackson Street, Belchertown. Residents can obtain a plot for \$30 (non-residents \$35) for the season, Mid-May through October. Those receiving SNAP benefits are welcome to garden at half price. The garden fee includes compost, the use of shared tools in a well-organized tool

shed, convenient access to water, a restroom, and parking. The companionship and wisdom of your gardening neighbors are free! Members of the Community Garden also contribute several hours of their time during the season to maintaining the common areas. A limited number of plots are available-so don’t delay.

To receive a 2025 registration form, email BCGardenNews@gmail.com. Applications must be received by April 7.

**Clapp Memorial Library April events**

BELCHERTOWN—The Clapp Memorial Library is one of Belchertown’s greatest community resources for all ages. Here are some of the exciting programs coming up in April. Stop in at 19 S Main Street or go to clapplibrary.org to see what’s new or to register for a program. See you at the library!

- The library is open:
- Monday 9:30 a.m.-6 p.m.
- Tuesday 9:30 a.m.-7 p.m.
- Wednesday 9:30 a.m.-7 p.m.
- Thursday 9:30 a.m.-7 p.m.
- Friday 9:30 a.m.-6 p.m.
- Saturday 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m.

**UPCOMING PROGRAMS FOR ALL AGES:**

**BHS Artists’ Exhibit Reception**  
Tuesday, April 8, 6 to 7 p.m.

The public is invited to the Clapp Memorial Library on Tuesday, April 8 from 6 to 7 p.m. for an Art Exhibit Reception for Elizabeth Teixeira’s Studio 3, Studio 4, and Honors Classes. The reception will celebrate the young artists’ work, which will be on display in the library throughout the month of April. Light refreshments will be provided.

**UPCOMING PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS:**

**What “YA” Reading Book Group Meeting**  
Thursday, April 3, 7 p.m.  
The library’s What “YA” Readin’? Book Group, a group for adults who read Young Adult books, will meet to discuss The Boy Lost in the Maze by Joseph Coelho. Copies of the book

are available for checkout at the circulation desk. New members are welcome!

**Intro to Gardening**  
Monday, April 7, 6 p.m.

Would you like to start a garden but not sure where to begin? This introductory class is for you! Lindsey of Oak & Ash Farm will walk you the basics: everything from soil health, the best style garden for your property, and how to get the most out of a small space. Companionship planting, starts vs. seeds, and mulching will all be covered. The first 15 people who sign up will receive Provider Bean seeds from the Common Seed Project. You must be present at the program to participate. Please register through our website at clapplibrary.org/events. This program is funded by the Friends of the Clapp Memorial Library.

**UPCOMING PROGRAMS FOR TEENS:**

**Teens: Free Food Friday**  
Friday, April 11, to 3:30 p.m.

Teens are invited to the library after school on the second Friday of the month for free snacks as they visit and use the library! Students must be in grades 7-12 and arrive between 2:00-3:30 p.m. for a free snack, courtesy of the library, as supplies last.

**Visit us on the web**  
[www.turley.com](http://www.turley.com)

**In this month’s online issue:**

*Upcoming Events and happenings in the Quabbin Health District!*



**NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH WEEK**

For the full issue visit:



April 2025

**Quabbin Health District Public Health Nurse Newsletter**

Kirsten L Krieger RN, BSN  
Public Health Nurse

Andrea Crete MPH, RS,  
Director of Public Health

Email:  
[kkrieger@towofware.com](mailto:kkrieger@towofware.com)

Online:  
[www.quabbinhealthdistrict.com](http://www.quabbinhealthdistrict.com)

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**GRANBY**

# Granby Democrats to Elect State Convention Delegates on April 5

GRANBY—Democrats in Granby will convene in-person on Saturday, April 5 to elect 4 delegates and 4 alternates to represent our town at the 2025 Massachusetts Democratic State Convention. The caucus, which is hosted by the Granby Democratic Town Committee, will take place at the Granby Free Public Library, 297 E State St., Granby, MA.

The library is handicapped accessible. Caucus sign-in opens at 10:30 a.m. and the caucus will start at 10:45 a.m.

Registered and pre-registered Democrats in Granby who are 16 years old by

April 5, 2025 may vote and be elected as delegates or alternates during the caucus.

Qualified Democrats who are unable to attend the caucus in person may apply in advance to be nominated for delegate and alternate slots in the event there are not sufficient nominations among those present at the caucus. To apply, email: susan.knightly@gmail.com.

Opportunities are available for youth (ages 16 to 35), people with disabilities, people of color, and members of the LGBTQ+ community not elected as delegates or alternates to apply to the State Democratic Committee to be add-on delegates.

The 2025 Democratic State Convention will be held in-person on Saturday, Sept. 13, 2025, at the MassMutual Center in Springfield. This year, delegates will gather to discuss and decide our Party's Platform.

Convention and delegate information is available at: <https://massdems.org/massdems-convention/>.

For more information or to get involved with the Granby Mass Democratic Town Committee, visit our Facebook page or call Susie Knightly, Chair at 347-558-5244. Massachusetts voters may register to vote or check registration online at [www.RegisterToVoteMA.com](http://www.RegisterToVoteMA.com).

# Clerk reminders for the town of Granby

GRANBY — LAST CHANCE NOMINATION PAPERS: Any person interested in seeking elected office in Granby must take out nomination papers from the town clerk no later than Thursday, March 27th to be placed on the Monday, May 19th ballot.

Please check out our website at [www.granby-ma.gov](http://www.granby-ma.gov) for all the positions that will be on this year's Annual Town Election ballot.

### Vote-By-Mail Applications:

If you wish to be able to Vote -By-Mail for the May 19, 2025, Town Election you MUST request a "Vote-By-Mail" application.

You can go to the Town Website and download the form, or pick the forms up at the Granby Post Office, COA Building, Granby Public Library, or stop in the Town Clerk's office and file the application in person.

You may return the application by email to [townclerk@granby-ma.gov](mailto:townclerk@granby-ma.gov) or by mail to Town Clerk, 215 B West State St., or stop in person.

Avoid a Fine and license Dogs on Time! March and April are the months to license (bylaws of the Town of Granby CH XIV). The cost is \$6 for spayed or neutered, senior dogs over 10 years, and puppies under 12 months, all others the cost is \$15. To avoid a \$25 late charge fee dogs should be licensed by May 1.

If you wish you may get a license by mail. Please include a copy of the rabies vaccination or call the clerk's office for verification, a self-addressed envelope with Two stamps, a check made payable to the

Town of Granby, and mail to Town Clerk, 215 B West State Street Granby, MA

To Note: All residents who licensed their dogs through the Town Census should have received their dog tags. If you did not receive your dog tag, call the clerk's office.

### Confirmation Notices on the 2025 Town Census:

Confirmation notices will be mailed out at the end of March to all those voters who did not answer their Town Census as required by MA General Laws Ch 51, Sec 4. Therefore, all voters who receive this postcard are now designated as "Inactive" on the Granby Voting List.

To "Activate" your Voting Status please mail back this postcard, and if you did not receive an Annual Town Census or would like to check on your voting status, please call the town clerk's office for verification.

Participate: A Special Town Meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 8 at the East Meadow School in the gymnasium at 7 p.m.

### Town Meeting Instructions

Tuesday, April 8

All residents participating must be registered voters.

Eligible voters will receive a card when checking in, you may check in at any station. The doors will open at 6:15 p.m. for check-in.

Please park between the two schools near the softball fields.

You may view the warrant for this meeting at the following public buildings: Town Hall Annex, at 215 B West State St, Select

Board's office at the COA Building at 10 West State St, Granby Post Office, Public Library, Public Safety Complex, Florence Bank, and Polish National Credit Union, and the Town Website.

### Voter Registration: Last Day to Register for the Special Town Meeting

If you are Not a registered voter and wish to participate in this STM the last day to register to vote for this STM is Saturday, March 29, 2025.

You may register anytime during regular office hours in the Town Clerks office, you may also pick up mail in voter registration forms at the Granby Post Office or the Public Library, or register on-line with a valid MA Driver's License or Mass ID by going to our town website [www.granby-ma.gov](http://www.granby-ma.gov) under Town Clerk Department -voter registration.

The mail in forms must be post marked by the 29th of March to be eligible to participate in this Special Town Meeting.

South Hadley and Granby Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day, Saturday, May 17, 2025, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Location: South Hadley Department of Public Works, 10 Industrial Dr.

Pre-registration required begins on April 1, 2025

Granby residents: Please call the Board of Health at 413-467-7174 or email at [bh@granby-ma.gov](mailto:bh@granby-ma.gov)

Any questions or concerns can be directed to Kathy Kelly-Regan at the Granby Town Hall, 467-7178.

# COLLEGE NEWS

## Residents named to Simmons University Dean's List

BOSTON—The following local residents have been named to the 2024 fall semester dean's list at Simmons University in Boston.

- Simone Robinson, Belchertown
- Skyler Cohen, Bernardston
- Ella DeSilva-Beal, Shutesbury

To qualify for dean's list status, undergraduate students must obtain a grade point average of 3.5 or higher, based on 12 or more credit hours of work in classes using the letter grade system.

## Calinescu elected to membership into the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi

BATON ROUGE, LA - Cosima Calinescu of Amherst, Massachusetts, was recently elected to membership into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, the nation's oldest and most selective all-discipline collegiate honor society, at University of Massachusetts.

Calinescu is among approximately 20,000 students, faculty, professional staff and alumni to be initiated into Phi Kappa Phi each year. Membership is by invitation only and requires nomination and approval by a chapter. Only the top 10 percent of seniors and 7.5 percent of juniors are eligible for membership. Graduate students in the top 10 percent of the number of candidates for graduate degrees may also qualify, as do faculty, professional staff and alumni who have achieved scholarly distinction.

## Knitting event at GPL

GRANBY—Knit So As To Turn Water at Granby Public Library at 11 a.m. on Saturday, April 26.

The History of New England's Maritime knitting presented by Rebecca Bayreuther Donohue.

Please call the Library at 413-467-3320 to register for this event.



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## BUDGET from page 1

tracted pay increases.

The proposed budget for FY26 is less than the level services from FY25, and the current proposal for navigating this shortfall is in a reduction in services for the community.

Over the last two years, there have already been several cuts and reductions, from classes to positions of staff.

This year, for the initial FY26 deficit, in total, is \$1,486,945. This is because of an increase in costs for Special Education, an increase in out of district placements, and transportation. Granby is also a minimum aid district, and there

has also been a large impact from inflation.

Last year, the state gave \$48,075 in aid, and it was not enough to help support the GPS as special education costs grew by almost \$1 million.

"Transportation has really risen tremendously in the last several years," said Tisdell.

Transportation includes special education, yellow school, bus, out of district students, and some homeless students.

About 70% of the budget goes directly to the schools between East Meadow, GJSHS, and Special Education, the remainder divided between transportation, technology, nursing, maintenance and facilities,

athletics, and the district.

For the past three years, town leadership has voted in favor to give the schools \$600,000, which must be approved at Town Meeting.

To further address the nearly \$4 million increase, they have also made cuts and reductions in approximately \$552,654, with a remaining deficit of \$335,610.

"On top of the \$600,000 (from the town) and the \$500,000 we already established, this is what we did," said Tisdell.

The reductions included the cutting of 2.5 full time employees, funding for professional development, reduce supplies, materials, and textbook lines, eliminate some stipends available

to staff, Category 2 funding for technology, contracted services related to Special Education, lines related to technology repairs and services, and the custodial supply lines.

After all of these cuts and the additional \$600,000 from the town, there is still a deficit of \$335,610, which they will then ask the town to see if they can cover this remaining deficit.

### Questions and Concerns

The committee then addressed those gathered at the meeting to encourage them to come forward and share their questions and comments about the budget.

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Grayden Kendall moves the ball around the offensive end of the field.

## Orioles get leg up on Rams in opener

**SOUTH HADLEY** – Last Friday evening, the Belchertown High School boys lacrosse team opened up the regular season with a matchup against neighboring rival Granby, which now has a co-op program with Pioneer Valley Chinese Immersion Charter School. The Orioles got their season off to a great start with 14-4 win over the Rams. The game was held at South Hadley High School's turf, which Granby lacrosse has been using for some night games the past few years.



Stewart Szlosek makes sure he has possession.



Adam O'Rourke is ready to attack.



Daniel Brown starts to hustle up the field.



Tristan Moe gets ready to clear the ball out of the defensive end.



Will Mitus sends a long pass up the field.



Riley Goodhind is in position to shoot.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM  
Thomas Normandeau makes his way up the field.



Abby Almeida makes a catch in the outfield.



Natalie Rose makes the two-handed catch.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

## Quabbin League holding open practice

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

The league is looking for at least six more players to sign up to play in the league this year. Coming up this Sunday, April 6, practice will be held at Beachgrounds Park in South Hadley and are weather-permitting. Both practices will begin at 10 a.m. and following the April 6 practice, new players will be drafted to teams in the league as the league works to fill its open roster spots.

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

## Pathfinder baseball gears up for regular season



The Pioneers run through drills.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

**PALMER** – The Pathfinder baseball team worked out last week in order to get ready for the regular season. The Pioneers were scheduled

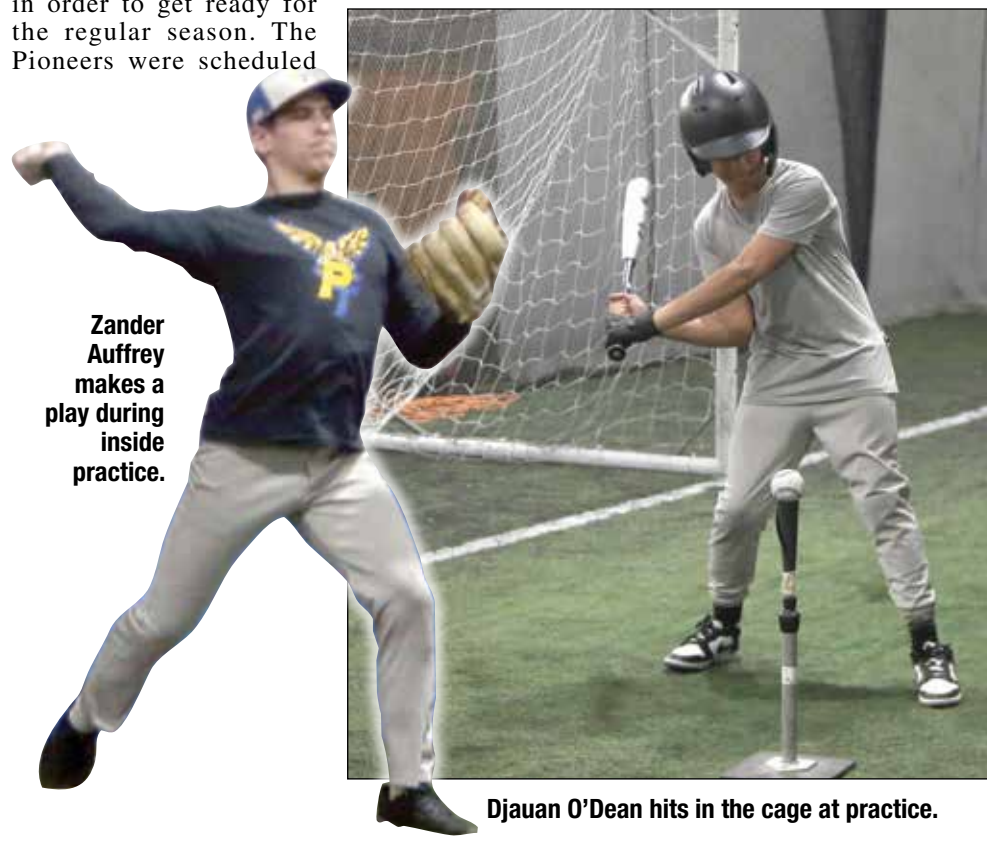
to get going on Monday. The Pioneers next game is at Smith Vocational on Thursday, April 3 at 4 p.m.

## Belchertown softball readies for season

**BELCHERTOWN** – Last week, the cold temperatures did not prevent Belchertown softball from getting outside to prepare for the regular season. The Orioles had just one game schedule to open the regular season. They were scheduled to face Monson on March 31. Coming up, the Orioles are on the road at Commerce on April 7 at 4 p.m.



Mya Couse makes a throw.



Zander Auffrey makes a play during inside practice.

Djauan O'Dean hits in the cage at practice.

## ■ PUBLIC SAFETY

### Belchertown Police Log

*Editor's note: The following are brief explanations of select entries in the Belchertown Police log and arrests for the weeks of March 20 through March 26. The information was provided by a member of the police department based on the review of the detailed log summary. This feature is designed to provide context and explanation to some of the calls police respond to every day.*

#### ARRESTS/SUMMONS

##### Friday, March 21

4:53 p.m. – A juvenile female summons to court for assault and battery. An officer responded to Stadler Street for a report of assault between two juveniles.

#### ACCIDENTS/INCIDENTS

##### Thursday, March 20

8:23 a.m. – An officer responded to assist Belchertown Fire and paramedics.

9:15 a.m. – An officer responded to a North Main Street residence speak with person about vandalism to vehicle back windshield was shattered. A logo was taken off the vehicle checked area and didn't find any other damage. The officers were going to follow up with people in the area.

1:38 p.m. – An officer responded to an accident on North Main Street. Two vehicles traveling south on North Main Street stopped in traffic and the second vehicle rear ended the first. No injuries were reported, and no tow was needed.

##### Saturday, March 22

11:50 a.m. – An officer responded to assist Belchertown Fire and paramedics.

##### Sunday, March 23

6:30 a.m. – Officers

responded to assist Belchertown Fire and paramedics.

8:37 a.m. – An officer took a report of vandalism. An officer responded to a North Washington Street residence for a report of vandalism to a vehicle parked in the driveway. The vehicle had a shattered rear windshield. The person said they were involved in road rage incident in the last evening. The involved vehicle stopped and observed the reporting person stopping in the driveway and went into the residence. The next morning, they found the damage. The suspected person was identified and didn't have a BB gun or other object.

##### Monday, March 24

2:49 a.m. – An officer responded to an accident on Jackson Street. A vehicle traveling east on Jackson Street when deer ran out in front of the vehicle. The vehicle struck the deer. No injuries were reported and no tows.

3:35 a.m. – An officer investigated text messages involving a juvenile.

12:50 p.m. – An officer assisted a person who reported their registration plate from their vehicle was missing. They got into a past accident and exchanged information, and the front registration plate was missing. It's unknown if it was taken from someone else or if it just fell off the vehicle.

7:25 p.m. – An officer to state street for a disabled motor vehicle. They wanted the vehicle towed to their residence. A tow company was called.

##### Tuesday, March 25

Facebook post  
11:50 a.m. – An officer conducted a wellbeing check.

##### Wednesday, March 26

10:02 a.m. – An officer responded to assist a person getting possession from a residence as the residents are going through a separation.

### Granby Police Log

*Editor's Note: The Granby Police Department responded to 115 calls for the week of March 21 through March 27. Those arrested are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law. The Granby Police Department provides all information.*

#### Friday, March 22

6:18 a.m. – A motorist reported a two-car accident. Granby Police and Fire responded. There were no injuries.

1:27 p.m. – A motorist reported that their brakes failed, and they struck a pole. Officers reported that they struck a pillar to the building. The building inspector responded and reported that the damage is cosmetic only.

#### Sunday, March 23

3:31 a.m. – While on patrol, an officer observed a vehicle traveling at a high rate of speed. Radar confirmed that the vehicle was traveling 65MPH in a posted 40MPH zone. The vehicle was stopped, and it was discovered that the operator had a suspended MA driver's license. The operator was issued a criminal citation for speeding and operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license.

2:54 p.m. – Several callers reported a structure fire (garage fire). Granby Fire and police responded. The road was closed for while the fire department was working. Granby Fire was assisted by South Hadley Fire, Belchertown Fire, Hadley Fire, and Westover Fire. The fire was extinguished, and no one was injured.

#### Wednesday, March 26

1:59 p.m. – A motorist came to the station to report they were turning onto Amherst St. when a tractor trailer struck their vehicle and did not stop.

## Granby man held pending dangerousness hearing

### Victims reported being threatened with a weapon

BELCHERTOWN – A Granby man was ordered held pending a dangerousness hearing after he was arrested on seven charges, including two counts of threatening to commit murder in connection with a weekend incident in Granby.

Matthew R. Tarczynski, 43, pleaded not guilty today in the Eastern Hampshire District Court before Judge William Rooney to 2 counts each of threatening to commit murder and assault with a dangerous weapon; one count of assault to intimidate, which is a civil rights violation; and single counts of trafficking in cocaine and possession of a class C drug with intent to distribute.

The charges stem from an incident on March 29, when Tarczynski allegedly threatened with what appeared to be a gun two individuals who had been napping in a car in the parking lot of the apartment complex where he lived on New Ludlow Road in Granby. He called one of them a racial epithet during the incident, which led to the civil rights violation.

The victims in the car called 911 and subsequently went to the police station, where they reported the incident and showed police a cell phone video they had taken during the encounter.

After police arrested Tarczynski on the threats and assault charges, they sought and executed a search warrant for his apartment which turned up drugs and two BB pistols, leading to the additional charges.

At the request of Northwestern Assistant District Attorney Rachel Lauder, Judge Rooney ordered Tarczynski held without bail pending a dangerousness hearing scheduled for April 3.

Tarczynski is being represented by defense attorney Robert LaFlamme.

The Granby Police Department, State Police troopers attached to the Northwestern District Attorney's Office, and members from the Northwestern District Attorney's Anti-Crime Task Force assisted in the investigation.

Criminal charges are based on probable cause to believe a person has committed a crime.

All defendants are presumed innocent unless proven guilty in court.

## Tag Sale participants wanted

BELCHERTOWN—The Stone House Museum will be hosting its annual "Opening Day" festivities on Saturday, May 10th from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The museum will be open for free tours and our famous "Old Bag Sale and Plant Sale" will be happening on the museum grounds. You are welcome to participate by renting a 10'x10' space on the grounds to sell your treasures. Please contact Denise Smith at dsmith39@charter.net to reserve your space or if you have any questions.

## Pack 507 bottle and can drive

BELCHERTOWN—The Cub Scouts Pack 507 is having a bottle and can drive on April 5.

Bring your returnable cans, bottles and if available the box flats to hold them.

The items will be accepted from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Pride Station on 165 State St., Belchertown. Email questions to belchertowncubscouts507@gmail.com.

## Belchertown encourages residents to sign up for emergency notification system

BELCHERTOWN—The Town of Belchertown is encouraging all residents to sign up for its Emergency Notification System to stay informed and prepared during emergencies and important town updates.

This system allows the Town to quickly distribute urgent information such as severe weather alerts, road closures, and public safety notices. Residents can

choose to receive notifications via phone call, text message, or email—whatever works best for them.



"Emergency communications are a top priority for the Town," said Kate Nadeau, Communications

Manager. "We want every resident to have direct access to accurate, timely information during critical situations. Signing up ensures you won't miss important updates that help keep you

and your family safe."

Registration is free, simple, and only takes a few minutes. Residents can scan the QR code or visit <https://accountportal.onsolve.net/belchertownalerts/contact>. All residents, business owners, and community members are encouraged to sign up. Stay connected. Stay informed. Stay safe.

For more information, contact the Town of Belchertown or visit [www.belchertown.org](http://www.belchertown.org)

## Pet supply and gift tag sale

BELCHERTOWN—Belchertown Animal Control will hold its spring fundraising Pet Supply and Gifts Tag Sale on Saturday, April 12 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the shelter - 165 George Hannum Street. Items will also be available on Sunday from 10 a.m. to noon.

There will be lots of beds, leashes, scratch posts, collars, harnesses, bowls, water fountains, brushes, sweaters, food, treats, carriers, litter boxes, litter, toys, stairs, ramps, etc. and many one of a kind items. Some items are new and some are gently used, but all will be priced to sell at least half off the retail price. Items have been washed, cleaned, repaired and are ready to use.

Tag sale items are items donated by community members and friends and not currently needed at the shelter. All money raised from these items benefits



the ACO Gift Fund which helps shelter and community pets with extra needs such as surgery or prescriptions.



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# Spring CARE CARE & DRIVING



## Vehicle maintenance schedule improves function



Listed are some mileage-based guidelines related to vehicle maintenance.

Modern vehicles have surpassed their predecessors thanks to innovations that make driving and maintenance safer, easier and more convenient. In spite of the most impressive advancements, vehicle ownership still requires that drivers maintain their cars and trucks so they perform as designed. Such upkeep also helps to improve safety and save people money by heading off more costly repairs. Following a recommended maintenance schedule can ensure vehicles function properly. Below are some mileage-based guidelines related to vehicle maintenance.

• **Every 3,000 miles:** This is a good time to check up on all fluids in the car to be sure the levels are where they

should be. These include coolant, brake fluid, windshield washer fluid, and engine oil, among others.

• **Every 5,000 miles:** Change the vehicle's oil and fuel filter if using conventional oil. Vehicles using synthetic oil may be able to go further between changes. Many vehicles will use an internal computer system to alert when it is time to change the oil. This may be a good time to also change the cabin and engine air filters. Look under the hood and give the battery terminal a check, looking for any corrosion or loose cables.

• **Every 10,000 miles:** It's time to take the car in to have the tires rotated. Rotating the tires at regular intervals

helps avoid uneven wear and tear. The vehicle also may need a tire alignment, especially if drivers notice it is pulling to one side. Brake problems tend to be self-alerting, but drivers also may want to visually inspect brakes at this time just to be sure there isn't too much wear.

• **At 36,000 miles:** New vehicle owners may want to have their vehicles looked over thoroughly before the standard three-year warranty expires. This way they can have any issues corrected before they will cost more to repair.

• **At 50,000 miles+:** Inspect the exhaust, emissions and suspension systems at this time. One also can drain and replace transmission fluid. Tires may be in need of replacement at this time as well.

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# Spring CARE CARE & DRIVING



## How to reduce your risk of being in an auto accident

Driving a car or truck is part of daily life for most people. Commutes to work or school, leisure trips or time spent behind the wheel as part of a profession compel people to drive each and every day. Although most trips to the office or the store are uneventful, the risk that something may go awry is present any time a person gets behind the wheel, and drivers need to plan accordingly.

The National Center for Statistics and Analysis says there were approximately 16,200 automotive accidents per day in the United States in 2022, the most recent year for data. This number has steadily risen over the last decade and may be attributable to a number of factors, including increased vehicle usage. Diamond and Diamond Lawyers in Canada says approximately four Canadians die and 175 are injured in impairment-related crashes every day. Though accidents occur every day, drivers can take steps to reduce their risk of being involved in one.

• **Stick to the speed limit:** Speed limits are posted on roadways for a reason. Exceeding speed limits significantly increases the risk of getting into an ac-



Though accidents occur every day, drivers can take steps to reduce their risk of being involved in one.

cident, and many accidents are directly related to speeding. Slowing down can make roadways safer.

• **Eliminate distractions:** Smartphones, GPS devices, passengers, pets in the car, or anything that causes a person to take his or her eyes off of the road, even for mere seconds, can increase the risk of being in an auto accident. Accident Care and Treatment Center, Inc. says distracted driving is the primary cause of car accidents each year. Smartphones are a modern distraction, and

keeping phones turned off and out of reach can keep drivers safer.

• **Change your perception:** It is important to think of a car or truck as what it truly is: 3,000 pounds or more of fast-moving metal that can cause a lot of damage. Those who do not drive responsibly, or feel they are invincible behind the wheel, could be on a crash course for an auto accident. Treating a vehicle with respect is a must.

• **Leave a space cushion:** Tailgating and aggressive driving maneuvers that do not leave an adequate distance between vehicles can compound the problem of accidents. Travelers insurance company urges drivers to stay at least three seconds behind the vehicle ahead of them, and longer for those driving heavier vehicles. The timing also should be extended when weather conditions are bad. A significant cushion enables drivers to stop safely or maneuver around to avoid an accident.

• **Improve visibility:** A cracked or dirty windshield or dim headlights can diminish visibility. Being able to see and be seen when on the road is a major contributor to accident risk reduction.

• **Brush up on skills:** Newly minted licensed drivers and older drivers may need a driving skills refresher course. Oftentimes learning how to avoid accidents comes down to experience and defensive driving techniques. Those who feel they may need a little extra practice can enroll in a course. An additional upside is that such a course also can help reduce insurance premiums.

• **Know your limitations:** Geico notes the risk of a fatal crash is three times higher at night than in the day for every mile driven. Although it may not be possible to avoid nighttime driving entirely, limiting it, particularly for those who have challenges seeing at night or in dim conditions, can help reduce accident risk. The same can be said for staying off of roads in inclement weather.

• **Don't drive impaired:** Driving while under the influence of drugs (both illegal and prescription), alcohol and/or other substances greatly increases accident risk.

Various strategies can help drivers reduce their risk of being involved in auto accidents.

## Defensive driving benefits your vehicle



By maintaining awareness of one's surroundings, directing focus to the road and preparing to act quickly, drivers can greatly reduce their risk of being involved in accidents.

Defensive driving is a technique and set of skills that is designed to make roadways as safe as possible. Defensive driving teaches drivers how to anticipate potential hazards and respond to them accordingly. By maintaining awareness of one's surroundings, directing focus to the road and preparing to act quickly, drivers can greatly reduce their risk of being involved in accidents.

Although defensive driving is important from a personal safety perspective, it also can be good for vehicles. Here's a look at some of the advantages to driving defensively.

• **Decrease the number of vehicle**

repairs. Driving defensively could help keep a vehicle out of the repair shop. When a person stays focused on the road, he or she can steer clear of debris, potholes and other vehicles that might normally cause damage. If there are no bumps and bruises to a vehicle, a driver will make less frequent trips to a mechanic or auto body shop.

• **Reduce the frequency of maintenance.** Defensive driving can mean driving more smoothly. This can help drivers extend the life expectancy of brakes and tires, saving them money along the way.

• **Reduce fuel consumption.** Driving

steadily and smoothly also can translate into greater fuel economy. This means a driver may not have to fill up at the gas pump as often.

• **Lower auto insurance premiums.** People who drive defensively and get into fewer accidents could be rewarded with lower insurance premiums. Money saved on car insurance could be used to finance vehicle upgrades. Savings also can be repurposed for exterior and interior detailing, helping to retain the value of the vehicle for longer.

Defensive driving offers many benefits to the person behind the wheel and the vehicle itself.




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**OBITUARIES**

**Deborah Ann Banas**

Deborah Ann Banas, a beloved wife, mother, grandmother, sister, aunt and friend, passed away peacefully in her home on March 8, 2025, at the age of 71 in Easthampton, MA. Born on October 24, 1953, in Holyoke, MA.



Deborah is survived by her sister Sandra T. Coty, Belchertown, MA, brother, George (Thomas) Mitchell, Belchertown, MA, brother, Raymond L. Mitchell, Hattiesburg, MS, sister, Sharon E. Allen, Poulsbo, WA and brother, David P. Allen, Belchertown, MA. Son, Timothy Sharrow,

Northampton, MA, granddaughter, Mikayla Sharrow, Easthampton, MA.

Deborah was predeceased by her husband James Banas, Grandmother, Bernice (Peggy) (Forrest) Plante, Grandfather, Eloi (Blackie) Plante, Mother, Shirely A. Harstad, Father, Carlton St. Pierre, Stepfather, John H. Harstad, brother Wayne C. Mitchell, brother Roy J. Allen.

Deborah attended Belchertown High School, UMass, Amherst, MA where she then worked as a Hearing Clerk at the University of

Massachusetts “know as Judge Debbie.” Deborah found joy in cooking, attending the races with her husband Jim, old movies, chatting with friends and family and the love of her puppy dog Spike. Deborah was kind, generous, witty with a sarcastic sense of humor who touched the lives of all who knew her.

Boucher – O’Brien Funeral Home was entrusted with her cremation. A celebration of life will be held at a later date.

In Deborah’s honor, if you wish to donate to one of her favorite organizations, Animal Rescue Fund of the Hamptons: <https://arfhamp-tons.org/>

**Leo D. Girouard Jr., 75**

BELCHERTOWN – Leo D. Girouard Jr., 75 passed away at his home on March 23, 2025. Born in Montague on Nov. 4, 1949, he was the son of Leo Sr. and Thelma (Webster) Girouard. Leo grew up in Holyoke and lived in the Palmer and Belchertown areas for many years. He also spent 15 years in Maine and 11 months in Alaska. His Native American heritage showed in his love of nature. Leo enjoyed hunting, fishing, metal detecting, camping and



traveling cross country. He was also known for his scrap metaling and giving his family and friends a hard time.

Leo will be long remembered by his wife, Janet (Hutchinson) along with his two daughters, Michelle Boucher of Palmer and Christine Girouard of Three Rivers. Papa, as he was lovingly called, will also be forever missed by his two granddaughters, Mya Girouard and Aubrey Boucher as well as

in-laws, Dave and his wife Cyndi Hutchinson, Rob and his wife Amy Hutchinson, Barry and his wife Stella Hutchinson, Sue Hutchinson, and sisters, Yvonne and Anita along with extended family and friends. He was predeceased by his siblings, Kenneth, Victor, Carl and Rose.

Calling hours will be held Friday, April 4 from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Beers & Story Belchertown Funeral Home with remembrances shared by his family at 3:30 p.m. In lieu of flowers, please consider donations to a charity of choice.

**Justin Michael Rosiensi**

It is with profound sadness that we announce the passing of Justin Michael Rosiensi on March 22, 2025, at his home in Belchertown, MA. Born on March 12, 1984, in Springfield, Mass., Justin was a cherished son, brother, husband, father, and friend. He was 41 years old.



Justin grew up in Granby, Mass., he attended Cathedral High School, graduating with the Class of 2002. Known for his intellectual curiosity and desire for knowledge, he pursued higher education at Westfield State College, earning dual Bachelor’s degrees in Environmental Science and Regional Planning. His commitment to learning extended into his professional life, where he formally worked at Eastman Chemical Company in Springfield, Mass.

A dedicated community member, Justin served on the Belchertown Planning Board for six years. He and his wife relocated to Belchertown in 2016, where they lovingly raised their daughter, Hailey.

Justin was a man of diverse interests and a passion for the outdoors. An avid outdoorsman, he loved hunting, fishing, and spending time at his fam-

ily’s cherished lake house in Sebago Lake, Maine. Known also for his enthusiasm for metal detecting, Justin’s hobby as a coin collector reflected his love for discovering history.

He is deeply missed by his beloved wife, Laura Rosiensi, daughter Hailey Rosiensi, and his devoted parents, Gerry and JoAnn (Dion) Rosiensi. He also leaves behind his brother, Evan Rosiensi, and his wife Katelyn and their children Mia and Lexi, along with his maternal grandparents, Andre and Juliette Dion, and in-laws, Marcel and Christine Pouliot. Justin’s memory will be cherished by many aunts, uncles, cousins, and friends.

A celebration of Justin’s life was held on Saturday, March 29, from 6 to 9 p.m. at Tony & Penny’s Restaurant in Ludlow. Friends and family were invited to come together to remember his warmth and vibrant spirit.

In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests donations be made to an education fund established for his daughter, Hailey, forever reflecting Justin’s dedication to education and his daughter’s future. <https://gofund.me/6b76581e>

**DEATH NOTICES**

**Deborah Ann Banas**  
Died March 8, 2025  
Boucher O’Brien  
Funeral Home

**Leo D. Girouard Jr., 75**  
Died March 23, 2025  
Services April 4, 2025  
Beers & Story Belchertown  
Funeral Home

**Justin Michael Rosiensi**  
Died March 22, 2025  
Services March 29, 2025  
Beers & Story Funeral Home

*The Sentinel*  
**OBITUARY  
POLICY**

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$275, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: [obits@turley.com](mailto:obits@turley.com).

*Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.*

**PUBLIC NOTICES**

**Notice of Planning Board Hearing Relative to Proposed Zoning By-law Amendments**

Pursuant to MGL c.40A, §5. The Belchertown Planning Board will hold a public hearing to discuss a proposed amendment to the town’s zoning map. The public hearing will be held both remotely and in person as follows:

**Select Board Meeting Room  
Lawrence Memorial Hall  
2 Jabish Street, Belchertown  
April 22, 2025  
7:05 pm**

Remote access information:  
**From your computer, tablet or smartphone:**  
<https://meet.goto.com/173538941>

**You can also dial in using your phone:**  
United States:  
+1 (408) 650-3123  
**Access Code:** 173-538-941

The subject matter of the proposed amendment is:

To amend Chapter 145, Article II, §145-5, Zoning Map, to change the zoning of a portion of the parcel identified as Map 255 Lot 121 on the town’s assessor maps, from AG-A Primary Agriculture to B2 – General Business, as posted on the town’s web site and on file with the Town Clerk and Planning Department.

The complete text relative to the proposed amendments are available for inspection during regular business hours at the Town Clerk’s office and the Planning Board office and at [masspublicnotices.org](http://masspublicnotices.org) 04/03, 04/10/2025

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Probate and Family Court  
Hampshire Division  
Docket No.  
HS25P0149EA  
Estate of:  
Deborah A Ortensi  
Date of Death: May 1, 2024  
INFORMAL PROBATE  
PUBLICATION NOTICE**

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Ian Ortensi of Sharon, MA.**

**Ian Ortensi of Sharon, MA** has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve **without surety** on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory

and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner. 04/03/2025

**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. HS25P0112EA  
Estate of:  
Edna A. Tetrault  
Date of Death: 08/01/2023  
CITATION ON PETITION  
FOR FORMAL  
ADJUDICATION**

To all interested persons:  
A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Michelle Tetrault 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: **Michelle Tetrault 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 04/16/2025. 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: March 12, 2025

**Mark S. Ames**,  
Register of Probate  
04/03/2025

**NOTICE**

**ERRORS:** Each advertiser is requested to check their advertisement the first time it appears. This paper will not be responsible for more than one corrected insertion, nor will be liable for any error in an advertisement to a greater extent than the cost of the space occupied by the item in the advertisement.

**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.**

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**CROSSWORD**

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9	10					
11					12						13	14	15		
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														65	

- CLUES ACROSS**
- 1. Narrow piece of wood
  - 5. African desert
  - 11. Waxy covering on birds' beaks
  - 12. Sour
  - 16. Infrequent
  - 17. Former AL MVP Vaughn
  - 18. Policemen wear one
  - 19. Out of the question
  - 24. Used to chop
  - 25. Symptoms
  - 26. Not moving
  - 27. Folk singer DiFranco
  - 28. Comedian Armisen
  - 29. Quantitative fact
  - 30. Incline from vertical
  - 31. Scottish musician
  - 33. Rooney and Kate are two
  - 34. Positioned
  - 38. A very short time
  - 39. Tropical American shrubs
  - 40. Yemen capital
  - 43. Spanish municipality
  - 44. Medical professionals
  - 45. Fibrous material
  - 49. Confined condition (abbr.)
  - 50. Without covering
  - 51. "Mad Men" honcho Don
  - 53. Hockey position
  - 54. Taste property
  - 56. Fertile spots in a desert
  - 58. They precede C
  - 59. "Requiem for a Dream" actor Jared
  - 60. Try a criminal case
  - 63. Inland rights organization
  - 64. Spoke
  - 65. Insect repellent
  - 3. Show up
  - 4. Seethed
  - 5. Ancient Greek city
  - 6. Poisonous plant
  - 7. Hello
  - 8. College sports official
  - 9. Monetary unit of Russia
  - 10. Wings
  - 13. Take too much of a substance
  - 14. A citizen of Uganda
  - 15. Most appealing
  - 20. Atomic #18
  - 21. Global investment bank (abbr.)
  - 22. Jewish calendar month
  - 23. Popular sandwich
  - 27. Swiss river
  - 29. Incorrect letters
  - 30. Popular entree
  - 31. Foot (Latin)
  - 32. A driver's license is one form
  - 33. Extinct flightless bird
  - 34. Appetizer
  - 35. After battles
  - 36. It neutralizes alkalis
  - 37. Beverage container
  - 38. Partner to "Pa"
  - 40. Gray American rail
  - 41. Salt of acetic acid
  - 42. Canadian province
  - 44. Dish made with lentils
  - 45. Narrative poem of popular origin
  - 46. For each one
  - 47. Come to terms
  - 48. Test
  - 50. More dishonorable
  - 51. Unit of loudness
  - 52. The Ocean State
  - 54. Monetary unit in Mexico
  - 55. Lying down
  - 57. Thus
  - 61. Where LA is located
  - 62. Western State



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## HELP WANTED

**Light Equipment Operator/Laborer**  
The Granby Highway Department has a 40 hour per week position available for a Light Equipment Operator/Laborer. This position requires the ability to operate various types of machinery, hand tools and equipment (examples include lawnmowers, plows, sanders, asphalt paving equipment). The position is Grade 3 classification. Steps within this grade range from \$18,72-\$24,42 per hour. A valid Massachusetts class A or B CDL driver's license is required. Special consideration will be given to candidates who possess the higher license class, or additional licenses and/or relevant construction experience that would be determined to be beneficial to the operations of the Highway Department. Please contact the Highway Superintendent at **413-467-7575** at the **Highway Garage (15 Crescent St, Granby MA 01033)** for further information, a copy of the job description and/or an application for employment. Applications will be accepted through May 1, 2025.

**The Town of Huntington is seeking a full-time Chief of Police.** \$75,000 - \$90,000 yearly salary based on qualifications. Application and complete job description are available online at **www.huntingtonma.us** or by emailing **admin@huntingtonma.us**. Deadline to apply is 4/28/2025. Town of Huntington is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

## TOWN OF WILBRAHAM

**Human Resources Coordinator**  
The Town of Wilbraham is looking for an HR Coordinator to join our team. For application and more info, visit **www.wilbraham-ma.gov**. Application deadline 4/11/2025

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or call: 413-283-8393

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**PUBLIC NOTICES**

**Belchertown Conservation Commission LEGAL NOTICE**  
 Pursuant to the authority of the Wetlands Protection Act (M.G.L. Ch. 131, Sec. 40, its Regulations (310 CMR 10.00) and the Belchertown Wetlands Protection Bylaw (Chapter 139), the Belchertown Conservation Commission will hold a public meeting on **Monday, April 14, 2025 at 7:00 PM in the Lawrence Memorial Town Hall Auditorium, located at 2 Jabish Street in Belchertown, MA 01007.** The Commission will review a Request for Determination of Applicability permit application submitted by Linda McCarthy for the proposed reconstruction and expansion of a garage at 8 Knight Street (Map 201-8) in Belchertown. Work is proposed to occur within the 100-foot Buffer Zone to wetland resource areas. Anyone interested in this matter should appear at the time and place designated.  
 04/03/2025

**Belchertown Conservation Commission LEGAL NOTICE**  
 Pursuant to the authority of the Wetlands Protection Act (M.G.L. Ch. 131, Sec. 40, its Regulations (310 CMR 10.00) and the Belchertown Wetlands Protection Bylaw (Chapter 139), the Belchertown Conservation Commission will hold a public meeting on **Monday, April 14, 2025 at 7:00 PM in the Lawrence Memorial Town Hall Auditorium, located at 2 Jabish Street in Belchertown, MA 01007.** The Commission will review a Request for Determination of Applicability permit application submitted by James Broderick for the proposed construction of a garage and fencing at 692 George Hannum Street (Map 241-11) in Belchertown. Work is proposed to occur within the 100-foot Buffer Zone and locally-protected 50-foot No Disturb Zone to wetland resource areas. Anyone interested in this matter should appear at the time and place designated.  
 04/03/2025

**Town of Belchertown**  
 Department of Public Works  
 290 Jackson Street, PO Box 306  
 Belchertown, Massachusetts 01007  
**NOTICE TO BIDDERS FIRE PROTECTION UPGRADE**  
**TOWN OF BELCHERTOWN FIRE STATION**  
 The Town of Belchertown, the Awarding Authority, invites sealed bids for the Fire Protection Upgrade at Belchertown Fire Station, 10 North Main Street, Belchertown, Massachusetts 01007. The work involves the replacement of some piping, of all sprinkler heads, and the extension of the system for the new dormitory space. Estimated construction cost is one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000). DCAMM certification is not required. Bidder selection, procedures and contract awards shall be in conformity with M.G.L. Chapter 149 Section 44A-H. State mandated prevailing wage rates must be paid according to M.G.L. Chapter 149 sections 26-27H. Digital copies of the drawings and specifications may be obtained by emailing requests to the office of Roy S. Brown Architects at 85rsba@gmail.com after Wednesday, April 2, 2025 at 2 pm. A contractor briefing is planned for Friday, April 11, 2025 at 10:00 am. Sealed General Bids will be accepted from eligible bidders at the office of the Town Administrator, Finnerty House, 1 South Main Street, Belchertown, Massachusetts 01007 until **2:00 pm, Monday, April 21, 2025** at which time they shall be publicly opened. A bid security in the form of a bid bond, cash or certified check in the amount of five percent (5%) of the bid price must accompany the bid. The Awarding Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids, should it be deemed in the public interest to do so. Steven J. Williams, Director, Town Administrator  
 04/03/2025

**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. HS25P0139GD  
**In the matter of: Jeanne Lebida**  
**Of: Belchertown, MA RESPONDENT**  
**Alleged Incapacitated Person CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIAN FOR INCAPACITATED PERSON PURSUANT TO G.L. c. 190B, §5-304**  
 To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by **Department of Developmental Serv of Springfield, MA** in the above captioned matter alleging that **Jeanne Lebida** is in need of a Guardian and requesting that **Donna Brown of Palmer, MA** (or some other suitable person) be appointed as Guardian to serve on the bond. The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is incapacitated, that the appointment of a Guardian is necessary, and that the proposed Guardian is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court and may contain a request for certain specific authority. **You have the right to object to this proceeding.** If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 a.m. on the return date of **04/25/2025.** This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date. **IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
**The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make deci-**


**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF FFY 2026-2027 OLDER AMERICANS ACT FUNDING FOR SENIOR NUTRITION SERVICES**  
 Access Care Partners announces the availability of Older Americans Act, Title III-C funds in federal fiscal years 2026-2027. Our Area Agency on Aging is currently encouraging a Letter of Intent for senior nutrition services from the Belchertown Council on Aging. Older Americans Act funds target populations in the greatest social and economic need including older adults with low incomes; racial/ethnic minorities; persons with limited English proficiency; members of the LGBTQ+ community; older adults residing in rural areas; and other populations living in isolated conditions. The Letter of Intent must include the following: Program description, estimated number of unduplicated older adults to be served, number of service units to be delivered (home delivered and congregate meal volume), budget estimate with a breakdown of funding sources, and a brief marketing plan that includes strategies for increasing participation in the meal program. The letter must be received at Access Care Partners no later than 4:00 p.m. on Friday, May 2, 2025. The letter should be addressed to: Access Care Partners (Attn: Sarah Aasheim), 4 Valley Mill Rd., Holyoke, MA 01040. This Request for Proposals does not commit Access Care Partners to award a contract. Any and all grant awards or provider agreements are subject to available funds, compliance with applicable federal and state directives, and review and approval by the Board of Directors at Access Care Partners, Inc. Access Care Partners, Inc. reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, request more information or call for new proposals at any time during the process, and waive any formality in the bidding in the best interest of Access Care Partners, Inc. Bids from Minority Business Enterprises (MBEs), Women Business Enterprises (WBEs), Minority and Women Nonprofit Organizations (M/WNPOs), Veteran Business Enterprises

**Notice of Public Sale**  
 Notice is hereby given that LocalStorage Granby will sell the contents of the storage units listed below at a public auction to satisfy a lien placed on the contents (pursuant to the Massachusetts Lien Law. General Laws Part I, Administration of the Government. Title XV Regulation of Trade Chapter 105A. Self-Service Storage Facility. The sale will take place at the website <http://www.StorageTreasures.com>. The sale will be conducted on <http://www.StorageTreasures.com>, under the guidance of Christopher Rosa (AU005857) on behalf of the facility's management. Units will be available for viewing prior to the sale on <http://www.StorageTreasures.com>. All sales are final. Seller reserves the right to withdraw the property at any time before the sale or to refuse any bids. The property to be sold is described as general household items unless otherwise noted.  
**LocalStorage Granby, 138 W State St, Granby, MA 01033** will list storage units on the website <http://www.StorageTreasures.com> until sold or disposed of on **April 10, 2025, 10:00AM.**  
 #018 Conley, Deborah L: grill, tables, lamp #066 Vincent, Maurice: couch, bike, clothes #076 Gulsha, Heather: washing machine, microwave, clothes #124 Del Rio, Cesar: car parts, car doors, wheel hubs #728 Baldwin, Jessilee: rocking chari, power wheel, shop vac #731 Surrell, Ronald: tires, hand truck, boxes #735 Hamel, Melissa: hutch, books, toys  
 03/27, 04/03/2025

**SALE OF MOTOR VEHICLE**  
 This ad is pursuant to MA Gen. Law Ch.255, Sec. 39A as of April 4, 2025 the following motor vehicle will be for sale to satisfy a garage keepers lien:  
 Vehicle: 2005 Toyota Camry  
 VIN: 4T1BE32K55U540109  
 Color: Silver  
 LKO: Miguel Martinez  
 173 Elm Street, Apt 4RF  
 Holyoke, MA 01040  
 Relentless Towing  
 Belchertown, MA  
 413-530-3804  
 03/20, 03/27, 04/03/2025

**SALE OF MOTOR VEHICLE**  
 This ad is pursuant to MA Gen. Law Ch.255, Sec. 39A as of April 18, 2025 the following motor vehicle will be for sale to satisfy a garage keepers lien:  
 Vehicle: 2006 Ford F-150  
 Vin #: 1FTRF02286KB14023  
 Color: Gray  
 LKO: Timothy Hittle  
 Address: 121 N Main St, Apt J7  
 Belchertown, MA 01007  
 Relentless Towing  
 Belchertown, MA  
 413-530-3804  
 04/03, 04/10, 04/17/2025

**SEE MORE NOTICES ON PAGE 13**



**NEWS & FEATURES**  
 As a paper of record, we attempt to cover all general news, personality profiles, and community features that we know about. This includes all selectmen and school committee meetings as well as spot planning board, board of health, finance, and other town meetings determined by the issue's relevance to our readers. There are the annual major community event features that we should always cover, but we are more than open to suggestions of other features to celebrate the fabric of our communities and their many interesting occupants. Our loyal advertisers provide funding for this paid staff coverage.  
 For more information on news or community features for The Sentinel, please email [sentinel@turley.com](mailto:sentinel@turley.com)  
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- Access archives and digital tear sheets by newspaper title.
- Find a quick link to the state of Massachusetts' public notice web site to search all notices in Massachusetts newspapers.

**Public notice deadlines are Friday at 3 p.m.**

visit [www.publicnotices.turley.com](http://www.publicnotices.turley.com)

**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.

**ROOFING**

**ROBERTS ROOFS CO., INC.** Trusted name since 1982. Commercial, industrial, residential. Specializing in shingles, slate copper work, historical restoration, flat roofing. Snow Removal. Fully licensed. Free estimates. 413-283-4395 [www.robertsroofsinc.com](http://www.robertsroofsinc.com)

**COMPUTERS**

**ALIX & SONS COMPUTER CENTER.** PC/Macs, Laptops, Screen Repairs. New Computer Sales and Accessories, PC Diagnostic Repairs and Upgrades, On Site Work, Home or Office. 40 Daniel Shays Highway. 413-323-1122. John Alix, Owner.

**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**



# Belchertown Senior Center NEWS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday April 18 at 10:30 a.m. for lunch with Blue Skies and Ol' Blue Eyes!

Doors will open at 10:15 a.m. for a performance by Patrick Tobin with his Frank Sinatra Tribute, followed by homemade vegetable lasagna for lunch starting at 11:30 a.m.

Call Stephanie 323-0420 ext 501 starting April 1 at 9 a.m. to make a reservation for this \$5 meal! Please leave a voicemail including your name and the name of one guest.

Thank you to the Belchertown Senior Citizens' Center Association (BSCCA) for sponsoring this event!

## Future Planning Presentation

Join Kate Davignon, Funeral Director and Pre-Need Specialist from Beers & Story Funeral Homes, on Monday, April 14 at 2 p.m. to discuss estate and financial planning, preplanning and funding funeral services, and social security benefits such as Medicare and MassHealth. This program is free to attend! Please call Stephanie to sign up 323-0420 ext 501

## Celebrate National Oatmeal Cookie Day with us!

Join us for lunch on Wednesday April 30 and get a fresh-baked oatmeal cookie for dessert!

Call Kim 323-0420 ext 508 by 2 p.m. on April 29 to sign up.

## Fall Risk Prevention

Wednesday, April 30 at 10 a.m.

Falls are a leading cause of injury and death in the home. Join Allison Mackenzie, RN, Staff Developer from Pioneer Valley Health & Rehabilitation to learn valuable tips to help keep you and your home safe. Call Stephanie 323-0420 ext 501 to sign up.

## Happy Volunteer Appreciation Month to all of our valued Volunteers!

We "DONUT" know what we'd do without you!

Our big event will take place later this year, but we'd love to do a little something extra! If you are a current volunteer, please stop by on Thursday, April 24 from 9 to 11 a.m. for coffee and donuts, so we can say THANK YOU for all you do.

## Savvy Caregiver

Free Class for Caregivers of Individuals with Dementia Wednesdays, April 9 to May 14 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

For most family caregivers, caregiving is a new role, and one for which training is needed-just as you would receive training for any new job. This program helps caregivers better understand the changes their loved ones are experiencing, and how to best provide care for them throughout the progression of Alzheimer's disease or dementia.

This class will be taught by Monica Crespo, BS, BA, Caregiver specialist with Access Care Partners, and Carol Constant, CDP. Call Stephanie 323-0420 ext 501

## BEWARE OF SCAMS

Members of the FBI will be providing a presentation about Fraud trends targeting Seniors. Wednesday, April 16 at the Senior Center at 1 p.m. Keep your personal information safe, and protect yourself from victimization.

## Come out to McCarthy's Pub all day

Thursday, April 10 for an enjoyable meal, and the Pub will donate 10% of all food sales to the BSCCA's new van account! There will also be raffles! Corned beef and cabbage is the special of the day, plus all their regular tasty menu items. Hope to see you there!

## Second Best is looking for volunteers!

Duties would include receiving and sorting donations, stocking shelves, and assisting customers as needed.

If interested, visit the store during normal hours, and speak to Liz, the store coordinator

Stop by the Senior Center for a cup of coffee, use our computers to check email or surf the internet, build a puzzle, play some pool, or visit with friends!

**Ukelele Group:** Every Monday at 12:30 p.m. bring your own ukelele, and play for fun!

**Rainbow Coffee Hour:** 2nd Wednesday of the month at 10 a.m.

**Veterans Social Hour:** 2nd Wednesday of the month at 10 a.m.

**Book Club:** 3rd Monday of the month at 10 a.m.

**Wii Bowling:** Every Friday at 10 a.m.

**Silver Sisterhood:** 1st and 3rd Wednesdays at 10 a.m. starting April 16.

**Wholefood Plant Based Group:** 3rd Thursday of every month at 10 a.m.

**Declutter Group:** 1st Friday of every month at 10 a.m.

**Zendoodle:** Every Thursday at 10 a.m.

**Hand Foot & Elbow:** Mondays at 12 p.m.

**Cribbage Tuesdays** at 10 a.m.

**Mah-Jongg:** Wednesdays at 12:30 p.m.

**Canasta:** Wednesdays at 12:30 p.m.

**Pitch:** Thursdays at 10 a.m.

**Bingo:** Tuesday and Thursday 12 p.m.

## All groups welcoming new participants!

### Sit 'n Stitch

Interested in knitting, crochet, embroidery, cross stitch, or other types of "stitching" crafts? Join this group on Tuesdays and

Fridays at 9 a.m.

Choose to make items for yourself, or donate them to be sold at our annual bazaar!

• Meet with Senator Oliveira's representative on the 1st Thursday of every month at 10:30 a.m.

• Meet with Representative Aaron Saunders on the 3rd Monday of every month at 9 a.m.

## Grief Loss Support Group:

1st Wednesday of every month at 12:30 p.m. sponsored by Beers & Story Funeral Homes

## NEW this month!

Cornhole available outside on the patio every Friday from 12 p.m. to 2 p.m. (weather dependent)

## Exercise Classes

**Yoga Mon., Wed. & Fri.** 9:30 a.m. \$5 per class, paid monthly

**Tai Chi Zoom ONLY** January-March Tues. & Fri. 3 p.m.

## Healthy Bones & Balance - NEW TIMES

Tuesday and Thursday 9:15 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

Suggested Donation \$.50 Email Stephanie at SFraleigh@Belchertown.org or call 323-0420 ext 501 for more information

## Meridian Tapping NEW TIME

Wednesdays at 2 p.m. This is a FREE, 1 hour, drop-in class instructed by Dr. Marianne Reiff

Monday, April 28 from 10 to 11 a.m. visit the Senior Center for TWO important health services! NO advanced sign-up required!

## Hearing Aid Clinic

Meet with Christine Kelley, Au.D. of Florence Hearing Health Care! Have your hearing aids checked and cleaned, and get all your hearing questions answered!

## Nurse "Office Hours"

Kirsten Krieger, RN, BSN, Public Health Nurse, visits our Senior Center on the 4th Monday of every month! Stop in to have your blood pressure or glucose checked.

## Art in the Afternoon

This month, join us every Thursday from 12 p.m.-2 p.m. for an introduction to Watercolor 4-week course!

This is a great introductory course for beginner artists, or those that have been away for a while. Classes will introduce supplies and demonstrate techniques, and participants will use newly learned skills to create beautiful watercolor paintings!

This course will be taught by award-winning artist Nancy Birmingham. Nancy has a BFA in Painting and Printmaking from Mount Allison University, is a board member for the Quabbin Art Association, and is a member of the Marblehead Art Association.

There is a \$5 charge per class, paid directly to the instructor, and all supplies are included (unless you'd prefer to bring your own).

Space is limited, so call Stephanie 323-0420 ext 501 to sign up!

Did you know that the Senior Center has state-of-the-art fitness equipment.

Our exercise room is open Monday - Friday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m., no appointment necessary!

Make sure to sign in, and fill out a yearly exercise liability waiver!

## Wednesday Movies at 12:30 p.m.

Wednesday, April 9 Here 2024 PG-13

A generational story about families, and the special place they inhabit, sharing love, loss, laughter, and life. Starring Tom Hanks, Robin Wright, Paul Bettany, Kelly Reilly

## Wednesday, April 23rd September 5, 2024 R

Oscar Nominated movie, based on true story of the Munich Olympic hostage crisis in 1972, involving Israeli athletes as seen through the eyes of the ABC Sports crew covering the event. Starring Peter Sarsgaard, John Magaro, Ben Chaplin

Community Dining meals are served daily Monday-Friday at 11:30 a.m.

There is a voluntary, confidential, suggested meal donation of \$3 for Age 60+, and a required charge of \$6 for those under 60. Meals tickets can be purchased individually, or you can purchase a punch card for 20 meals. Call Kim 323-0420 ext 508 for more information, or to sign-up or cancel.

## Menu:

April 3: Sweet & Sour Pork  
April 4: Macaroni & Cheese  
April 7: California Chicken  
April 8: American Chop Suey  
April 9: Beef Chili w/Beans  
April 10: Chicken Broccoli Cheese  
April 11: Lasagna  
April 14: Ziti w/Sausage  
April 15: Teriyaki Chicken  
April 16: Stuffed Peppers  
April 17: Chicken Parm  
April 18: Blue Skies Luncheon w/Vegetable Lasagna

## Meals On Wheels: Breaded Pollock

April 21: CLOSED - Holiday - No Meals on Wheels  
April 2: Garlic Chicken  
April 23 Shepherd's Pie  
April 24: Chicken Cordon Bleu  
April 25: Hot Dog  
April 28: Chicken Cacciatore  
April 29: Meatloaf  
April 30: Pork Roast



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