

# Belchertown, Granby & Amherst SENTINEL

YOUR HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER SINCE 1915



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THURSDAY,  
JUNE 1, 2023



**COMMUNITY**  
One lucky lady...p. 4



**PEOPLE**  
Adalyn welcomed...p. 5



**EDUCATION**  
Granby High Class  
of 2023...p. 8-11



**SPORTS**  
Orioles suffer a pair  
of defeats...p. 15

## ★ Memorial Day Celebrated ★

### Cherishing the departed and the missing

BY CHRISTAL WHELAN  
Editor  
cwhelan@turley.com

BELCHERTOWN - The Memorial Day service on Monday began at South Cemetery with a salute to all the veterans interred there. About twenty guests were present for this 15-minute ceremony.

The Official Color Guard, assumed by the Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War, L.A. Tiff, Camp 15, SUVCW, had come from Springfield to spend Memorial Day in Belchertown.

Michelle Grube, a new pastor at the Hope United Methodist Church, offered an opening prayer that reaffirmed the essence of the day: "They gave the ultimate sacrifice," she said of those killed in action.

State Rep. Aaron Saunders also offered a tribute to the fallen, and quoted from Abraham Lincoln's distinguished Gettysburg Address to remind all present that this sacrifice of brave men must never go unacknowledged or unappreciated.

The parade step off began at Lawrence Memorial Hall, and proceeded down Main Street, curved around the Belchertown

Please see **BELCHERTOWN**, page 2



The official Color Guard: Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War, L.A. Tiff Camp 15, SUVCW came from Springfield for Belchertown's Memorial Day ceremony.

### What is a Purple Heart?

A veteran's story

BY CHRISTAL WHELAN  
cwhelan@turley.com

Repeating my question aloud, Vietnam War veteran John Hurley answered, "It's a medal no one tries to get."



Purple Heart medal, established in 1782 by Gen. George Washington, has a bust of the first president in the center, and the Washington family coat of arms between two sprays of green leaves. The backside is incised with the legend, "For Military Merit."

He remained silent a moment and then added, "because you have to be combat wounded."

Recipients of the Purple Heart are either badly wounded in combat or else fatally wounded.

In the second case, a family member accepts the posthumous award for the deceased. In either case, the Purple Heart "designates that you've been in combat fighting whatever the enemy is," said the former Marine.

Cpl. Hurley, as he was known in the Marine Corps, sat for this interview at the Ludlow Veterans Center in a room stacked with canned vegetables, packaged breakfast cereals, and bottled juices - a food pantry for veterans less fortunate than Hurley who has put all his children through college, paid up his mortgage, and now enjoys his six grandchildren.

Hurley was not a career military man. He spent under two years in Vietnam, from Aug. 1969 - Sept. 1970, but was hurt badly - designated 100 percent disabled - such that he was given disability and ordered to Da Nang to catch a plane back to the United States.

As a young man, Hurley signed up voluntarily to go to Vietnam after his first year of college where, he said, "I majored in party," and had received grades that evidently reflected his major.

On a summer evening, when Hurley's father announced at the

Please see **VETERAN**, page 14



(TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTO BY PAULA OUIMETTE)  
Steve Boyko moves a wreath to the Enfield monument with the help of his son Charlie.

### Descendants of the 'Lost Towns' remember the fallen

BY PAULA OUIMETTE  
pouimette@turley.com

WARE - Generations of people joined together at Quabbin Park Cemetery this past Sunday to remember those that gave their lives for our freedom, alongside those that sacrificed their homes for the Quabbin Reservoir.

Master of Ceremonies Keith Poulin of the American Legion Chauncey Walker Post #239 of Belchertown thanked all for attending and participating in

the Memorial Day program.

Poulin said this program was not only to remember those servicemembers who sacrificed for the freedom of all, but also for the people of the "Lost Towns" of Dana, Enfield, Greenwich and Prescott.

These four towns were discontinued in order to create the Quabbin Reservoir, which supplies drinking water to nearly one-third of residents in the commonwealth.

Please see **QUABBIN**, page 3

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Pastor Michelle Grube of the Hope United Methodist Church offers a prayer at South Cemetery where many of Belchertown's veterans are buried.



The Belchertown Middle East Wars Memorial is for veterans fallen in the Persian Gulf Wars.



Close-up of SUVCW member from behind on the Belchertown Common.



Wreaths are placed at the base of four memorial monuments and beside the POW/MIA table on the Belchertown Common.

(TURLEY PUBLICATIONS  
PHOTOS BY CHRISTAL WHELAN)

POW-MIA table presentation is set with symbolic items.



**BELCHERTOWN** from page 1

Common, and then moved up Park Street before the marching bands took their variously designated places on the Common.

Retired Air Force Major Keith Poulin, past Commander of the Belchertown American Legion, welcomed all those present. A few hundred had turned out on this sunny day of solemn remembrance.

"We are here to honor and remember our heroic veterans, citizens of Belchertown, who lost their lives in the defense of our way of life...Although we can appreciate all veterans who have served in the defense of our country, this is the one day we specifically honor and remember those who gave the ultimate sacrifice."

The centerpiece of the ceremony was

the placing of the wreaths at the four memorial monuments on the Common, each of which represented the wars of a specific era.

The Grand Union Memorial honors those in the military from Belchertown who died in either The Revolutionary War (American Revolution) or the American Civil War (War Between the States).

The Flag Base Memorial commemorates those who lost their lives in World War I, World War II, or the Korean War.

The Vietnam Memorial is for those from Belchertown who lost their lives in combat in Vietnam. The fourth and most recent monument is the Middle East Wars Memorial for those who lost their lives in the Persian Gulf Wars. Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts were responsible for placing the wreaths.

One wreath alone had no stone monument, but was set beside an empty chair and a table set for one with a white table cloth, a napkin, a plate of lemon slices, a vase containing a red rose, a dish of salt, and a glass placed upside down.

Veteran agent Charly Oliva explained the significance of this POW/MIA table, common in military dining facilities and often included in many military ceremonies.

It is intended to keep the memory alive of the many military

members who are missing in action and are prisoners of war.

The white tablecloth draped over the table represents the purity of the missing person's response to the call to arms. The empty chair depicts a n unknown face, representing no specific

The upside down glass expresses the fact that they cannot be here to toast with us. The lemon slices are the bitterness of the experience they have endured. The table itself is round as if to say that concern for them is never ending.

After the wreaths were placed came the three-volley salute. In this case, three police officers shot their rifles three times each in synchrony to salute the departed comrades.

The bugle call that ends the day on a military base also ended the ceremony. Belchertown High School Band Members Auyush Patel and Forrest Sherson played a two-bugle volley version of Taps or "Day is Done."

At the end of the ceremony, while the flag was being raised to full staff by Sgt. Neil Lozier of the Belchertown Police Department, Belchertown High School Chorus member, Connor Hoag, sang the National Anthem.

Belchertown's Memorial Day offered a thoughtful tribute and a gracious ceremony for those whose lives were cut far too short by combat for their country.



Jabish Brook Middle School Band led by Corinna Smith, offered a selection of patriotic tunes.

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The Belchertown Boy Scouts BSA, 507 were active in the wreath-placing at the Belchertown Memorial Day ceremony.



Shown are Cub Scouts from Ware Family Pack 520, Liam Davis and Makayla Boos.



Senior Patrol Leader of Ware Scouts BSA Troop 7281, Cordelia Grandinetti, reads the Gettysburg Address.



Belchertown Director of Veterans' Services Charly Oliva distributed wreaths to represent the four towns disincorporated to create the Quabbin Reservoir.

**QUABBIN** from page 1

"The towns of the Swift River Valley have remembered their dead," Poulin said.

A tradition that has continued even after the towns were submerged under water; in a ceremony that takes place every Sunday before Memorial Day, amidst each town's monuments and memorials.

Over 7,600 graves were moved from cemeteries in the four towns, with the majority re-interred at Quabbin Park Cemetery. Spanning 82 of the 81,000 acres of land purchased to create the Quabbin Reservoir, the Cemetery is still active today.

Following a reading of the Gettysburg Address by Ware Scouts BSA Troop 7281's Senior Patrol Leader Cordelia Grandinetti, descendants from each of the four towns laid wreaths of red, white and blue on their respective monument.

Representing the town of Dana were members of the Cooley family; Enfield, the Boyko and Jasnocha families; Greenwich, the Thresher family; and Prescott, the Currier and Bowen families. A fifth wreath was placed at the Schmidt Bench, by members of the Eleanor Griswold Schmidt family.

Friends of Quabbin, Inc. President Gene Theroux followed with a reading of "In Flanders Fields" after "Taps", the National Anthem, and a medley of each military branch's marches were played.

State Sen. Anne Gobi said it was an honor to be invited to speak at the program, her last before she assumes the role of the new director of rural affairs in the Executive Office of Economic Development.

She shared the story of World War II nurse Ellen Ainsworth, who was one of 350,000 women that served.



Gene Theroux, president of the Friends of Quabbin, Inc., returns to his seat after reading "In Flanders Fields".

Of those women, 543 lost their lives, including 16 nurses.

On Feb. 10, 1944, while working at the 56th Evacuation Hospital, Ainsworth made sure that all of her staff and patients were safe during a raid, Gobi said.

"No one panicked...and they all survived," Gobi said.

The next raid battered the Hospital, and Ainsworth was hit with a piece of shrapnel to the chest, but continued to work.

"There is nothing the enemy can do to us now to scare us," she said," Gobi continued.



(TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTOS BY PAULA OUIMETTE)

Members of the Belchertown Historical Association participated in the Memorial Day ceremony.

Sadly, Ainsworth died from her injuries days later, just shy of her 25th birthday.

Because of women veterans like Ainsworth, "we are a better people, a better nation," Gobi said.

State Rep. Todd Smola noted that this was also the 50th anniversary of the U.S. military's withdrawal from Vietnam.

"It took a lot of time for attitudes and perceptions to change," Smola said of Vietnam. "We should never disagree about supporting those that serve."

State Rep. Aaron Saunders said he was struck by Grandinetti's reading of the Gettysburg Address and said, "the unfinished work' has continued," for freedom and peace in our country and beyond.

Saunders gave special acknowledgement to the four communities lost to the Reservoir.

"[They] gave themselves for the prosperity of the commonwealth," Saunders said.

State Sen. Jake Oliveira shared that his grandfather worked on the Quabbin Reservoir, and noted the depth of the sacrifice the residents of the four towns made for its creation.

Oliveira said he also understands what it's like to be told a loved one has paid the ultimate sacrifice for freedom, sharing the story of his late friend Sgt. Joshua Desforges, who was killed in Afghanistan.

"I know that feeling in your stomach when told you lost someone," he said.

Poulin thanked all of the various participants that made the program possible, including area historical societies, veterans organizations, youth organizations, Department of Conservation and Recreation staff, and many more.



Master of Ceremonies Keith Poulin introduced dignitaries.



Wayne Thresher prepares to place a wreath on the Greenwich monument.



Historical societies marched with veterans and others through the Quabbin Park Cemetery.

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**COMMUNITY**

**A lucky lady**

Even five leaf clovers seem to find her

BY MATTY ANDERSON  
 Staff Writer

BELCHERTOWN – Christopher Heights Senior Living Community resident, Nancy Dahlquist, has the greenest thumb in New England.

She's become quite the local celebrity, attracting the attention of clover lovers as far as Maine. Since Dahlquist's feature story a few months ago, she has been corresponding with a pen pal and his wife who live in New Hampshire. He has mailed her a number of beautiful cards crafted by his wife; he even decorated the inside of the cards with four leaf clovers that he found.

Lorna Stone, Director of Marketing and Admissions at Christopher Heights explained, "Nancy has been writing back and forth with her pen pal over the past few months. What they have is just so unique and rare, I'm really happy that they found each other." It seems that the clovers worked their magic to unite these unlikely friends, who otherwise may have never crossed paths.

The cards sent by Dick and his wife Mary included quotations from Winnie the Pooh, one of Dahlquist's favorite children's books and funny coincidences such as sharing her name with one of their loved ones. Dahlquist's message to her pen pal is, "Thank you so much for writing, I received two of your cards today; it always puts a smile on my face when I open my mailbox to find one of your beautiful cards."

On May 12, Nancy celebrated her one-year anniversary at Christopher Heights. She said, "I love it here, everyone has been so great. The meals are fabulous, there's something for everyone from foodies to the least picky of eaters." Stone said, "Nancy is really special; she just goes out there and finds them, or should I say they find her, the clovers really love her."

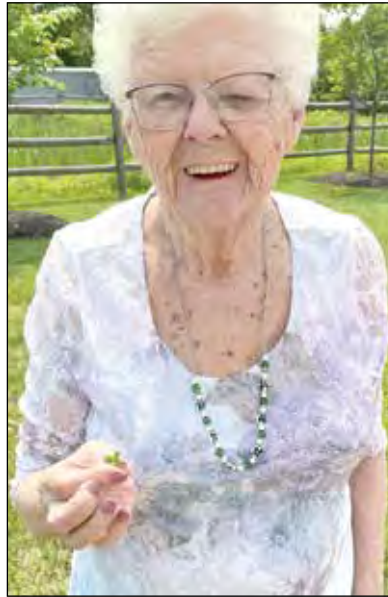
On her daily walks following breakfast, lunch and dinner Dahlquist continued to do the improbable, finding 17 four leaf clovers since May 9. She said, "These clover patches are even bigger than last year." As if finding a bouquet of four leaf clovers wasn't impressive enough, Dahlquist found her first ever five five leaf clover!

Five-leaf clovers have a number of nicknames despite their immense rarity such as the rose clover and green gold. According to Irish folklore, five leaf clovers bring "extra good luck"



(TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTOS BY MATTY ANDERSON)

Nancy showing off the beautiful card sent to her by Dick and Mary.



Nancy holding a small four leaf clover.



An array of four leaf clovers that Nancy has recently found with a letter she has received.

and wealth to anyone blessed by this rare variant.

It's undeniable there is something special about Dahlquist. The odds of finding a four leaf clover are about 1 in 10,000. Some say the odds of finding a five leaf clover are 1 in 100,000,000. A five leaf clover can be sold for up to \$50, which is a lowball if you ask anyone who believes in their rich history and lore.

Dahlquist is 85 years old and one of six Nancys that reside at Christopher Heights. But she definitely stands out. Thanks to her incredible luck, she is a mother of three sons and one daughter

who she loves dearly. She added, "I lost one of my eyes in 1982 to a cancerous tumor, so I only have one eye which makes it harder to find them but that's not gonna stop me."

Dahlquist said "I've always found clovers fascinating, I used to look for them as a child and I found some but never to this extent." In her golden years, Nancy Dahlquist has become who she was always meant to be – the fairy of Christopher Heights.,



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# Stork Report



## Adalyn Grace Wawro

SARASOTA, FL - With great joy Andrew Wawro and Rebekah Newell announce the birth of their beautiful daughter Adalyn Grace Wawro. Born on May 1, 2023 at 9:27 p.m. at Sarasota Memorial Hospital in Florida, she weighed 6 lbs. 15 oz.

and was 20.5 inches long. She joins siblings Brody Theriault and Alex Wawro, paternal grandparents Julie and Robert Wawro Sr., and maternal grandparents Shelly and Lloyd d'Entremont. Our hearts are so full, we love you Adalyn Grace.

## St. Francis of Assisi Parish celebrates centennial

BELCHERTOWN - St. Francis of Assisi Parish is excited to announce that our 100th Anniversary is being recognized and celebrated this year.

Located today at 24 Jabish Street, in 1923 St. Francis of Assisi Church opened on Park Street. This location was previously the Town Community Center, a Baptist Church from 1842 to 1900, and originated in 1834 as the Brainard Meeting House, an offshoot of the Congregational Church.

In 2004, St. Francis of Assisi Church relocated to our new church on 24 Jabish Street. The parish looks forward to hosting many activities to celebrate and recognize this dynamic milestone.

On June 4, the Belchertown Knights of Columbus is hosting a Communion Breakfast in honor of the Centennial in the Park Street Social Hall, until noon.

During June 2023, the Centennial Team will be busy selling and composing a Centennial Church Directory as there have been many changes since the 2006 edition.

On August 13, at 5 p.m., the Dan Kane and Family Singers are scheduled to perform a Centennial benefit concert in the Jabish Street church with no charge to attend.

The weekend of October 7-8, the parish will host a mission addressed by Father Simeon

Gallagher, OFM Cap., a well-respected source about the life and times of St. Francis of Assisi.

Recognition of the anniversary will conclude on October 15, 2023 with the celebration of 10:30 a.m. Mass, followed by a reception at The Castles of the Knight in Chicopee. D.J. Dennis will present light music and one of his famous Trivia games. Reception dinner tickets will be sold starting in July.

Through various fund-raising activities, the parish strives to make the Centennial events affordable to all parishioners who would like to attend the celebrations.

Our Centennial Team goal is to honor our parishioners and all that St Francis Church has brought to the Belchertown community during the past 100 years.

The Centennial Team and parish are grateful that the following local businesses have made generous donations to this special event: AJ's Auto Body, Beers & Story Funeral Home, Bell & Hudson Insurance, Big Y Ludlow Store 19, Christopher Heights, Management, Dan Kane and Friends, DJ Dennis, Don's Auto Services Inc., Five Star Gardens, Hulmes Transportation, Interstate Batteries, Ludlow Eye Assoc., Michael's Party Rentals, Inc., Mill Valley Splicing, Randall's Farm, Tilton Automotive and Tower Theatres.

## Mulch, wood chips needed for School Garden

BELCHERTOWN — The School Garden at 57 State Street is in need of cedar mulch for the pollinator garden and wood chips to put on the paths.

Anyone who wants to make a donation or volunteer in any way, or just has questions about the garden, should contact Holly Field at btowngarden@gmail.com.

The community garden is in full swing now with lots of beautiful and tasty things growing. Come take a stroll through and enjoy. For more, visit the Belchertown School Gardens Facebook group.

## Quabbin Visitor Center lists free upcoming events

BELCHERTOWN — The Department of Conservation and Recreation's Les and Terry Campbell Quabbin Visitor Center will offer several free programs this spring.

All ages are welcome. Email QuabbinVisitor.Center@mass.gov with questions or to be added to the mailing list

Please dress appropriately for the weather and bring water and snacks. Dogs are not allowed.

Space is limited. To register for any of these events, visit [www.mass.gov/locations/quabbin-reservoir/events?\\_page=1](http://www.mass.gov/locations/quabbin-reservoir/events?_page=1).

### Establishing young forest habitat

On Saturday, June 3 from 10 a.m.-noon, join DCR staff at the Oakham Field Office, 578 Old Turnpike Road, Oakham for a 1-mile moderate hike to explore the young forest habitat of the

Please see **EVENTS**, page 13

## Craft and vendor fair set for June 10 will benefit Relay for Life

BELCHERTOWN — A craft and vendor fair to raise money for Relay for Life will be held 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. June 10 on the Town Common

More than 85 vendors will be there and the day includes music, raffles and other entertainment. Relay for Life of Quaboag Valley begins at 6 p.m. on Friday, June 23, at the Belchertown High

School track and athletic field and continues until 10 a.m. the following morning. It's not too late to start a team or register yourself with an already existing team.

This year's "Let's Make Cancer Extinct" theme is sure to be loads of fun and there will very likely be some dinosaur sightings.

The final team meeting will be held at 7 p.m. on Monday, June 5,

at Hope United Methodist Church, 31 Main St. in Belchertown. Teams are encouraged to attend that evening to find out all the information that is needed about the event. In the meantime, get your team registered at [relayforlife.org/quaboagvalley](http://relayforlife.org/quaboagvalley) and do a little fundraising. Check out the event Facebook page and feel free to send a message with any ques-

tions. Relay for Life is a signature event of the American Cancer Society. All funds raised go to ACS to support cancer patients and cancer research. Relay for Life events are a great way to raise awareness and support survivors and their families within the local community.




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## OPINION

# in the Garden

by Roberta McQuaid



## Lots of blue options for the spring border

I got so excited the other day. I was walking around my backyard and came upon a flower I had never seen before. Where did it come from and what is it?

After a little bit of research, I found out that it is named Blue-eye Grass or *Sisyrinchium*. It is very diminutive, looking like a miniature purple-blue iris, with sword-like leaves and all.

Its size would make it perfect for a rock garden or alpine plant garden.

I promptly moved it out of the way of the weed whacker to join some other blue flowers that are in bloom in one of my gardens, taking their place in the front of the border. During late spring, blue flowers abound.

In fact, you could easily design a monochromatic scheme using just cool tones for a late spring symphony!

Here are some of my favorites: For the back of the border, try *Amsonia tabernaemontana*. This native plant is topped with clusters of pale blue flowers, each one opening to form a tiny star, hence its common name, blue star.

Growing to around three feet tall and not quite as wide, *Amsonia* almost qualifies for "specimen" status, although it is not as showy as other specimens like *Peony* or *Dictamnus*.

Only one plant is necessary per grouping in full sun or part shade. In my garden it self sows, but not so much to make itself a nuisance.

Sadly, the plant blooms for only a short while but makes a nice statement when it does. Make sure you choose your forever location wisely.

I need to move mine and with a crown two feet by two feet, it won't be easy.

Another plant best suited for the back row of the perennial garden is *Baptisia australis*, or false indigo.

Gray-green foliage is pretty in its own right, until you see the beautiful deep blue-purple pea-like flower spikes emerge in mid June. Easily four feet tall and three feet wide, *Baptisia* is a nice specimen perennial - one plant is certainly enough per grouping.

The size of the plant you purchase may lead you to think otherwise, though, since transplants are usually puny and take a couple of seasons to establish.

Site false indigo in full sun or part shade in rich soil. Refrain from moving the plant once it reaches full size or its deep tap root may be compromised.

Blackish seed pods are hardly decorative on the plant, but do look nice in autumn decorations.

One of my favorite blue flowers is *Aquilegia vulgaris*. Although there are many cultivars of garden columbine, we grow the species variety at Old Sturbridge Village.

It can be found in white, pink, maroon, purple, blue and almost black. Ours tend to be mostly blue in a hue hard to describe - perhaps more royal blue than purple-blue.

If the color is hard to describe, the flower shape is even more difficult- maybe something along the lines of nodding bells with reflexed sepals?

Lobed leaves are another attractive feature of this plant, although vigilance against the dreaded leaf miner is a must in order to keep it looking good. Here too, full sun or part shade will grow decent two foot to two-and-a-half foot wispyish plants- a size perfect for the middle row of the border.

Mountain bluet, or perennial bachelor button, as it is sometimes called, is one of my most treasured perennials.

There is nothing rare about *Centaurea montana*, or even all that unique about it. I just plain like its oversized cornflowers and their lovely true blue shade.

At eighteen inches tall it is another plant best suited to the middle row of the garden. Plant in full sun or slight shade for best results. Cut back after it is done flowering for a chance at late season rebloom.

Jacob's ladder, *Polemonium caeruleum*, is another of my favorite blue perennials. Its pinnately compound leaves surely resemble a ladder, hence the Biblical reference, but it is best known for its pretty cup shaped, light blue flowers that hang from multi stems growing 18 inches to 2 feet tall and blooming in May in part shade locations.

Have fun playing with blue hues this spring. By high summer blue will be few and far between in the landscape.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 31 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.

When Kids move out to attend college...



When Kids move back in after graduation...



## SOCIAL SECURITY Matters

By Russell Gloor

### I'm approaching 65 should I claim Social Security?

**Dear Rusty:** I am fast approaching 65 (in August) and plan to continue working full time. I would like to know the implications of that, and about drawing Social Security.

Same question for my husband who is past his full retirement age (he will be 67 this year) and he continues to work full time.

*Signed: Still Working*

**Dear Still Working:** Married couples should always coordinate their retirement strategy and you're very smart to do so. Born in 1958, your Full Retirement Age for Social Security purposes is 66 years and 8 months.

Your FRA is the point at which your earnings from work no longer affect your Social Security benefits, but if you claim at age 65 and continue to work full time, you will be limited to how much you can earn before they take away some or perhaps all of your benefits. Here's what will happen if you claim Social Security to start in August when you are 65.

Your SS retirement benefit will be permanently reduced by 11% (you'll get 89% of your FRA entitlement). Your monthly amount will only change thereafter due to Cost of Living Adjustments.

If you start your benefits in August you will be subject to an earnings limit, either a monthly limit of \$1,770 for the remaining months of the year or the 2023 annual limit of \$21,240.

If the monthly limit is exceeded you aren't entitled to benefits for that month, or if the annual limit is exceeded, they will take back benefits equal to \$1 for every \$2 over the annual limit. Social Security will use whichever method yields the smallest penalty.

Beginning in 2024, you will be subject only to Social Security's annual earnings limit, which will be something more than the 2023 annual limit of \$21,240. If you exceed the 2024 (or 2025) annual limit, Social Security will take away \$1 in benefits for every \$2 you are over the limit (half of what you exceed the limit by).

The annual limit will be in effect until you reach your full retirement age of 66 years and 8 months in April 2026.

Since your husband has already reached his FRA, working full time will not negatively affect his monthly Social Security benefits if he chooses to claim his SS benefits now. However, if he hasn't yet claimed your husband is already earning Delayed Retirement Credits, which will increase his benefit when he later claims.

DRCs are earned monthly (.667% per month; 8% per year) and can be earned up to age 70 when maximum SS benefit is attained. For your husband, his age 70 benefit would be 29% more than he was entitled to at his FRA.

Whether it is wise to wait longer to claim depends on life expectancy, but break-even age is about 83 for those who wait until 70 to claim versus claiming at FRA. FYI, average life expectancy for a man your husband's current age is about 84; for you about 87.

Since you are both still working full time, be aware that depending on your combined income from all sources your Social Security benefits will become part of your taxable income.

As a married couple both working full time, your combined income will likely be over the \$44,000 threshold after which income tax will be levied on up to 85% of your Social Security benefits received during the tax year using your normal IRS tax rate.

I suggest you consider the income tax implications of claiming Social Security while you are still working full time.

You did not ask about Medicare, but if you and your husband now have "creditable" healthcare coverage from your employer ("creditable" is a group plan with at least 20 participants) you can defer enrolling in Medicare Part B until your employer healthcare coverage ends, thus avoiding the Medicare Part B premium while you are working.

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

*Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.*

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# Aaron's Race day entering final lap, seeks racers

BELCHERTOWN – The second Aaron's Race Family Event being held Saturday, June 17 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., on the Common, is entering its final lap of preparations.

Building upon last year's inaugural launch to provide help and information as to preventing teen suicide, the day's program offers families a day of fun from the race to the SUPER Raffle, to the booths and demonstrations, and much more.

While much of the race day activities will take place on the Common, the actual

Pinewood Derby race takes place in Old Town Hall; and will be held rain or shine.

However, the turn out for the race needs more enthusiastic racers. If you have a Pinewood Derby car from years past, you can enter it the race

In addition to the Pinewood Derby Car Race, the Belchertown Lion's Club will offer food for purchase and the Ice Cream Emergency Truck will offer frozen sweet treats. Other attractions and vendors include TJ's Gourmet Popcorn, SUPER Raffle tables, magic show, cotton

candy, balloon animals, face painting by Carrie, henna tattoos by K's Body Art, two Western Mass Pinball games, UMass horse and motorcycle patrols and car show with C-10 Trucks and GTO's.

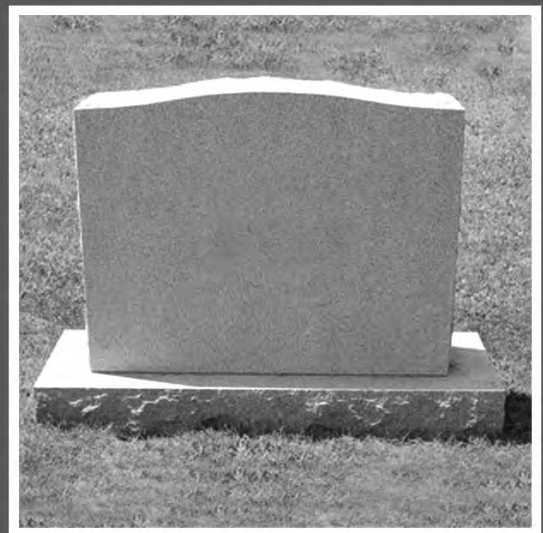
The Belchertown Fire Department will also have a "Touch a Truck" event on the Common.

The Aaron's Race brochure contains an application inside and is found at locations around Belchertown.

If you can't find one around town, the application is also shared on Facebook at

Aaron's Race 01007. This site is updated daily for the race, SUPER Raffle, car show, mental health booths with informational help as to Teen Suicide, and other day long activities. Everything has been thought out, planned, and now AR 01007's volunteers are hoping for a bigger crowd to come and enjoy the day before Father's Day.

Donations and sponsorships appreciated by mailing checks to Aaron's Race 01007, P.O. Box 517, Belchertown, MA 01007 or through Cash App.

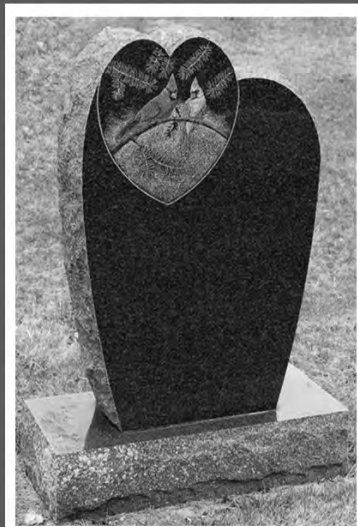


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Emma Hall



Nolan Hall



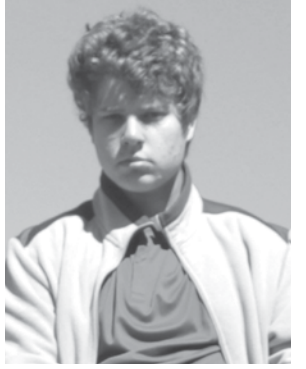
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Abigail Huebner



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Paul Lucchesi



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Michael Mittler



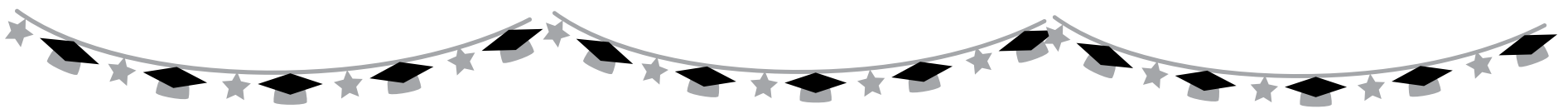

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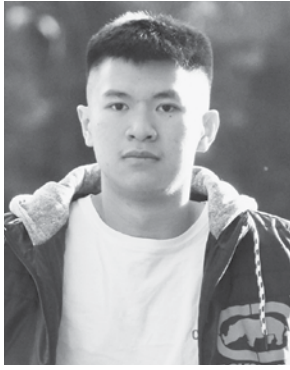
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**Thirza C. Lareau, M.D.**  
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# CAMPUS NOTES

## Holyoke Community College

The following local residents were among the Holyoke Community College students who were celebrated for earning honors and awards for their outstanding achievements during the 2022-2023 academic year:

Breann Hackett, Miranda Longo, Karlie Moriarty, Rosalynn Vollbrecht of Granby; Hailey Garrow of Belchertown; and Isabella Baird, Madison Larner, Bassihi Siri, Joshua Taylor and Virginia Wardlaw, all of Amherst.

## Quinsigamond Community College

Quinsigamond Community College has released its 2023 list of graduates. On Friday, May 19, at 1:00 p.m., QCC graduates took part in its 58th commencement ceremony at the DCU Center. To view the ceremony, visit [www.QCC.edu/commencement](http://www.QCC.edu/commencement). The ceremony will also be shown on public access station WCCA-TV 194.

Kaylan Valovcin of Belchertown

## Hamilton College

Anna Richardson of Granby was named the recipient of The H. Samuel Slater Prize in Romance Languages at Hamilton College's annual Class & Charter Day, held on May 9. The H. Samuel Slater Prize in Romance Languages is awarded to a student who, at the end of the sophomore year, has excelled in the study of a romance language.

Established in 1950, the event combines the traditional Class Day celebrating the end of classes with a commemoration of the granting of the College's charter on May 26, 1812.

The ceremony features an address by a historian, trustee, graduate, or faculty member whose topic is related to Hamilton's history and traditions. Academic and scholarly achievement prizes are awarded to students and faculty.

Richardson, a sophomore majoring in government and Hispanic studies, is a graduate of Williston Northampton School.

## Worcester Polytechnic Institute

Megan Jacques of Granby, a member of the class of 2024, majoring in Robotics Engineering at Worcester Polytechnic Institute, completed a project titled "Visitor Management Strategies: Ho'omaluhia Botanical Garden."

At WPI, all undergraduates are required to complete a research-driven, professional-level project that applies science and technology that addresses an important societal need or issue.

Jacques, as well as Jeremy Trembley of Granby (class of 2024), who is majoring in Robotics Engineering, were named to the Dean's List for the Spring 2023 semester.

Christopher Adzima of Belchertown, a member of the class of 2026 who is majoring in Robotics Engineering, and Megan Gilman of Belchertown, a member of the class of 2025 who is majoring in Computer Science, were both named to the Dean's List for the Spring 2023 semester.

## Assumption University

The following local students have been named to the University's Dean's List at Assumption University for the spring 2023 semester: Joseph Bianco of Belchertown, Class of 2026; Emma Kearney of Belchertown, Class of 2023; and Patrick Otto of Belchertown, Class of 2023.

Students named to the Dean's List must achieve a grade-point average of 3.5 for a five-class, 15-credit semester to be included on the prestigious list, which is announced at the completion of the fall and spring semesters.

## Grove City College

Sam Gould of Granby, a Conservation Biology major at Grove City College from Granby, has been named to the Dean's List with Distinction for the Fall 2022 semester.

Gould is a 2019 homeschool graduate and the son of Aimee and Robert Gould.

Students eligible for the Dean's List have a GPA of 3.40 to 3.59; for the Dean's List with Distinction a GPA of 3.60 to 3.84 and for the Dean's List with High Distinction a GPA of 3.85 to 4.0.

## Fitchburg State University

Two local students recently graduated from Fitchburg State University: Josephine Leyah Elias of Belchertown, who earned a BS in Nursing; and Daniel R. Sullivan of Belchertown, who earned a BS in Criminal Justice.

## University of Nebraska

The following local students recently graduated from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln: Warnakulasuriya Chandima Thilina Fernando, of Amherst, who earned a Doctor of Philosophy, and Prince K. Zogli of Amherst, who earned a Master of Business Administration.

## Maxim Caron graduates from Holy Cross

WORCESTER- Maxim Caron, of Belchertown, received a Bachelor of Arts degree Summa Cum Laude from College of the Holy Cross.

Caron is among 762 Bachelor of Arts degree recipients Holy Cross celebrated at its 177th Commencement held in person on Fri., May 26 at the DCU Center in Worcester. Sen. Peter Welch delivered this year's address to the Class of 2023 and received an honorary degree.

Vincent D. Rougeau, president of the College, presided over the celebratory event, bestowing the honorary degrees and greeting each graduate as they crossed the stage.

"You are strong and ready. Your shared experience at Holy Cross has made you so," said Welch. "The Holy Cross commitment to intellectual and open inquiry and using our talents for good is something this institution has preserved and passed on to one generation after another since 1843. This experience and commitment will make you the builders of tomorrow."

In addition to Welch, Holy Cross also awarded an honorary degree to Rosanne Haggerty, an internationally recognized social entrepreneur and leader in developing innovative strategies to end homelessness. Haggerty is the president and chief executive officer of Community Solutions, a non-profit organization dedicated to ending homelessness she founded in 2011.

# State Sen. Jo Comerford receives Legislator of the Year Award

BOSTON — State Sen. Jo Comerford (D-Northampton) was honored recently as Legislator of the Year by the Massachusetts Alliance for Foster Families.

According to a news release, Comerford was among those honored during the annual Foster/Adoptive Parent Recognition Awards Brunch held by the MAFF, the state's leading advocacy association working to promote and enhance the well-being of children in out-of-home placements and the families who care for them. The Lisa Anne Jenkins MAFF Legislator of the Year Award recognized Comerford for her work on behalf of children and for her perseverance in securing passage of the Foster Parent Bill of Rights, the release states.

Comerford accepted this award via video and spoke in celebration of the work MAFF does on behalf of children and families across the commonwealth.

According to an excerpt of Comerford's remarks, she

told those in attendance, "I am truly humbled and honored to be receiving the Lisa Anne Jenkins MAFF Legislator of the Year Award. Thank you to MAFF, my colleagues in the Legislature, advocates, foster parents, and everyone who worked tirelessly for the passage of the Foster Parent Bill of Rights. I share this award with you, because our success would not have been possible without each and every one of you. It's my deep and sincere privilege to work in this area with you as a partner and to push to shape our child welfare policies in ways that protect and support foster parents, biological families, and our children."

She also said, "I am immensely grateful to all who have shared their experience with me and pushed me forward as we drove together to establish clearer understanding and protections for foster families.

MAFF serves as a partner organization to the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to

Children. MAFF works to promote placement stability for foster children and recruitment and retention of quality foster caregivers. Find out more about MAFF and its work at [mappc.org/maff](http://mappc.org/maff).

### EVENTS from page 5

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### Barrens habitat restoration

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## Congratulations Hailey Lamica

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**VETERAN** from page 1

dinner table that he was going to go to the Credit Union to take out another loan for his son's second year of college, the young man stopped him in his tracks and said, "You don't have to because I'm not going back to college. I joined the service."

Hurley senior, an impressive Navy man who had fought in WWII, remained in a state of suspended disbelief. "So," he paused, "they're sending you to the Great Lakes for boot camp?"

When the answer to that question was a "no," he wondered out loud, "Why then would they send someone from the East Coast to boot camp in San Diego?"

That question was also off-target. The young man finally answered, "I'm going to Parris Island," a well-known Marine Corp training center in South Carolina.

At that point, knives and forks dropped; his mother began to cry, and his father declared they would get him out. But the young Hurley shot back, "I'm over 18-years-old and I signed for myself."

The Vietnam War was going on heavily at the time. Hurley felt that if he were headed for combat he would need the best training available. "That's why I joined the Marine Corp," he said. He also did not want to waste any more of his father's money on college.

The training was organized into several stages. He went through boot camp, then into the Infantry Training Regiment or ITR. Later he attended a specialty school for machine-gunners.

After a month-long leave, he went to Camp Pendleton in California for four weeks of jungle-warfare training. His next stop was Vietnam.

Hurley was an infantryman in Vietnam. Although he was a machine gunner, the military didn't just give a machine gun to a new soldier until they were certain of how he would react in a firefight.

The commanders needed the assurance that the gunner was fully responsible. After a few months, said Hurley, "I got the gun, an M60, and I was the team leader for my gun team."

Only he carried a machine gun though. "We called ourselves 'the grunts' because you grunt from the weight when you move along."

Infantrymen go out in the bush and stay there. Even though they had trained to live in the thick of a jungle, it was still a shock. "Basically you're living like an animal," said Hurley.

"You're out in the jungle crawling along and have to watch at night in case the enemy comes, and during the day the patrols

to locate the hidden enemy."

The first months in Vietnam were very tough. At night the men slept on the ground. Even during monsoon season, they had only their ponchos to keep them dry, and therefore they remained perpetually wet.

Before bedtime, they had to dig a fighting hole every night. These were waist-high holes, usually dug to accommodate two to three Marines per hole.

The holes protected the men from enemy projectiles, bullets, rockets and shrapnel. But sometimes rain would fill the hole and they would end up sleeping in a pool of water.

To stay strong and healthy the men were required to take a huge pill every Sunday for malaria, which ultimately got dubbed the "Sunday pill." Hurley got ringworm fungus on his legs.

He also got round worms in his stomach. For these he was given a little tablet of arsenic that would usually kill them off in three days.

A tour in Vietnam lasted for 13 months. After about six or seven had passed, Hurley was assigned to battalion headquarters or H&S to work; he was the battalion re-supply non-commissioned officer, an NCO.

His job was to determine who was combat-ready. Although a position normally held by a second lieutenant, Hurley's high aptitude in mathematics allowed him to be given the job.

The four companies out in the bush would call on Hurley at night for a resupply and he would see they got what they needed. "I determined for our colonel whether our battalion was combat ready on a weekly basis."

There were a lot of factors to consider. He would get reports from armory, personnel, the motor pool, from any department. "I'd have to keep track of anything in low supply and determine the ratios of each battalion."

I'd put the ratios together, and if a group fell below 92 percent, they would remove the battalion from Vietnam overnight." His colonel said to him once, "'That's not going to happen [to us],' so we were always somewhere on the 97 percent."

The first week he returned from his job at the H&S, his camp was overrun at night by a regimen of North Vietnamese Army soldiers, dressed as Marines. "It was a nightmare," said Hurley. "They were running around the hills and we didn't know who to shoot at. That's how I got wounded."

Hurley was in a hole with two others when an enemy soldier ran by and threw a satchel charge into their hole. This homemade bomb is like a tin box filled with nails and glass and other dangerous objects, he explained.

It immediately killed one Marine, and inflicted holes in



John Turley, Purple Heart recipient, Vietnam War, 1969-1970.

the head and back of another. It blew Hurley completely out of the hole and landed him about five yards away, rupturing his eardrums. Shrapnel pierced the back of his head and down his whole back.

The field hospital where Hurley later found himself was a Quonset hut where he remained for about three weeks while doctors removed the shrapnel from his body piece by piece.

When the day finally arrived when he was supposed to leave Vietnam and return home to the U.S., the helicopters couldn't fly because the rains were pelting down hard. His captain said to him, "Come on, we'll put you on a jeep and drive you to Da Nang for your flight home."

As they drove, a convoy of trucks belonging to the Army of the Republic of Vietnam or ARVN was approaching, but somewhere along the convoy they had been ambushed, causing one of the trucks to pull out into their lane.

The jeep in which Hurley was riding was hit head-on. One Marine was killed, two others were wounded, along with Hurley who embarked on a new medical odyssey.

He spent three weeks in an Army hospital, was then sent to Guam for four weeks, medevacked to San Diego for one night, to Dallas for another night, to Chicago one night, to Washington DC for one more night and then to Chelsea Naval Hospital (in Chelsea, Massachusetts until its closing in 1974) where he stayed for about four months in recovery.

Hurley raised his left arm to prove a point. He said, "I have no left wrist." He moved his arm in a different way and said, "They screwed my arm together here." Then pointing at his left ear, he said, "I'm deaf in this ear."

He drew a line with his index finger on his head, "I have a big cut where the top of my head was lifted off. And I have PTSD."

When Hurley finally returned to the U.S., right back to his parents' home, and was officially out of military service, he stayed drunk for one full year. His parents encouraged him to see a doctor, a priest, whatever it would take to set him right.

He would rise at 2 p.m. before they would get home from work, and then leave the house and not return until 7 a.m. when they had already left for work.

In this way, he tried to push his war memories out of his consciousness. Finally, one morning when he woke up, he said to himself, "Okay, I don't need this anymore," and he stopped drinking.

Years later as a retired businessman, he was volunteering at Toys for Tots and putting the toys in categories when a customer came in, and after some conversation, asked him, "So what are you doing for your PTSD?"

Peeved by the mere suggestion, Hurley said defensively, "I don't have PTSD. Get out of here!" At that time, he thought PTSD was for those who came back from Afghanistan.

But the following week, another person came in the store and asked him the same question. This time he went home and asked his wife for her opinion.

From her he learned that he had changed in a relatively short period of time. She said he had become defensive and argumentative.

He went to the Veterans Center in West Springfield and they sent him to a psychiatrist. Through this therapy, it dawned on him that all the things he had pushed to the back of his mind that first drunken year of his return from Vietnam were returning now with a vengeance.

He was a retired person now, with his mortgage paid, and he had put all his three children through college. His bills were paid off, and his mind was cleared of its usual daily preoccupations.

Onto this cleared deck nightmares from Vietnam had come rushing in. He became aware of habits such as when it grew dark at night he would automatically pull down all the shades. "You don't want the enemy looking in when the light's behind your head."

Homecoming is a difficult adjustment, he explained. "You are always on edge. In the jungle there are always booby traps or an ambush awaiting. At night you'd only get to sleep for four hours. And if you ate one full meal a day you were lucky."

Asked how he feels now, Hurley said, "I don't think you're ever really healed. I go for therapy over at the Veterans Center on a regular basis."

He's learned his trigger points and how to avoid them and finds

camaraderie with other veterans who have been in the same or similar situations crucial. "Have you noticed that a veteran will not talk about combat to anyone unless it's another veteran who has been in combat? Because no matter what I say, a non-veteran would never understand it."

He offered as an example his return to college after his tour in Vietnam. He went to get a degree in education to teach math. We were called "baby killers" and all kinds of things. I actually got in a couple of fistfights at school.

He recalls an English professor who was talking about a certain work of literature one day in class. Then she looked at Hurley and said, "Hey, Mr. Marine, why don't you stand up and tell us how it was to kill babies." I looked at her and I said, "You have no right to talk to me like that."

He went immediately to the chair of the English department's office and told him what had happened. "Well, go on back and tell her because I want to hear this too," he responded.

At that, Hurley walked out. Instead of teaching, he went on to get an MBA and pursued a career in business.

His first peacetime encounter with Vietnamese people occurred when the Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall visited the Big E in West Springfield. They made a Vietnam day out of it with a lot of Vietnamese people coming by bus from Boston and New York, Hurley recalls.

As he was mingling with the group, he met a woman who asked him where he had been in Vietnam. When he answered, "Dong Ha," she said her father was in the NVA in that area.

"You could have been fighting against my father," she said to Hurley, who then asked if her father was still alive. When she answered yes, he said, "Go back and tell him thanks. He is a good soldier."

On the Vietnam Memorial Wall in Washington DC, are the names of five of Hurley's friends, two with whom he was very close. When he first visited the wall, he stood up and leaned on the side of it and cried for quite a long time.

"That's what Memorial Day is all about. It's for our fallen. We think about our veterans who are no longer here. Memorial Day is not for the living - that's Veterans Day - it's for the dead."

Although many people may look at Memorial Day as just the beginning of summer, Hurley adds a potent corrective: "It is a time to reflect and remember our fallen veterans. There are going to be a lot of ceremonies in every town and I wish more people would show up for them."

"I also wish we would be teaching our kids more about Veterans Day, Memorial Day, and what we went through, and what this country has been through."

"That's us."

**Public Auction**

THURSDAY, JUNE 8<sup>TH</sup> at 11:00 A.M.

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Of the Firm of Doherty, Wallace, Pillsbury & Murphy, P.C.  
One Monarch Place, Springfield, MA  
Attorney for Mortgagee

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**DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS - FULL TIME**

The Town of Belchertown is accepting applications for a Director of Public Works. This full-time position performs complex supervisory, administrative, and professional work in planning, organizing, directing, and managing the Department of Public Works. Major duties include: Establishes department policies and procedures and revises as needed. Develops new department programs, goals and priorities. Plans, recommends and oversees progress of short and long-term construction and maintenance projects including appropriate materials, equipment, and labor force required. Manages employees' performance and professional development, recommends employment actions. Oversees the operations of Cemetery, Wastewater Treatment and Transfer Station operations in accordance with local and state regulations. Supervises highway operations, stormwater management, buildings and grounds division; and consultants' work in civil engineering and snow/ice removal services. Performs duties as Tree Warden. Plans and prepares annual department budget, prepares reports for DEP, EPA, DER; applies for and manages local, state and federal grants; issues permits for driveways, drainage utilities, storm water, sewer connection, and road openings. Minimum qualifications: Bachelor's degree in engineering, business, or related field; and ten years of progressively responsible related experience; with five years in a supervisory position or any equivalent combination of education and experience. Special Requirements: Possession of a valid motor vehicle operator's license. Valid Construction Supervisor License desired. Varied Water and Wastewater licenses desirable. It is strongly preferred to have residency in Belchertown within one year from date of employment, otherwise must live within a reasonable commute to the Town. The annual salary range for this position is \$99,692-\$127,263. Applications are available online at [www.belchertown.org/human\\_resources](http://www.belchertown.org/human_resources) and can be submitted to [jobs@belchertown.org](mailto:jobs@belchertown.org). Application review will begin June 9th and applications will be accepted until position is filled. The Town of Belchertown is an EEO employer, we encourage women, minorities, and veterans to apply.

# SPORTS

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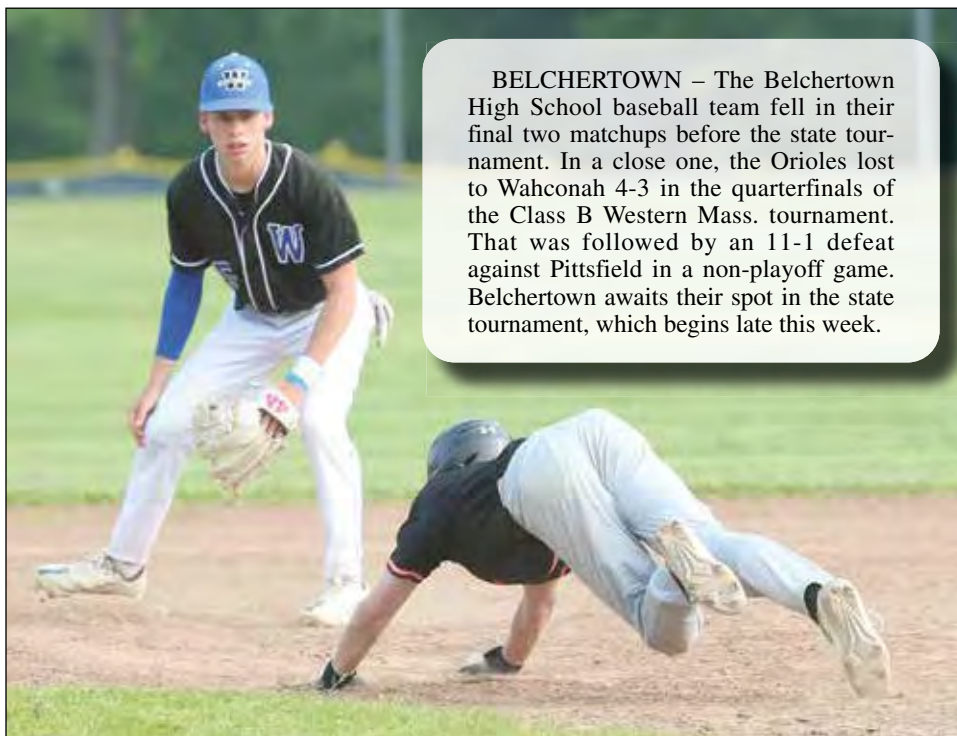


Ian McDonald gets ready for the throw to second.



Tyler McDonald squeezes the grounder.

## Orioles suffer pair of defeats



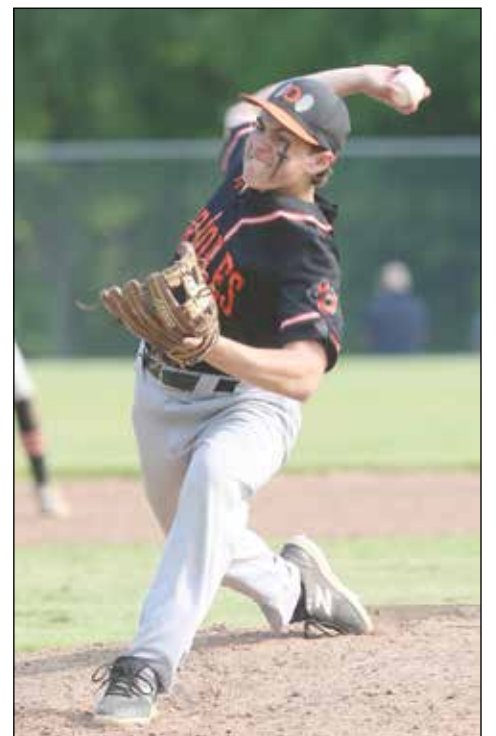
Ryan Gould slides into second

**BELCHERTOWN** – The Belchertown High School baseball team fell in their final two matchups before the state tournament. In a close one, the Orioles lost to Wahconah 4-3 in the quarterfinals of the Class B Western Mass. tournament. That was followed by an 11-1 defeat against Pittsfield in a non-playoff game. Belchertown awaits their spot in the state tournament, which begins late this week.

PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM



John DiNapoli makes a catch in right.



Joshua Misiaszek pitches for the Orioles.

## First half makes difference in playoff defeat

**GRANBY** – The Granby High School girls lacrosse team was outscored 9-5 in the first half, and that made the difference

in a 15-11 loss in the semifinals of the Class C Western Mass. tournament last Thursday. The Rams got seven goals from

Ella Laliberte and three from Kalli White in the loss. Granby will make the state tournament with a .500 record.



Ava Loughman heads up the field.



Kelly Lynne Kenney gets ready to shoot.



PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM  
Kelly Lynne Kenney sets up to make a pass on the run.

## Hall adds new lighting display

**SPRINGFIELD** – The Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame announced a recent addition to the museum’s iconic exterior, a state-of-the-art LED projection lighting display. The dome, one of the city’s most prominent structures, will be lit up every night and will display an array of festive colors and patterns for holidays and events throughout the year.

“We’ve completed a major renovation on the inside of the Hall, and adding this dynamic lighting package to the building’s exterior demonstrates our ongoing commitment to beautifying the property and enhancing the riverfront area,” said John L. Doleva, President and CEO of the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame. “We couldn’t be more pleased with the result and to be able to help light Springfield’s night sky.”

In an effort to honor those who have sacrificed everything in service to the nation, the dome and building will be lit red, white, and blue this Memorial Day Weekend, May 25-29.

This summer, the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame will light the night to celebrate the winner of the NBA Finals, Independence Day, Enshrinement Weekend, and more.

SPORTS

# Hirschman dominates to win at Granite State Derby

LEE, N.H. – In the inaugural Granite State Derby at Lee USA Speedway, Matt Hirschman dominated early but came up short in the stretch. This time around, Hirschman would not be denied.

“Big Money Matt” took charge on the third lap and never looked back en route to his first NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour win of the year and his first at “New Hampshire’s Center of Speed.”

“We just finally closed one,” Hirschman said in victory lane. “These races are tough to win, and I think we should have had five or six of them in recent years.”

The Northampton, Penn., veteran started third and only needed a couple laps to get alongside polesitter and defending race winner Doug Coby. Once at the front, Hirschman checked out, maintaining a modest advantage over Coby, Sam Rameau and Jon McKennedy as the leaders plotted their tire strategy.

Patient and clean racing through the pack was paused on lap 69 when Max Zachem spun down the frontstretch, opening the pit strategy window. Hirschman led the entire field down pit road for tires, then beat Coby and McKennedy back to the track to lead the field back to green.

Coby stumbled on the restart with clutch problems, sliding back through the pack as McKennedy and Austin Beers settled into second and third. Beers snuck past the reigning series champion and into the runner-up spot, but Hirschman was setting a steady pace at the front that the sophomore could not outmatch. The leaders prepared for one last pit stop, all the while managing their tires to go the distance if necessary.



Matt Hirschman gets the win in the Granite State Derby

McKennedy slipped back around Beers with 25 laps to go, carving time off Hirschman’s advantage as the leader dispatched slower traffic. But the caution McKennedy needed to erase that advantage never came.

Hirschman, ever disciplined at conserving equipment, crossed the line 1.120 seconds ahead of McKennedy to win his sixth career NWMT race and his first since the 2021 season opener.

“We deserve better than what the results have been, and a lot of that is on me,” Hirschman said. “I take the most responsibility for that. But today, we delivered.”

Beers held on for third place, with Rameau and Ron Silk rounding out the top five. Coby raced his way back to sixth at the finish.

Hirschman’s win is a small step toward repeating last year’s Whelen Granite State Short Track Cup championship for car owner Roy Hall’s Pee Dee Motorsports. Coby won the first leg of the triple-race program, the Duel at the Dog 200 at Monadnock Speedway.

In addition to the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour, six more feature races

kept fans on the edge of their seats with a mix of local and regional star power. Supermodified wunderkind Jeffrey Battle passed his uncle Eddie Witkum with the white flag in sight to claim victory in the 350 Supermodifieds. Tom Harwood prevailed in a three-way battle to win the 25-lap New England Dwarf Car Series showdown. The New England Pro 4 Modifieds staged their inaugural Dan Meserve, Sr. Memorial Race, with Brayden Meserve taking an emotional win for the family.

Massachusetts’ Ryan Kuhn topped Lee’s best Pro Stock racers, leading wire-to-wire in a commanding performance in the 80-lap Pro Stock open. Wade Gelinas turned in a similar performance with the NHSTRA Late Models. And setting the stage for the night’s main event, Kyle Valeri took his first-ever win with the NEMA Lites.

The next scheduled event for JDV Productions is the inaugural Winchester Open Modified 100 at Monadnock Speedway in Winchester, N.H., where the JDV Open Modifieds will make their debut at “Mad Dog” Saturday, June 3. More information on this special event will be released later this week.

For more information on JDV Productions, visit JDVProductions.com and follow on social media for the latest updates throughout the season, including updates from the track on race day with feature winner posts.

## Registration open for 2023 Bay State Games

WOBURN – Registration for the 41st annual Bay State Summer Games is now open. The 2023 Summer Games will include thirty sports with competitions from June 3 to July 29 at venues throughout eastern and central Massachusetts including Game On in Fitchburg, Boston Sports Institute in Wellesley, Union Point Sports Complex in Weymouth, and New England Sports Center in Marlborough. Bay State Games participants range in age from 5 to over age 75 and represent more than 300 Massachusetts communities as well as surrounding New England States in some sports. From grassroots participants to accomplished amateur athletes, the Bay State Games provide opportunities for the athlete in all of us.

Eight high school showcase sports will take place for a variety of sports, including baseball, basketball, field hockey, ice hockey, lacrosse, soccer, softball, and volleyball. Athletes currently in grade 8-11 who live or go to school in Massachusetts are eligible to attend regional tryouts during the month of June. These tryouts will determine teams representing the various regions of the Commonwealth that will compete against each other in July. Check each sport page for specific eligibility requirements.

The Summer Games include a wide variety of individual sports including swimming, track & field, figure skating, pickleball, wrestling, weightlifting, archery, judo, badminton, and more. These sports are open to a wide range of ages and skill levels from youth participants to masters-aged athletes. Adaptive sport divisions in archery, swimming, and track & field are offered, as well. Bay State

Games also organizes tournaments for pre-existing teams in girls lacrosse, rugby, and 6v6 field hockey.

The 2023 Summer Games will feature Game On in Fitchburg as the host venue for 8 sports. Bay State Games expects 1,500 athletes and their families to attend competitions at Game On during the second week of July. “We are excited to expand the roster of sports being held at Game On this year,” said Kevin Cummings, Executive Director of the Bay State Games. “This state-of-the-art facility allows us to enhance the athlete and spectator experience and provide a true Olympic-style multi-sport atmosphere for our participants.”

An additional feature in 2023 is that in over a dozen sports, athletes who win a gold, silver, or bronze medal at the 2023 Bay State Games will qualify to participate in the 2024 State Games of America in San Diego, California. The State Games of America feature more than 8,000 athletes from over 30 different state games programs nationwide. To see the list of qualifying sports, please visit [www.stategamesofamerica.com](http://www.stategamesofamerica.com).

In addition to sports programming, Bay State Games offer college scholarships, a sportsmanship initiative, college internship opportunities, and a High School Ambassador program.

For more information on all sports in the 2023 Summer Games, links to online registration, and information on other programs, go to [www.baystategames.org](http://www.baystategames.org).

For questions, email [info@baystategames.org](mailto:info@baystategames.org) or call 781-932-6555.

## Valley Blue Sox in need of 2023 host families

HOLYOKE – The Valley Blue Sox is still searching for a few host families for the 2023 season.

To be a host family, all you need is a private room for the player to stay in, food options, and access to a kitchen.

In return, 2023 volunteer host families will receive: free general admission to all Valley Blue Sox home and away games; food vouchers for every home game; transportation and ticket free to the Boston Red Sox game on June 12; free clinics for any household member ages 6-13; special host family recognition event; 40% discount on all merchandise; season-long access to our live-game radio; and access to our fan bus to an away game to be determined

If you are interested in being a host family, please contact [mattd@valleybluesox.com](mailto:mattd@valleybluesox.com) for more information.

### JOB OPENING

## STAFF WRITER

Turley Publications, based in Palmer, is seeking a storyteller who is curious about everything, and who understands how town government works to join our team of weekly reporters.

Experience in covering town government is a huge plus, and any experience in community journalism is as well. Staff writers cover all aspects of communities from features to municipal meetings to crimes and fires. Successful candidates must have people skills, plenty of curiosity and able to tell a story.

If you’re a self-starter who enjoys community journalism and who can envision themselves connecting with our communities, we encourage you to apply for this position. Not a remote position.

#### Qualifications should include:

- Bachelor’s degree or equivalent experience
- A determination to get the story, whatever it might be
- Equally comfortable writing hard news, features and event coverage
- Ability to write clean copy in a fast-paced, deadline-driven environment
- Proficiency in Associated Press style

Please tell us in a cover letter why you would be a good fit for this position and send it along with a resume and three writing samples to

**Eileen Kennedy, Executive Editor**  
24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069  
or email directly to [ekennedy@turley.com](mailto:ekennedy@turley.com)

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**PUBLIC SAFETY**

**Belchertown Police**

*Editor's note: The following are brief explanations of select entries in the Belchertown Police log and arrests for the weeks of May 17 through May 23. 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. Of the 333 calls police responded to, there were 18 incidents, two accidents, three arrests/summons and 41 citations.*

**ARRESTS/SUMMONS**  
**Friday, May 19**

9:05 a.m. - A 34-year-old Belchertown woman was issued a summons for violation of a harassment prevention order.

**Saturday, May 20**

11:34 p.m. - A 30-year-old Palmer resident was issued a summons for operating with a suspended license. An officer responded to Allen Road for a report of a person who took a wallet and was doing burnouts in front of the residence. The calling person got the plate numbers and reported them. The officer was able to locate the person and it was confirmed their license was suspended and they would be charged accordingly.

**ACCIDENTS/INCIDENTS**  
**Wednesday, May 17**

9:19 a.m. - An officer responded to a North Main Street residence for a report of stolen gas from a vehicle. The matter is under investigation.

11:08 a.m. - An officer took a report of fraud. A person reported their boss was reaching out and seeking gift card purchases when the person wasn't doing so.

6:39 p.m. - An officer responded

to Chestnut Hill Elementary School for a report of a break into the concession stand. The door was locked and found open. It appeared the screen door was cut open. The matter is under investigation.

**Thursday, May 18**

10:42 a.m. - An officer responded to a Bay Road residence for a report of a person who received a package that was supposed to have a computer. When the person opened the box there was no computer. There was no damage or opening on the package. The matter is under investigation.

11:28 p.m. - An officer on patrol in area of the former Belchertown state school by the Foley Field area saw a vehicle parked in the skate park parking lot. The vehicle was registered to an operator in Wilbraham and the keys were locked in the door. The Wilbraham Police Department was contacted, and the person's contact information was provided. The person involved later tried to open the door to the station, but it was closed. The person later returned to the vehicle the following day to pick up the vehicle.

**Friday, May 19**

10:37 a.m. - An officer assisting other state and federal agencies with an ongoing investigation.

2:29 p.m. - An officer took a report of suspicious activity made by a student at the school. It was an alleged encounter the person had while walking.

3:46 p.m. - An officer responded to South Main Street for a report of a disabled vehicle. Due to heavy traffic and the location of the vehicle, a police tow was requested. The vehicle was removed, and the driver was transported by the officer.

5:46 p.m. - A person came to the station to turn in a battery

found by the train underpass on George Hannum Road. The battery was for a golf cart.

11:12 p.m. - An officer investigated a report of a juvenile who allegedly made threats to harm himself.

**Saturday, May 20**

11:09 a.m. - An officer responded to an accident on Main Street. A vehicle was parked on Main Street when the emergency break was not engaged, and the standard vehicle rolled out of its spot and struck the front passenger door of another parked vehicle. There was no driver error involved and no one occupied the vehicles at the time of the accident.

**Sunday, May 21**

1:53 p.m. - An officer took a report of fraud. The resident got a bill in the mail for a new account they did not open.

**Monday, May 22**

3:49 p.m. - An officer responded to an accident on Amherst Road. A vehicle traveling east was attempting to pass a vehicle in front of them, going into the lane of oncoming traffic. A vehicle traveling in the opposite direction swerved to avoid the passing vehicle and rubbed against the guardrail. No tow was needed, and no injuries were reported.

9:15 p.m. - An officer responded to a residence for a wellbeing check on a person who may have been in a crisis.

**Tuesday, May 23**

7:13 p.m. - Officers responded to a Bardwell Street residence for a wellbeing check. The K-9 officer was contacted. A short time later the person was found on the railroad tracks on Railroad Street. The person was transported to the hospital.

**Granby Police**

*Editor's Note: The Granby Police Department responded to 155 calls for the week of May 19 through May 25. Those arrested are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law. The Granby Police Department provides all information.*

**Friday, May 19**

12:10 p.m. - A motorist came to the station to report a hit and run that occurred between him and another vehicle on Chicopee Street. Party had a picture of the suspected vehicle, a white pick-up truck out of Belchertown. Officers contacted the other motorist and completed an accident report.

**Saturday, May 20**

8:36 a.m. - A motorist reported that a car struck a utility pole. Granby Fire and Police responded. There were no injuries and responding officers completed an accident report. National Grid was notified.

**Monday, May 22**

6:01 p.m. - A motorist reported a two-car accident. Granby Police and Fire responded. There were no injuries and responding officers completed an accident report.

**Wednesday, May 24**

4:51 p.m. - A motorist reported a minor two-car accident. Officers responded and completed an accident report. There were no injuries.

**Thursday, May 25**

4:37 p.m. - A motorist reported striking a bicyclist with his mirror. Granby Police and Fire responded. The cyclist sustained minor injuries and refused transport to the hospital. An accident report was completed by responding officers.

**Granby police dept. gets equipment from Pioneer NAFC**

GRANBY — The Pioneer Valley Chapter 8 of the North American Family Camping Association today announced their donation of an automated external defibrillator to the Granby Police Department.

The donation took place at a recent meeting of the Granby Board of Selectmen. The Pioneer Valley Chapter 8 already has an AED installed at its club at 104 West State Street. Police Chief Kevin O'Grady received the AED on behalf of the department.

"We're grateful for the donation. It'll be another unit to be used in one of our cruisers," O'Grady said.

"We decided to have an AED installed at our club to assist should one of our members have a medical event," said Joe Jenkins, president of the PV8.

"A decision was made to also purchase one for the police department, as a show of our support to the town of Granby and our Police Department. You never know when one could be needed."

The Pioneer Valley Local Chapter 8 of the North American Family Camping Association is a family-based all volunteer group dedicated to advocating for camping and outdoor activities. The group hosts the Springfield RV and Camping Outdoor Show every year during Presidents' Day weekend at the Eastern States Exposition fairgrounds.



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**JUNE 3RD - 58 ORCHARD STREET, BELCHERTOWN** Christmas Tree, Snowboards, Electric Piano. 10:00-4:00, Rain Date: June 10

## WANTED

### WANTED TO BUY

**ANTIQUES AND OLD STUFF WANTED BUYING** Bottles, Crocks, Jugs, Pottery, Costume Jewelry, Toys, Games, coins, sterling, Glassware, Silver-plated items, watches, Musical instruments, typewriters, sewing machines, tools, radios, clocks, lanterns, lamps, kitchenware, cookware, knives, military, automotive, fire department, masonic, license plates, beer-cans, barware, books, oil cans, advertising tins, hunting, fishing, signs, and more Donald Roy **(860)874-8396**

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## SERVICES

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## SERVICES



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## HELP WANTED

**NEIGHBORLY CLEANING & CARE** is looking for mature, responsible adults with own transportation, experience and references for a house-keeping position. Hours 7:30- 2:30. Call Nancy today **(413)267-4297**.

Read your local newspaper online at [www.newspapers.turley.com](http://www.newspapers.turley.com)

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**ALL REAL ESTATE** advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation, or discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or intention to make any such preference, limitation, or discrimination." We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.

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**QUABBIN & SUBURBAN FRIDAY AT NOON**

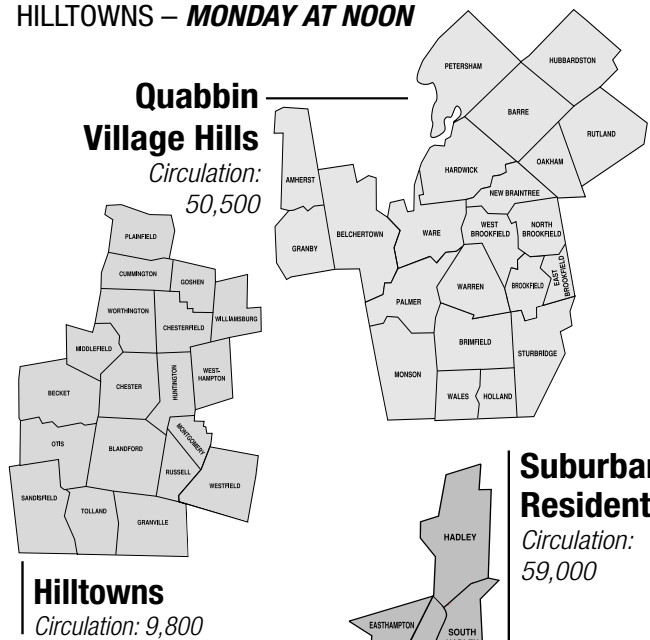
**HILLTOWNS MONDAY AT NOON**

# FILL OUT AND MAIL THIS MONEY MAKER

MAIL TO: Classifieds, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069  
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**DEADLINES:** QUABBIN & SUBURBAN – **FRIDAY AT NOON**  
HILLTOWNS – **MONDAY AT NOON**

CATEGORY:			
1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20
21	Base Price \$26.50	22	Base Price \$27.00
23	Base Price \$27.50	24	Base Price \$28.00
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27	Base Price \$29.50	28	Base Price \$30.00
29	Base Price \$30.50	30	Base Price \$31.00
31	Base Price \$31.50	32	Base Price \$32.00
33	Base Price \$32.50	34	Base Price \$33.00
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Town: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Number of Weeks: \_\_\_\_\_ X per week rate = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Credit Card:  MasterCard  VISA  Discover  Cash  Check# \_\_\_\_\_  
Card #: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_ CVV \_\_\_\_\_  
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Subtotal \_\_\_\_\_  
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 Quabbin  
 Suburban  
 Hilltowns

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**PUBLIC NOTICES**

**SALE OF MOTOR VEHICLE**

This ad is pursuant to MA Gen. Law Ch.255, Sec. 39A as of **June 9, 2023** the following motor vehicle will be for sale to satisfy a garage keepers lien:

2005 Jeep Grand Cherokee  
VIN: 1J8HR582X5C654871  
Color: Silver  
LKO: Wandyvelis Rivera  
1A Hampshire Heights  
Northampton, MA 01060  
Relentless Towing  
Belchertown, MA  
413-530-3804  
05/25, 06/01, 06/08/2023

**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 hearing on **Monday, June 12, 2023 at 7:00 PM in the Lawrence Memorial Hall Auditorium, located at 2 Jabish Street in Belchertown, MA 01007** to review a **Notice of Intent** permit application submitted by Sheree Loftus c/o SWCA Environmental Consultants for the **proposed installation of dock and stairs at the property located at 35 Lake Drive (Assessor's Map 102-90) in Belchertown.** Work is proposed to occur within Bank and Land Under Waterbodies and Waterways to Arcadia Lake. Anyone interested in this matter should appear at the time and place designated.  
06/01/2023

**TOWN OF GRANBY INVITATION FOR PROPOSALS FOR PROFESSIONAL DESIGNER SERVICES ADVERTISEMENT**

The Town of Granby is soliciting sealed proposals

from Massachusetts registered and qualified designer firms, pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 7C, §§ 44 through 58, request for proposal for designer services for the renovation of the kitchen and the updating of the heating and ventilation of the kitchen and cafeteria wing at the Granby Junior/Senior High School.

Estimated Construction Cost: \$800,000

**Proposals Due: Tuesday, June 20, 2023, 1:00 p.m.**

Proposals shall be enclosed in a sealed envelope with the following marked clearly on the outside: **Request For Proposal For Designer Services For The Renovation Of The Kitchen And The Updating Of The Heating And Ventilation Of The Kitchen And Cafeteria Wing At The Granby Junior/Senior High School,** with the bidders name, business address and phone number and sent to Christopher Martin, Town Administrator, Town of Granby, 10 West State Street, Granby, MA 01033.

Mr. John Sullivan, Maintenance & Facilities Coordinator will conduct a tour of the Granby Junior/Senior High School on **Wednesday, June 7, 2023 at 8:30 a.m.** Please contact Mr. Sullivan at 413-404-3318 to **verify your attendance** at the tour.  
06/01/2023

**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 hearing on **Monday, June 12, 2023 at 7:00 PM in the Lawrence Memorial Hall Auditorium, located at 2 Jabish Street in Belchertown, MA 01007** to review a **Notice of Intent**

permit application submitted by James c/o Sherman & Frydryk Land Surveying & Engineering the **proposed construction of a single family home with a driveway, private well, lawn area, and sanitary sewage disposal system at Lot 18.02 George Hannum Street (Assessor's Map 241-18.02) in Belchertown.** Approximately 2,472 square feet of disturbance in proposed to occur within the 100-foot Buffer Zone to Bordering Vegetated Wetlands. Anyone interested in this matter should appear at the time and place designated.  
06/01/2023

**OFFICE OF THE SELECT BOARD BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS TOWN OF BELCHERTOWN**

Notice is hereby given under Chapter 138 of the General Laws that Grape Operating Company, Inc. d/b/a Grapevine Grille has applied for an Alteration of Premises to add an outdoor patio at their establishment.

A public hearing relative to the above referenced application will be held on **Monday, June 12, 2023 at 6:33 p.m.** in the Select Board's Meeting Room on the first floor of Lawrence Memorial Hall, 2 Jabish Street, Belchertown, Massachusetts.

**BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS**  
Edward G. Boscher, Chair  
Ronald E. Aponte  
Margaret D. Louraine  
Jennifer D. Turner  
Lesia Lessard Pearson  
06/01/2023

**OFFICE OF Notice of Planning Board Hearing Legal Notice Relative to a**

**Definitive Subdivision Plan**  
In accordance with the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 41, Section 81-W, the Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing as follows:

**Place: 2 Jabish Street, Belchertown, MA**

**Date: June 13, 2023**

**Time: 7:00 PM**

This application is to consider a declaration of default and rescission of a Definitive Subdivision Plan by owner/applicant Landform, LLC, PO Box 698, 456 Southampton Road, Westfield, Mass. 01085. The plan is entitled "Pepper Ridge Estates", Belchertown, Mass.", Dated December 28, 2004; the surveyor/engineers Coler and Colantonio, Inc., 55 Bobala Road, Holyoke, Mass. 01040.

The plan is available for inspection during regular business hours at the

Town Clerk and Planning Board office, 2 Jabish St., Belchertown, Mass. 01007  
Daniel Beaudette  
Chair,  
Belchertown Planning Board  
05/25, 06/01/2023

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampshire Division**

**Docket No. HS23P0308EA Estate of:**

**Gerard P. Roy, Jr.**

**Date of Death:**

**March 11, 2023**

**INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE**

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Matthew G. Roy of Springfield, MA**

a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

**Matthew G. Roy of Springfield, 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.  
06/01/2023

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION**

**S N O W ' S S E L F STORAGE LLC,** will sell the contents of the following sheds online at [www.aarbids.com](http://www.aarbids.com). The online sale will end on Thursday, June 15, 2023 at 10 a.m.

Joshua Brennan – OCC2-4  
**Snow's Self-Storage reserves the right to refuse any and all bids, or to cancel the auction at any time for any reason.**  
05/25, 06/01/2023

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