

SCARBORO BOWL hosts the Flowers of Invention festival



TURLEY PHOTO BY MURPHY FITTS

Marisa Egerstrom and Loren Walker stand in front of their art and the Scarboro Institute for Cosmic Botanists.

By Murphy Fitts
Correspondent

BELCHERTOWN – On June 1, Loren Walker hosted a night of art and music inspired by the 19th century botanical attraction Pansey Park.

This event was sponsored by the Belchertown Cultural Council.

“[Pansey Park] was an obvious choice for this year’s event once it was brought up,” said Walker.

Over the weekend Walker hosted the micro festival with June 1 concluding the festival and inviting the public to come together and interact with the art.

As the community entered the Scarboro Station they

were welcomed with a back story as to what Pansey Park was. Many of the resources were provided by the Jones Library.

Walker, also known as Professor Emitt Zomting, generated the installations alongside Marisa Egerstrom.

The event included art created by Egerstrom as the main artist and live acous-

tic jazz music from the band Nectar. Art from other artists was also displayed.

“This event was mostly driven by Marisa,” said Walker.

Walker and Egerstrom partnered up to create this growing piece of art, but this

Please see **SCARBORO**, page 13

ATM sees record attendance

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

BELCHERTOWN – On May 31, the town witnessed a record-breaking attendance. The Selectboard said more than 1,000 people came for the Special and Annual Town Meeting to go over and discuss and vote on the total 52 articles on the warrants.

From the Selectboard, Acting Chair Lesa Lessard-Pearson, Jen Turner, Whitney Jorns Kuhnlenz, Nicole Miner, and Jon Ritter were present, and from the Finance Committee, Chair Laurie Shea, Michael McMorro, Angela McCall, and Katie Longley.

Also present were Moderator Ben Farrell, Town Manager Steve Williams, Town Clerk Terry Camerlin, Town Accountant Jill Rossi, and Town Attorney Greg Corvo.

Special Town Meeting: Chair of the Finance Committee Laurie Shea and member Angela McCall presented the articles for town meeting members to vote on.

Article 1 was to approve the transfer of funds from

several different town accounts to other accounts for FY25. Town meeting members voted to pass by a majority.

Article 2 was to transfer from available sums \$58,503 for one-time capital items including an air conditioning unit for the Town Hall and an asbestos abatement for Jabish Broom Middle School. Town meeting members voted to pass by majority.

Annual Town Meeting: Articles 1-7

Articles 1 through 7, housekeeping articles, all passed either unanimously or by majority, which included nominating officers, two Almoners of the Whiting Street and Mrs. Susan M.D. Bridgman Funds for one year each, and one Trustee of the Calvin Bridgman Fund for three years.

The articles were also to hear the reports of the committees, determine hourly rates for the Board of Assessors and Board of Health, appropriate funds for legal counsel in court tax cases, for the Selectboard to apply for and accept funds for

Please see **ATM**, page 4

BGA Eagles hold pickup game to prepare for upcoming clinic

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

BELCHERTOWN – Sports are a great way to bring together people of different ages and backgrounds in one unified way to have fun and get together with the community.

The Belchertown Granby Amherst Eagles held a Pickup Game last weekend, where the cheer and football teams got together to play a game in preparation for the clinic coming up at the end of the

month.

From Thursday, June 25, through Saturday, June 28, there will be a clinic for the BGA Eagles football and cheer teams, open to all in grades two through eight, no prior experience necessary.

“For football, we’ll go over skills and drills that build speed, agility, and athletic movements like throwing and catching. It will culminate in a flag football game,” said Kris Carver, President and Senior Team Head Coach. “It’s designed to build excitement, teach fundamentals,

and help new families see what we’re all about.”

“A cheer clinic is an action-packed workshop where kids rotate through stations, learning new moves and building confidence. We break down movements into easy-to-learn steps,” said Amber Mastej, Vice President and Director of Cheer.

During the cheer clinic, the members of the cheer team get a t-shirt and a hair bow to take home, and will learn cheers with a combination of

Please see **CLINIC**, page 10



Running out of the blow-up helmet at the Pickup Game.

SUBMITTED PHOTO



TURLEY PHOTO BY EMILY-ROSE PAPPAS

Birthday girl Lucy Cincotta and her daughters, Gloria Grace and Nancy Holmes.

Beloved neighbor celebrates her 100th birthday

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

BELCHERTOWN – Last Friday, neighbors, friends, and family gathered at Christopher Heights for a special birthday for Lucy Cincotta’s 100th birthday,

which was on Monday, June 2.

Friends and family, and members from Christopher Heights, put together the birthday party, and the room filled with people who came to share their love and

Please see **LUCY**, page 4

Relay for Life event embraces ‘down on the farm’ theme

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

BELCHERTOWN – This past Saturday, the town common was the site for the annual Quaboag Valley Relay

for Life event.

The opening ceremony began with Brian Meehan acknowledging all the individuals and organizations who have contributed so much time and support to make this year’s Relay for Life possible.

Meehan reminded all who attended the event that it helps support research to defeat cancer. Numerous local businesses in the community and surrounding communities sponsored this year’s Relay for Life in the Quaboag Valley.

“These businesses help push us in the right direction,” Meehan said.

Several banks were supporting sponsors such as North Brookfield Savings Bank, Country Bank and Easthampton Savings Bank. There were about 20 sponsors in total that supported this year’s Quaboag Valley Relay for Life.

Town departments also participated in the Relay for Life including the Police and Fire departments and the Department of Public Works. These departments brought vehicles to the common for a Touch a Truck event.

Over by the parked vehicles, Tall Tree Landscape LLC of Belchertown provided one of its trucks to display the American Flag.

The Belchertown Lions Club ran the food concession for the event, cooking up hamburgers, hotdogs, chicken tenders and French fries. All the proceeds from food sales went to support Relay for Life.

Please see **RELAY**, page 7



The Quaboag Valley Relay for Life took place on the Belchertown common this past Saturday. Cancer survivors in the community marched in the Survivor’s Lap.

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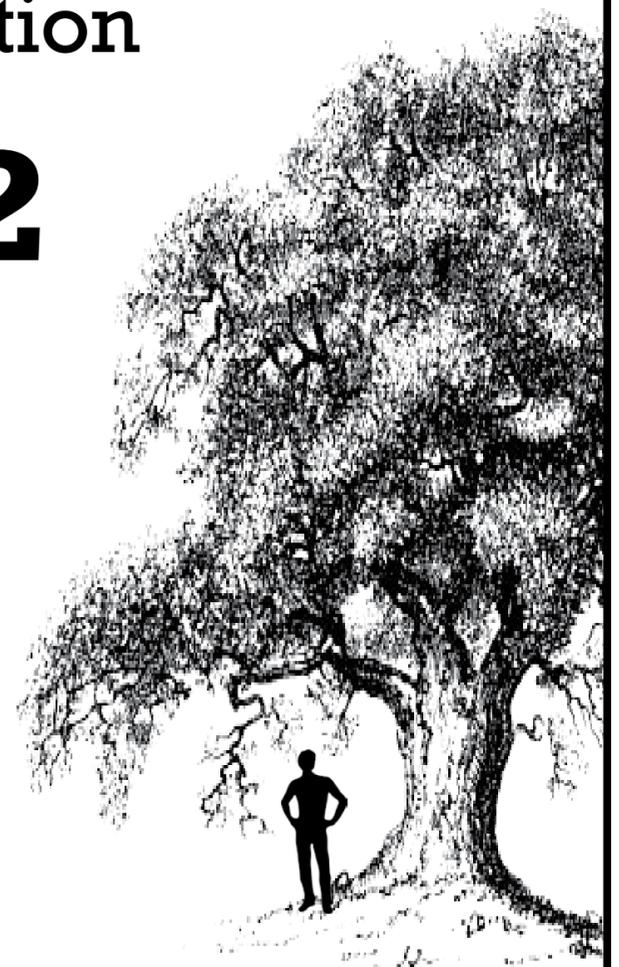
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COMMUNITY

Town meeting looks at roadways and acceptances

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

BELCHERTOWN — The Annual Town Meeting included over fifty articles, and although most of the attendance dropped after the financial articles were discussed and Prop 2 ½ officially passed, the attendance still sat at record-breaking highs in the 800s.

Articles to Help Our Neighbors

Article 28 was about approving and establishing aid to the elderly taxation fund, which will give taxpayers in town the option to donate with an earmark on their taxes towards the fund in order to assist the elderly with their taxes. The article passed unanimously.

Article 29 was to establish a Town Veterans Assistance Fund, which will allow taxpayers to donate towards helping veterans pay their taxes, and it passed unanimously.

The Selectboard defines “services to the town” in Articles 30 and 31 as working for the town on a volunteer basis. Some examples of these services include Town Hall filing, working in the school cafeteria, supervising school programs, etc. People must be evaluated to see if they qualify for these positions.

Article 30 establishes the Selectboard to allow people over the age of 60 to volunteer to provide services in the town and receive a deduction in their property tax. This article passed unanimously.

Article 31 authorizes the Selectboard to establish a program to allow qualifying veterans or their spouses to volunteer to provide services to the Town, and this was passed by majority.

Article 32 was to see if the town would vote in favor of increases to the real property tax exemption for qualifying veterans and their spouses each year by any increase in the Consumer Price Index, and it passed by a majority.

Article 33 passed by majority, and would grant qualified veterans and their spouses an additional real property tax exemption in the amount of 100% of the exemption the taxpayer otherwise qualifies for.

Local Acceptance Statutes and 25 mph Speed Limit

Article 26, which was passed by a majority, was to

approve additional compensation for the Town Clerk. Article 27 concerned nomination papers and was passed unanimously.

Article 34 would allow the Selectboard to establish a speed limit of 25 miles per hour in thickly settled or business districts in the town.

Many other towns in the region, including Granby, South Hadley, Holyoke, and others have already adopted the 25-mph speed limit, and Belchertown was looking to do the same.

The change in speed limit would aid in addressing the complaints of the community to the police department about speeding.

“What this article is attempting to do is regulate the speeds on the roadway in thickly settled areas,” said Williams. The article passed by majority vote.

Roadway Acceptances

The Planning Board brought to Town Meeting two different roadways to be accepted that are already in place, Hickory Hills Subdivision and Woods Edge Road.

Town Planner Doug Albertson explained to town meeting members that the paperwork and roads are completely done, and the articles were to establish the town to take over the maintenance and running of the roads. These are not new roads.

Article 35 would authorize the Selectboard to acquire by gift, purchase, and/or eminent domain the fee to and/or easements in the roadway known as Hickory Hills Subdivision, and it passed by 2/3 majority.

Article 36 was to accept the public roadway Woods Edge Road and authorize the Selectboard to acquire by gift, purchase, and/or eminent domain the fee to and/or easements, and it passed by 2/3 majority.

Zoning Bylaw Amendments

Planning Board Vice Chair Mike Hoffer and Chair Dan Beaudette presented to the town meeting members four new articles concerning zoning bylaw amendments.

Article 37 was to add a definition of a Contractor’s Yard, and it passed by majority. Article 38 was to modify the existing bylaw to comply with state law, and it also passed by majority.

Article 39, on Accessory Dwelling Units, was to mod-

ify the existing bylaw in order to comply with state law and added language to ADU developments, and it passed by majority.

Article 40 concerned State School buildings and zoning by Grapevine Restaurant. The zoning parcels were surveyed this year, and the article would be to turn it into a business district. The article passed by majority.

Community Preservation Act Appropriations

Article 41 was to appropriate from the Community Preservation Fund an estimated annual revenue a sum of \$2,500 for the administrative expenses of the Committee for FY26, and it passed unanimously.

Article 42 concerned taking from the Community Preservation Fund \$9,700 to restore the grave stones at the South Street Cemetery under direction of the Veterans Graves Officer, and it passed unanimously.

Article 43 was to take \$24,000 to preserve historic town records, and it passed unanimously.

Article 44 was to take from the Open Space Preservation Fund \$5,000 to prepare a survey of the assessor’s parcels and the open space we currently own, and it passed unanimously.

Article 45 was to take from the Historic Preservation Fund \$3,700 for the historic Firefighters Museum at 31 North Main Street \$3,700, and it passed unanimously.

Article 46 was to take from the Historic Preservation Fund \$157,349 to preserve and rehabilitate the 1893 Horse Barn at Lampson Brook Farm on State School property at 275 Jackson Street, and it passed by majority.

Article 47 was to take from the Open Space Preservation Fund \$6,200 to rehabilitate the historic McPherson Garden, and it passed unanimously.

Article 48 was to take from the Open Space Preservation Fund \$50,000 to undertake the Aquatic Restoration program for the Tri-Lakes system, which passed unanimously.

Article 50 was for \$200,500 to rehabilitate and restore the parking lot at the Town Beach on 21 Town Beach Road and the storm-water management system, and it passed unanimously.

Belchertown Select Board approves new town logo

BELCHERTOWN — The Belchertown Branding Project Committee is pleased to announce that the Select Board has officially approved the town’s new logo, marking a major step forward in a multi-phase initiative to strengthen Belchertown’s visual identity, community pride, and economic development efforts.



SUBMITTED PHOTO
The new logo for our town.

The new logo was approved during the Select Board’s regular meeting on Monday, May 19, by a vote of 4-1. Designed to capture the character and history of Belchertown, the logo features the town’s iconic rolling hills, a tribute to the historic Town Common, symbols of Belchertown’s agricultural heritage, and a visual reference to the Quabbin Reservoir — a defining feature of the town’s modern development.

“The logo is meant to reflect who we are as a community — our past, present, and the land-

scape that connects it all,” said Chris Martin, Clerk of the Belchertown

Branding Project Committee and Chair of the Communications Committee. “We’re thrilled the Select Board supported this vision.”

More than 300 residents participated in a public vote on the logo, selecting the final design by a margin of 8 to 2. The project is funded through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and represents a community-driven investment in Belchertown’s future image and outreach, aimed at fostering community pride, strengthening the town’s business base, and attracting new economic opportunities.

In addition to the new logo, future phases of the project include digitizing the official town seal, which will be reserved for formal and legal uses — and creating a comprehensive branding guide. This guide will provide detailed direction on how the new logo and related elements should be used across town departments, public signage, and communication materials.

The logo was created by Locality Studio, with project management provided by Arts Equity Group. Both partners will continue to work with the Belchertown Branding Project Committee to complete the remaining phases of the initiative.

With the Select Board’s approval, the Committee will begin implementation and provide regular updates to the community as the branding project progresses.

Belchertown Annual Town Report now available

BELCHERTOWN — The Town of Belchertown Annual Town Report is now available to residents and interested parties. In a continued effort to promote sustainability and provide convenient access to important community information, the report can be accessed in the following ways:

Online via the Town Website: Visit <https://www.belchertown.org>.
By Scanning the QR



Code: See QR Code below.
Printed Copy at the Finnerly House: For those

who are unable to view the report electronically, a limited number of printed copies are available at the Finnerly House, 1 South Main Street, Belchertown, MA 01007.

This year’s report includes updates on town operations, financial summaries, and departmental achievements. The digital format reduces paper usage and allows residents to easily reference and share the document.

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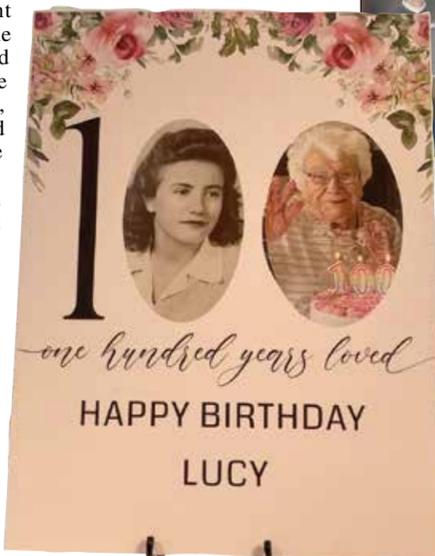
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LUCY from page 1

appreciation for Lucy. "Her work ethic [is my favorite thing about her]," said Nancy Holmes, Lucy's daughter. "She maintained her own home, and she always gardened." One of the cakes for her special day was dedicated like a vegetable garden to celebrate her many years and love for tending her vegetable garden. "She inspired me most by how she went about her day, every day. She always had a mission, and she accomplished it. She was stubborn, and still is at one hundred," said Gloria Grace, Lucy's oldest daughter.

Lucy Cincotta spent her life doing what she set her mind to, and blessed the people she came into contact with, spreading smiles and cheer wherever she went. She grew up on a farm in Agawam and worked on the farm with her siblings, where they learned all sorts of things, and went on to instruct her children. "We have wonderful memories of growing up on the farm, and we learned so much from her," said Grace. "I consider myself very blessed to have her in my life, and I know there's a special place in heaven for her."

From going to the lake to adventuring in Florida and all over, Lucy loved to spend her time adventuring, and as she celebrates one hundred years on earth, she reflects on her time and life. "I never thought I'd live this long, but I feel blessed," said Lucy. "Everyone came out to see me, and I hadn't seen them in ages. It's wonderful that they are here." She greeted her friends and family who came to see her with tears in her eyes and a humble gratitude for everyone coming to celebrate her. Lesa Lessard-Pearson of the Selectboard came to give her a letter from the town, wishing her a happy birth-



A poster of Lucy on her 20th and 100th birthdays.



Photos of her life and memories with family, including her beautiful wedding portrait.

day and celebrating her. Senator Jake Oliveira also came with a letter from the Senate, as well as a letter from State Representative Aaron Saunders. "You are an inspiration, and the town wanted to share how lucky we are to have you," said

Lessard-Pearson. "I love the way she plays volley-ball, and she would play for hours if I let her," said April Kosuda, Activities Director at Christopher Heights. "She's the sweetest woman and has a kind heart and always says hello." "I love her sense of humor, and she has a great belly laugh. She's a very sweet and kind lady with the biggest heart," said Director of



Lucy with her nephew and niece, Mike and Janet Misischia.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY EMILY-ROSE PAPPAS

Marketing and Admissions Lorna Stone. Lucy is a welcome member of Christopher Heights and a beloved mother, mother-in-law, aunt, sister, and friend to many, sharing her infectious smile and laughter. "She was always there for us, and she always makes a point even now to talk to us and check in with all of us," said Holmes.



A crown fit for a queen for Lucy to wear on her birthday.

ATM from page 1

the Highway Improvement Program, and appropriate funds for the Cemetery Lot Development Account.

Article 8a-8p: Budget, Capital, and Financial Articles

Members of the Finance Committee read out sections a through p under Article 8 for the Financial Articles, all passing by majority or unanimously, which included:

Raising and appropriating funds for the Finance Committee for FY25, a total appropriation of \$2,528,854 for general government, according to the Finance Committee's report.

For the Prop 2 1/2 Override, the town meeting members voted by majority to pass the Public Safety article 8c for \$5,827,591 for a new ambulance, and an override of \$35,544,353 for the School Department.

Town meeting members also voted to pass \$1,578,736 for Pathfinder Regional Vocational School, \$2,276,472 for DPW,

\$424,599 for the Landfill Enterprise Fund, \$1,798,523 for the Sewer Enterprise Fund, \$332,870 for Stormwater Enterprise Fund, \$1,000,988 for the Human Services Department, and \$1,025,299 for Culture and Recreation Departments.

The financial articles also voted to pass included \$1,016,634 for DPW Buildings and Grounds, \$7,205,117 to the Pensions and Insurance Accounts, \$82,098 for the Unclassified Accounts, and \$890,321 to the Interest and Debt Accounts.

\$500,000 was approved for the Capital and One-Time Expenditures Account to cover a DPW Wheel Loader, EMS building renovations, DPW CDL dump truck body, two fan/coil and hot air units at the police station, and the JBMS asbestos abatement.

Articles 9- 17, and 49

Article 9 passed by majority for a free cash transfer of \$420,912 for one-time and/or capital items, and Article 10 passed by majority to autho-



The high school's gymnasium was packed with a record-breaking attendance last weekend.

TURLEY PHOTO BY EMILY-ROSE PAPPAS

rize the Selectboard to enter one or more lease purchase agreements for the DPW vehicles and other equipment.

Article 11 passed by

majority to authorize the School Department to enter into agreements for lease or purchase of a School Department vehicle, which would replace the existing

20-year-old van that no longer meets code, and funds have already been approved at no additional cost.

Article 12 passed by majority to authorize the Selectboard to lease or purchase and equip a Police Department Canine Cruiser, and Article 13 passed by majority to allow the Selectboard to enter into agreements to lease or purchase photocopiers.

Town meeting members then made a motion to change the order of articles to jump to Article 49, which passed by majority.

Article 49 dealt with the Community Preservation Fund and was brought forward by the Chair of the Community Preservation Committee to ask the town to consider voting in favor of \$246,000 for Belchertown High School's playing field that requires better water drainage management. The article passed by a majority.

Article 14 was to move from Free Cash \$194,267 to the Stabilization Fund, \$158,402 for the Belchertown Community Channel Television, \$3,500 to the Belchertown Cultural Council, and \$32,378 from Free Cash to the Other Post Employment Benefits Liability Trust Fund. Articles 14, 15, 16, and 17 passed unanimously.

General Bylaw Amendments: Articles 18-25

The Selectboard made a motion to combine Articles

18-21 for the sake of discussion, and the motion passed unanimously. The Selectboard then moved to amend the Code of Belchertown, Chapter 91, Personnel, which includes the adjustment of the range that town personnel are paid between July 1, 2025, and June 30, 2026.

Steve Williams explained the way the payment for employees works, and how raises are given based on the budget at that given time. "We have some of the best employees in all of Western Massachusetts in Belchertown," said Williams. Town meeting members voted on Articles 18 to 21 passed by majority.

The Selectboard moved to combine Articles 22 and 23 for the sake of discussion, and the motion passed by majority. Article 22 was to change the appointing authority for the various officers and employees in town, and Article 23 was to change the appointing authority from the Selectboard to the Town Manager. Articles 22 and 23 passed by majority.

Article 24 is to bring the Fire Department up to code with other towns by making specific upgrades as needed, including the proper storage for hazardous waste and materials. Article 24 passed by majority.

Article 25, which was on the Animal Control Bylaw, concerned fines that may be assessed for the violations to the bylaw, and it passed by majority.

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Upcoming events

BELCHERTOWN—The Clapp Memorial Library has several great programs and events coming up in the first week of June. There's something for everyone!

Belchertown PRIDE on Town Common

Sunday, June 1, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Stop by our table and say hello! Flag raising will be followed by a parade and festival. Enjoy vendors, food trucks, music, and family friendly activities.

The Marquis de Lafayette: Hero of Two Worlds

Monday, June 2, 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.

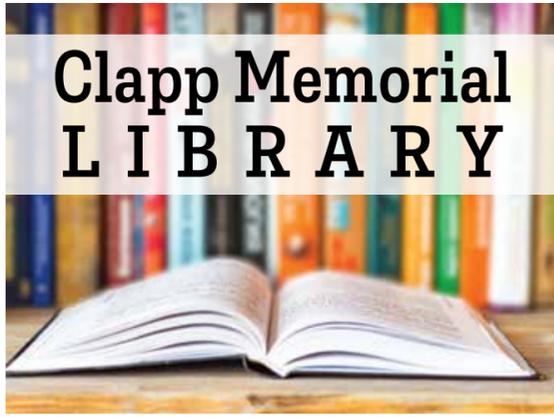
Betty Allen Chapter NSDAR presents the story of General Lafayette through the eyes of his wife, Adrienne. Join us and learn of the importance that Lafayette played in the American Revolution and his stop in Belchertown during his Farewell Tour on June 14, 1825. Sponsored by the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Leveling Up: The Art of Scott M. Fischer

Tuesday, June 3, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Belchertown Town Hall and Clapp Memorial Library

Join us for a very special evening with artist Scott M Fischer! Scott is a world-renowned fantasy artist known for (and this is the short list) Magic the Gathering card art, cover illustrations for Dark Horse Comics, mind blowing fantasy fine art, and being an amazing Belchertown com-



munity member. Scott has donated his time and talent to the Library's Summer Reading Program - designing all the logos - for the last 10 years!

Scott will give a lecture about his journey as an artist (and how he's Leveled Up his artwork!) in the Town Hall Auditorium followed by a reception at the library where he'll sign attendee's Magic the Gathering cards and reveal the 2025 Summer Reading Program logo. You won't want to miss this special event!

What "YA" Readin' Book Club

Thursday, June 5, 7 p.m. to 8 p.m.

The library's What "YA" Readin' Book Club, a group for adults who read Young Adult books, will meet on June 5th to discuss *Most Ardently* by Gabe Cole Nova. Copies of the book are available for checkout at the circulation desk. New members are welcome!

Echo's in Nature

Saturday, June 7, 3 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Join singer-songwriter Jess Martin and poet-naturalist Kim Hoff for an afternoon of music, poetry, and connection with the wild beauty of our local landscape. Celebrate the magic of our home ecosystems and the stories they tell through art. This one's for nature lovers, creative spirits, curious kids, and anyone craving a little inspiration. Let's gather, listen, reflect—and grow something beautiful together. This program is funded in part by grants from the Amherst, Belchertown, Easthampton, and Williamsburg Cultural Councils, local agencies supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

Pride Movie Series

Mondays in June starting June 9, 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Celebrate Pride with this movie series starting with *Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe* (PG-13) on June 9th. Movie snacks will be provided. No registration is necessary.

Register Now for children's Summer Story Times

Our children's Summer Story Times feature age-appropriate stories, songs, finger plays and art activities. Go to www.clapplibrary.org/story-hour/ for more information and to register.

Registration and confirmation are required to attend any session.

Baby time Story Time (for ages 3-12 months)

Mondays from 9 a.m. to 9:45 a.m., Jul 7, 14, 21, 28, Aug 4 & 11

First Steps Story Time (for ages 13 - 24 months)

Mondays from 10 a.m. to 10:45 a.m., Jul 7, 14, 21, 28, Aug 4 & 11

Toddler Time (for ages 2 - 3 years)

Tuesdays from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., Jul 8, 15, 22, 29, Aug 5 & 12

Getting Ready for Kindergarten (for children entering Cold Spring School this fall)

Wednesdays from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., Jul 9, 16, 23, 30, Aug 6 & 13

Preschool Story Time (for ages 3 - 6 years)

Thursdays from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., Jul 10, 17, 24, 31, Aug 7 & 14

The Clapp Memorial Library is open:

- Monday 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Tuesday 9:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- Wednesday 9:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.
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- Saturday 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

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Lafayette to return to Belchertown

BELCHERTOWN / AMHERST— On Saturday, June 14, Belchertown citizens will have the opportunity to greet the renowned Marquis de Lafayette, hero of the American Revolution, on his epic journey through America. He will be honored in a short ceremony at Lawrence Memorial Hall at 2 pm. as he passes through town.

One of the town's most enduring legends is that the Marquis de Lafayette visited Belchertown on his triumphant tour of America in 1824-1825. The story is pervasive; nearly all of the local histories and historians mention it. Now, with the help of the Belchertown Historical Association and the American Friends of Lafayette, the nobleman's arrival in town will be reenacted. In addition, there will be exhibits on Lafayette in the Clapp Memorial Library and in the Lawrence Memorial Hall auditorium.

No military leader of the Revolution, other than George Washington, captured the hearts of Americans more than the orphaned French nobleman who was so enamored with the cause of liberty that he arrived in the col-

onies at his own expense and offered to serve without pay. He was commissioned as a major-general in the Colonial Army at the implausibly young age of nineteen. He won the confidence of the commander-in-chief; Washington considered him like an adopted son. With his military training and his important influence abroad, the young Frenchman proved to be a vital part in America's struggle for independence. He was an excellent military strategist and he was largely responsible for bringing the French fleet into the conflict on the side of the Americans. Further, he was devoted to the ideals of the revolutionary cause. The American people were devoted to him.

In 1824, President James Monroe invited the aging revolutionary to tour the United States as the "Guest of the Nation". Congress concurred and Lafayette accepted. Traveling with his son and his private secretary, Lafayette arrived in New York in August of that year to begin his Grand Tour, which lasted more than a year and covered more than five thousand miles. Everywhere he went

in America, he was toasted, honored, and celebrated.

The Belchertown segment of his tour occurred in June of 1825 as the nobleman sped across New York and Massachusetts on his way to Boston to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Battle of Bunker Hill. He had committed to arrive in time for the event, but had fallen behind schedule. While here, he called on Dr. Estes Howe, a veteran of the Revolution, then paralyzed and in poor health, to pay his respects. It is said that Susanna Dwight Shaw danced with Lafayette and she kept the gloves she wore to hand down to her daughter. The daughter, Susan, who later married Belchertown's Calvin Bridgman, was kissed by Lafayette when she presented him with a bouquet of flowers.

You can witness all this and more at Lawrence Memorial Hall on Saturday, June 14 beginning at 2 p.m. The Marquis de Lafayette will be portrayed by Mark Schneider of Colonial Williamsburg. Lafayette's coach and horse team are provided by Muddy Brook Farm in Amherst, MA.

Get ready for a trash gala

BELCHERTOWN - Join us for the TRASH GALA!, a celebration of the three freshly painted Transfer Station Container Murals! The Trash Gala is a community-wide event to dedicate the new murals, honor the artists, and acknowledge the contributions of all participants. The Trash Gala features sustainability-themed activities for all ages and features a Trash Fashion Contest! Get in the spirit. Come in wearable art from up-cycled materials, show off & win prizes! The contest grand prize is a Transfer Station Permit! Other prizes include Transfer Station bags. Visit the Swap Shop for inspiration and materials.

TRASH GALA!

Friday, June 13 from 4 to 6 p.m. (rain date: Saturday, June 14)

Belchertown Transfer Station 135 Hamilton St, Belchertown, MA

The Trash Gala is the culmination of the Transfer Station Mural Project, a collaboration between the Department of Public Works, Creative

Please see **TRASH**, page 8

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OPINION

SOCIAL SECURITY
Matters

By Russell Gloor

I'm a retired veteran; why must I pay for Medicare?

Dear Rusty:

I'm a retired Navy veteran, who is going to be turning 65 years old this year.

My question is concerning mandatory Medicare sign-up requirements. Why do I have to sign up for Medicare coverage at 65 when I can't start collecting full Social Security benefits until I turn 67? My Social Security benefits will not pay for my mandatory Medicare because I can't start collecting full Social Security benefits until I'm 67.

I currently pay for Tricare and utilize my local Veterans Administration medical facilities and referrals for my healthcare. With me turning 65 and having to wait until I'm 67 for my full Social Security benefits, it just seems unfair that I'll have to pay out of pocket Medicare monthly expenses for two years. Is there any way to avoid this unfair penalty?

Signed: Retired
Navy Vet

Dear Retired Navy Vet:

First, I want to thank you for your military service to our country. Please know that here at the AMAC Foundation we care a lot about our veterans and you may find the "For Veterans" section of our Foundation website interesting – visit www.amacfoundation.org.

Regarding your question, you should be aware that enrolling in Medicare is not mandatory, but there are consequences if you do not enroll when you become eligible, normally at age 65). For one thing, if you are a retired veteran on military TriCare, you will lose your TriCare benefits if you don't enroll in Medicare when you are eligible.

TriCare requires that you enroll in Medicare when eligible. And, since you are not yet collecting Social Security, you will be required to separately pay the Medicare Part B premium directly to Medicare; they will bill you when you enroll in Medicare. Another potential consequence is that if you do not enroll in Medicare Part B when you are first eligible, you may incur a lifetime late enrollment penalty for enrolling in Part B later.

Something else to keep in mind is that there are two "parts" to Medicare – Part A, which is coverage for inpatient hospitalization services and Part B, which is coverage for outpatient healthcare services – doctors, medical tests, etc. Medicare Part A is free to you, but there is a premium for Medicare Part B (\$185/month for 2025).

Note that you will need to pay a Part B premium as long as you are enrolled in Medicare Part B (it doesn't go away after you are collecting Social Security, but it is taken from your Social Security payment). And there is no way for you to avoid the Part B premium after enrolling and enrolling in Part B is necessary for you to continue your military TriCare-for-life ben-

efits. Note that Medicare Part A and Part B do not include prescription drug coverage, but your TriCare coverage usually does.

It's important to note that Medicare and Social Security are two independent senior programs with different eligibility rules. As you may know, you can collect early (reduced) Social Security at age 65 (and have your Medicare Part B premium deducted from your SS payment). But you would be collecting Social Security early and, in addition to a reduced benefit, you would also be subject to Social Security's annual earnings test if you are still working. The SS earnings test limits how much you can earn before some of your SS benefits are taken away if you exceed the earning limit prior to your full retirement age.

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

So, is it unfair that you must pay for Medicare Part B before you are collecting Social Security? Well, I think not, because the two programs are completely independent benefits (the Social Security Administration merely administers Medicare payments as a convenience). Remember your Medicare Part A is free, but you must pay a premium for Part B, and you must take both to retain your military TriCare-for-Life benefits. You can visit this site to see how to pay your Medicare premiums until it is later deducted from your Social Security payment: www.medicare.gov/basics/costs/pay-premiums/online-bill-pay.

Once again, thank you for your service to our country.

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Pothole cheerleaders...



LETTERS

Resident urges town to work together after ATM

To the editor,

Dear Members of the Belchertown Select Board, Finance Committee & School Committee,

I am writing this as a taxpayer and voter, not a member of a committee.

First and foremost, I want to congratulate ALL of Belchertown for a well-run and uneventful Annual Town Meeting. The entire community needs to recognize the efforts of the Town Clerk and the many volunteers who made this happen.

Second, and just as important, we need to acknowledge that the override passed and that is just part 1 of what Belchertown needs to secure

that our future needs are met.

It is now time to end that celebration, roll up our sleeves, and start the hard work of putting our departments into position to not allow this to occur again. Adding funds is an easy choice, cutting costs is difficult! The school department is our largest expense, and it is critical town government work cooperatively in this process.

Consolidation does not need to be a "bad" term and is a great place to start. The costs can be budget-neutral, as any expenses can be paid for by the realized savings. The fact is, there are no good solutions, just acceptable ones.

The long-term needs of the

district are all that matter, but we cannot lose sight of the now. Belchertown's residents just invested in our community; it is now time the departments invest in their own future.

In the school's case, this means taking savings and removing it from operational needs and investing it by allowing the town to pay for improvements and renovations with those funds, even if bonds are required.

Let's listen to all sides as these choices may not be popular in the short term. Together, there is nothing a group of motivated individuals cannot accomplish!

Brian Gibbons,
Belchertown

The peony takes the stage in June

As I look out my living room window, I can see the chubby round buds of one of my favorite June-bloomers, the peony. No doubt, the plant will be in full flower just in time for my birthday, as it has for a number of decades.

Read on to learn all you need to know, straight from the archives!

Who doesn't love the peony? Its frilly flowers, fine fragrance and fit form make it a favorite in the June perennial border.

And although it only blooms for a short while, the plant itself is reliably hardy and notably long lived in our climate. In fact, the peony that grows in my garden is one my great grandmother grew in the 1930s!

Here are a few tips to keep your peonies thriving for the next seventy years.

Planting

Peonies are best planted in the fall, September or October in our area. This timing will give the plants an opportunity to develop a healthy stand of feeder roots before the ground freezes.

Choose a location that receives six or more hours of sun a day. Don't skimp on the size of the planting hole; one that measures a foot and a half deep by two and a half feet wide will sustain the plant for many years.

If your soil is average, the addition of a balanced fertilizer may be all that is necessary at planting. Soils that are lean should be improved prior to planting by amending the hole with roughly equal parts good soil and aged compost or manure.

Peonies prefer a pH of 6.0-7.0, a wide enough range to accommodate most home garden situations. If your soil is more acidic than that, bring up your pH by adding lime.

Mail order plants usually

arrive bareroot. These can be soaked in a bucket of water overnight to rehydrate prior to planting.

When it comes time to plant, remember this: eyes point up, roots point down! Eyes should end up no more



than two inches below the soil surface; any deeper than that and flowers may be sacrificed. Get your plants off to a good start by watering occasionally until the ground freezes. Once it does, a light mulch can be applied over the peonies to prevent them from being heaved out of the ground during periods of freeze and thaw.

Fertilizing and Watering

Peonies fertilized at planting time require no additional food until the following fall. Bear in mind that too much nitrogen will encourage lots of leaves but few roots and flowers. For that reason choose a fertilizer that is lower in nitrogen than the other nutrients.

After the third season fertilize after blooming, as well as in the fall. An established peony is drought resistant, but if spring rains are scarce, a weekly watering will promote good flowers.

Staking

Heavy peony flowers, especially the old-fashioned types will no doubt bow down to the ground in the wind and rain unless staked. I usually pick some for the vase in the bud stage in an attempt to avoid this task, but nevertheless it makes the plant nice and tidy and should be accomplished. Middle weight bam-

boo stakes inserted into the ground on the outer edge of the plant cut to three-quarters its height, work well. Run two rows of twine or jute at one third and two thirds up the bamboo, respectively. Simply start by tying a knot on one stake, wrapping around the next and tightening as you go.

If green bamboo and jute are used the staking will hardly be visible, especially if you don't tighten so much that it looks unnatural. I have been using a three rung, large tomato cage with success for the last several years. The key is to get the cage in place early!

Diseases

One year my peony buds wilted and dried up just prior to bloom. The culprit was botrytis.

Good hygiene can reduce the risk of this fungus invading your garden. Each fall simply cut the stems of herbaceous peonies down to the ground. Haul them off to the trash, don't compost.

If watering is necessary, do so early in the morning and water at the plant's base rather than overhead to keep foliage dry. Any stems that show signs of wilting should be cut away and thrown in the trash as well. Disinfect clippers in between cuts.

By next weekend, I am sure there will be peonies in a vase, perfuming the entire room, just like they have for a number of decades each June...

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 33 years she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to pouimette@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.

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. 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.

Belchertown, Granby & Amherst
SENTINEL
TEAM

EDITORIAL
sentinel@turley.com

ADVERTISING SALES
Maureen
McGarrett Hall
mmcgarrett@turley.com

SPORTS EDITOR
Greg Scibelli
sports@turley.com

STAFF WRITER
Emily-Rose Pappas
epappas@turley.com

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WEB
www.sentinel.turley.com

PATRICK H. TURLEY
CEO

KEITH TURLEY
President

DEANNA SLOAT
Graphics Manager

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RELAY from page 1

Boy Scout Troop 507 participated in the opening ceremony and raised the American Flag during the National Anthem. The troop also participated in the Survivor's Lap, leading the way as dozens of cancer survivors lined up.

Vicki McAndrew is part of the leadership for the Quaboag Valley Relay for Life. This event is about being together in your local community to celebrate cancer survivors, remember loved ones lost, and fight back against every cancer.

The Relay for Life started 40 years ago in 1985 and the Quaboag Valley Relay for Life started about 20 years ago. Many survivors and supporters were wearing purple shirts that said "40 Years of Impact".

Multiple tents were set up and had community teams who participate in their community relays. When signing up, folks choose to lead a team in their community, join an existing team, or participate solo. Many tents were on the common and had teams named after people who are cancer survivors and those who fought against cancer.

McAndrew says there is fundraising throughout the year from September to August and all proceeds goes towards research. McAndrew has been cancer free for nine

years and expresses much gratitude from all the support the Relay has gotten in the community. Donations are always appreciated.

"We appreciate all their donations," McAndrew said.

The Hampden County Sheriff's Department horses arrived on the common for a visit after the Survivor's Lap ended.

The community came together supporting a great cause as the American Cancer Society.

For more information, visit relayforlife.org/quaboagvalley. The Relay for Life for Quaboag Valley can also be followed and found on Facebook.



Multiple prizes and gift baskets were up for grabs during the Quaboag Valley Relay for Life.



Boy Scout Troop 507 led the way during the Survivor's Lap.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY RYAN DRAGO

Announcements and the opening ceremony were presented by Brian Meehan.



Horses from the Hampden County Sheriff's Department visited the Quaboag Valley Relay for Life.



Guests got to visit with ducks during the event.

LEFT: The Bean Team offered face painting during the Relay for Life in Belchertown.

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COMMUNITY

Living History Day coming to Stone House Museum

Sights, smells, and sounds of American Pre-Revolution come alive at the Stone House Museum in Belchertown

BELCHERTOWN – Visit The Stone House Museum on its Living History Day, Saturday, June 14, and immerse yourself in the sights, sounds, and smells of the 18th century. The Green Valley Homestead Reenactment group will be hosting the event and has invited several talented artisans from across the state to

demonstrate their skills. This event features living historians and artisans who will demonstrate various 18th-century trades and life during one of the most important periods in American history. Some of the highlights include tin smithing, candle making, spinning, wool dyeing, carding, herbal and apothecary preparations, sewing, and a close-up look at the layers of 18th-century clothing. Visitors will be treated to a close-up look at the small animals that families depended on. There will be activities and games for children as well as a first-hand look at the use and function of a flintlock musket, used by soldiers during the American Revolution.

Come and spend the day walking around the museum grounds and experience what life was like in the late 1700s. Explore the Ford Annex's amazing collection of carriages and tools. Take a tour of The Stone House Museum with special exhibits featuring Revolutionary War memorabilia. Visitors will end the day walking to the common to witness the reenactment of the Marquis de Lafayette as he continues on his Grand Tour. Learn more about Lafayette by visiting the display boards in Memorial Hall. Watch for future updates regarding this event or contact sallyshattuck54@gmail or Caren Harrington carhar1863@aol.com.

Local cyclists team up with McCarthy's Pub to fight cancer

BELCHERTOWN – In 2025, the National Cancer Institute projects that approximately 2.04 million people will be diagnosed with cancer in the U.S. In fact, one in three people will contract cancer during their lifetimes. In the face of such daunting statistics, a group of five Western Mass residents have banded together to raise money to fight this potentially life-threatening disease.

Team (413) PMC, made up of Belchertown resident Sarah Aasheim, Jill and Steve Giebutowski (Monson), Jim Gosselin (South Hadley) and Ruby Schmerling (Amherst), will be riding 192 miles in the Pan Mass Challenge (PMC) this August to fund the cutting-edge cancer treatment and research provided by the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute (DFCI). The PMC is the single biggest supporter of Dana Farber, having raised over \$1 Billion since the ride's inception in 1980. Team (413) PMC's goal is to raise \$30,000 this year.

Like many PMC riders, Sarah, Jim and Ruby all have a personal connection to cancer. After losing his mom to melanoma in 2009, Jim began riding to give back to Dana Farber, where his mom had received wonderful care. This year will be his sixteenth ride. Jim (who serves as the team captain) noted, "When my Mom passed, there were not many treatment options and I felt like I needed to do something to help change that. The PMC is an amazing fundraising event and every dollar raised goes directly to research or treatment at Dana-Farber."

Ruby's brother Dror passed away just 4 months after his melanoma diagnosis, spurring Ruby to tackle the PMC for the first time. And Sarah, who had meta-

static melanoma more than 20 years ago, rides to raise awareness about the need to invest in support and treatment so that other cancer patients can have positive outcomes and enjoy long-term survival like she has.

"People here in Western Mass are not as familiar with the PMC and its mission, so we wanted to show off our Western Mass pride by adding '413' to our team name," shared Sarah. "We all benefit from having Dana-Farber in our backyard, so our goal is to shine a light on the outstanding care and hope they provide when those facing cancer need it most."

For Jill and Steve, their motivation to ride stems from many people in their lives who have faced different forms of cancer. Jill said, "Anything we can do to help fund research that fights cancer feels truly powerful and important. We are so proud to be taking part in this event!"

This group of five friends will be cycling hundreds of miles this spring and summer, to prepare for the "big ride" the first weekend in August. They ride in gratitude for the care they and their loved ones have received and to "pay it forward" to help others. Realizing that most people have a connection to cancer through their own diagnosis or that of a friend or loved one, this team of riders shares Dana Farber's commitment to a cure – and they



are pedaling the miles to support this goal.

To support their fundraising, McCarthy's Pub in Belchertown will be hosting "PMC Day" on Thursday June 12, from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. 10% of all food sales on this day will be donated directly to the Dana Farber Cancer Institute through Team (413) PMC's fundraiser. Janice McCarthy, owner of the pub, said "Cancer impacts everyone in our community one way or another, and we are really proud to support Team (413) PMC's efforts to raise funds for this important cause."

Team (413) PMC welcomes other businesses to support its efforts. Western MA companies Kelley Building Group and C.R. Levesque Trucking are generously sponsoring the team.

To sponsor or make a contribution to Team (413) PMC, donate online here, email sarahdaasheim@gmail.com or call (413) 687-1698. Any gift, large or small, makes a difference, and every rider-raised dollar is directly donated to DFCI and the Jimmy Fund.

AMHERST

Amherst's Restaurant Week returns June 8-12

AMHERST- The Amherst Business Improvement District (BID) is thrilled to announce the launch of Amherst Restaurant Week, taking place Sunday, June 8 through Thursday, June 12 in downtown Amherst. With more than a dozen participating restaurants and eateries, this weeklong event invites residents, students, and visitors alike to explore the diverse and delicious food scene that makes Amherst a standout dining destination.

Building on the legacy of the beloved "Taste of Amherst," which last ran in 2019, this reimagined event brings the focus back to the restaurants themselves. Diners can enjoy special offers, prix fixe menus, and exclusive deals at a wide range of local favorites - from casual cafés to upscale

taverns, global flavors to homegrown comfort food.

"Amherst Restaurant Week is all about celebrating the incredible talent and variety we have right here in downtown," says Robert Allingham, Marketing & Communications Manager for the Amherst BID. "We want to make it easy and exciting for people to visit multiple restaurants, support our local businesses, and discover something new."

To kick off the week, Downtown Amherst will come alive on Sunday, June 8 with free entertainment and local flavor. From 4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., the local band Prone to Mischief will perform a lively outdoor set downtown, creating the perfect atmosphere to stroll, dine, and enjoy the evening. At the same time, Chef Bill

Collins will host a free cooking demo at the White Lion Brewing patio, preparing asparagus marsala for attendees to sample and learn how to make themselves.

Participating locations will be marked with "Restaurant Week Participant" window decals and table signage inside, and additional details - including each restaurant's specific offer - can be found on amherstdowntown.com and by following @AmherstDowntown on Instagram.

Whether you're a longtime local or new to town, Amherst Restaurant Week is the perfect excuse to explore, indulge, and support the restaurants that shape the heart of downtown.

SCHOOLS

Important IEP information for graduating seniors

BELCHERTOWN – Graduating Seniors who were previously on an IEP are encouraged to pick up their senior packets at Central Office. Packets include: most recent IEP and testing, along with a summary of performance.

If you wish to obtain your records, please come to Central Office, 14

Maple Street, with picture identification, between the hours of 9 a.m. and 3 p.m., Monday-Friday, excluding holidays.

High School transcripts that contain course titles and grades received will continue to be stored at the BHS Counseling Office for sixty (60) years after graduation.

Local student inducted into Pi Lambda Theta

BOSTON, MA (05/27/2025) – Ella Francis of Granby (01033) is one of 22 Emmanuel College students recently inducted into Pi Lambda Theta, one of the nation's most prestigious education honor societies.

Established in 1910, Pi Lambda Theta serves to recognize outstanding students who intend to pursue careers in education; undergraduate members must have a cumulative GPA of at least 3.5 and intend to pursue a career in education.

With more than 80 majors and areas of study, Emmanuel College combines outstanding classroom instruction and real-world experience to prepare students for lives of achievement, learning, and purpose. Voted the #1 college location in America by Niche.com in 2023 and 2024, Emmanuel offers easy access to world-class medical, cultural, and business organizations from 400 The Fenway in Boston. Learn more at Emmanuel.edu.

Gilman receives BS/MS from WPI

WORCESTER – On Friday, May 16, Megan Gilman, who majored in Computer Science, was bestowed a BS/MS degree at WPI's 156th Commencement. Nearly 1,300 undergraduate degrees were awarded during the ceremony.

President Grace J. Wang, PhD, and Board of Trustees Chair William

Fitzgerald presided over the exercises.

Wang told members of the Class of 2025 they are entering a changing world filled with competing visions for how to solve challenges and advance society. But, she said, along with knowledge and technical competence in their chosen fields of study, WPI graduates have been equipped with the ability to think critically, to be resilient, to work in teams, and to do it all with a sense of ethics and global responsibility.

"Outside these walls today is a world that needs you," Wang said. "Not just because of what you have learned to do in your chosen field, but because of who you are, and also because of the leadership qualities you built at WPI." Delivering the undergraduate Commencement address, Michelle Gass '90, president and chief executive officer of Levi Strauss & Co., reflected on her journey from student to global business leader to inspire the Class of 2025. Gass said she's often asked how a chemical

Assumption students named to Spring 2025 University's Dean's List

WORCESTER – Assumption University has announced those who have been named to the University's Dean's List for the spring 2025 semester. 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 this prestigious list, which is announced at the completion of the fall and spring semesters.

Emma Buffone of Belchertown

Reighan Joyce of Amherst

Meredith Medina of Belchertown

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TRASH from page 5

Economy Committee, and Clapp Memorial Library to brighten the Belchertown Transfer Station & Recycling Center experience with murals focused on the theme of reduce, recycle, reuse, and regenerate.

The Belchertown Transfer Station Container Mural project began with training and support from New England Foundation for the Arts (NEFA) and the Municipal Area Planning Council's Arts and Culture Department through their Making it Public for Municipalities program. To learn more about the Trash Gala or the Transfer Station Container Mural project, visit the Belchertown Creative Economy page: <https://www.belchertown.org/513/Municipal-Arts-Program>

Please see WPI, page 15

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Orioles fall to Lions



Kina Roy fires a pitch to second.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI
Madeline Williams fires a pitch to the plate.

BELCHERTOWN – In a makeup game for both teams prior to the state playoffs, Belchertown fell to visiting Ludlow 13-9 on May 24 in a makeup game for both teams. It was a wild game, though Ludlow maintained a lead for most of the matchup. Belchertown had a couple of scoring spurts to stay in the game. But

Ludlow was able to hold on to the lead for its ninth of the season. Madelyn Goncalves-Korny had four hits and four RBI while Sophia Mitus, Lila Roy, Vivian Ross, and Valerie Williams had two hits each. Ross drove in three runs.



Vivian Ross fouls off a pitch.



Natalie Rose picks up a base hit to the outfield.



Valerie Williams attempts to get a tag out at second.

After pair of big wins, Pioneers draw in home opener

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW—Putting the ball into the back of the net wasn't a major issue for the Western Mass. Pioneers in their first two regular season matches.

The Pioneers, who out-scored Boston City and the Albany Rush, 15-0, on the road, played a 1-1 draw against the Seacoast United Phantoms in the home opener at historic Lusitano Stadium on May 23.

"I thought it was a very good game tonight," said longtime Pioneers head coach Federico Molinari. "Seacoast won the championship last year and they're

a very good team again this year. They defended very well against us. We did play much better during the second half than we did in the first half."

The Pioneers first home match was played on a miserable night weatherwise.

Eleven different players scored a goal in the Pioneers' first two road matches.

Israel Neto led the way offensively with three goals. Matt Cence and Robbie Lyons both scored two goals. The other goals for the Pioneers were scored by Oskar

Please see **PIONEERS**, page 12



TURLEY PHOTO BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM
Cameron Hall, Pioneers goalie, sends a free kick away.

Pioneers make quick work first tourney opponent

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

PALMER—Just like they did a year ago, the Pathfinder Tech softball team didn't have very much trouble defeating a charter school from Boston in a Division 5 state tournament home game.

The 25th-seeded Lady Pioneers exploded for 13 runs in the second inning enroute to a 22-0 victory over the 40th-seeded Neighborhood House Charter School in a preliminary round game, last Friday afternoon.

The contest ended after 4 1/2 innings due to 12-run mercy rule.

"The girls have worked very hard all season long and they deserve to celebrate a post-season victory," said Pathfinder Tech first-year head coach Phil Gallo. "We didn't know very much about our opponent, and they probably didn't know anything about us either."

The victory improved the Lady Pioneers overall record to 13-5. They beat Boston Collegiate Charter School, 19-4, in last year's preliminary round home game.

During the regular season, the Lady Pioneers scored ten or more runs in nine



Emily Forcier sizes up a hit.



Kendra Burke sends a pitch to the plate

games. The 22 runs is a new season high. They posted a 21-0 home win against the Renaissance School in the middle of May.

The neighborhood House Charter School, which is in Dorchester, opened its doors seven years ago. The school is nicknamed the Legends and the softball team qualified for the Division 5 state tournament for the first time. The Legends (11-8) didn't appear like they were ready to compete at the state level yet. The MIAA should think about having the charter schools

play in their own state tournament in the future.

While the Lady Pioneers offense pounded out 13 base hits, which included a couple of home runs, senior right-hander Kendra Burke struck out the first twelve batters that she faced.

"When Kendra is hitting her spots, I wouldn't want to have anyone else standing in the circle for us," Gallo said. "She pitched very well in today's game."

It was the final home softball game for Burke, along with her classmates Greenly Lagimoniere, Lianna Carrasquillo, and Isabella Nompleggi.

Carrasquillo, who started at third base, knocked home the game's first run with a flyball single to right field with no outs in the bottom

which was good to see."

Junior right fielder Emily Prouty led the way offensively with three base hits.

Lagimoniere (2-for-3), who started in centerfield, hit a two run home run in the second inning. It was her second home run of the season.

The Lady Pioneers sent 18 batters to the plate during that frame. Nompleggi (shortstop) contributed with a pair of singles. Pathfinder also drew five walks in the second.

Junior catcher Emily McNeaney had a two run double in the third inning, as the Lady Pioneers scored four more runs.

Burke's perfect game bid came to an end after allowing a leadoff groundball single in the fifth inning. The base runner was thrown out trying to steal second base by McNeaney. Burke struck out the final two batters of the game.

During the regular season, Burke, who's from Ware, hurled a perfect game and three no-hitters. She also struck out 21 batters in another game.

"It feels amazing winning my final home game," Burke said. "I loved being a member of this softball team. I'm looking forward to coming back and watching them play next year."

Burke is planning to play college softball at Worcester State University next year.

The Lady Pioneers played eighth-seeded Hopkins Academy in a round of 32 game two days later.

Taylor Thorton hustles for first base.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI
Claire Maschi fouls off a pitch.

of the first inning. Junior left fielder Addison Doktor capped off the opening frame with a 3-run homer to left. Doktor also had an RBI sin-

gle in the third. "This was Addison's best game of the season," Gallo said. "We just kept hitting the ball hard from start to finish,

CLINIC from page 1

dance, and learn life skills like listening, teamwork, and sportsmanship.

"It's all about introducing kids to cheer in a fun, supportive environment. We'll work on everything from basic stretching and conditioning to introductory tumbling and stunts, always with a strong focus on safety," said Mastej.

The football clinic, running on the same days, has always been a part of the BGA Eagles, and is "a long-standing tradition in Belchertown youth sports," said Mastej.

"The best part of any clinic is seeing old faces and meeting new ones. It's a great way to not only introduce new players to the game, but to also bring our football and cheer community together in the off-season," said Carver.

The football clinic is for second through eighth grade and is made for all aspiring football players before they get into high school.

On Saturday, June 28, the kids will be able to put their skills to the test from the previous days for a 7v7 passing game, and on the same day, there will be a special event, the Owen Sedlacek Memorial Tournament.

"Owen was a beloved past player who tragically passed away, and this tournament is our way of honoring his memory and celebrating his spirit of competition and camaraderie," said Mastej.

There will also be an alumni tournament of games for high school through adult players, with proceeds donated to Owen's family.

"Honestly, it's seeing those 'aha!' moments! When a child nails a new skill or truly connects with a teammate, that's pure magic. The energy is just infectious," said

Mastej, excited for this year's clinics.

In order to join the football team, athletes must be between second and eighth grade, live or go to school in Belchertown, Granby, Amherst, and surrounding areas, and be ready to play.

There are three levels and teams: PeeWee, grades two through four, Juniors, grades five and six, and Seniors, grades seven and eight. The football played is full-tackle with pads, helmets, and mouthguards, with a commitment to practice four days a week in August, and three days a week when school starts.

There will be eight regular season games on weekends in September and October, play-offs, and the SuperBowl for the top teams from Division 1 and 2 in November.

"We are in the Suburban Amateur Football League, and we play other SAFL teams in Western Massachusetts. Last year, our PeeWee team made it to the first round of playoffs, and the Senior team went all the way to the final round of playoffs, just missing the SuperBowl. We are very proud of them," said Shelby Masi, Director of Media.

"This team means so much to us personally, since we just bought a house here in Belchertown last September and were totally new to town and did not know anyone," said Masi. "Really, it is more like a family than anything else."

"I believe that football is not only a great sport but is also critical in teaching life lessons to our youth. It builds confidence, discipline, life-long friendships, and camaraderie. It is one of the few sports that truly fosters teamwork and a sense of belonging to something larger than



The cheerleaders cheering away for the players to get that touchdown.

just an individual contribution," said Carver.

"This clinic, and our whole cheer team, is truly a chance for everyone to see what cheer is really about. It's not just about game day; it's about building strength, discipline, and incredible confidence," said Mastej.

"We're excited for a great season ahead – and the clinic is just the first step in that direction. I'd offer that if a parent has ever thought about signing their child up – or getting involved themselves – there is no better time than now," said Carver.

For questions about the clinic and program, or to register for the clinic, you can find more on their website at www.belchertownfootball.com, and also fill out a volunteer form, as the team runs on volunteer help. You can email Amber Mastej at cheer@belchertownfootball.com for more information and follow them on Facebook at Belchertown Granby Amherst Eagles.



Cheerleaders getting ready to support their team. Go Eagles!



The Pickup Game was a success, and there is more fun to be had at the upcoming clinic.



Belchertown youth football hosts a pickup game last weekend.



PIONEERS from page 9

Kaufmann, Aiden Kelly, Austin Bush, Jose Suarez, Jose Bustamante, Gustavo Barbosa, and Mamadi Jiana, who's a former member of the Chicopee boys' soccer team.

The Phantoms (0-1-1), who are the defending USL League Two National champions, had won the previous three matchups between the two rivals held at Lusitano Stadium.

The home team had an opportunity to take an early lead, but a breakaway opportunity by Kaufmann in the second minute of the match was saved by Seacoast goalie Jahn Tobias.

With 15 minutes remaining in the first half, Tobias

Jaiden Williams sets for a throw-in.

made a diving save on another shot attempt from Kaufmann.

Down at the other end of the field, Western Mass. goalie Cameron Hall also made a couple of key saves, which kept the contest scoreless until the second half.

The Phantoms also had nine corner kicks during the first 45 minutes.

Early in the second half, the referee awarded the Phantoms a penalty kick following a foul inside the box.

Hall, who posted shutouts in the first two matches, made a diving save on the shot taken by Taig Healy. The ball was deflected away by Hall, but Healy was in the right spot to knock home the rebound shot giving the visiting team a 1-0 advantage.

The Pioneers scored the equalizer a little more than ten minutes later.

The scoring play began with Suarez sending a crossing pass from the left side of the penalty area to Kaufmann, who fired a shot into the lower right corner of the net.

Neither team was able to score another goal during the last 30 minutes of regulation.

The second meeting of the regular season between the two squads is scheduled to take place on June 25th.

The Pioneers played a road match against the Boston Bolts on June 3 before returning home three nights later to face NEFC, who's competing at the USL-League Two level for the first time this season.



Santiago Blasco Gomez balances the ball.



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OBITUARIES

Stephen Francis Atwell



Stephen Francis Atwell passed away peacefully at home on May 2, 2025 after a long illness. Born on July 1, 1952 in Northampton, MA to Earle George Atwell and Dorothy (Shepherd) Atwell. When he was young, he lived in Leverett and Belchertown. He



moved with his mother and stepfather, Roland Strange and family to Fontana, California and turned eleven years old on the day they arrived. On March 3, 1970, he joined the United States Marine Corp and was an auto mechanic at Camp Pendleton, CA. He earned the National Defense Service Medal and Rifle Marksman Badge. He was honorably discharged on March 2, 1972 and remained in the Marine Corp Reserve Forces until December 3, 1975. His family moved back to Belchertown in 1971 and he joined them after his discharge in 1972.

He married his true love, Lori Ann Fay, on June 1, 1974. They had two children, Becky Lee in 1977 and Michael Lehman in 1979. Steve had several jobs over the years: National Blank Book in Holyoke; Seder

Foods in Palmer and also had many construction jobs, building and renovating houses. He also worked at Quaboag Transfer Co. in Bondsville, operating a fork lift and moving train cars loaded with lumber and building materials. He retired in 2016 from Cable Construction Co. in CT, where he installed and maintained cable infrastructure.

Steve was very close to his family and enjoyed playing pitch and poker with them. He also loved camping and fishing, although he didn't like fish so gave them away or returned them to the water. He hosted many family picnics at his home or at Laurel Lake, where he enjoyed grilling for everyone and playing horseshoes. In his later years, he enjoyed visiting and playing dominoes with family and friends and watching the birds in his backyard. Always one for a laugh, Steve enjoyed telling jokes and stories to all who would listen.

He was predeceased by his father, mother and stepfather as well as in 2012, son Michael, and in 2025, son-in-law, Raymond McGinnis. Also predeceasing Steve

were siblings Earle; Edward; Gerald; Melvin; Bruce; Barbara; Richard; Phillip; Diann; Dennis; David Atwell; Cheryl (Atwell) Houck; Janice (Atwell) Greene and Dale Strange. He was also predeceased by his stepfamily Alan and Gary Strange; Dona (Strange) Clark and Gail (Strange) Clark.

He leaves his loving wife of fifty years, Lori Atwell and daughter, Becky McGinnis and granddaughters Haley (Bourgeois) and Allison McGinnis and his only remaining sibling, Candace (Atwell, Czupkiewicz) McNeaney as well as several in-laws, cousins, nieces and nephews.

A military service will be held graveside at South Cemetery, 143 Mill Valley Rd. (Rte. 181) in Belchertown on Saturday, June 28 at 9:30 a.m. A reception will be immediately following at the Belchertown VFW, 41 Pelham Rd., Belchertown.

Memorial contributions may be sent to Belchertown VA Services, payable to: Town of Belchertown, ATTN: Veteran's Gift Fund, 2 Jabish St, Belchertown, MA 01007 or St. Jude Children's Research Hospital P.O. Box 50, Memphis, TN 38101-9929.

Jeannine M. Talbot

Jeannine M. (Talbot) Morin, 92, of Belchertown, passed away peacefully at her home on May 25, 2025.



Born on April 23, 1933, in LaPatrie, Quebec, she was the daughter of the late Désiré and Aurore (Vezina) Talbot. Jeannine moved to Aldenville, Massachusetts at the age of 18, where she worked diligently to learn English and later earned her associate's degree from Springfield Technical Community College.

A proud resident of Belchertown for over 60 years, Jeannine embraced farm life, raising a variety of animals and enjoying the simple pleasures of country living. She also built a successful business in real estate, dedicating more than 60 years to managing various properties.

Jeannine was employed as a supervisor at both

Monson Developmental Center and the Belchertown State School before her retirement. She had a talent for sewing and was a long-time member of the 4-H sewing club, "Pins and Needles."

Jeannine was the beloved matriarch of her family, known for her strength, warmth, and unwavering love. She will be dearly missed by all who knew and loved her. Jeannine is survived by her children, Roger Martineau and his wife Deb, Therese Leab and partner Tom, Carole Wheeler and partner Bob, and Francis Martineau; her partner, Claude Morin, and his children Kathleen Desjardins and Claude Jr.; as well 13 grandchildren, 13 great-grandchildren, and many extended family and friends. Services are being held privately at a later date.

DEATH NOTICES

Atwell, Stephen
Died May 2, 2025
Services June 28 at South Cemetery, 143 Valley Rd., Belchertown

Talbot, Jeannine
Died May 25, 2025
Services are private.

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.

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

POLICE LOGS

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 May 21 through May 27. 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
Wednesday, May 21

3:01 a.m. – A 45-year-old Hadley resident was issued a summons for operating under the influence of liquor, negligent operation of a motor vehicle, a marked lanes violation and speeding.

A vehicle going south on North Washington Street was going straight and left the roadway after failing to navigate a turn. The vehicle went up and over the embankment rolled and came to a stop against a tree. A telephone guidewire prevented the vehicle from rolling over. The incident is under investigation.

Saturday, May 24

2:19 a.m. – A 17-year-old Belchertown resident was issued a summons for negligent operator of a motor vehicle, leaving scene of property damage and a junior operator driving without a parent and speeding.

An officer doing stationary radar heard tires screeching, coming from direction of the Pride gas station. The officer saw a vehicle leave the gas station onto Turkey Hill Road toward Chauncey Walker Road. The officer caught up with the vehicle which was going 45 to 50 MPH. The vehicle continued onto Chauncey Walker Road going 60 to 65 mph in that area. The officer then contacted Ludlow Police because the vehicle was going to be going into their town at a high speed. The rock wall, large tree near the town line. Appeared to be ejected from the vehicle and the fire department attempted to locate the person. The K-9 was contacted to find the person. The roadway was closed during the search. The person left the vehicle and was at a

friends. The officer was able to contact the person, who said a friend used the vehicle. didn't know wasn't supposed to be operating with JOL. Fire department and ambulance arrived to assess the person. Then after consulted to hospital for evaluation. The vehicle was towed. A wallet was found in the vehicle, which turned out to be fake.

1:13 p.m. – A 31-year-old Brookfield man was issued a summons for leaving the scene of property damage accident. To center parking lot for a hit and run. It was reported a vehicle hit another vehicle then fled the scene officer located the damaged vehicle. determine the owner of the vehicle who left called and denied striking the vehicle. Didn't feel the other vehicle was struck and was issued a summons for leaving the scene

Tuesday, May 27

7 p.m. – A Belchertown man was arrested for two counts of violating of an abuse prevention order, possession of ammunition without an FID and obstruction of justice.

ACCIDENTS/INCIDENTS
Wednesday, May 21

12:25 a.m. – Police and fire responded to a North Main Street residence for a report of an argument between neighbors about a bonfire behind the building. The neighbors reported they were unable to sleep. A small brush/bonfire could be seen. The fire was extinguished, and the people went inside. Management staff of the building will be discussing the bonfire policy.

10:23 a.m. – An officer took a report of fraud. A resident got a phone call began to speak with the caller who convinced them to send money. Then the person called and continued to ask for more money. The person gave them money.

5:35 p.m. – An officer responded to the Orchard Street area near the Amherst Road. A report of illegal dumping of snowblower and fertilizer spreader was found to be true. The Department of Public Works was contacted and no suspects at this time.

9:36 p.m. – An officer took a report of fraud. The officer spoke with a person saying that Snapchat got their email and password. A scammer

then began to message their friends pretending to them. The person was trying to get money from the friends. The person was advised to delete their account and block the spammer.

Thursday, May 22

8:10 a.m. – An officer responded to an accident on Depot Street. A vehicle traveling north on Depot Street began veering into the southbound lane. The vehicle went over the fog lane and into a rock wall, over a water system and came to stop. No tow was needed and no injuries were reported.

11:41 a.m. – An officer responded to an accident on Plantation Drive. A vehicle going west on Plantation Drive was struck by a second vehicle that failed to yield. There was damage to both vehicles. No tows were needed and no injuries were reported.

1:49 p.m. – An officer responded to a bank for a report of possible fraud. A person attempted to do a large sum transaction. The person was told they won a large sum of money and two new cars. They were told they needed to send checks to a person via an Uber. The officer was able to hear one of the calls and there were multiple voices heard in the

background. The person was advised to potentially change their phone number. Their accounts were locked, and the check was caught in time to be voided.

4:03 p.m. – An officer took a report of fraud. The person got a notice their financial assistance was going to end. The person was still in need of assistance.

Friday, May 23

1:24 a.m. – An officer with Belchertown Fire responded to Everett Acres for a fire alarm. Upon their arrival, a second fire alarm was sounding. The officer didn't see smoke. Firefighters checked the area. The residents stated they could smell burnt plastic or rubber coming from a basement door. The area was checked and they were able

to open the basement door. Firefighters found heavy smoke and fire. The electrical panels and water heaters were stored there. Residents were evacuated. A maintenance worker and the town's building inspector responded on scene. The building was determined safe to occupy. The state fire marshal and officers from the state fire marshal's office were on scene.

3:55 p.m. – An officer responded to an accident on Federal Street. A vehicle stopped on Federal Street when one vehicle was turning onto Federal Street. No injuries were reported and no tows were needed.

Saturday, May 24

8:54 a.m. – An officer took a report of a past vandalism.

The person has their house egged. One struck the side and a second-floor window. There are no suspects at this time.

11:05 a.m. – An officer responded to an accident on Mill Valley Road. A vehicle going north on Mill Valley Road, hit something soft which removed the air dam. No injuries were reported, no tow was needed.

2:26 p.m. – An officer responded to assist Belchertown fire and paramedics.

Sunday, May 25

4:44 a.m. – An officer responded to an accident on Federal Street. A vehicle going northbound on

Please see **POLICE**, page 15

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We believe that the ultimate goal of education is to support students as successful lifelong learners.

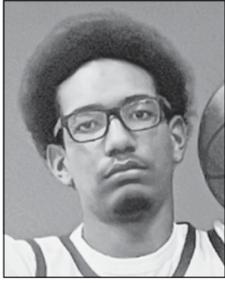
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GRANBY HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2025



Jena Abbott
Medical
UMass Amherst



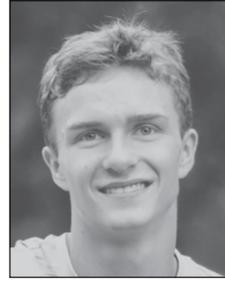
Junior Alcantara
Computer Engineering
WNE



Xavier Arroyo
Auto Mechanic
Work



Aiden Beach
Engineering
UMass Amherst



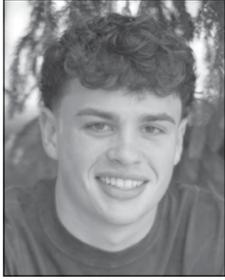
Nathan Benson
Film
Vermont State - Castleton



Cody Breault
Electrician
Griffin Electric



Mabel Carillon
PT
Sacred Heart



Sawyer Clarke
Business
University of Kentucky



Raymond Colon
Electrician
Electrical Apprenticeship



Quinlin Cook
Veterinarian
Westfield State



John Crawford
Undecided
HCC



Margaret Crawford
Chemistry
St. Michaels



Brennan Dwyer
Undecided
STCC



Gavier Fernandez Jr.
Management
Kent School



Cassandra Flaherty
Medical/Radiology
UVM



Cole Fuller
Nurse Practitioner
UMass Dartmouth



Kailee Gomez
Work



Riley Goodhind
Athletic Training
Springfield College



Katie Grabherr
Social Worker
HCC



Isabella Guzman
Cosmetology
Monarch



Shaylin Hauschild
Cybersecurity
WNEU



Brianna Houghton
Business
HCC



Gavin Kennedy
Engineering
WPI



Kelly Lynne Kennedy
Journalism/Broadcasting
University Arizona



Lydia Kicza
Cosmetology
Digirgoli



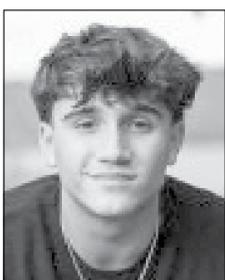
Bear Lacharite
Undecided
STCC



Andre LaFlamme
Diesel Mechanic
Waste Management



Alexis Lapite
Medical
WNE



Logan LaPointe
Electrician
HCC



Cheyenne Laramie
Nursing
Worcester State



Cameron LeBlanc
Engineering
HCC



Ava McFarland
Early Education
Elms



Justin Merced
Art/Creative Writing
Mass College of Art & Design



Chenoa Mestre
Tattoo Artist
STCC



Tristan Moe
Medical/Nursing
U New England



Gavin Moreno
Biomedical Engineering
UConn



Jonathan O'Connor
Criminal Justice
Westfield State



Emma Parsons
Gap Year
Work



Jaedyn Pike
Finance
HCC



Jordyn Placzek
Cosmetology



Addison Prignano
International Relations
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Olyvia Redmond
Dental Hygiene
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GRANBY HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2025



Olah Roller
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UMass Amherst



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Finance
University of Kentucky



Ava Saunders
Zoology
URI



Luke Scott
Work



Maxwell Seymour
Laser Optics Technology
STCC



Autumn Sicard
Nursing
UConn



Austin Smith
Engineering
Michigan Tech



Stewart Szlosek
Electrical Engineering
STCC



Cody White
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Sports Medicine
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CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2025!

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Thirza C. Lareau, M.D.
Amy C. Kasper, M.D.
Kimberly A. Dewey, M.D.
Kimberly J. Martins, M.D.
Priya S. Malik, M.D.
Julia Komatsu, M.D.
Melissa Maciborski, M.D.
Shatabdi Pinky, M.D.
Rachel McKenna, N.P.
Solmaz Masoudi, P.A.
Nicole Santos, LMHC
Rachel Kluk, MHC

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SCARBORO from page 1

night would not have been possible without a multitude of creative minds.

Easthampton media provided production services that included, but are not limited to sound and video editing.

Pete Sienkenicz was the electrical engineer.

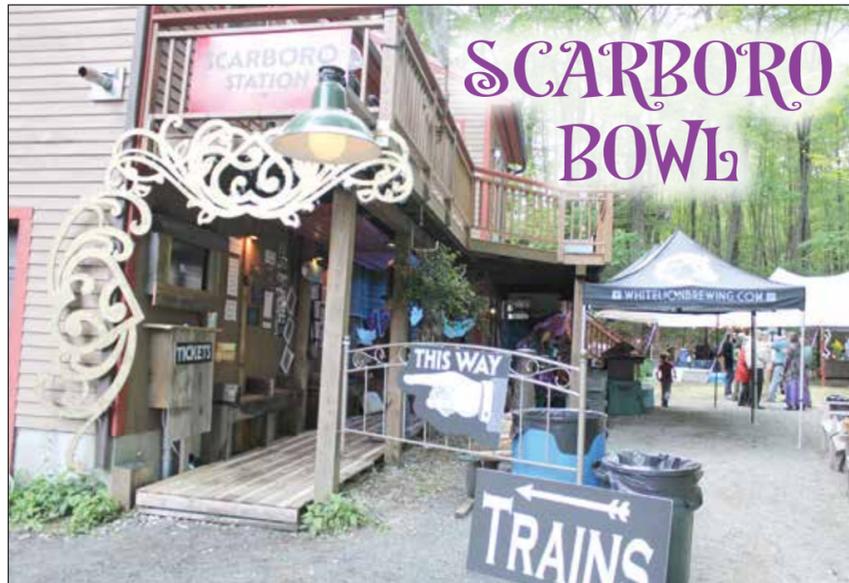
Matt Wolaver created the ticket stubs for the event in an effort to try and bring back ticket stubs. E media, Sienkenicz, and Wolaver are just some of the people with different skill sets that helped bring this network together.

This event displays flora research as seen through the botany research institute. "The art is meant to be explored and show how we need the community to help figure out the rest of the story," said Walker.

Egerstrom was the creative director who created the majority of the art displayed. She calls her art pieces alien flowers.

Egerstrom created a mythology for the alien flowers that explains how they were invented as well as how these organisms are sustained.

Walker and Egerstrom wanted this to be a destination for people to discover how things grow. They also wanted to explore how to carve out a space in nature where you don't have to tame it, but you can simply exist with it.



A warm welcome from the Scarboro Bowl and Art Garden.



Part of Marisa Egerstrom's sculpture Ovaria Ciliatum.



Art piece Luminifera Obliqua created by Marisa Egerstrom.



Another fantastical sculpture by Marisa Egerstrom.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY MURPHY FITTS
Nick Shaw(percussion), **Kate Nicolaou**(vocals), **Juan Araneda** (guitar and vocals), and **Bill Noland**(bass), all members of the band **Nectar**, about to perform live.

Egerstrom also wanted to explore what it means to gather materials and give a separate personality to all of her different sculptures. "I love making art that inspires participation and involvement all around," said Egerstrom.

The materials that Egerstrom used were a plethora of multimedia including and not limited to iridescent vinyl, ping pong balls, off brand materials, trash, and old materials.

Egerstrom's favorite part of this event is inspiring people to play and drop their defenses, thus becoming their best self.

"I want everyone to be open to the depth of human connection that we are in real need of in this day and age," said Egerstrom.

Walker added that he loves

seeing how people interact with the art and grasp hold of the back story and how it relates to everything.

Walker has been hosting backyard community music festivals and events of all kinds for 10 years, but he has never before hosted an event quite like this.

The openness and ability for people to connect with each other is one part that makes this event special. Walker wants to bring people together to express themselves and enjoy their time.

This is the largest art project that Egerstrom has worked on yet. She enjoyed collaborating and world building with Walker.

"Art is worth the time it takes and everyone should enjoy deeper connections with the world as it is," said Egerstrom.



Loren Walker welcomes the community and introduces the main artist of the night, Marisa Egerstrom.



A look into the Scarboro Institute for Cosmic Botanists.

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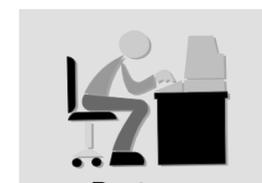
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POLICE LOG from page 11

Federal Street struck a deer. There was some damage to the vehicle. No injuries were reported, and no tows were needed.

5:13 p.m. – An officer responded to a report of a disturbance involving neighbors. One reported the other's tv was too loud. The officer responded to the residence, and they could hear the tv coming from a particular apartment. The officer spoke with the two neighbors.

Tuesday, May 27

8:09 a.m. – An officer responded to an accident. A vehicle going northbound when it turned into a business. As the vehicle turned, a person riding a bicycle rode right into the vehicle. The person on the bicycle didn't stay in the area to wait for police to arrive.

9:15 a.m. – An officer responded to a business for a report of a large business sign that was stolen. The sign was there on Friday when the reporting person left from work. No suspects were reported. It was forwarded to a detective.

9:23 a.m. – An officer took a report of suspicious activity. A person was on OmeTV, a website when people can do real time to connect with strangers and joined two male people who had vests and guns. They said they were real. See a rifle in the

background. The person didn't recognize them. they knew her name. unknown who they area.

2:51 p.m. – An officer responded to Boardman Road for an accident. A vehicle tried to pull to the shoulder of the road, slid into a ditch full of water. A towing company was contacted. The vehicle was towed and drove from the scene.

6:33 p.m. – A person in an atm observed a man walk to south side of the building and went to a vehicle as was sitting the rear of the atm. The reporting person pulled on the door, it was unlocked and open. The person locked the door. The man returned parting person pulled on the door it was unlocked and open then shut the door and it locked. Then the man returned and approached the atm with an electronic box. Said they were an electrician. Bank of America said a technician would out to check. No sign crime observed.

Granby Police Log

Editor's Note: The Granby Police Department responded to 130 calls for the week of May 23 through May 29. Those arrested are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law. The Granby Police Department provides all information.

Saturday, May 24

7:54 p.m. – A motorist reported that a vehicle veered into their lane of travel causing them to drive off the right side of the road and strike a highway sign. The other vehicle did not stop and was not identified. There were no injuries.

Monday, May 26

11:02 a.m. – A motorist reported striking a deer. There were no injuries.

7:38 p.m. – An employee at Cumberland Farms stated that a customer was being unruly because a transaction was unable to be processed. The customer left prior to police arrival.

Tuesday, May 27

2:28 p.m. – A motorist reported a minor two-car accident. There were no injuries.

2:50 p.m. – While on patrol, an officer observed a motor vehicle cut through the Dunkin Donuts Plaza at a high rate of speed to avoid the traffic light. The vehicle was stopped and the operator was issued a civil citation for making an improper turn.

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

Wednesday, May 28

11:33 a.m. – A motorist reported a two-car accident. Granby Police and Fire responded. There were no injuries.

Author to give presentation at the Grange

REGION – Ware Grange's next gardening workshop, "Succession Planting," will be held on Wednesday, June 18 at 7 p.m. at the Grange Hall at 297 Belchertown Road in Ware. Our presenter will be Roberta McQuaid, author of the weekly "In the

Garden" column for Turley Publications. By now, the garden is in, but do you still have the urge to sow more seed? Learn how to extend the harvest by sowing and planting in succession. We will discuss easy re-sowers, such as bush beans and lettuce, and also take a look

at tomatoes, peas, broccoli and more which can also offer fresh picking into the fall months and less money spent at the grocery store. Visit Ware Grange on Facebook or at waregrange.org for more information.

WPI from page 8

engineering graduate from WPI became CEO of one of the most iconic apparel companies in the world. The answer, she told the graduates, lies in a handful of guiding principles she started refining in her years on the WPI campus.

"I've realized that to the extent I've been successful and able to engineer the kind of life I wanted for myself and my family, it's largely because I learned how to approach problems and moments intentionally and productively, while keeping real people in mind at all times," Gass said.

Gass and Mark Fuller, chair and treasurer of the George F. and Sybil H. Fuller Foundation, a significant supporter of WPI, received honorary degrees as part of the ceremony.

Student speaker Dhespina Zhidro, a biomedical engineering and mechanical

engineering double major, reminded fellow graduates about the community they formed for themselves, shaped by a collective experience that included struggle, doubt, and, ultimately, achievement.

"WPI has given us more than an education," Zhidro said. "It has given us a blueprint for how to live, how to lead, create meaningful change, and leave every place we enter better than we found it."

About Worcester Polytechnic Institute

WPI is a top-tier STEM-focused research university and a recognized pioneer and global leader in project-based learning. Founded in 1865 on the principle that students learn most effectively by applying the theory learned in the classroom to the practice of solving real-world problems, WPI's continued mission is to transform lives, turn knowledge

into action to confront global challenges, and revolutionize STEM through distinctive and inclusive education, projects, and research. WPI's project-based curriculum engages undergraduates in solving important scientific, technological, and societal problems throughout their education and at more than 50 project centers around the world. Today WPI offers more than 70 bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degree programs across 18 academic departments in science, engineering, technology, business, the social sciences, and the humanities and arts. To help address ongoing challenges, improve lives, and help create a more sustainable world, WPI faculty and students pursue groundbreaking research in such areas as the life sciences, smart technologies, materials and manufacturing, and global initiatives.

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The land with the buildings thereon in Belchertown, Hampshire County, Massachusetts, being more particularly bounded and described as follows:

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Thence running: along a curve to the right having a radius of 30.00 feet along the westerly sideline of Stadler Street an arc distance of 37.31 feet to a point;

Thence running: S 30° 43' 47" E along the westerly sideline of said Stadler Street a distance of 27.81 feet to a point;

Thence running: S 48° 59' 17" W along other land at George B. Jackson a distance of 94.70 feet to a point;

Thence running: S 71° 22' 42" W along other land of George B. Jackson a distance of 22.00 feet to a point;

Thence running: S 18° 37' 18" E along other land of George B. Jackson a distance of 7.47 feet to a point;

Thence running: S 71° 22' 42" W along other land of George B. Jackson a distance of 38.00 feet to a point;

Thence running: S 18° 37' 18" E along other land of George B. Jackson a distance of 3.13 feet to a point;

Thence running: S 71° 22' 42" W along other land of George B. Jackson a distance of 7.70 feet to a point;

Thence running: S 18° 37' 18" E along other land of George B. Jackson a distance of 70.82 feet to a point;

Thence running: S 71° 22' 42" W along other land of George B. Jackson a distance of 17.00 feet to a point;

Thence running: N 15° 30' 50" W along other land now or formerly of George B. Jackson a distance of 183.75 feet to the point of beginning.

Containing 14,967 square feet of area, more or less. Subject to restrictions and easements of record, if in force and applicable.

Subject to an easement retained and reserved by George B. Jackson, herein his heirs, grantees or assigns, more particularly described as follows;

Beginning at a point on the westerly sideline of Stadler Street at the southeast corner of the above-described parcel and also of this easement:

Thence running: N 30° 43' 47" W along the westerly sideline of Stadler street a distance of 27.81 feet to a point;

Thence running: S 48° 59' 17" W through the above-described parcel a distance of 75.74 feet to a point;

Thence running: S 78° 03' 25" W through the above-described parcel a distance of 60.00

feet to a point;

Thence running: S 15° 30' 50" E through the above-described parcel to a point on the southerly boundary of the above-described parcel;

Thence running: N 71° 22' 42" E along the southerly boundary of the above-described parcel 25 feet, more or less, to a corner of the above-described parcel;

Thence running: N 18° 37' 18" W along the above-described parcel a distance of 7.47 feet to a point;

Thence running: N 71° 22' 42" E along the above-described parcel a distance of 22 feet to a point;

Thence running: N 48° 59' 17" W along the above-described parcel a distance of 94.70 feet to the point of beginning.

All persons, vehicles and business invitees to the abutting land now or formerly of George B. Jackson shall be allowed to pass and to travel upon any portion at the easement and to park automobiles on the southerly portion of the easement abutting George B. Jackson's land. No structures shall be erected upon the easement nor shall the easement be obstructed by the owner for an unreasonable period of time and then only for the purposes of repair to or replacement of pipes, tanks and other work necessary to the gasoline sales operation of the owner. The easement shall be maintained by the property owner with a hardened asphalt

surface in good repair.

In the event of a typographical error or omission contained in this publication, the description of the premises contained in said Mortgage recorded with Hampshire County Registry of Deeds in Book 14767, Page 47, shall control.

Said premises will be sold subject to any and all unpaid taxes, assessments, betterments and municipal liens, if any there be.

TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000.00) will be required for a bid on the mortgaged premises. The deposit shall be paid in cash or by certified check at the time and place of the sale as earnest money. The balance is to be paid by wire transfer to an account to be designated by Lender within thirty (30) days of the date of the sale with the firm of Rainen Law Office, P.C., at which time and place the deed shall be delivered. The successful bidder will be required to sign, at the Public Auction, a Memorandum of Sale, containing the above terms and any additional terms announced at the Public Auction. In the event that the successful bidder shall default under the terms of this notice and/or the terms of said Memorandum of Sale, the holder of the Mortgage reserves the right to purchase the premises in its own name, or in that of a nominee, or to sell the premises by foreclosure deed to the next highest bidder, all at the

next highest amount bid at such auction.

Other terms, if any, to be announced at sale.

Alliance Energy, LLC present holder of said mortgage

By: Carrie B. Rainen, Esquire
Rainen Law Office, P.C.
231 Sutton St.
Suite 2E
North Andover,
Massachusetts 01845
Telephone: (978) 975-4144
05/29, 06/05, 06/12/2025

SALE OF MOTOR VEHICLES

This ad is pursuant to MA Gen. Law Ch.255, Sec. 39A as

of June 13, 2025 the following motor vehicle will be for sale to satisfy a garage keepers lien:

2009 Volkswagen Passat
VIN #: WVWJK73C49P056038
Color: Silver
LKO: Elisha Hourihan
Address: 24 Simard Drive
Chicopee, MA 01013

1989 CAUL Trailer with Boat
VIN #: 1CXBP1911GS631928
Color: Silver
LKO: Dominick Cusano
Address: 45 Kopec Avenue
Belchertown, MA 01007

Relentless Towing
Belchertown, MA
413-530-3804

05/29, 06/05, 06/12/2025

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- 3 Find a quick link to the state of Massachusetts' public notice web site to search all notices in Massachusetts newspapers.

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Community hosts its first full-scale Pride Festival and Parade



Drag queens, Dads, and kids show up and march in the Belchertown Pride Parade.



State Senator Jake Oliveira gives his opening speech, saying that now is more important than ever to host something loud and proud.

A celebration of visibility, community, and progress

By Abigail McCoy
Staff Writer
amccoy@turley.com

BELCHERTOWN— What began four years ago as a modest Pride flag-raising ceremony has now blossomed into a full-scale celebration of identity, community, and resilience.

On Sunday at 1 p.m., the Belchertown Common came alive with color, music, and powerful messages of inclusion as the town hosted its first-ever Pride Festival and Parade.

Despite overcast skies and weather more reminiscent of early April than June, spirits remained high. The day marked a historic milestone: not just the fourth annual Pride event for the town, but its first true festival-style celebration, complete with more than 60 vendors, a lively parade, and entertainment for all ages.

The event kicked off with opening remarks from organizer and Belchertown Police Officer Vinny Daponte, who welcomed attendees with warmth and determination.

“Of course we can [handle a Pride Festival in Belchertown],” Daponte said, acknowledging the town’s progress and readiness for a larger celebration.

Town Manager Steve Williams followed with the reading of an official Pride Month proclamation on behalf of the Select Board, declaring June as Pride Month in Belchertown.

“Belchertown is committed to being a welcoming, inclusive, safe, and respectful community for everyone,” Williams affirmed.

Massachusetts State Senator Jake Oliveira spoke passion-

ately about the progress made, both locally and across the Commonwealth. “Four short years ago, we were raising the flag for the first time. Look how far we’ve come,” he said.

Oliveira celebrated Massachusetts as a trailblazer in LGBTQ+ rights, noting, “Massachusetts was the first state in the country to recognize full marriage equality.”

Vinny Daponte, who is one of the only openly gay male police officers in Western Massachusetts, took a moment to reflect on the significance of visibility.

“Especially with today’s political climate and all the growing hate towards the trans community, I think that’s why it’s important to have big Pride events like this,” Daponte said.

Daponte credited numerous partners for helping make the day possible, including the Belchertown Police Department, Department of Public Works, Fire Department, the DEI Task Force, and Hope United Church, which provided the sound system.

The Fire Department even hosted a popular “touch-a-truck” activity where children could explore a fire engine and safely try out the Jaws of Life.

“The support here is amazing,” Daponte said. “We all stick together. We all stand up for all LGBTQ rights.”

The Pride Parade began behind the Finery House and made its way down Main Street, ending at the Common beneath a massive rainbow arch.

Alongside cheering residents were local Select Board members Lesa Lessard-Pearson and Jen Turner, whom Daponte praised for their ongoing support. “Anything I



Belchertown Police Officer Vinny Daponte came out to the crowd and let everyone know how grateful he was to everyone who showed up.

“The support here is amazing. We all stick together. We all stand up for all LGBTQ rights.”
— Vinny Daponte



The Belchertown High Schoolers raising the Rainbow Flag in front of Town Hall.

bring forward [Town Manager Steve Williams] says ‘yes’ for it,” he added gratefully.

Throughout the day, the Common buzzed with energy. The vendor list was diverse and expansive, featuring local businesses, advocacy groups, artists, and food vendors.

Families browsed LGBTQ+ literature at Pinder’s Pages, kids got balloon animals and face paint from Wicked Fun Faces, and teens rocked out to Western Massachusetts’ own Ultra Violet Band, composed of four talented 8th graders.

One standout moment came from the DEI Task Force’s “Free Mom Hugs” booth, where volunteers embraced anyone who needed a reminder that they are loved and seen. Nearby, J.S. Bryant School, an upcoming high school specifically for LGBTQIA+ youth, shared plans for their September

opening after years of development.

Drag performer Felicity Vlay, a friend of Vinny’s, brought flair and affirmation to the day, highlighting the important cultural space drag occupies in the LGBTQ+ movement.

As the afternoon concluded, Belchertown High School students raised the Pride flag above the Common, with Vinny leading a joyful chant: “We’re here, we’re queer, so don’t mess with us!”

In a brief interview, Vinny shared his hope for the future: “Last year, I hosted the flag-raising ceremony... This is our first-ever festival... Next year, I want floats, trucks, a drag show, and even more vendors.”

When asked about the most important takeaway from the day, he said: “Just have fun. Be yourself.”



Vinny Daponte’s mother, sister, and niece show up with their rainbow Don’t Tread On Me flag in support of their relative Vinny.

The 2025 Belchertown Pride Festival and Parade was more than just a celebration—it was a declaration. In a time of national division and rising anti-LGBTQ+ rhetoric, this small Western Massachusetts town offered a resounding message: Belchertown stands for love, inclusivity, and unapologetic pride.



Belchertown Police Officer Vinny Daponte and Acting Chair Member of the Belchertown Selectboard Lesa Lessard-Pearson led the parade through the rainbow arch and into the festival.



Charlotte Cassidy from Wards and Witchcraft.



Members of the Belchertown DEI Taskforce giving out Free Mom Hugs at the entrance to the festival.



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