

Summer begins with bike parade

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

GRANBY – With summer here and school out, kids are getting out their bikes, scooters, and skateboards as they are ready for hours of outdoor play and fun.

The Granby PTO along with members of the East Meadow School came together to host, judge, and put together a special Bike Parade over the weekend.

“The bike decorating/parade idea came from doing it with my oldest daughter approximately 23 years ago when she was six and in first grade,” said Leslie Baran. “My husband also did it when he was a kid and I remember seeing a photo of him with his bike all decorated. I also thought it would be fun and easy for families to participate with their children.”

The basketball court at East Meadow filled with kids with their creatively decorated bikes of different themes, and the judges, Superintendent Mary Jane Rickson, former Principal Lisa Desjarlais, and Leslie Baran were faced with a tough task to pick the winners.

“My favorite part was helping my neighbor, Aubrey, decorate her bike and then decorating my own. Aubrey had a Granby basketball theme because she likes to play sports so her bike was a basketball hoop on wheels with a Granby Rams theme,” said Baran. “I had a Dr. Seuss theme to inspire people to be kind and remind them to read

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Maverick with his sister, posing with his first-place winnings of a gift card and free cone at Cindy's Drive-In.



On your marks... get set... go!

TURLEY PHOTOS BY EMILY-ROSE PAPPAS

Police dept. to host a junior police academy

By Emily-Rose Pappas
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BELCHERTOWN – Summer is here, and with it comes many summer camps to choose from, but for aspiring police officers, the Belchertown Police Department has you covered.

The Police Department will be hosting its seventh annual Junior Police Academy this summer at the station for grades 8 through 12 between July 14 to July 18.

“My favorite part of the junior academy is being able to provide them with hands-on experience through mock scenarios. This gives them a better understanding from both sides of how police do their jobs,” said Officer Draine Colon Rivera. “Watching the cadets support each other, show respect, and take pride in working together is inspiring.”

The Junior Academy will cover a range of topics, including patrol procedures, motor vehicle crash response, building searches, physical agility training, K9 demonstration, a marching ceremony, and much more.

“I am most excited about the changes we have made this year to our Tuesday schedule. In collaboration with the Hampshire County Sheriff's Office, we will be spending the day on the grounds of their property in Northampton,” said Officer Jason Krol.

“I plan a controlled canine scenario that mirrors what a serious canine call is like. This encompasses everything from the initial

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Board approves cable license renewal

By Melina Bourdeau
 Correspondent

GRANBY – The Selectboard unanimously approved a 10-year license renewal with Comcast, effective Oct. 6.

Local channel funding will increase from 4% to 5% of gross revenues, expanding local access channels from two to three.

William August, an attorney representing the town in negotiations for the past 20 years, told the Selectboard about the contract.

“The most important thing to most towns is to have the financial support of the local channels, which have grown in importance,” he said. “For municipal meeting coverage and other local coverage.”

This license renewal also marks a change to have a high-definition channel.

The upgrades to the video cameras will occur 24 months after the effective date, but the increase in funding will be effective

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Relay for Life hosts annual craft fair and raffle to end cancer

By Emily-Rose Pappas
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BELCHERTOWN – Relay for Life, a walk created by the American Cancer Society, was created to end cancer for everyone, everywhere.

The poor weather didn't stop the Relay for Life teams as they worked to hold their craft fair last weekend, and welcome the people onto the common, which was full with tents pitched of items.

The Relay is community-driven and volunteer-run, with fundraisers and more being put together to raise funds for those who have struggled with cancer, as family and friends come together to honor those who battled or are battling cancer.

For the past four years, members of the Relay have come together to host a craft fair and giant raffle in Belchertown in order to raise money for the American Cancer Society.

The craft fair, directed by Victoria McAndrews, was out together by dedicated volunteers, and several people worked alongside her to organize the 60 vendors, food truck, face painting, balloons, and more.

The fair was packed with people shopping and finding treasures like the most intricate macrame knotwork, sea glass window hangings, crocheted stuffies, blankets,



Johanna with her balloon made by Jim, and Kimberly and Tiffany, enjoying the fair.

TURLEY PHOTO BY EMILY-ROSE PAPPAS

treats, and more in all kinds of art mediums and beyond.

The money raised from the vendor spots, raffles, and other donations will all go to the American Cancer Society as it continues its work to find a cure, and end cancer once and for all.

This year, they hosted their giant raffle inside the Old Town House that had over 100 items to be raffled

off, all donated baskets and gift cards, and more.

“It means a lot to me because we're spreading the word about cancer, and so that others don't have to deal with what we did,” said Eleanore Gray, who hosted her team in memory of her daughter, Lynn, who passed from uterine cancer in 2014.

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Opioid Settlement Committee explores recovery programs

Initiatives to support recovery advancing

BELCHERTOWN — The Opioid Settlement Funds Advisory Committee is advancing multiple initiatives to support substance use recovery, including potential expansion of sober housing and community-based support programs.

“If we can help one person, that's all that matters really.”

– Kristin Hoag

The committee unanimously approved quarterly funding for Honest Beginnings, a local men's recovery residence, with plans to explore future capital improvements and potential women's sober housing options.

A key discussion centered on the potential conversion of the town's Franklin School into a women's sober housing facility. Kristin Hoag, a committee member, noted ongoing conversations about extending the building's bid deadline to allow Honest Beginnings to potentially acquire the property.

Emily Kirby, another committee member, highlighted the critical need for women's recovery housing.

“In general, there's usually a lack of women housing, women sober housing,” she said.

The closest existing facility is reportedly near Worcester, with limited focus on younger women.

The committee is also exploring innovative recovery support programs, including an arts-based recovery initiative called the ART Pharmacy program.

Lauren Kelly from Hampshire Hope, a regional coalition, confirmed the program's effectiveness in other communities.

Transportation and accessibility remain significant challenges. The committee discussed the newly available Uber service in Belchertown and the importance of mobile harm reduction services.

Hoag shared plans to launch community support meetings at the Palmer Public Library, starting Aug. 15. The meetings will provide resources and support for individuals struggling with substance use.

“If we can help one person, that's all that matters really,” Hoag said, recounting a recent interaction with a community member seeking support.

The committee is also considering establishing a fund

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COMMUNITY

Selectboard announces vacancies

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



on how the town addresses specific or potential acts of violence, including hate speech, should such acts arise in our community, region or state. Efforts should be made to include voices from the community or communities that are directly affected. Partnership opportunities with surrounding towns to strengthen regional or state efforts might also be explored. This is seven-member committee to include: A representative from law enforcement, a representative from Town Hall, and five community members representing diversity in or more of the following areas: racial and ethnic backgrounds, social positions with respect to gender identity and sexual orientation, social positions with respect to disability, and age groups and prior vocational experiences. All are encouraged to apply.

Communications Committee: The Communications Committee is seeking a new full member to help shape how our town shares information and connects with the community. This committee works closely with the Communications Manager, BCTV Director, IT Director, and Town Manager to support clear, effective, and inclusive communication across all departments. Whether it's advising on public messaging, supporting digital outreach, or helping shape the future of how the town communicates, your voice matters here.

We're looking for individuals with experience in communications, social media, and or digital strategy. We're especially interested in those with a background or working knowledge in artificial intelligence, as your expertise could help us explore and guide the responsible use of AI in local government.

Creative Economy Committee: The Town of Belchertown is accepting letters of interest to fill one (1) vacancy on the Creative Economy Committee. This Committee oversees the strategic planning, municipal arts program development, outreach & marketing, activity implementation, evaluation & reporting, and coordinates arts and culture outreach for the town of Belchertown and forthcoming Cultural District.

Cultural Council: The Town wishes to fill a vacancy on the Cultural Council. The Cultural Council promotes an appreciation of the arts and culture by participating in the development and administration of funds for local cultural activities, awarding grants each year to support cultural activities in town, using the funding the Town receives from the Massachusetts Cultural Council. In addition, the council sponsors two flagship events: Food Truck Fridays and Winter Light Night. The Belchertown Cultural Council generally meets on the first Tuesday evening of the month.

Energy and Sustainability Committee: The Town wishes to fill (4) four full member vacancies on the Energy and Sustainability Committee. Its purpose is to develop and recommend sound energy and sustainability programs and policies for the Town. Energy relates to the fuel choices we make for buildings, vehicles, and industry. Sustainability means meeting our own needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Visit their webpage at www.belchertown.org.

Finance Committee: Belchertown is looking for a volunteer to fill a vacancy on the Town Finance Committee. The Finance Committee consists of five

members, each with a three year term. The primary duties of the Committee are to advise and make recommendations to the Annual Town Meeting and any Special Town Meeting regarding the budget and other areas of finance. Members are required to attend regularly scheduled public meetings and any special meetings as needed. Additional information specific to this committee can be found at <https://ecode360.com/9050244>.

If you are interested in an appointment to the Finance Committee, please send a letter of interest to the Select Board's Office outlining your background in finance and reasons for wanting to join the committee.

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

Lakes Committee: The Town wishes to fill a vacancy on the Lakes Committee. The Committee was established to preserve and maintain the health and wellness of the Lakes Region.

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

Quaboag Valley Business Assistance Corporation (QVBAC) / Quaboag Valley Community Development Corporation (QVDC) Board Member: The Town is seeking an individual to represent and serve as a Liaison to the Town of Belchertown on the QVBAC to bring the concerns of Belchertown's residents and small business community forward to ensure that the services provided by the QVBAC/QVDC are in line with the town's needs. The board member also helps disseminate information from the QVBAC board to Belchertown's residents and small business community, especially when there is a particular program or initiative they'd benefit from. While no business acumen is required, an interest in and or connections with Belchertown's small business community would be advantageous. Enthusiasm for Belchertown, and the ability to determine and communicate the interests of its residents are the most important qualifications. For more information about the Quaboag Valley Community Development Corporation and the Quaboag Valley Business Assistance Corporation, please visit www.qvdc.org.

Scholarship Committee: The Town wishes to fill an opening for an at-large member on the Scholarship Committee. If you are interested in serving in this capacity, please submit a letter of interest.

Zoning Board of Appeals: The Town wishes to fill an opening for a full member seat on the Zoning Board of Appeals. The ZBA is responsible for hearing and deciding on applications for Special Permits, Variances and Appeals from decisions of the Zoning Enforcement Officer/Building Inspector.

Chamber golf tourney supports Belchertown Education Foundation

AMHERST/BELCHERTOWN – The Amherst-area Chamber of Commerce will feature the Belchertown Education Foundation as the highlighted non-profit organization at its annual golf tournament at Cold Spring Country Club in Belchertown on Friday, July 25.

This year's tournament will benefit the Belchertown Education Foundation, an organization with a mission of enriching education for students in Belchertown Schools, including academic, artistic, and athletic pursuits.

The Belchertown Education Foundation has provided more than \$100,000 in grants to Belchertown Schools, supporting innovative projects that would have otherwise gone unfunded.

"We are excited to have this special spotlight to share our impact, make more friends, and showcase the many wonderful businesses and organizations in Belchertown," says Jennifer Faulkner, president of the Board of Directors, Belchertown Education Foundation. She encourages local businesses and organizations to take part in numerous ways.

Golfers can register at business.amherstarea.com. Businesses who wish sponsor a hole on the green, donate to the raffle or be involved in another way may contact Polina Potochevska, Amherst Area Chamber of Commerce, at 413-253-0700.

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tive as of the contract date.

There is also a senior citizen discount for qualifying seniors.

Resident Richard Domeracki spoke during public comment period.

He asked about if the discount could be larger.

August said the issue was raised but was nonnegotiable.

A Comcast representative Eileen Lahey said the discounts are "grandfathered in."

"We don't routinely have them anymore, so you have an existing senior discount and if it's asked for by the attorney or two we continued it," she said.

She added that typically there is a discount of \$2.

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For more information contact us at: fundraising@granbypreservationsociety.org

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Join us in celebrating 10 years of BARC

BELCHERTOWN – Please join us on Sunday, July 13 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Belchertown Animal Control, 165 George Hannum Rd. for a day of celebration and thanks.

A fun, family event for all. Light snacks and refreshments will be served. We also have BATCH ice cream truck and Lemonade Land. Other guests include Ed Popielarczyk the balloon artist, Nikki's face painting, Better Together Dog Rescue, Oliver our Belchertown Police Department Comfort Dog, Sir Barks-A-Lot Homemade Dog Treats, Gidget's Doggie Boutique

and Bob's homemade woodcrafts. Don't miss out on our BARC swag along with our cat toys and dog tails. This celebration is rain or shine.

For more info and a detailed schedule, please refer to our Facebook page. See you there.





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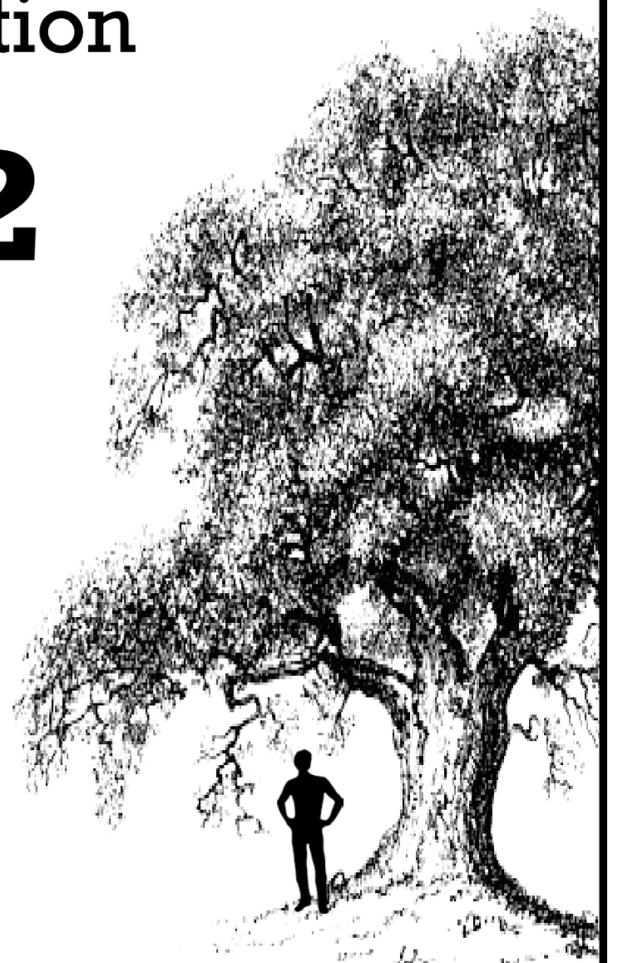
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July Happenings

BELCHERTOWN – Visit the Clapp Memorial Library in July for our Summer Reading Program and exciting events for all ages. The Library will be closed Friday, July 4th, and Saturday, July 5th in observance of Independence Day. Happy Fourth of July!

For All Ages
“Level Up at Your Library” Summer Reading Programs - Register now!

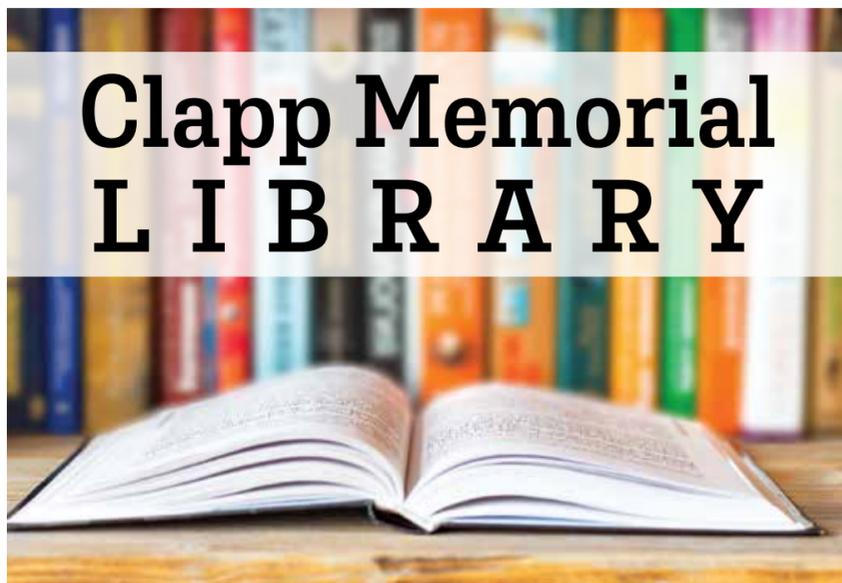
Clapp Memorial Library has an amazing calendar of events throughout the summer for Adults, Teens and Kids. This year’s theme is “Level Up at Your Library” and there’s a Summer Reading Program group for every age! Summer Reading Programs include reading challenges, raffles and prizes, special events, parties, and more! Register now online at clapplibrary.beanstack.com or via the Beanstack app. For more information, visit our website: clapplibrary.org. To register offline, stop by the Circulation Desk, or call 413-323-0417.

Plant Swap Tuesday, July 15, 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Bring a plant (or not!) to the library and swap it for a new one. This program takes place on the library lawn monthly on the third Tuesday of the month from May to September! This program is sponsored by the Belchertown & Around Plant Swap.

For Adults
“Looking for Group” - A Very Silly Game About Finding Your People Saturday, August 9, 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.

LARP at the Library - Return your Survey by July 19! Dig out your costumes and get ready for fun. We’re bringing a LARP to the



library to Level Up Summer Reading! Will you be a wizard, a pirate, totally-not-a-vampire, a lawyer, or something else altogether? A casting survey will be sent out to participants to match them with their character. What’s LARP? Standing for “Live Action Role Play,” LARP is an interactive theater experience, similar to a Murder Mystery Dinner, where you play the characters and create the action! Sounds like fun? Sign up and try it out! No experience required, just an interest in fun and shenanigans. Call the library at 413-323-0417 or email tmannino@cwmar.org for more information and to register.

Creative Art with Crayons Two Sessions

Monet’s Water Lilies: Tuesday, July 15, 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., and Van Gogh’s Almond Blossoms: Tuesday, July 22, 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Marie Tucker will lead you step by step to make your own beautiful work of art! Due to the popularity of the program and limited

capacity, seats will be filled by lottery drawn from all registrants signed up by Tuesday, July 8 for Monet, and Tuesday, July 15 for Van Gogh. Patrons will be notified of their registration status. This program is funded by the Friends of the Clapp Memorial Library.

For Teens
Zine Workshop for Teens Wednesday July 9, 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

The Clapp Memorial Library will be hosting a Zine Workshop for Teens in collaboration with Flywheel Arts Collective on Wednesday, July 9. Participants will be shown examples of zines and learn a little bit about their history. They will then be taught how to make their own one-page “minizine” using paper, markers, collage materials, and other supplies, and will leave the workshop with their own zine! This program is for students ages 12-18. Registration is required. Email macona@cwmar.org or call the library at 413-323-0417 to sign up. All attendees

will earn a raffle ticket for the Teen Summer Reading Program.

Big Prize Bingo Thursday, July 17, 7 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Teens ages 12-18 are invited to the library’s fourth annual Summer Reading Bingo program on Thursday, July 17. Teens will play bingo for the chance to win big prizes like gift cards, signed books and swag, puzzles, and more! All attendees will earn a raffle ticket for the Teen Summer Reading Program. Teens can sign up for the program at the library or by emailing clapplibrary-tab@gmail.com. Teens must be registered for the Teen Summer Reading Program to attend. This program is funded by the Friends of the Clapp Memorial Library.

For Kids
Caravan Puppets Wednesday, July 9th, 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Join us for an evening full of stories and music on the Library Lawn. Caravan celebrates the 2025 summer reading theme with our pro-

gram “Level UP!” Tales of how we play! featuring stories from classic children’s literature, original and international tales. The program also includes wildly creative puppets, humor, and tons of interaction. We will relocate to the town hall auditorium if there is rain. Program is funded by Friends of the Clapp Memorial Library and our Community sponsors.

Magic Show with Ed Popielarczyk Wednesday, July 16, 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Back by popular demand, Ed Popielarczyk, will present his comical magic show. Many in Belchertown know Ed as the “Balloon Guy” who has attended the Belchertown Fair for many years. Join us on the Library lawn for laughs and amazement geared to people of all ages. We will relocate to the town hall auditorium if there is rain. This program is funded by Friends of the Clapp Memorial Library and our Community sponsors.

Sister Detectives Thursday, July 17, 11 a.m. to 12 noon

Join local kid authors and sisters, Emma (12) and Belley (8), as they go on a detective adventure. Hear each page of their self-written and illustrated book in both English and Chinese. After the reading, there will be a fun craft for everyone to enjoy. Funded by the BCC.

The Clapp Memorial Library is open:

Mon. 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.
 Tues. 9:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.
 Wed. 9:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.
 Thurs. 9:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.
 Fri. 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.*
 Sat. 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.*

* The library will be closed Friday, July 4th, and Saturday July 5th

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to support families facing expenses related to overdose deaths.

David Gottsegen, a pediatrician representing the Board of Health, emphasized the potential importance of such a resource.

Kelly presented opportunities for regional collaboration, highlighting a new working group focused on supporting municipalities’ opioid settlement fund implementation.

“We’re thinking about how we can provide support and capacity to all of our communities across Hampshire County,” she said.

The committee unanimously voted to continue exploring multiple initiatives, including:

- A potential social worker model for recovery support
- Mobile harm reduction services
- Transportation solutions
- Post-overdose death expense fund

The group will meet next on July 28, taking August off to allow members time for summer plans and preparation of grant applications.

“We’re happy that we’ve at least got some resources here at the town level to support prevention and public health related programs,” Gramarossa said.

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Third Annual Julia’s 3v3 Soccer Jamboree!

A special fundraiser in memory of 13-year-old Julia Haynes who passed away in March of 2023 following a battle with brain cancer

SATURDAY, AUGUST 16TH

RAIN DATE SUNDAY, AUGUST 17TH

STATE STREET FIELDS • BELCHERTOWN

Registration is now open until July 20th!

\$100 per team for up to four players and includes an event t-shirt. Open to grades 3 through college.

To register a team, become a volunteer, sponsor or donate to the raffle go to:

- Instagram: @julas3v3jamboree
- Facebook: Julia’s 3v3 Soccer Jamboree
- Runsignup: <https://runsignup.com/Race/MA/Belchertown/Julias3v3SoccerJamboree>

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All of the funds the Jamboree raises benefit the Julia Haynes Scholarship Fund, which is a 501(c)(3) founded by four of Julia’s classmates.

Media Sponsor: The Belchertown Sentinel



St. Francis to host annual tag sale

BELCHERTOWN – St. Francis Parish is excited to announce that the original annual St. Francis Giant Tag Sale returns to the Belchertown Town Common on Saturday, August 23, 2025 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. This sale is the parish's major fundraiser and all proceeds are dedicated to the building of a new Parish Center in the Jabish Street campus.

The parish is focused on replacing the aging, 100-plus-year-old former church which now operates as the St. Francis Parish Center on the Belchertown Common.

The Tag Sale Team will accept donations for a twelve-day period August 6 to August 17, 2025 only. On Wednesday, August 6, at 9 a.m., the doors to the Pine Room on the lower level of the existing St. Francis Parish Center on Park Street will open to accept donations. Donations will be accepted Monday to Saturday from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Sunday donations will be accepted noon to 5 p.m.

In contrast to the scheduled Town Wide Tag Sale, all items will be on sale through the categorized display on the Town Common. The St. Francis Giant Tag Sale is truly one-stop-shopping for perusing over 16 departments of goods - all in one location! Buyers will also be able to purchase a delicious grilled burger, hot dog, or grab a thirst-quenching beverage at the open-air food booth under the maple trees.

After volunteers spend hundreds of hours sorting and

boxing, the many donated items become the treasured inventory of the well-organized and departmentalized St. Francis Parish Giant Tag Sale that will occupy nearly half of the Town Common and the interior of the existing Parish Center on August 23, 2025. This giant tag sale experience resembles the large well thought out department stores of days gone-by!

When interested donors are searching their personal treasures for donation possibilities, the Tag Sale Team encourages donors to consider the following items: bed and table linens, craft items, hardware, kitchenware, luggage, backpacks, handbags, children's clothes up to 2T, small working appliances, working lamps, toys, pictures, frames, holiday decorations, hand tools, yard tools, jewelry, shoes, boots, sporting goods, children's books, baby gear, small but not-upholstered furniture, knick-knacks, and collectibles. The following items are not accepted: partially used candles, cookbooks and books, clothing, pillows, cribs, car seats, and large furniture items. All items from the acceptable list that are donated will only be received if they are clean and in working condition. The Team requests that donors clear all donated items of storage dust, bugs, mold, and critter residue. All donors and their donations will be greeted by a volunteer worker. As they have every year for over 30 years, the dedicated volunteer "army" looks forward to joyfully serving their customer clients.

Sign up for Belchertown's email newsletter



BELCHERTOWN – The Town of Belchertown is pleased to introduce a new monthly email newsletter, The Carriagetown Chronicle, a joint project of the Town Manager's Office and the Communication Committee launched earlier this spring. Each new issue goes out on the 1st of the month; you can find out more, view past issues, and sign up for free at www.belchertown.org/newsletter or by scanning the QR code.

The purpose of the newsletter is to help increase and circulate information for Belchertown residents and others who work in and visit Belchertown. Each issue

contains announcements, updates, and other informational pieces from Belchertown departments and committees as well as non-profit community groups and organizations. You can expect to find information about town events, services, and programs, updates from departments and committees on work and projects, staff introductions, and more.

Please visit www.belchertown.org/newsletter for more information and reach out with any questions or comments to newsletter@belchertown.org.

Summer Camp at Christ Community Church this August

BELCHERTOWN – Christ Community Church will offer a beach-themed summer camp for kids ages 5-12 in the evenings from 5 to 8 p.m., August 4 through 8.

The children will be surrounded by a beautiful set that sends their imaginations to the beach. Kids will play games and hear the story of Jesus in this immersive and engaging setting.

At a previous summer camp, the church was transformed into a "Knights and Castles" theme and the children enjoyed games, stories, and plays based on that theme.

The parents said they loved having a positive activity for their children during

summer vacation. One mother said, "It's certainly a bonus to know your kids are well taken care of and entertained while you can enjoy a few quieter moments."

To learn more about the summer camp, families are invited to a Parking Lot Party at Christ Community Church (1255 Federal St., Belchertown) from 5:30 to 8 p.m. on July 16.

There will be interactive stations, fun giveaways, a balloon artist, and the Batch Ice Cream Truck. Parents can visit the church's website www.gracefortheway.org, for camp sign-ups and more information. They are also invited to email the church with any questions: office@gracefortheway.org.

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request for a dog, all the way to the conclusion of the incident," said Officer Adam Brougham. "I also assist with smaller canine classes in an impromptu format as last-minute scheduling changes happen."

This year, the program will feature a larger canine scenario with their partner agency at the Hampshire Sheriff's Office.

"We have some new things coming to this year's junior police academy, which we incorporated from last year's cadets' feedback," said Rivera. "Some new things include more physical training in the morning, a drug awareness class, a simulated OUI scenario, and hands-on RADAR/LIDAR detection with passing cars."

"I hope our cadets gain a better understanding of their local police department and

how things operate," said Brougham. "I also enjoy the recruits that take a special interest in our canine program, and would like to assist with our events in the future."

"The kids that take part in the junior police academy inspire me, because they want to know what being a police officer is like," said Rivera. "It is nice to see the younger generation take an interest in the field that I ended up joining. They remind me of myself when I looked up at my mom as a kid, who was a Police Officer in Puerto Rico."

The Junior Academy doesn't just teach the cadets who come in how to be a police officer with trainings that mirror the adult programs, but also teaches them leadership skills and how to incorporate the skills they learn into their everyday life.

"I think what makes our

youth academy unique is that we combine some of the same training that is included in our adult citizens police academy and also some other trainings geared more toward students, such as spending a full day at a ropes course," said Krol.

Officers from the Amherst Police Department and UMass Police will work with the cadets on teaching them how to form team-building skills and build up their confidence.

"This is my second year being a staff member of the academy, and I'm most excited to see both new and returning cadets and get to see the adjustments they requested," said Rivera. "Being able to see the group go from working individually with new friends, to them then becoming a united group and closer friends at the end is also great."

"I'm looking forward to

our academy class this year. Every year, we take input directly from our cadets and use it to refine our future academies. This academy should be the best one yet," said Brougham.

"It's always a pleasure to spend the week with youth from Belchertown and the surrounding communities," said Krol.

The academy will run from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., and students are asked to bring their own packed lunch and a snack for each day. Each attendee will be supplied with a water bottle, a hat, and a shirt on day one.

You can apply for the summer Junior Police Academy at the Belchertown Recreation Department website between now and July 13, the day before the academy begins.

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OPINION

SOCIAL SECURITY Matters

By Russell Gloor

When will funds stolen from Social Security be replaced?

Dear Rusty:
When will the funds stolen from the SS Fund be replaced?

They used Social Security when the government ran out of money and used it for illegals. I think the funds should be replaced except for legitimate payments to Social Security recipients. This money was never meant to be used by the federal government to pay their bills.

Signed: Concerned Senior

Dear Concerned Senior:

I must tell you that no funds have ever been "stolen" from the Social Security Administration despite the persistent myth. All money received by SS from payroll taxes, interest on investments and income tax on SS benefits is – and always has been – immediately converted to special issue government bonds (investments), which are held in the Social Security Trust Funds and which pay interest at the current federal bond rate.

Those bond investments held in reserve have been and are used only to pay benefits to those who have earned them by contributing to Social Security via payroll taxes for at least 10 years (40 quarters). Only U.S. citizens and legal residents can get Social Security benefits. Illegal aliens cannot receive Social Security benefits.

For information, repayment of the special issue bonds held in SS reserves occurs every day, because incoming revenue has been insufficient to pay all Social Security benefit costs for several years now, which means that the bonds must be redeemed regularly so that full benefits can be paid to all SS recipients, who have earned them.

There were about \$2.8 trillion in SS reserves as of the end of 2023, but that balance is steadily decreasing due to being redeemed to pay full benefits. As of the last report by the Trustees of Social Security, the reserves will be depleted in about 2033, unless Congress passes reform legislation to restore SS to full solvency.

FYI, the Association of Mature American Citizens is working hard to prevent depletion of the Trust Fund, suggesting to Congress a way to reform the program so future generations can fully benefit from it, with AMAC's Social Security Guarantee proposal. AMAC is constantly working to prevent depletion of the SS Trust Funds, which would result in an across the board cut in everyone's benefit by about 23%. AMAC works every day in Washington D.C. to ensure Social Security is here for many generations.

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 informational 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 ssadviser@amacfoundation.org. Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.



What are biennials exactly?

Right now, many of our favorite "cottage-garden" flowers are beginning to put on a summer show.

Most of these fall into the category of plants known as biennials. From the towering pastel spikes of the beloved hollyhock, to the tattered, clove-scented sweet William and the mysterious and dangerous foxglove, each share the same life cycle.

Unfortunately, however, here is where lots of gardeners get confused. So then, what exactly are biennials? Do they bloom every other year or just during the second growing season? Is a "short-lived perennial" the same as a biennial?

Let's take a closer look. Merriam-Webster defines biennial as "continuing or lasting for two years; specifically: growing vegetatively during the first year and fruiting and dying during the second." In other words, if you started a hollyhock plant from seed in the spring expect it to put on a lot of green growth this season.

Next spring (year two) the plant will send up a flower stalk. The flowers will eventually die and seeds will form and drop from the plant.

Usually, the mother plant will not return for a third season. If all goes as Nature intended though, a percentage of her seeds will germinate the following spring, starting the two year process to flower all over again.

I encourage gardeners to have fresh green plants growing alongside blooming biennials – that way they will end

up with flowers every year, at least hypothetically. Keep in mind that self-sown seedlings are not without work. Oftentimes they come up too close to one another and must be thinned. Or they germinate in an inappropriate spot and likewise need to be moved. You can try to manipulate the outcome of your "volunteers" somewhat.



For notorious self-sowing biennials like rampion, rose campion, and foxglove, deadhead all but a few seed pods. You will reduce the population and there won't be as many to thin out.

You can also watch the seed pods carefully, and when they are ripe sprinkle them where you want them to come up- this works especially well for hollyhock and sweet William – both of which I'd call reluctant self-sowers. Work I know, but still far easier than setting up the grow lights and heat cables and starting your seedlings indoors!

Remember to give your little volunteers lots of TLC in the way of food (a top

dressings of compost and a sprinkling of organic fertilizer) and water (a drink during droughty periods) if you want them to compare to their parents. Speaking of parents, what happens when the older plant survives into year three? This happens to me periodically, especially with hollyhock, foxglove and sweet William. Certainly not every plant in the clump comes back, but perhaps one out of three do.

Sometimes they look okay, while other times the crown is woody or the flowers aren't quite as tall. Oftentimes diseases can take their toll. Be your own judge here- if you want to gamble, leave the plants in place.

Presently I am doing just that with an amazing stand of hollyhocks that bloomed ever so beautifully near my lamppost last summer. So far, so good. But, to be on the safe side, I do have a couple of self sowers waiting in the wings for next year, since a third year of blooming is highly unlikely.

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.

hatch all at once with the first chick emerging about five days before the last one. The oldest chick dominates the younger ones. When food is scarce, the younger chicks may starve to death.

A Brimfield resident, who likes to visit inland ponds, often watches osprey nesting. Ospreys migrate and this resident reports their return in the spring. An osprey, equipped with a tracking device, flew 2,700 miles from Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts to French Guiana South America during 13 days in 2008.

Other seashore birds

In addition, to the osprey we saw cormorants, seagulls, bank swallows, grackles and even a redwing blackbird whose epaulets were bright red. There were new benches installed along the cliff bank. When we stopped there last year, the benches were in poor condition.

Birds in Sutton

My brother lives in Sutton. He sets out grape jelly and a hummingbird feeder. The Baltimore orioles, catbirds, red bellied woodpeckers and

even house finches come for the jelly. The ruby throated hummingbirds come for the sugar water.

Mass Audubon Society sightings

The Massachusetts Audubon Society reports several unusual bird sightings. They included swallow-tailed kites in Mashpee, a Mississippi kite in Harwich, a Franklin's gull and two royal terns in Provincetown, a continuing prothonotary warbler in Concord, a Wilson's phalarope at Belle Marsh Reservation in Boston and a Brewster's warbler in Amherst.

Berkshire County sighting were a worm-eating warbler on Mt. Washington Road in Egremont, a least bittern in the Post Farm Marsh in Lenox, an Acadian flycatcher at the Jug End Reservation in Egremont and six red crossbills at the summit of Mt. Greylock in Adams.

In Franklin County, there were four sandhill cranes on Plainfield Road in Ashfield and two hooded warblers on Falls Road in Sunderland.

Hampshire County high-lights were a Brewster's

warbler on the Narwottuck Rail Trail in Amherst and a least bittern near Station Road on the Narwottuck Rail Trail also in Amherst, three purple martins and four blue grosbeaks in the Honey Pot on Moody Bridge Road in Hadley and a common goldeneye on the Quabbin Reservoir off the Windsor Dam in Belchertown.

Hampden County notables were two upland sandpipers on the Perimeter Road in Ludlow and two blue grosbeaks at the Southwick Wildlife Management Area in Southwick. Worcester County had an Acadian flycatcher near the Uxbridge Rice City Pond in Uxbridge and five evening grosbeaks at a private residence in Royalston.

People may report a bird sighting or bird related experience by calling me at 413-967-3505, leaving a message at extension 100, emailing mybackyard88@aol.com or edowner@turley.com or mailing to Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005.



By Ellenor Downer



Osprey

are often seen soaring over shorelines.

Ospreys are brown birds with a white head and a brown stripe through its eye. Underparts are grayish. They are over 24 inches long and have a wingspan of 71 inches. They are the only raptor whose outer toe is reversible, allowing it to grasp its prey with two toes in front and two behind.

Ospreys are very successful in catching fish. According to a study at least one out of every four dives results in catching fish. The average time ospreys spend hunting before making a catch was about 12 minutes.

Ospreys often build large stick nests on manmade structures such as telephone poles, channel markers, and nest platforms designed for their use. Their eggs do not

Last week on a trip to Rhode Island with my brother and cousin, we saw two osprey when we stopped by Point Judith Lighthouse.

We watched them as they flew over the ocean and hovered as they looked for fish. One got ready to dive as it tucked in its wings, but then stopped and flew to another spot to hover.

The osprey, also known as the fish hawk, eats a diet of live fish, has the ability to hover and dives into the water to catch them. They

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

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

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PARADE from page 1

books while they are on summer vacation.”

“My favorite part was watching all the kids riding their bikes around and being so proud of their creations,” said Elle LaGuerre, a member of the PTO.

The parade featured bikes of all kinds as elementary schoolers and rising fifth graders competed with their decorated bikes.

Cindy’s Drive-In donated gift cards to the top three winners, and free ice cream cone coupons as well. Cub Scout Pack 4034 with Cub Master Lucy Schafer and Heather Guzman also brought a lesson on bike safety, and James and AJ Guzman set up a mini “bike repair shop” so make sure all bolts were tight and tires had air for a safe ride.

“It was fun setting up the cones, drawing arrows in chalk, and getting the community together. It was great working with Principal Desjarlais, Superintendent Rickson and Mrs. Baran to judge,” said LaGuerre. “It was awesome that we asked the Cub Scouts to help and they did! I’m also really grateful for Mark Baran doing a coffee run!”

While this was the first year, the PTO is looking forward to making it an annual event, building more on it to make it better for the years to come, including reaching out to Officer Gilley and the department for additions for next year.

“I enjoyed seeing all the clever ideas. It’s amazing how creative people can be! Hopefully the children participating had fun decorating with their families and coming out today,” said Baran. “Plus, riding your bike is great exercise and a skill that you maintain for your lifetime once it’s mastered.”

At the end of the parade, all eleven kids got to take home a special certificate for their themed bike. Asher won Best Birthday themed, as the parade happened on his birthday, and Beau had the Best Superhero theme with Spider-Man.

Kara’s was the Best Animal Theme, Jason’s the Best Feathered Friend with



James and AJ Guzman with the traveling Bike Shop with Cub Scout Pack 4034.



The kids getting ready for the parade.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY EMILY-ROSE PAPPAS



Sophia’s fairytale-themed bike, complete with a sword and crown as this princess fights her own battles.

the bald eagle on his bike. Lucy had the Best Disney Theme with Lilo and Stitch, Aaron had the Best Anime Theme, and Isabella’s was the Most Original.

Sophia had the Best Fairytale Theme with a “horse-drawn” bike, Maverick, the first-place winner, had Most Aerodynamic with a flight suit and cardboard jet built onto his bike.

Aubrey’s bike won the Most Sporty with a basketball hoop attached, Lucas was the Most Patriotic with red, white, and blue stars and stripes, and Mrs. Baran was

the Best Seussical, with her bike decked out in all things Dr. Seuss.

The PTO is always looking for volunteers, and more ideas for future events and fun. “Anyone looking to join can reach out to us on Facebook,” said Baran.

From future event ideas like a Back to School Cook Out and a Parent’s Night Out, the PTO is ready for a new school year, and many new opportunities to get the school community together for some fun.



There they go, and check out that eagle on Jason’s bike.



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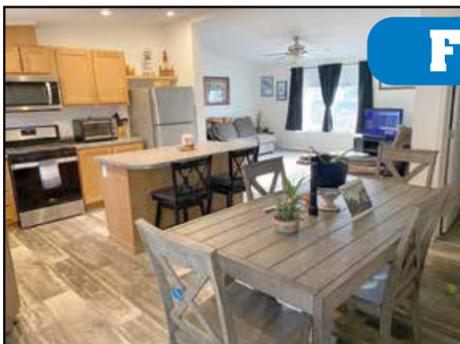
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Belchertown Police Log

Editor's note: The following are brief explanations of select entries in the Belchertown Police log and arrests for the weeks of May 28 through June 3. The information was provided by a member of the police department based on the review of the detailed log summary. This feature is designed to provide context and explanation to some of the calls police respond to every day.

ARRESTS/SUMMONS

Friday, June 13

12:50 p.m. – A 37-year-old Belchertown male summons for speeding and operating with a suspended license. An officer was conducting a traffic enforcement saw a person doing 46 in a 40 mile an hour zone. The officer was informed by dispatch that they didn't have their license they were issued a summons, and the passenger of the vehicle drove it away.

Saturday, June 14

1:45 a.m. – A 19-year-old Belchertown male was issued a summons for negligent operation of a motor vehicle. An officer responded to the area of Rainbow Drive for a report of teenagers behind the house that shouldn't be there. They saw a vehicle onto Kennedy Road and saw two people on the roof of the vehicle. The people jumped off the road and were identified as well as the operator. The operator said they decided to go for a ride because they were bored. The person was cited accordingly.

6:02 a.m. – A 28-year-old Belchertown male was issued a summons for marked lanes violation and leaving the scene of property damage/accident. An officer responded to Federal Street for a single vehicle accident and the vehicle struck a utility pole and the operator left on foot. There was heavy front-end damage to the vehicle. There were tire marks in the front of a residence. The utility box and a cable box with batteries were damaged. The registered owner was identified. Family members of the person arrived on scene and identified the driver. They were able to contact them, who was transported back to the crash site. They were evaluated by Belchertown fire and paramedics. They said they fell asleep while driving. They were charged accordingly.

Sunday, June 15

8:57 p.m. – A female person was arrested on charges of a violation of an abuse prevention order.

Tuesday, June 17

3:27 p.m. – An 18-year-old Belchertown male was issued a summons for not meeting RMV safety standards and operating with suspended licenses. An officer monitoring traffic stopped a vehicle with a red safety inspection sticker. They checked the driver's license which came back as suspended. They were

just charged on the day before the operating with suspended license.

Monday, June 23

1:34 p.m. – An 18-year-old Belchertown male issued a summons for trespassing George Hannum Road businessperson trespassed from the property was there. They saw the person sitting next to the business. They indicated they knew they were trespassing. The store employee didn't think the person should be arrested so they were summons.

ACCIDENTS/INCIDENTS

Friday, June 13

7:48 a.m. – An officer took a report of fraud. A resident was trying to get a loan online when they were then called by a person who was asking about their license for the loan process. Then told to deposit money into the account and then use the money to buy gift cards. The person did so. They were advised to monitor their accounts.

8:39 a.m. – An officer took a report of a fraudulent check written by a business. The person changed the name on the check, and it was cashed by someone else.

2:34 p.m. – A person reported a registration plate on their trailer was stolen. They reported they were receiving charges on the New York and New Jersey turnpike. The plate was reported stolen.

5:11 p.m. – An officer responded to an accident on Barlow Street. A vehicle was pulling out of a Federal Street location to turn left, when a second vehicle going north on Federal Street was in the left turn lane. The first vehicle pulled out and the front passenger side corner struck the front of the second vehicle. No tows were needed and no injuries were reported.

Saturday, June 14

4:55 p.m. – An officer traveling south on Mill Valley Road saw two vehicles behind a box truck that was veering off the roadway. It went off the road onto the shoulder and the officer activated their lights to stop them. As it pulled over, the vehicle struck two trash containers. The vehicle pulling to the right if he held it firmly, he could manage it. Arrangements were made to have the vehicle towed.

6:08 p.m. – An officer responded to a local business parking lot. A passenger of a vehicle said the person was parked and then a second vehicle entered a spot behind one and struck one. No injuries were reported, and no tow was needed.

Sunday, June 15

5:54 a.m. – An officer was given a backpack found against a utility pole in the center of the town. It was entered into evidence.

8:10 p.m. – An officer on patrol ran random plate query on a vehicle which showed Vermont plates as expired and belonged to a different vehicle. The officer stopped

the vehicle. The officer spoke with the operator who had a Vermont license was using a car belonged to a deceased family member. The vehicle needed to be towed. A written warning was issued for the unregistered vehicle. They were able to coordinate the ride and the vehicle was towed.

10:22 p.m. – An officer responded to an accident on Mills Road. An operator of mvl took mills road mv began to back up on s Washington and went off dirt road into a ditch. Unable to get out. Called a tow to get them out. No injuries reported.

Monday, June 16

6:23 a.m. – An officer took a report of a box found Azalia Way and Montview Drive a humidor box with four cigars placed into property.

10:32 a.m. – An officer responded to an accident on Kennedy Road. A vehicle traveling west on Kennedy Road was backed into by another vehicle. Both vehicles were towed from the scene. No injuries were reported.

Tuesday, June 17

12:38 a.m. – An officer took a report of a previous breaking and entering into a home. A person reported they returned home from a trip and believed items were stolen from the home. The items that were missing were documented.

8:46 a.m. – An officer responded to an accident on Amherst Road. The vehicle traveling west on Amherst Road struck a guard rail. The operator said they fell asleep. The accident was reported by AAA, which responded to the accident to tow the vehicle. No injuries were reported.

10 a.m. – An officer took a report from a person who reported they lost money via a scam.

4:27 p.m. – An officer took a report of larceny. They were scammed out of money, and they were going to provided documents with how much money they lost.

Thursday, June 19

4:48 p.m. – A person took a report of disturbance between neighbors. They went across the street from fire department due to a limp. They reported the male party grabbed by their neighbor. They alleged they hit the person's hand and kicked them in the shin. The officers spoke with the other people, and they requested the person was be trespassed from the property. They said nothing physical took place. They declined to be transported. They then claimed the broken hand was from a previous incident. They were given a trespass notice.

8:07 p.m. – An officer responded to North Main Street residence for a report of a breaking and entering to a residence. They alleged the person came into the apartment and they were in a previous relationship the air conditioner was moved to allow entry into the residence. Nothing was missing or stolen.

They had permission to be there as they used to live there.

Friday, June 20

7:42 p.m. – An officer spoke with juvenile who had skateboard stolen and put into the trash. A friend let another friend use the skateboard then week later the person wanted the skateboard back. Then the third person said they threw it in the trash. The guardian of the person was contacted. There was a group of kids at the house, and it was reported the skateboard was damaged when it was thrown in the garbage. It was uncertain who caused the damage. The reporting person was updated. The SRO was informed.

Saturday, June 21

1:49 p.m. – An officer responded to Bay Road for a report of window that was shot out with a BB gun. During the overnight hours the dog barked for no reason. The person reported the windows of the living room were shot. Photos of the damage were taken.

Sunday, June 22

12:29 p.m. – An officer took a set of a keys found on a nearby trail.

1:38 p.m. – A be on the lookout broadcast for a vehicle was put out by the New Salem Police. The vehicle was last seen south on Daniel Shays Highway and the of reason for the stop was the operator had a suspended license. The person lived in town. The officers went to residence and the person wasn't there. They were found taken to the station and was placed under arrest by New Salem officer.

1:44 p.m. – An officer got a call from a person at a business where a person passed out in the store. They think the person had a seizure. The vehicle left and was possibly heading toward Ludlow. They saw the vehicle pulled over on Chauncey Walker Road. Belchertown fire and paramedics were contacted to evaluate, the person who seemed disoriented. They refused transport. An immediate threat was filed.

4:13 p.m. – An officer on traffic enforcement saw a vehicle with an expired inspection sticker and the registration was expired and non-renewable. They were issued a citation for the registration and a warning for the expired sticker.

Monday, June 23

12:59 p.m. – An officer took a report of fraud. An account opened their name, and SS was not matching, and they reported they didn't open the account. They were advised to contact their bank and Social Security office.

Tuesday, June 24

10:20 a.m. – An officer was emptying the drug take back box.

Wednesday, June 25

7:56 a.m. – An officer conducted a n main street check for a neighbor dispute. One neighbor expressed concern

for the other. They went there later that afternoon for another neighbor dispute over Facebook Messenger messages between the people. The officer spoke with both people.

9:23 p.m. – An officer responded to Stadler Street advised a vehicle attempted to strike a pedestrian and the reporting person would be waiting in the area. They were in a nearby business saw a person walking through and a silver vehicle backed out and quickly drove trying to strike the male party. A check of the area was completed. The officer was familiar with the person who was almost struck. They contacted the person. The person reported they were walking on Stadler and saw someone exit the building. A bolo was placed for surrounding area to look out. That night Springfield police weren't able to locate the person or the vehicle. They saw a vehicle later parked in a parking lot and two people in the vehicle were identified. The person claimed they didn't try to hit anyone and was on the phone during the incident. They said they were minding their own business when the first person shouted at them. They continued to antagonize the person and made threats then the operator left the area tried not to come into contact with the person. They were arrested on a warrant.

Thursday, June 26

11 a.m. – An officer took a report of credit card fraud. The residence said they noticed multiple fraud transactions on the credit card account. They already paid for it, and they were advised to watch their accounts.

12:15 p.m. – Officers responded to Town Hall for report of a parked vehicle was struck. The officer was going to be gathering video evidence.

12:20 p.m. – A person reported a pill of their medication was missing and wanted the matter reported.

1:15 p.m. – An officer reported a vehicle contacted trees shrubs and sign pulling into a Bridge Street parking spot on the right side of a building went left and struck the tree, sign and shrubs. Then went onto Bridge Street and went over field of tall grass and went over 100 feet into the field and came to rest at trees. They were able to back out. The person was evaluated, and refusal was done. They thought the driver was passed out. Due to nature of the accident, an immediate threat was filed.

6:17 p.m. – An officer and fire responded to Federal Street near Metacomet Street for a report of e-bike that crashed, and the operator was disorientated. The person wasn't cooperating. They refused an evaluation from paramedics. They had blood shot eyes, spelled alcohol on their breath, they were unsteady. They were taken into custody due to being a danger to themselves. The e-bike was brought to the person's residence. The person was transported to the hospital.

Granby Police Log

Editor's Note: The Granby Police Department responded to 259 calls for the week of June 13 through June 26. Those arrested are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law. The Granby Police Department provides all information.

Friday, June 13

8:08 p.m. – A detail officer at Charter Day reported a fight at the truck pull area. One person was arrested for assault and battery, and another person was summonsed to court for assault and battery.

8:27 p.m. – Conner O'Kane, 21, of Ware, was placed under arrest for assault and battery.

11:19 p.m. – A motorist reported an erratic operator and stated that the vehicle had a flat tire and was driving on the rim. The vehicle was located by an officer and stopped. After an investigation, the operator was placed under arrest for OUI.

11:38 p.m. – Katarzyna Bernash, 47, of South Hadley, was placed under arrest for operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol and crossing marked lanes.

Sunday, June 15

1:47 a.m. – A motorist reported a one car accident. Granby Police and Fire responded. After an investigation, the operator was placed under arrest for OUI.

2:09 a.m. – Justin Brunelle, 30, of South Hadley, was placed under arrest for operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol and failing to stop at a stop sign.

Monday, June 16

5:25 p.m. – A motorist reported a one car accident. Granby Police and Fire responded. The operator was transported to the hospital with non-life-threatening injuries.

9:14 p.m. – An officer observed a motor vehicle operating erratically. The vehicle was stopped, and it was discovered that the operator had a revoked MA driver's license. The operator was issued a criminal citation and charged with operating a motor vehicle with a revoked license.

Wednesday, June 18

12:38 p.m. – While on patrol, an officer observed a vehicle traveling at a high rate of speed. Radar confirmed that the vehicle was traveling 56MPH in a posted 30MPH zone. The vehicle was stopped, and the operator was issued a civil citation for speeding.

Saturday, June 21
9:09 a.m. – Several callers reported an accident with injuries involving a vehicle and a bicyclist. Granby Police and Fire responded. The bicyclist was transported to the hospital. The operator of the vehicle was issued a civil citation for failing to yield the right of way and defective equipment.

Monday, June 23

11:03 a.m. – A motorist reported a two-car accident. There were no injuries.

Tuesday, June 24

10:13 a.m. – A motorist reported a two-car accident. Granby Police and Fire responded. One passenger was transported to the hospital with non-life-threatening injuries.

10:45 a.m. – While on patrol, an officer observed a vehicle traveling at a high rate of speed. Radra confirmed the vehicle was traveling at 45MPH in a posted 30MPH zone. The vehicle was stopped, and the operator was issued a written warning for speeding.

Thursday, June 26

9:58 a.m. – A motorist reported that he was cut off by another vehicle, veered to avoid the vehicle, and struck a tree and a utility pole. There were no injuries.

12:10 p.m. – A resident came to the station to report someone fraudulently used their credit card.

Note: As part of the recent MA DOT construction project at the Five Corners area, vehicles are no longer allowed to turn left into the Dunkin Donuts Plaza while traveling north on Route 202. Also, vehicles are no longer allowed to turn left out of the Dunkin Donuts Plaza from the Route 202 entrance/exit. New signage was installed by MA DOT indicating that vehicles are no longer allowed to turn left at these two locations.

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TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM
Jacob Gladu sends a shot up the field.



Nathan Marino controls the ball for the Orioles.

Austin Raymer makes his way up the field.



Henry Mueller looks to pass.

Orioles, Brownies clash on the soccer pitch

BELCHERTOWN – To finish off the first part of the schedule last Friday, Agawam and Belchertown met in A Division action in the Pioneer Valley Summer Soccer League at Jabish Brook Middle School. The final score was not available at press time due to website issues. The two teams were off this week for the Fourth of July holiday and return to action next week.

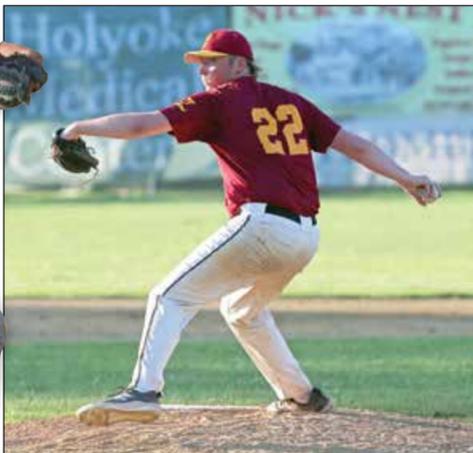


Jake Gormely weaves through traffic.



Brandon Magni attempts to catch a pickoff throw.

Jovanni Merced sends a pitch home for PeoplesBank.



Jack Feltovic fires a pitch home for St. Joe's.

Bankers take second straight over Saints

HOLYOKE – Last week in Tri-County League action, PeoplesBank defeated St. Joe's 5-3 at Mackenzie Stadium in Holyoke. Jovanni Merced got the win with Jack Feltovic taking the loss. Seth Allen had two hits and two RBI for the Bankers while Dave Clark turned in two hits. PeoplesBank is a perfect 6-0 so far this season while St. Joe's is 7-4.



Kyle Platner goes for a tag.



Dave Clark slings a throw to first.



Devin Slattery sends a throw to first.



Cam MacDonald gets an out.

Mutiny drills Fuel to clinch playoff spot

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW—Back on June 8, the New England Mutiny scored a season-high six goals during a road victory against the New Jersey Alliance. The Alliance were scheduled to make their first ever visit to Lusitano Stadium last Sunday afternoon, but they didn't have enough players to fill out their roster.

Instead of taking the weekend off like the Western Mass. Pioneers were forced to do 24 hours earlier, the Mutiny were able to find another opponent on short notice. The Worcester Fuel made the 45-minute trek west on the Mass. Pike to Ludlow.

It wasn't a very competitive match, as the Mutiny posted a 12-0 shutout victory in what was most likely their final home game of the season.

The Mutiny and Fuel were originally scheduled to face each other at Millbury High School on July 6.

"New Jersey indicated to us that they were having roster issues for this weekend, so we decided to switch our game with Worcester," said Joe Ferrara, who's the Owner/Managing Director of the Mutiny. "We'll try to reschedule the game with New Jersey or find another opponent to fill out our reg-

ular season schedule."

Because Mutiny head coach Federico Molinari was unavailable to coach last Sunday's home match, Ferrara took over the coaching duties.

The Worcester team used to be in the same Division as the Mutiny, but they were moved down to the second Division this year. They've played a couple of other games against First Division clubs this season.

The victory improved the Mutiny's record to a perfect 7-0.

Racing Power, who are from Baltimore, lost to the Mutiny, 3-0, at Lusitano Stadium on June 14, but they'll most likely be hosting the playoff game on July 13 because of the goal differential. The margin is capped at five goals for each match.

The U.W.S. National semifinals and finals are scheduled to be held in Chicago, Illinois.

The Mutiny, who lost in last year's championship match, clinched a berth in the United Women's Soccer League playoffs for the fifth time since they moved to Lusitano in 2019.

"We've had a lot of success since we began playing our home matches here at Lusitano Stadium," Ferrara said. "We've had a dynamic group of players during

Please see **MUTINY**, page 10

SPORTS

Registration open for 3v3 soccer jamboree

BELCHERTOWN – The Third Annual Julia’s 3v3 Soccer Jamboree is scheduled to be held at the State Street Fields in Belchertown on August 16th, 2025. The annual event is held in memory of 13-year-old Julia Haynes who passed away in March of 2023 following a battle with brain cancer. All of the funds the Jamboree raises benefit the Julia Haynes Scholarship Fund, which is a 501(c)(3) founded by four of Julia’s classmates.

The first two events hosted more than 60 teams, each year, in grades 3 through high school for the all-day event bracket which also featured food trucks, raffle and dunk tank.

Registration is open until July 20 and is \$100 per team for up to four players and includes an event t shirt. There is also a new bracket for class of 2022 - 2025 participants. There will again be food trucks, a DJ and some fun activities for attendees including a raffle. Those interested in registering a team, becoming a volunteer, sponsor or donating to the raffle can get more details on the @julias3v3jamboree Instagram or Julia’s 3v3 Soccer Jamboree Facebook pages or through Runsignup: <https://runsignup.com/Race/MA/Belchertown/Julias3v3SoccerJamboree>

Help fight childhood hunger

SPRINGFIELD - The online auction for the 8th Annual Feed the Kids Charity Golf Tournament officially opens to the public on Tuesday, giving community members a chance to support local efforts to end childhood hunger-no golf skills required.

Hosted by Feed the Kids, a local nonprofit dedicated to fighting food insecurity among children in the Pioneer Valley, the online auction will run from July 1 to July 15, the day after the golf tournament at Springfield Country Club that routinely sells out.

Auction proceeds will benefit organizations that

Please see **HUNGER**, page 11

Quabbin Valley set to host second over-28 fall league

Following up on the resounding success of its inaugural campaign, the Quabbin Valley Baseball League, an over-28 adult baseball league will hold its second Fall League this September and October.

Seeking to create a similar competition environment to its spring/summer league, Quabbin Valley, with contributions from the Valley Wheel Over-28 Baseball League, created a four-team fall league last year featuring the Braves, Dodgers, Cardinals, and Twins.

Those same four teams are set to return and each team tends to have openings on them. Additionally, the league is open to wel-

coming more teams in to the league if it finds enough interest.

While the fall league schedule is still under construction, it will mostly feature Sunday morning games played with wood-bat only, which is customary for fall baseball. There could be some Saturday games added to the schedule depending on the completion of the spring/summer season as well as to make up rainouts, potentially. Games are nine-innings long and there is a small playoff and championship held at the end of the season. Last year’s fall season was eight games and that is the goal for this year. Free and low-cost fields

are used as well as just one umpire in an effort to keep the costs lower for players. The cost to play will likely range from \$40 to \$60 for the eight-game schedule. Players from outside the Quabbin League may also pay a small fee for insurance as well.

An interest/registration form, will be forthcoming soon, but until then, to express interest in the league, you can email the coordinators of the league at either GScibelli22@yahoo.com or ikhandfield@gmail.com.

Scheduled and team placement for unaffiliated players will be finalized in mid-to-late August. Please join in the fun this fall.

First inning surge leads Blue Sox past Sharks

HOLYOKE – A four-run first inning was the catalyst for a dominant Blue Sox win on Saturday, as they handily defeated the visiting Martha’s Vineyard Sharks by a final score of 6-2.

After an error by Vineyard’s Harley Goodner opened the scoring, Valley piled on three more runs. The runs scored on a Gavin Schrader single, a Mike Lucarelli double and a Cade Carr sacrifice fly.

“It allowed us to be confident,” said Head Coach Endy Morales of the early surge. “We had lost to them already this week, they’re a really good team, so to come out and punch them first, it just set the tone for the rest of the game.”

Michael O’Conor added the other two Valley scores on a home run that soared into the Blue Sox bullpen. Sebastian Mexico contributed a two hit performance, and Michael Elko came across home plate twice as a base runner.

Valley threw eight pitchers in the contest, striking out 11 Vineyard batters. Max McCrary earned the win. Andrew Wertz came in for the ninth inning, when he struck out two batters to close out the game and earn the save.

Gio Colasante started the game for Vineyard, allowing four hits and four runs across two innings of work. He was credited with the loss.

The Blue Sox improve to an overall record of 10-8 on the season, while the Sharks fall to 12-7. The win snaps a two game losing skid for Valley.

“I thought that was a good one to get. It could have very easily been three losses in a row,” said Morales. “Now we get to go into the off day with a win, and a really tough stretch coming up next week. I thought that was a

great way to approach the off day and beat a team that’s super competitive.”

The Valley Blue Sox suffered defeat on Friday despite a rally in the sixth inning that saw them score four runs and take the lead.

Down 3-0 to the visiting Mountaineers, Valley went on a run that featured a Rees Kozar two run double, a Clay Burdette sacrifice fly and an additional run on a throwing error.

Vermont responded in the top of the seventh with a Jaylen Hernandez two run home run, securing the 5-4 victory at MacKenzie Stadium.

“Overall, our defense needs to be cleaned up. We’re making key mistakes later in the game ... I would like for us to be a little more efficient on the mound, and then defensively just clean up in those big moments,” said Head Coach Endy Morales.

Beau Ellson started the game on the mound for Valley, allowing six hits and three runs across four innings of work. Riley Williams was credited with the loss in relief for Valley.

For the Mountaineers, Jack Rollo earned the win. Oliver Ellison got the save.

The loss drops Valley’s record on the season to 9-8. Morales will look to build on this record today, when they host the Martha’s Vineyard Sharks.

“In the grand scheme of things, we’re still above .500, I would love to stay above .500 [today] ... This is the time where you want to make that separation. You don’t want it to be the last week of the season and you’re chasing four wins to try and get into the playoffs. You want to do that now so you have a bit more buffer,” Morales said.

Sports clinics return this summer

LUDLOW – The Lions Pride Sports Clinics return this summer with a dynamic lineup of programs designed to support youth athletic development, foster sportsmanship, and prepare athletes for competitive success. Hosted at Ludlow High School, the clinics will run from late June through August and include offerings in basketball, soccer, volleyball, beach volleyball, athlete preparation, and track & field.

With a strong roster of experienced coaches and a focus on skill-building, these clinics provide athletes from kindergarten through 12th grade with opportunities to grow in a fun, supportive environment. Registration is now open.

Summer 2025 Clinics Include:
Basketball Clinic
 Grades: 1st–9th
 Coach: Tim Brillo

Dates: July 7–11 | 9 a.m. to 12 noon
 Fee: \$100

Soccer Clinics Session 1 & 2
 Ages: 5–12
 Coach: Greg Kolodiezny
 Session 1: June 23–27 | 9 a.m. to 12 noon
 Session 2: July 21–25 | 9 a.m. to 12 noon
 Fee: \$100 per session

High School Volleyball
 Grades: 10–12
 Coach: Ethan Campbell
 Dates: June 24–August 14 | Tuesdays and Thursdays | 6 to 8 p.m.
 Fee: \$200

Volleyball Basics
 Grades: 7–9
 Coach: Ethan Campbell
 Dates: July 8–August 14 | Tuesdays and Thursdays | 4 and 6 p.m.
 Fee: \$200

Beach Volleyball
 Grades: 10–12

Coach: Ethan Campbell
 Dates: June 24–August 14 | Tuesdays and Thursdays (6 to 8 p.m.), Sundays (10 a.m. to 12 noon)
 Fee: \$350

Athlete Prep
 Grades: 8–12
 Coach: Brian Walsh
 Dates: June 23–August 7
 Sessions: Monday and Thursday at 8 a.m., Monday and Wednesday at 10 a.m.
 Schedule subject to change
 Fee: \$130

Youth Track and Field
 Grades: K–8
 Coaches: Brian Walsh
 Dates: June 30–August 11 | Mondays | 5 to 6:30 p.m.
 Fee: \$100
 All sessions will be held at Ludlow High School, featuring high-quality facilities and a supportive environment for young athletes to learn and grow.

MUTINY from page 9

the past couple of years. We are losing a couple of key players for the rest of the season.”

Chioma Okafor was called up to play for the Nigerian Women’s National Team in the African Nations Women’s Cup. Cat Perez, who’s a goalie, is playing for the Colombian National Team.

Kendall Bodak, who’s from Monson, returned to Clemson University to start preparing for the college soccer season. Avery

Galante also went back to the University of South Carolina.

While the Mutiny were missing a couple of players, Hope Santaniello played in her first match of the season against Worcester. She returned home to Agawam after playing for a professional soccer team in Iceland. She has been a member of the Mutiny since 2019.

“Playing soccer with this team is something that’s very special to me,” Santaniello said. “It was great to be back and see

all the girls again. I’ve also really enjoyed playing for the professional soccer team in Iceland. I’m learning a lot of different things.”

Santaniello scored the Mutiny’s fifth goal of the first half and added three more during the final 20 minutes of the match.

“Hope just looks fantastic,” Ferrara said. “She’s been on our roster the whole season and is one of our all-time best players.”

Hope’s younger sister, Bella, was also scheduled to play for the Mutiny in last Sunday’s match. However,

because Worcester didn’t have enough players show up for the match, she played for the visitors.

“My sister definitely has a lot of potential,” Hope said. “I’m very glad that she’s following in my footsteps. It was a lot of fun playing against her today.”

Maddy Theriault, who graduated from Palmer High School, recorded a hat-trick during the first 15 minutes of the opening half.

Bella Meadows scored the other first half goal for the Mutiny. She also scored the first goal of the second half.

Avery Klingensmith, who graduated from Belchertown High School, chipped in offensively with a pair of second half goals.

Mila Dillard, who’s from Chicopee, also scored a goal during the second half.

It was the Mutiny’s fourth shutout of the regular season. The defense was anchored by Aida Name, who’s from Chicopee, Kylie Ray, who graduated from Minnechaug Regional, Rachel Marchini, and Anna Carson.



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Author to share Belchertown-based thriller on July 23

BELCHERTOWN – Author and former Belchertown resident Michael Parzymieso will appear at the Clapp Memorial Library on July 23 at 7 p.m.

This appearance is part of the New England leg of his book tour in support of the recently published supernatural thriller, *The Dale*.

The event will center around a discussion of the places and people around Belchertown and the Quabbin that inspired the novel.

He will then read a passage from the novel which has been called “hopelessly intriguing” and “the summer emotional rollercoaster that you did not know you needed.”

After the reading and Q

& A, Parzymieso will sign copies already purchased and copies purchased at the event.

The Dale is set in Belchertown in the eighties and early nineties. This setting and story were inspired by his teenage years roaming the Quabbin and the ruins which dot the forest. Parzymieso lived in Belchertown and attended Belchertown High and Middle School in the 80’s.

When asked about choosing Belchertown, or Cold Springs, as written in the novel, as a setting he explained, “The Quabbin and the history behind the building of the reservoir is a setting that practically begs to be written about. You can’t go too far into the forest without seeing reminders or ‘ghosts’ of those families and

towns. I don’t think it is too hard to imagine a lost forgotten place like The Dale, a hidden shuffle of buildings deep in the forest. A place hiding a dark secret and darker answers. It was an easy choice.”

The novel follows Caroline Sullivan as she races to discover whether she is losing her mind as her psychiatrist suspects or losing her soul as her priest fears.

«It’s about the power of faith and friendship in the face of evil. About finding hope in even the darkest times,» he said. «We all remember that time in your life when you see your friends as your first line of defense when things go badly for you.»

This is a free event, and all are welcome.

OBITUARY

Amy Beth Stinchfield

BELCHERTOWN - Amy Beth Stinchfield passed away unexpectedly on May 26, 2025, in Montreal, Canada, at the age of 48.



Born on June 10, 1976, in Kansas City, MO, then relocated to New England at age one. Amy completed her early education in Belchertown and graduated from high school in 1994. She furthered her studies at UMass Amherst and Concordia University in Montreal, earning a Bachelor of Arts in Language Translation.

This academic path led her to a fulfilling career with the Canadian Government Translation Services, where she was highly respected for her professionalism and skill.

A person of deep faith, Amy was a member of the youth group at Hope United Methodist Church in

Belchertown. Her personal life was enriched by her love for foreign travel and reading, activities that broadened her perspective and brought her much joy.

Amy’s legacy is carried on by her father, Duane Stinchfield, and her mother, Lorna Stinchfield, both of Belchertown, MA; her brother, Todd Stinchfield, who resides in California; and her two sons, Sam, 19, and Owen, 16, who lived with her in Montreal. A service to honor Amy’s life will be held in Montreal, Canada, on August 4, and in Belchertown, MA, on August 9, 2025.

For details about the services, please email stinchfield@gmail.com.

Amy will be remembered as a caring mother and a cherished friend, whose heartfelt presence and kindness enriched the lives of those around her.

DEATH NOTICES

Stinchfield, Amy Beth
Died May 26, 2026
Services Aug. 4 and Aug. 9, 2025

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.

of other organizations, such as Square One, Holyoke Weekend Backpack Program, Pioneer Valley Power Packs and No Kid Hungry®. Learn more at feedthekidsgolf.com.

Call for walkers:

Register for the 37th Annual Jimmy Fund Walk presented by Hyundai

REGION — On Sunday, Oct. 5, thousands will participate in the iconic fundraising walk for Dana-Farber Cancer Institute to support all forms of cancer research and care.

Registration is open for the 2025 Jimmy Fund Walk presented by Hyundai. Scheduled for Sunday, Oct. 5, funds raised from the Jimmy Fund Walk support all forms of adult and pediatric care and research at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. The Jimmy Fund Walk will aim to raise \$9.5 million this year in the effort to prevent, treat, and defy cancer.

The Jimmy Fund Walk is the only organized walk permitted to use the famed Boston Marathon@course, and participants have the flexibility to choose from four distance options:

5K walk: Starting at Dana-Farber’s Longwood Medical Campus

10K walk: Starting in Newton

Half Marathon walk: Starting in Wellesley

Marathon walk: Starting in Hopkinton

All along the route, walkers will be motivated by poster-sized photographs of patients—Jimmy Fund Walk Heroes—that are the heart of the event and appear along the course as inspiration. Walkers will also be treated to refueling stations with refreshments throughout the course.

The event will conclude at the Jimmy Fund Walk Finish Line at Boston Common, by the corner of Charles and

Beacon Streets. Finish line activities will include a celebration with food, entertainment, and more. Walkers who prefer to participate virtually can complete their chosen distance from any location

Register as an individual walker, team member, or start a team. Take advantage of this unique opportunity and bring a group of your family, friends, or colleagues together against cancer. To register for the Walk (#JimmyFundWalk) or to support a walker, visit www.JimmyFundWalk.org or call 866-531-9255. Registrants can enter the promo code NEWS for \$5 off the registration fee. All registered walkers will receive a bib, medal, and a Jimmy Fund Walk T-shirt. You can also sign up to volunteer on Walk Day.

About the Jimmy Fund
The Jimmy Fund, established in Boston in 1948, is comprised of community-based fundraising events and other programs that, solely and directly, benefit Dana-Farber Cancer Institute’s lifesaving mission to provide compassionate patient care and groundbreaking cancer research for children and adults. The Jimmy Fund is an official charity of the Boston Red Sox, the Massachusetts Chiefs of Police Association, the Pan-Mass Challenge, and the Variety Children’s Charity of New England. Since 1948, the generos-

ity of millions of people has helped Dana-Farber save countless lives and reduce the burden of cancer for patients and families worldwide. Follow the Jimmy Fund on Facebook, X, and Instagram: @TheJimmyFund.

About Dana-Farber Cancer Institute

Dana-Farber Cancer Institute is one of the world’s leading centers of cancer research and treatment. Dana-Farber’s mission is to reduce the burden of cancer through scientific inquiry, clinical care, education, community engagement, and advocacy. Dana-Farber is a federally designated Comprehensive Cancer Center and a teaching affiliate of Harvard Medical School.

Dana-Farber provides the latest treatments in cancer for adults through Dana-Farber Brigham Cancer Center and for children through Dana-Farber/Boston Children’s Cancer and Blood Disorders Center. Dana-Farber is the only hospital nationwide with a top 5 U.S. News & World Report Best Cancer Hospital ranking in both adult and pediatric care.

As a global leader in oncology, Dana-Farber is dedicated to a unique and equal balance between cancer research and care, translating the results of discovery into new treatments for patients locally and around the world, offering more than 1,100 clinical trials.

PVPA adds Technical Design, Production Department to Arts course offerings

SOUTH HADLEY - Pioneer Valley Performing Arts Charter Public School (PVPA) is expanding the school’s Arts classes to add a fifth Arts Department: Technical Design and Production. The Technical Design and Production track will include courses ranging from Costuming, Stage Design, Cinematography, Stage Construction, Lighting Design, Scenic Design, Sound Design and Engineering and more. With the additional twenty-six classes in Technical Design and Production, PVPA will have over one hundred Arts Courses offered across five Arts Departments, joining existing courses in Music, Dance, Theater and Visual Arts.

Technical Theater and the skills associated with it have always been a valued part of the PVPA school community, with students

assisting in everything from costuming to stage management. PVPA “Techies” have been the behind the scenes support that makes PVPA’s twelve to fourteen shows a year run smoothly throughout the school’s history. With the investment into Technical Design and Production, PVPA is excited to make a commitment to this artistic discipline.

PVPA will also be offering free bus transportation to all students residing within the school’s new region, beginning with the upcoming school year. For the first time in the school’s 30 year history, all students will have the option to pick up the bus less than 2 miles from their home. PVPA has long been aware that lack of affordable transportation has been a barrier for many students considering attending the school, and looks forward to making PVPA more accessible to all

students. PVPA is currently accepting applications for the 2025/2026 school year at www.pvpa.org/admissions. Application deadline is July 1, 2025. An enrollment lottery will take place on July 3, 2025 for Grades 7 & 10. All other applications will be held until current waitlists are exhausted. PVPA is a public charter school; there is no tuition or audition required to attend. All Massachusetts students entering grades 7-11 are welcome to apply, with priority given to students from within the school’s region.

PVPA’s region includes the following school districts: Agawam, Amherst-Pelham (Amherst, Leverett, Pelham and Shutesbury), Belchertown, Chicopee, East Longmeadow, Easthampton, Granby, Hadley, Hampden-

Please see **PVPA**, page 13

HUNGER from page 10

provide food assistance to local children, including Square One, the Holyoke Weekend Backpack Program, Pioneer Valley Powerpacks and Team No Kid Hungry.

Since launching in 2018, Feed the Kids has raised nearly \$500,000 to benefit programs helping children in need throughout Western Massachusetts.

Bidders can access the auction and browse avail-

able items at feedthekidsgolf.com/auction. The auction closes on the evening of July 15.

About Feed the Kids
Feed the Kids is a local nonprofit group consisting of volunteers throughout the Pioneer Valley who are committed to ensuring that children in the region don’t go hungry. Through its annual charity golf tournament and online auction, the group raises funds to support the local efforts

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This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertising in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development " HUD" toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

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Atty. Fabbo recognized as Go-To Employment Lawyer

SPRINGFIELD — Skoler Abbott Attorney Marylou Fabbo has been selected as one of Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly's Go-To Employment Lawyers for 2025. This program recognizes top lawyers across the Commonwealth who are leaders in employment law and have a history of successful representation. Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly has a long tradition of recognizing accomplished lawyers in different areas of the law. "I am truly honored that my peers voted to include me as one of the exceptional employment attorneys in Massachusetts," said Fabbo.

For over 60 years, Skoler Abbott has solely represented employers and management in employment and labor matters. Fabbo, a resident of Wilbraham, MA, has been with Skoler Abbott for 30 years. In 2000, she was named a partner, and she heads the firm's litigation team. Fabbo has successfully represented the firm's clients in state and federal courts and agencies in all areas of employment law. She also is the firm's immigration expert. For many, Fabbo has been recognized by Boston Magazine as a Super Lawyer and has been designated as one of the Top Women in Law by Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly.

PVPA from page 11

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basis of race, color, national origin, religion, creed, sex, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, mental or physical disability, age, ancestry, athletic performance, special need, proficiency in the English language or academic achievement.

Per MA General Laws, Chapter 76: Section 5, PVPA does not discriminate on the

Please contact PVPA at admissions@pvpa.org with any further questions.

Summer Eats is Back-Fueling Kids and Teens All Summer Long

BOSTON - Summer Eats - the Massachusetts Summer Food Service Program - is kicking off across the Commonwealth, providing free meals to all kids and teens, ages 18 and under. In 2024, more than 2.8 million meals were served across over 1,450 sites statewide through the Summer Eats program. During Summer Eats Awareness Week, Project Bread is encouraging community members to help spread the news about this free program statewide, with free promotional materials available online.

Throughout the school year, children in Massachusetts rely on free school meals to meet most of their daily nutrition needs. Summer Eats closes the gap when the school year ends, helping to ensure children and teens continue to grow, learn and thrive over school vacation. On an average day in July 2024, 70,000 kids ate at least one Summer Eats meal.

Participating meal providers operate and staff meal sites, often in conjunction with activities and educational programming at

schools, libraries, local park and recreation areas, and more. Kids and teens are required to eat onsite at most Summer Eats sites. Grab & Go meals are available in select rural communities. All are welcome. No registration or ID is required. In 2024, more than 2.8 million meals were served across over 1,450 sites statewide through the Summer Eats program. Another summer food resource is SUN Bucks (Summer EBT), which is a federal food benefit providing additional funding for groceries for low-income families with school-aged children.

For more than 20 years, the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) and statewide food security nonprofit Project Bread have partnered to support communities in offering Summer Eats meals to children in Massachusetts. Throughout the school year, the nonprofit and DESE also partner to expand access to and participation in school meal programs. This year, Project Bread has granted a total of \$236,482 to Summer Eats sponsors statewide for

their program development and capacity-building, such as equipment to transport meals or increase kitchen efficiency and meal quality, as well as staffing support and items to enhance site engagement, outreach and promotion efforts.

"We hear from families all the time who are finding ways to stretch their budgets during the summer months, who are unsure about what resources are available to them, and who are just trying to put food on their tables each day," says Erin McAleer, President & CEO of Project Bread, the leading food security organization in Massachusetts. "Food is not a luxury. The Summer Eats program is a vital resource that makes sure that every child can have their basic need of hunger met and can simply focus on learning, growing, and enjoying summer fun."

Summer is better with full bellies and big smiles. For more information about Summer Eats, including meal site locations, visit www.projectbread.org/summer-eats, text FOOD or COMIDA to 304-304, or call 1-800-645-

8333 for help in any language. A personal contribution to support Summer Eats can be made at www.projectbread.org/donate.

About Project Bread
Project Bread connects people and communities in Massachusetts to reliable sources of food while advocating for policies that make food more accessible-so that no one goes hungry. Summer Eats is one of the many nutrition programs they support. Any resident of Massachusetts struggling to afford food or worrying they might run out before they have money to buy more can call Project Bread's FoodSource Hotline for help in 180+ languages (1-800-645-8333) or send a confidential chat on www.gettingsnap.com for compassionate, personalized assistance. Counselors are available Monday - Friday from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. There is also a dedicated line available to those who are hearing impaired. For more information, visit: www.projectbread.org.

PUBLIC NOTICES

Belchertown Conservation Commission LEGAL NOTICE

Pursuant to the authority of the Wetlands Protection Act (M.G.L. Ch. 131, Sec. 40, its Regulations (310 CMR 10.00) and the Belchertown Wetlands Protection Bylaw (Chapter 139), the Belchertown Conservation Commission will hold a public meeting on **Monday, July 14, 2025 at 7:00 PM in the Lawrence Memorial Town Hall Auditorium, located at 2 Jabish Street in Belchertown, MA 01007.** The Commission will review a Request for Determination of Applicability permit application submitted by Tall Tree Landscape, LLC c/o Cathy Stevens for the proposed removal of a hazardous tree at 13 Metacommet Street (Map 102-64) in Belchertown. Work is proposed to occur within the 100-foot Buffer Zone to wetland resource areas. Anyone interested in this matter should appear at the time and place designated. 07/03/2025

review a Notice of Intent permit application submitted by Michael Matilainen for the proposed construction of an addition to an existing house at 211 East Street (Map 258-9) in Belchertown. Work is proposed to occur within the Riverfront Area to the Swift River. Anyone interested in this matter should appear at the time and place designated. 07/03/2025



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

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampshire Division Docket No. HS25P0315EA Estate of: Jean L. Hussey Also Known As: Jean Hussey Date of Death: October 10, 2024 INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLIC NOTICE

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Keith D. Hussey of Belchertown, MA** a Will has been admitted to informal probate. **Keith D. Hussey of Belchertown, MA**

has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve **without surety** on the bond.

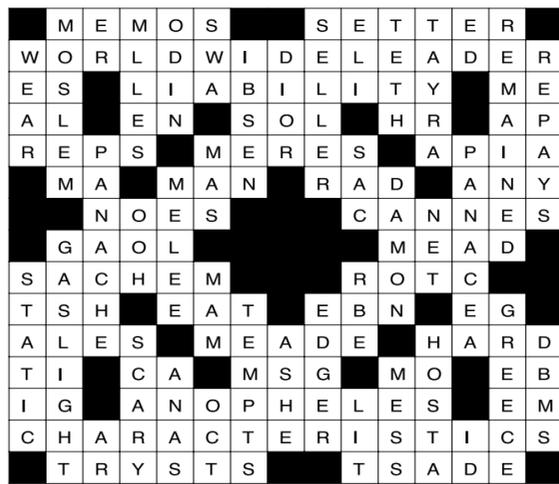
The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting

the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner. 07/03/2025

Belchertown Conservation Commission LEGAL NOTICE

Pursuant to the authority of the Wetlands Protection Act (M.G.L. Ch. 131, Sec. 40, its Regulations (310 CMR 10.00) and the Belchertown Wetlands Protection Bylaw (Chapter 139), the Belchertown Conservation Commission will hold a public meeting on **Monday, July 14, 2025 at 7:00 PM in the Lawrence Memorial Town Hall Auditorium, located at 2 Jabish Street**

in Belchertown, MA 01007 to review a Notice of Intent permit application submitted by Engineering & Land Solutions, Inc. c/o Vitaliy Anisimov for the proposed construction of a single family home with associated grading and utilities at 111 Old Sawmill Road (Assessor's 244-156.33) in Belchertown. Work is proposed to occur within the 100-foot Buffer Zone to Bordering Vegetated Wetlands. Anyone interested in this matter should appear at the time and place designated. 07/03/2025



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A good cup of tea can be found made by Christina Larpino and Sandeep Hazarika with Pretty Good Tea.



Leah Swords' stunning uncycled creations using vintage brooches. TURLEY PHOTOS BY EMILY-ROSE PAPPAS



Officer Liptak with Outlaw, members of the UMass Mounted Unit.

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Since then, Gray and her team of Lynn's close family and friends have worked hard to do the walk every year, and take part in raising awareness and funds to donate to the ACS.

The craft fair and raffle is one of Relay for Life's biggest fundraisers, helping to bring in lots of funds after the walk that usually takes place earlier in the year. They will also be hosting another, smaller fair in Chicopee this October.

Gray has been a part of the "Relay for Life Family" for the past fifteen years, volunteering and organizing her team in memory of her daughter.

"It's really a family, and a lot of them have gone through or are going through this together, and we are a big family here to support one another because we get it," said Gray.

Gray's team is looking to add in more members to her team, and there are always ways to join in and donate and support the team, and many others, who come together for Relay for Life.

To join Gray's team, or to learn more about Relay for Life, Eleanore is happy to answer your questions through email at ctellie@juno.com.

Jace Carrigan with his beaded creations from his small business, Jace's Craft Corner.



Stunning macrame creations by Melissa Molyneux from her small business, Serenity Crafted.



Ellen and Brad Hendricks with their beautiful art pieces, and Brad's chainmaille jewelry from Chainmaille by Brad.



Soaps and body care items from Nicole Shaughnessy's small business, "purr.fect beauty."



Stephanie Martinelli's adorable crocheted friends from Imagination Creation Crafts.



Guitars and more chainmaille jewelry made by Brad Hendricks.

Brett Hickey with his gorgeous wood carvings a part of Chainsaw Carvings by Brett.