



Over and Out plays a free concert in Sedlak's Gazebo located in Dufresne Park.

Friends of Granby's elderly sponsor concert

By Ben Hernandez
Staff Writer

GRANBY – Local band Over and Out played at Dufresne Park on Aug. 18. Granby residents enjoyed an evening of free music and lawn sports as classic tunes wafted through the park. The concert was sponsored by Friends of Granby's Elderly with optional donations collected by committee representatives.

The Granby-based band is comprised of vocalist and guitarist "Crazy Joe" DeForge, bassist Rick Peterson, drummer Ron LeBreton, lead guitarist Jake Chartier, singer Cindy Colon and keyboardist Don Carden. Song selection is a democratic process, with band members proposing their own songs they wish to cover. After receiving recommendations, the band collectively decides which songs to cover.

Please see **CONCERT**, page 7

Officials weigh growth, character in economic development summit

By Melina Bourdeau
Correspondent

BELCHERTOWN – Selectboard, planners and economic development leaders outlined a coordinated push for new business growth, cultural investment and zoning reform during a special joint meeting, while reaffirming that development must not compromise the town's rural character and aging infrastructure.

Belchertown convened representatives from the Selectboard, Planning Board, Economic Development and Industrial Corporation (EDIC), the Creative Economy Committee and town staff for a wide-ranging discussion on how to expand the commercial tax base, redevelop the former state school, and leverage a proposed cultural district. The group identified restaurants, health care, tourism and creative-economy projects as top opportunities, and cited outdated zoning, limited water and sewer capacity, and a lack of affordable commercial space as persistent barriers.

Although no formal votes were taken, the boards agreed to advance a state cultural district application, move key EDIC parcels to market, and use a state grant to rewrite Belchertown's zoning bylaw. Selectboard member

"We've been working with MassDevelopment since 2012 to clean up the buildings [and] the environmental concerns."

– EDIC Chair Elizabeth Maroney

Whitney Jorns-Kuhnlenz, who facilitated the meeting, framed the session as a shift from isolated efforts to coordinated strategy.

She said the town's goal is to "attract businesses, create more economic activity and strengthen our local economy while also protecting the things that are important to us and make this town great to live in."

Jorns-Kuhnlenz argued that

economic development and preservation of Belchertown's "natural resources and the character of the community" do not have to be in conflict, but "it will take strategy and partnership for us to succeed."

Jorns-Kuhnlenz described the session as the "first of several conversations" and set expectations that the group would focus on what is working, what is in the way and what concrete next steps are possible, rather than trying to "solve everything" in a single night.

Planning Board Chair Dan Baudette detailed the board's expansive role in regulating land use, from business permitting to subdivision control and master plan implementation. He emphasized that Belchertown's zoning map was largely descriptive when created "50 to 60 years ago," simply codifying what

Please see **SUMMIT**, page 7



TURLEY PHOTO BY BEN HERNANDEZ

Volunteers gather to dish out the afternoon's meal.

Immaculate Heart of Mary holds annual Summerfest

By Ben Hernandez
Staff Writer

GRANBY – The Immaculate Heart of Mary Church held its annual Summerfest barbecue chicken dinner on Aug. 23 on the parish grounds. The event featured grill favorites with hot dogs and hamburgers served as alternatives to the main course.

"They used to do it in the pavilion area," said church pastor Fr. Michael Goodreau. The event was held indoors due to unsafe pavilion roofing conditions, which is awaiting repairs. Roofing costs to repair the pavilion are estimated at more than \$100,000.

The signature barbecue chicken is cooked outdoors on a brick-in barbecue pit,

which was supplemented with a hearty baked potato, corn on the cob and a ice cream cup for dessert. Tickets were on sale for \$15, with all proceeds going towards funding church utilities and upcoming snow plowing costs for the winter.

"It's just a tradition to

Please see **SUMMERFEST**, page 8

Lecture held at town hall discusses current drought conditions

By Ben Hernandez
Staff Writer

BELCHERTOWN – In light of recent water shortages, town hall held a free public presentation for drought awareness and impact last Thursday, Aug. 20.

"Understanding Drought and Water Supplies," the seminar reviewed how aquifers worked, how wells were created, where groundwater came from and how scientists are preparing for an uncertain future in the wake of climate change.

Conservation Commission representative Julie Meyer introduced Belchertown resident and University of Massachusetts Amherst Professor Dr. Konstantinos



UMass-Amherst Professor Konstantinos "Kostas" Andreadis was the evening's main speaker. RIGHT: The lecture explained how groundwater fills.

Andreadis.

The professors started the presentation with a simple yet striking slide; a

calculation of the Quabbin Reservoir's maximum capacity.

"412 billion gallons,"

Andreadis said as he reiterated what was on the slide for emphasis.

"That's the maximum

capacity of the Quabbin Reservoir. It's the largest reservoir in the state of Massachusetts and it provides water for Boston and about 40 other communities."

Andreadis discussed how most Belchertown residents instead relied on wells for their water supply needs and how groundwater replenishment determined the total capacity available. He explained how wells relied on groundwater and how unpredictable the resource truly was.

"So you can think of it as a bank account," Andreadis said. "We don't get a statement. We don't see the balance if we hit an ATM. We can withdraw whenever we like and we will only know

that we ran out or we overdrawn our account when the card declines."

Andreadis emphasized groundwater was an invisible quantity, one whose availability was determined by a number of external factors. Groundwater is fed through aquifers, an underground layer which can be thought of as a natural water storage tank. According to Andreadis, Belchertown aquifers come in two varieties; bedrock or sand and gravel.

Sand and gravel deposits tend to make more productive aquifers, as the material is more porous. These types

Please see **DROUGHT**, page 3

BELCHERTOWN SCHOOL BUS ROUTES

**FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL IS
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2026**

2026/2027 School Year

**STUDENTS SHOULD BE OUT FOR
THE BUS 5 MIN. BEFORE IT ARRIVES**

MIDDLE SCHOOL AND; HIGH SCHOOL BUS ROUTES

ROUTE:1 HS AM 01

6:31 AM FIRST STUDENT/227 NORTH LIBERTY ST; 543 SOUTH WASHINGTON ST; 537 S WASHINGTON ST; 311 BARDWELL ST; 305 BARDWELL SU310 BARDWELL ST; 296 BARDWELL ST; 214 BARDWELL ST; 241 BARDWELL ST; 202 BARDWELL ST; 200/165 BARDWELL ST; 97 BARDWELL ST; 532 CHAUNCEY WALKER ST; 475 CHAUNCEY WALKER ST; PHEASANT RUN@ CHAUNCEY WALKER ST; 440 CHAUNCEY WALKER ST; 430 CHAUNCEY WALKER ST; 399 CHAUNCEY WALKER ST; 285 CHAUNCEY WALKER ST; 181 CHAUNCEY WALKER ST; 151 CHAUNCEY WALKER ST; 146/147 CHAUNCEY WALKER ST; 80 CHAUNCEY WALKER ST; 61 CHAUNCEY WALKER ST; LEDGEWOOD DR @ LEDGEWOOD CIR; 24 LEDGEWOOD CIR; 27 LEDGEWOOD CIR; 28 LEDGEWOOD CIR; 19 LEDGEWOOD CIR; LEDGWOOD CIR @ FOREST RD; 13 FOREST RD; 23 FOREST RD; 161 TURKEY HILL RD; 98/99 TURKEY HILL RD; 91 TURKEY HILL RD; 90 TURKEY HILL RD; 85 TURKEY HILL R; 79 TURKEY HILL RD; DRIVEWAY TO 45 STATE ST; **BHS SIDE ENTRANCE; 6 SPRINGFIELD RD; JBMS @ 62 N WASHINGTON ST.**

ROUTE:2 HS AM 02

6:22 AM 196 FEDERAL ST; FEDERAL ST @ TOWN BEACH RD; 455/454 FEDERAL ST; 611 FEDERAL ST; 633 FEDERAL ST; 68 CHERYL CIR; 665 FEDERAL ST; 697 FEDERAL ST; 742 FEDERAL ST; 824/824B FEDERAL ST; 31 GOODSELL ST; 40 GOODSELL ST; 71 GOODSELL ST; WARREN WRIGHT RD@WILSON RD 350 WARREN WRIGHT RD; 460 WARREN WRIGHT RD; WARREN WRIGHT RD @ NORTH ST 569 WARREN WRIGHT RD; 611 WARREN WRIGHT RD; 94 OLD AMHERST RD; 151 OLD AMHERST RD; 11 TWO PONDS RD; 30 TWO PONDS RD; 44 TWO PONDS RD; 1067 FEDERAL ST/1066 FEDERAL ST; 979 FEDERAL ST; 971 FEDERAL ST; 121 N MAIN ST/LORD JEFF (K-Z) STOP 2 121 N MAIN ST/LORD JEFF (A-J) STOP 1 N MAIN ST@ TUCKER LN; 85 N MAIN ST; 11/13 MAIN ST; 56 SOUTH MAIN ST; **JBMS@ 62 N WASHINGTON ST; BHS SIDE ENTRANCE**

ROUTE:3 HS AM 03

6:20 AM FIRST STUDENT/227 NORTH LIBERTY ST 434 BATCHELOR ST; 68/39 STEBBINS ST; 51 STEBBINS ST; STEBBINS ST/68 STEBBINS ST; 100 STEBBINS ST; STEBBINS ST@ PINEBROOK DR STEBBINS ST @ DANIEL SQ; 156/158 STEBBINS ST; STEBBINS ST; 175 STEBBINS ST; STEBBINS ST@ MERCIER DR; 235/234 STEBBINS ST; 250 STEBBINS ST; 22 EMILY LN; 23/28 EMILY LN; 320 STEBBINS ST; 331 STEBBINS ST; 366 STEBBINS SU399 STEBBINS ST; 400/403/370 STEBBINS ST/401 STEBBINS ST 380 BAY RD; 366 BAY RD; BAY RD @ SARAH LN; 269/267 BAY RD; BAY RD @ CHARTIER DR; BAY RD @ POOLE RD; 81 BAY RD; 236/236B HAMILTON SU236A HAMILTON ST 133/133B HAMILTON ST; GREENWICH HL@PRESCOTT HILL RD PRESCOTT HIL@CLARK ST; CLARK ST @ HOWE ST; CLARK ST @ GREENWICH HILL; **BHS SIDE ENTRANCE; JBMS @ 62 N WASHINGTON ST.**

ROUTE:4 HS AM 04

6:31 AM FIRST STUDENT/227 NORTH LIBERTY ST 450 AMHERST RD; 474 AMHERST RD; 115 GULF RD; GULF RD @ S GULF RD; 33 NORTH ST; 51 NORTH ST; RAYMOND DR@BRENDA LN FEDERAL ST@ WILSON RD AMHERST RD@ DIANE DR; 355 AMHERST RD; 235 AMHERST RD; AMHERST RD @ LAKE DR; FEDERAL ST @ ALLEN RD; 226 FEDERAL ST/227 FEDERAL ST; 222 FEDERAL ST; 157 FEDERAL ST; 73 FEDERAL ST; 69/68 FEDERAL ST.; 121 N MAIN ST/138 N. MAIN ST; 50 N MAIN ST; 55 N MAIN ST; **JBMS@ 62 N WASHINGTON ST; BHS SIDE ENTRANCE**

ROUTE:5 HS AM 05

6:26 AM N LIBERTY ST@FIRST STUDENT 138 N MAIN ST; SARGENT ST @ CHADBOURNE RD 40 SARGENT ST; 60 SARGENT ST; 147/146 SARGENT ST; 173 SARGENT ST; 5 ALLEN ST; 14 BRANDYWINE DR; 369 OLD ENFIELD RD; 46 BRANDYWINE DR; 164 SHEFFIELD DR; SHEFFIELD DR @ SPRING HILL RD 117 SHEFFIELD DR; 103 SHEFFIELD DRIVE; 94 SHEFFIELD DR; 79 SHEFFIELD RD; 19/20 SHEFFIELD DR; SHEFFIELD DR@ FLETCHER AVE 9 FLETCHER AVENUE; 211 ALLEN ST; 221 ALLEN RD; 221 ALLEN ST; 245 ALLEN RD/247 ALLEN RD; 111 DANIEL SHAYS HWY; **BHS SIDE ENTRANCE; JBMS @ 62 N WASHINGTON ST.**

ROUTE:6 HS AM 06

6:27 AM FIRST STUDENT/227 NORTH LIBERTY ST 226/225 STATE ST; 270 STATE ST; 300 STATE ST; 380 STATE ST; 421 STATE ST; STATE ST@ HENRY DR; 488 ST ATE ST; 31 ESKETT RD; 51 ESKETT RD; 25 RURAL RD; 34 RURAL RD.; 38 RURAL RD; 43 RURAL RD; 689 GEORGE HANNUM ST; GEORGE HANNUM ST @ BOARDMAN ST 137 BOARDMAN ST; 160 BOARDMAN ST; 171 BOARDMAN ST; 276/265 BOARDMAN ST; 301 BOARDMAN ST; FRED RUEL RD@ ESTATE ST; 433 E STATE ST; ESTATE ST@ DRESSLE AVE; 601 STATE ST; 442/441 STATE ST; 369 STATE ST; UNDERWOOD ST @ LAWRENCE RD **BHS SIDE ENTRANCE; JBMS @ 62 N WASHINGTON ST.**

ROUTE:7 HS AM 07

6:37 AM FIRST STUDENT/227 NORTH LIBERTY ST 334 BARDWELL ST; 364 BARDWELL ST; 376 BARDWELL ST/377 BARDWELL ST 514/515 MICHAEL SEARS RD; 483 MICHAEL SEARS RD; MICHAEL SEARS RD@EUGENE DR 471/469 MICHAEL SEARS RD.; MICHAEL SEARS RD@ FOX RUN DR 425 MICHAEL SEARS RD; 418 MICHAEL SEARS RD; 403 MICHAEL SEARS RD; 399 MICHAEL SEARS RD; 333 FRANKLIN ST; 201 MICHAEL SEARS RD; 7 MICHAEL SEARS RD; KENNEDY RD @ MOSS LN; KENNEDY RD @ ROBIN LN; KENNEDY RD @ RAINBOW DR; 141 KENNEDY RD; KENNEDY RD @ BLACKSMITH RD; 42 JENSEN ST; 37/42 JENSEN ST; 32 JENSEN ST; 101 JABISH ST; 68 E WALNUT ST; **BHS SIDE ENTRANCE; JBMS@ 62 N WASHINGTON ST.**

ROUTE:8 HS AM 08

6:29 AM FIRST STUDENT LOT @ BUS LOT 236 N LIBERTY ST; 248/245 N LIBERTY ST; 252 NORTH LIBERTY ST; 256 NORTH LIBERTY ST/254 N LIBERTY ST 334 NORTH LIBERTY ST; 366 N LIBERTY ST; 382 N LIBERTY ST; 444 NORTH LIBERTY ST; 510 NORTH LIBERTY ST/507 N LIBERTY ST 90 WEST ST; 82 WEST ST; 50 WEST ST; 24 WEST ST; 165 SOUTH ST; 111 RAILROAD ST; 164 RAILRD ST/165 RAILRD ST; 173 RAILRD ST; NORTH ST @ NORBELL ST; 279 SOUTH LIBERTY ST; 240 SOUTH LIBERTY ST; 210 SOUTH LIBERTY ST; 121 S LIBERTY ST; 88/86 S LIBERTY ST; 86 S LIBERTY ST; 59 S LIBERTY ST; 19/20 SOUTH LIBERTY ST; 17 S LIBERTY ST/16 SOUTH LIBERTY ST 578 NORTH LIBERTY ST; 570 NORTH LIBERTY ST; 540 NORTH LIBERTY ST; 521 NORTH LIBERTY ST; 381 N LIBERTY ST; 371 NORTH LIBERTY ST/369 N LIBERTY ST 223 N LIBERTY ST; N LIBERTY ST@ CAROL ANN DR 223/221 A/226 NORTH LIBERTY ST; 226 N LIBERTY ST; 200 NORTH LIBERTY ST; 190 N LIBERTY ST; 166 N LIBERTY ST; 115 N LIBERTY ST; 78 N LIBERTY ST; **BHS SIDE ENTRANCE JBMS@ 62 N WASHINGTON ST**

ROUTE:9 HS AM 09

6:24 AM N LIBERTY ST@FIRST STUDENT 27 BAY RD; RAILRD CROSSING METACOMET ST@COUNTRY LN METACOMET ST@OLD FARM RD 134 METACOMET ST; 106 METACOMET ST; 84 METACOMET ST; 7 ORCHARD RD; 21 WARREN WRIGHT RD; 772 BAY RD; 59 BAY PATH RD; 30 BAY PATH RD; 15/17 BAY PATH RD; BAY RD @ LAMSON AVE; 645/646 BAY RD; 635 BAY RD/636 BAY RD; OLD BAY RD @ PLAZA AVE RAILRD CROSSING; BAY RD@ EAGLE HTS; 62 MAPLE ST; 63/62 MAPLE ST; JBMS @ 62 N WASHINGTON ST 38/36 MAPLE ST; 55 MAPLE ST; 58 MAPLE ST/59 MAPLE ST; 59 MAPLE ST; **BHS SIDE ENTRANCE**

ROUTE:10 HS AM 10

6:24 AM N LIBERTY ST@FIRST STUDENT; 43 WARE RD/40 WARE RD; 51 WARE RD; 80 WARE RD; BLUE MEADOW RD@ HERITAGE DR; 37 WARNER ST; WARNER ST/92 WARNER ST; 10 DOE HOLLOW RD; 111 WARNER ST; WARNER ST @ BLUE MANOR DR; 33 WARE RD.; 86/88 OLD ENFIELD RD; 212 OLD ENFIELD RD; 220 OLD ENFIELD RD; 226 OLD ENFIELD RD/233 OLD ENFIELD RD; 235 OLD ENFIELD RD; 240 OLD ENFIELD RD; ALLEN ST@JUCKETT HILL RD; 47/45 ALLEN ST; 72/65 ALLEN ST; 88/81 ALLEN ST; ALLEN RD & BRANDYWINE DR @SHERWOOD DR 136/134 ALLEN ST; ALLEN RD@ PONDVIEW CIR; 170 ALLEN RD; 203/212 ALLEN ST; 245/247 ALLEN ST; 258 ALLEN ST; 271 ALLEN ST; 1 STADLER ST; **BHS SIDE ENTRANCE; JBMS @ 62 N WASHINGTON ST.**

ROUTE:11 HS AM 11

6:25 AM FIRST STUDENT/227 NORTH LIBERTY ST 230 DANIEL SHAYS HWY; 357 DANIEL SHAYS HWY; GOLD ST@ GULF RD; 160 GOLD ST; 96 GOLD ST; 88 GOLD ST; 36 OASIS DR; 50 OASIS DR; 241 MUNSELL ST; 73 MUNSELL ST; 44 MUNSELL ST; 5 MUNSELL ST; 11 OLD PELHAM RD/9 OLD PELHAM RD. ALLEN RD @ WESTWOOD DR; 413 ALLEN RD; 440 ALLEN ST; FEDERAL ST @ WESTVIEW DR; 28 FEDERAL ST; **BHS SIDE ENTRANCE; JBMS @ 62 N WASHINGTON ST.**

ROUTE:12 HS AM 12

6:26 AM FIRST STUDENT/227 NORTH LIBERTY ST 185 SUMMIT ST; 155 SUMMIT ST; 175 OAK RIDGE DR; 160 OAKRIDGE DRIVE; 62/63 MOUNTAIN VIEW DRIVE; MOUNTAIN VIEW DR@AZALEA WAY 71 MOUNTAINVIEW DR/68 MOUNTAINVIEW DRIVE 75 MOUNTAINVIEW DR; 114 MOUNTAIN VIEW DR; 14 LAUREL RIDGE DR; MOUNTAINVIEW DR/115 MOUNTAINVIEW DRIVE 114 MOUNTAINVIEW DR MOUNTAINVIEW DR@OVERLOOK DR 140/143 MOUNTAINVIEW DR; BARTON AVE@CRESTVIEW DR; 251 BARTON AVE; 228 BARTON AVENUE; 196 BARTON AVENUE; 128/139 BARTON AVENUE; 131 BARTON AVE; 92 BARTON AVENUE; 77/72 BARTON AVENUE; 54 BARTON AVENUE; 26 BARTON AVE; BARTON AVE @STATE ST; 75/78 SUMMIT ST; 97 SUMMIT ST; 19 HELEN LN/18 HELEN LANE; **BHS SIDE ENTRANCE; JBMS @ 62 N WASHINGTON ST.**

ROUTE:13 HS AM 13

6:19 AM 177 GRANBY RD; 222 GRANBY RD; 35 SHAW ST; 160 LUDLOW ST; 150 LUDLOW ST; 110 LUDLOW ST; 279 GRANBY RD/280 GRANBY RD; 169 ROCKRIMMON ST; 207 ROCKRIMMON ST; 212 ROCKRIMMON ST; 222 GREEN AVE; 181/183 GREEN AVE; 185 GREEN AVE; 199/185 GREEN AVE.; 210 GREEN AVE; 215 GREEN AVE; 238/237 GREEN AVENUE; 246 GREEN AVE; 251 GREEN AVENUE; 262/259 GREEN AVE; 163 GREEN AVE; 25 GREEN AVENUE; 332 ROCKRIMMON ST; 363 ROCKRIMMON ST; 375 ROCKRIMMON ST; 372/375 ROCKRIMMON ST; 396 ROCKRIMMON ST/397 ROCKRIMMON ST; 404 ROCKRIMMON ST; 423 ROCKRIMMON ST; 22 RIMROCK RD; 135/134 ROCKRIMMON ST; 299 TURKEY HILL RD; 295 TURKEY HILL RD; 260 TURKEY HILL RD; 256 TURKEY HILL RD; **BHS SIDE ENTRANCE; JBMS @ 62 N WASHINGTON ST.**

ROUTE:14 HS AM 14

6:29 AM BELCHERTOWN BUS GARAGE 55/57 S MAIN ST; 12 JABISH ST; @EVERETT AVE/12 JABISH ST; 45 JABISH ST; JABISH ST@ EASTVIEW DR; SEGRU LN @ EDELCY DR; 25 OLD SAWMILL RD; 44 OLD SAWMILL RD; 61 OLD SAWMILL RD; 243 WARE RD; 292 WARE RD; 2 SABIN ST; 392 WARE RD; 22 SABIN ST; 256 SABIN ST; 305 SABIN STREETE; 465 MILL VALLEY RD; 370 MILL VALLEY RD; 299 MILL VALLEY RD; MILL VALLEY RD@ MARTIN CIR 143 MILL VALLEY RD; 23 MILL VALLEY RD; 9 MILL VALLEY RD; **BHS SIDE ENTRANCE; JBMS @ 62 N WASHINGTON ST.**

ROUTE:15 HS AM 15

6:28 AM FIRST STUDENT/227 NORTH LIBERTY ST; 356 SOUTH ST; 425 SOUTH ST; 473 SOUTH ST; 479 SOUTH ST; 485 SOUTH ST; 594 SOUTH ST; 648 SOUTH WASHINGTON ST; 645 S WASHINGTON SU644 S. WASHINGTON ST 635 SOUTH WASHINGTON ST; 627 SOUTH WASHINGTON ST; 485 SOUTH WASHINGTON ST; 479 SOUTH WASHINGTON ST; 475 SOUTH WASHINGTON ST; 465 SOUTH WASHINGTON ST; 459 SOUTH WASHINGTON ST; 421/4218 SOUTH WASHINGTON ST; 376 S. WASHINGTON ST; 370 SOUTH WASHINGTON ST; S WASHINGTON ST@ BARRETT ST; 198 SOUTH WASHINGTON ST; 170/171 S WASHINGTON ST; 152 SOUTH WASHINGTON ST; 121 SOUTH WASHINGTON ST; 117 SOUTH WASHINGTON ST; 110 SOUTH WASHINGTON ST; 107 S WASHINGTON ST; 101 SOUTH WASHINGTON ST; 98 S WASHINGTON ST; 91/92 SOUTH WASHINGTON ST; 88 S WASHINGTON ST/87 SOUTH WASHINGTON ST.; 84/83 S WASHINGTON ST; 76 S WASHINGTON SU73 SOUTH WASHINGTON ST; 62 SOUTH WASHINGTON ST/61 S. WASHINGTON ST; 57 SOUTH WASHINGTON ST/58 S WASHINGTON ST; 49 SOUTH WASHINGTON ST/50 SOUTH WASHINGTON ST; 310 NORTH WASHINGTON ST; 139 N WASHINGTON ST; **BHS SIDE ENTRANCE; JBMS @ 62 N WASHINGTON ST.**

ROUTE:16 HS AM 16

6:54 AM BARDWELL ST; 368 TURKEY HILL RD; 366 TURKEY HILL RD; 62/63 ROCKRIMMON ST; 145 ROCKRIMMON ST; 11 MAPLECREST DR; 16/13 MAPLECREST DR; 18 MAPLECREST DR; 24 MAPLECREST DR/22 MAPLECREST DRIVE 27 MAPLECREST DR; 29/32 MAPLECREST DR; 34 MAPLECREST DR; 31/34/36 MAPLECREST DR; 35/33 MAPLECREST DR; 20 MOUNTAIN VIEW DR; 25/24 OAK RIDGE DR; 41 OAK RIDGE DR; OAK RIDGE DR@ CHESTNUT DR; 72 OAK RIDGE DRIVE; 98 OAK RIDGE DRIVE; OAK RIDGE DR@ CHESTNUT DR; OAKRIDGE@HEMLOCK HOLLOW; OAK RIDGE@TERRY LANE/170 OAK RIDGE DRIVE; 193 OAK RIDGE DRIVE; 424 SPRINGFIELD RD/424A SPRINGFIELD RD; 390 SPRINGFIELD RD; 356 SPRINGFIELD RD; SPRINGFIELD RD@ PEPPER RIDGE DR; 350 SPRINGFIELD RD; 342 SPRINGFIELD RD; 336 SPRINGFIELD RD/335 SPRINGFIELD RD; 29 PENDLETON RD; 315 SPRINGFIELD RD/316 SPRINGFIELD RD; 305 SPRINGFIELD RD; 300/299 SPRINGFIELD RD; 73 SPRINGFIELD RD; 42 SPRINGFIELD RD; 39/38 SPRINGFIELD RD; 6 SPRINGFIELD RD; **JBMS @ 62 N WASHINGTON ST; BHS SIDE ENTRANCE**

ROUTE:17 HS AM 17

6:22 AM MILL VALLEY RD@NATHANIEL WAY; 316 MILL VALLEY RD; 370 MILL VALLEY RD; 75 FRANKLIN

ST; 186 FRANKLIN ST; 218 FRANKLIN ST; 510 FRANKLIN ST; 18 PINE ST/15 PINE ST; 43/41 PINE ST; 47/45 PINE ST; 49 PINE ST; 49/51 PINE ST; 49 PINE ST; 39 RIVER ST; 8 CLOVER HILL RD; CLOVER HILL RD--GROUP STOP; 65 RIVER ST; 800 FRANKLIN ST.; 791 /792 FRANKLIN ST.; 785 FRANKLIN ST./786 FRANKLIN ST; 774 FRANKLIN ST; 6/2 DEPOT ST; 8A/10 DEPOT ST; 21 DEPOT ST; 25R/25/15/25-L/23 R DEPOT ST; 32/33 DEPOT ST; DEPOT ST @ KEYES ST; CORNER OF RIVER ST & KEYES ST; 173 RIVER ST/180 RIVER ST/182 RIVER STREE 741 FRANKLIN ST; 734 FRANKLIN ST; 726 FRANKLIN ST; 32 SHEA AVE; 38 SHEA AVE/35 SHEA AVENUE; 146 SHEA AVE; 251 SHEA AVE; 41 SHEA AVE; 38 SHEA AVE/35 SHEA AVENUE; 716 FRANKLIN ST; 681 FRANKLIN ST; FRANKLIN ST@ HIGH BLF RD; 192/190/191 FRANKLIN ST; 181 FRANKLIN ST; 129 FRANKLIN ST; **JBMS@ 62 N WASHINGTON ST BHS SIDE ENTRANCE**

ROUTE:18 HS AM 18

6:37 AM N LIBERTY ST@FIRST STUDENT; 15 NORTH WASHINGTON ST; 6 JACKSON ST; 13 JACKSON ST; 48/49 JACKSON ST; 52 JACKSON ST; 85 JACKSON ST; 170 JACKSON ST; 95 GEORGE HANNUM ST@MAGNOLIA DR; 95 GEORGE HANNUM ST.; GEORGE HANNUM@DOGWOOD/HICKORY HILL/12 DOGWOOD GREENWICH HL@PRESCOTT HILL RD PRESCOTT HL@CLARK ST; CLARK ST @ HOWE ST; CLARK ST @ GREENWICH HILL; CLARK ST @ COBB LN; CLARK ST @ ATHERTON LN; CLARK ST@ DANA HILL #2; 97 HOWARD ST; 74 HOWARD ST; 24 HOWARD ST; 62 MAPLE ST; **JBMS @ 62 N WASHINGTON ST; BHS SIDE ENTRANCE**

ROUTE:19 HS AM 19

6:23 AM 128 MICHAEL SEARS RD; 300 COLD SPRING RD; 322 COLD SPRING RD; BOAT RAMP; 445 EAST ST; 433 EAST ST; 415 EAST ST; 246 COLD SPRING RD/245 COLD SPRING RD MILL VALLEY RD @ MARTIN CIR; 40 ALDRICH ST/42 ALDRICH ST; 50 ALDRICH ST/48 ALDRICH ST; 60 ALDRICH ST; 99/150 ALDRICH ST; 154 ALDRICH ST; 111 ALDRICH ST; ALDRICH ST@ WILLOW LN/121 ALDRICH ST 127 ALDRICH ST; 127 ALDRICH ST; 133 ALDRICH ST; ALDRICH ST@JASON'S WAY; 5 JASONS WAY; 11 JASONS WAY; 15 JASONS WAY; 20/21 JASON'S WAY; 24 JASONS WAY; 30 JASON'S WAY/31 JASONS WAY; 36 JASONS WAY; 47 JASON'S WAY; JASON'S WAY @ MEADOW POND RD; 40 MEADOW POND RD; 35/34 MEADOW POND RD; 16 MEADOW POND RD; 10 SOUTH MAIN ST; 19/18 S MAIN ST; 33 FULLER ST; **BHS SIDE ENTRANCE; JBMS @ 62 N WASHINGTON ST.**

ROUTE:20 HS AM 20

6:31 AM FIRST STUDENT LOT @ BUS LOT; WEST ST@ ALDEN AVE; 445 WEST ST; BONDSVILLE RD@ TIMBERIDGE RD; 661 NORTH WASHINGTON ST.; 655 N WASHINGTON SU656 NORTH WASHINGTON ST; 639 NORTH WASHINGTON ST; 624 NORTH WASHINGTON ST; 594 N WASHINGTON ST; 483 N WASHINGTON SU480 N WASHINGTON ST.; 480 N WASHINGTON ST; 464 NORTH WASHINGTON ST/465 N WASHINGTON ST; 450 N WASHINGTON ST; 21 CANAL DR; CANAL DR@ BUNKER WAY; 11 CANAL DR; 353 NORTH WASHINGTON ST U356 N. WASHINGTON.; 1 CEDAR GLEN DR; CEDAR GLEN DR @ BLOSSOM LN; 41 CEDAR GLEN DR; 257/259 NORTH WASHINGTON ST; 205 NORTH WASHINGTON ST; 594 N WASHINGTON ST/202 N. WASHINGTON ST.; 192 N WASHINGTON ST; 186/181 N WASHINGTON ST; 147 NORTH WASHINGTON ST; 139 N WASHINGTON ST; 103 NORTH WASHINGTON ST; 85 SOUTH MAIN ST/84 S MAIN ST; 84 S MAIN ST; **BHS SIDE ENTRANCE; JBMS @ 62 N WASHINGTON ST**

ELEMENTARY BUS ROUTES SY 2026-2027

ROUTE:1 ES AM 01

7:58 AM BELCHERTOWN BUS GARAGE- WEST ST @ ALDEN AVE; 192 WEST ST; 228 WEST ST; 228 WEST ST; 12 AUTUMN LN; 39 AUTUMN LN; 21 AUTUMN LN; 15 AUTUMN LN; 9 AUTUMN LN; 305 BARDWELL SU310 BARDWELL STREET T; 304/299 BARDWELL ST; 296 BARDWELL ST; BARDWELL ST @ WOODLAND LN; 36 BARDWELL ST; 292 RURAL RD; 16 PHEASANT RUN; 30 PHEASANT RUN; 430 CHAUNCEY WALKER ST; 399 CHAUNCEY WALKER ST; 285 CHAUNCEY WALKER ST; 141 CHAUNCEY WALKER ST/147 CHAUNCEY WALKER ST; 85 CHAUNCEY WALKER ST; 12 LEDGEWOOD DRIVE; LEDGEWOOD DR @ LEDGEWOOD CIR; 24 LEDGEWOOD DR; 35 LEDGEWOOD CIRCLE; 27 FOREST RD; 10--LEDGEWOOD DR FOR 177 TURKEY HILL RD; 139 TURKEY HILL RD; 73 TURKEY HILL RD; DRIVEWAY TO 45 STATE ST; 90 FRONT ST/BELCHERTOWN DAY SCHOOL CHCS CHESTNUT HILL COM SCHL @ 59 STATE ST; **SRE C SIDE AM D/O; SRE A SIDE AM D/O & BSP**

ROUTE:2 ES AM 02

7:41 AM CHCS LOWER LOT; P222 FEDERAL ST; FEDERAL ST @ TOWN BEACH RD; 455/454 FEDERAL ST; 473 FEDERAL ST.; FEDERAL ST & CHANNEl DR; 586 FEDERAL ST; 58 CHERYL CIR; 83 CHERYL CIR; 697 FEDERAL ST; 716 FEDERAL ST; 800 FEDERAL ST; 820B FEDERAL ST; 40 GOODSELL ST; WARREN WRIGHT RD@ WILSON RD; 317 WARREN WRIGHT RD; 350 WARREN WRIGHT RD; 460 WARREN WRIGHT RD; WARREN WRIGHT RD @ NORTH ST; 631 WARREN WRIGHT RD; 633 WARREN WRIGHT RD; 641 WARREN WRIGHT RD; 90 OLD AMHERST RD; 151 OLD AMHERST RD; 44 TWO PONDS RD; 17 TWO PONDS RD; 19/21 OLD AMHERST RD; 1035 FEDERAL ST; 979 FEDERAL ST; 881 FEDERAL ST.; 689 FEDERAL ST/687 FEDERAL ST; 665 FEDERAL ST; 633 FEDERAL ST; 611 FEDERAL ST; 170 JACKSON ST; 97 HOWARD ST; **SRE C SIDE AM O/O; CHESTNUT HILL COM SCHL @59 STATE ST**

ROUTE:3 ES AM 03

7:43 AM 236 N LIBERTY ST; 90 STEBBINS ST; 17 PINEBROOK DR; 121 STEBBINS ST; 191 STEBBINS ST; STEBBINS ST@ MERCIER DR; 271 STEBBINS ST; 301 STEBBINS ST; 22 EMILY LN; 35 EMILY LN; 10EMILYN; 297/331 STEBBINS ST; 369/370 STEBBINS ST; 376 STEBBINS ST; 362 STEBBINS ST; 366 STEBBINS ST; 366 STEBBINS ST/399 STEBBINS ST; 376 STEBBINS ST; BAY RD @ SARAH LN; 287 BAY RD; 38 CHARTIER DR; 85 BAY RD; 57/50 BAY RD; 133/133B HAMILTON ST; 39A HAMILTON ST; 49 HAMILTON ST; 31 HAMILTON ST.; 121 N MAIN ST/LORD JEFF (K-Z) STOP 2 **CHESTNUT HILL COM SCHL @ 59 STATE ST SRE A SIDE AM O/O & BSP**

ROUTE:4 ES AM 04

7:45 AM 306 FEDERAL ST; 256 AMHERST RD; 450 AMHERST RD; 85 WILSON ST; 1067 FEDERAL STREU1066 FEDERAL ST.; 5 RAYMOND DR; 11 RAYMOND DRIVE; 1310 FEDERAL ST; 260 GULF RD; GULF RD @ S GULF RD; 515 AMHERST RD; 435 AMHERST RD; AMHERST RD @ DIANE DR; 355 AMHERST RD; 229 AMHERST RD; 35 AMHERST RD; 267 FEDERAL ST; 129/133/135 FEDERAL ST; 95 FEDERAL ST; 61 FEDERAL ST; 121 N MAIN SUORD JEFF (A-J) STOP 1; N MAIN ST @ TUCKER LN; 51 N MAIN ST; **SRE A SIDE AM D/O & BSP; SRE C SIDE AM D/O; CHESTNUT HILL COM SCHL @ 59 STATE ST**

ROUTE:5 ES AM 05

7:54 AM CHCS SCHOOL; 38 N MAIN ST; 10 WOODHAVEN DR; 36 WOODHAVEN DR; 5 WOODHAVEN DR; 114 NORTH MAIN ST; 138 N MAIN ST; LLOYD AVE@ CHADBOURNE RD; 60 SARGENT ST; 147/146 SARGENT ST; 151 SARGENT ST.; 166 SARGENT ST; ALLEN RD & BRANDYWINE DR @SHERWOOD DR 45 BRANDYWINE DR; 30 BRANDYWINE DR; 19 BRANDYWINE DR; 14 BRANDYWINE DR; 5 BRANDYWINE DRIVE; SHEFFIELD DR @ SPRING HILL RD; 130 SHEFFIELD DR; 124 SHEFFIELD DR; 117 SHEFFIELD DR; 97 SHEFFIELD DR; 82 SHEFFIELD DR; 85 SHEFFIELD DR; 79 SHEFFIELD DR; 36 SHEFFIELD DR; 19/20 SHEFFIELD DR; 19 FLETCHER AVE; 354 ALLEN RD; 440 ALLEN ST; **SRE C SIDE AM O/O; CHESTNUT HILL COM SCHL @ 59 STATE ST**

ROUTE:6 ES AM 06

7:54 AM 20 STADLER ST/JITTERBUGS; 270 STATE ST; 280 STATE ST; 6 HENRY DR; 49 HENRY DR; 51 ESKETT RD; 91 ESKETT RD; 34 RURAL RD.; 60 RURAL RD; 147 STEBBINS (DRIVEWAY ON DANIEL SQ) 734 GEORGE HANNUM ST; 692 GEORGE HANNUM ST; 686 GEORGE HANNUM ST; 591 GEORGE HANNUM ST; 581 GEORGE HANNUM ST; 46 BOARDMAN ST; 137 BOARDMAN ST; 140 BOARDMAN ST; 211 BOARDMAN ST; 276/265 BOARDMAN ST; 301 BOARDMAN ST; ESTATE ST@ DRESSLE AVE; 560 STATE ST; 447 STATE ST; 442/441 STATE ST; 438 ST A TE ST /433 STATE ST; 411 STATE ST; UNDERWOOD ST@ LAWRENCE RD LAWRENCE RD @ JEFFERY LN; 255 STATE ST; **CHESTNUT HILL COM SCHL @59 STATE ST SRE C SIDE AM D/O;**

ROUTE:7 ES AM 07

7:55 AM BELCHERTOWN BUS GARAGE; 334 BARDWELL ST; 347 BARDWELL ST; 350 BARDWELL ST; 370/371 BARDWELL ST; 376 BARDWELL ST/377 BARDWELL ST; 383 BARDWELL ST; 490 BARDWELL ST; 540 MICHAEL SEARS RD; 483 MICHAEL SEARS RD; MICHAEL SEARS RD @ EUGENE DR; 471/469 MICHAEL SEARS RD.; 469 MICHAEL SEARS RD; 444 MICHAEL SEARS RD; MICHAEL SEARS RD @ FOX RUN DR; 403 MICHAEL SEARS RD; 399 MICHAEL SEARS RD; 395 MICHAEL SEARS RD; 389 MICHAEL SEARS RD; 333 FRANKLIN ST; 234 MICHAEL SEARS RD.; 226/224 MICHAEL SEARS RD; 194 MICHAEL SEARS RD; 210/211 MICHAEL SEARS RD/194 MICHAEL SEARS RD; 128 MICHAEL SEARS RD; 7 MICHAEL SEARS RD; 264 COLD SPRING RD.; 322 COLD SPRING RD; COLD SPRING RD @ EAST ST; 246 COLD SPRING RD/245 COLD SPRING RD; 221 JENSEN ST; 195 JENSEN ST/196 JENSEN ST; 91 JENSEN RD; 98 JENSEN ST; 54 JENSEN RD; 42 JENSEN ST; 32 JENSEN ST; 20 JENSEN ST; **SRE C SIDE AM D/O; CHESTNUT HILL COM SCHL @ 59 STATE ST.**

ROUTE:8 ES AM 08

7:59 AM BUS LOT@FIRST STUDENT LOT 248/245 N LIBERTY ST; 252 NORTH LIBERTY ST; 256 NORTH LIBERTY ST/254 N LIBERTY ST 334 NORTH LIBERTY ST; 340 NORTH LIBERTY ST; 354 N LIBERTY ST; 377/376 NORTH LIBERTY ST; 388 NORTH LIBERTY ST; 510 NORTH LIBERTY ST/507 N LIBERTY ST 79 WEST ST; 50 WEST ST; 39 WEST ST; 30 WEST ST; 27 WEST ST; 64 SOUTH ST; 150 SOUTH ST; 87 RAILRD ST; 124/123 RAILRD ST; 124 RAILRD ST; 136 RAILRD ST.; 173 RAILRD ST; 185 RAILRD ST; 191 RAILRD ST; NORTH ST @ NORBELL ST; 230 SOUTH LIBERTY ST; 121 S LIBERTY ST; 19/20 SOUTH LIBERTY ST; 16 SOUTH LIBERTY ST; 601 N LIBERTY ST; 507 N LIBERTY ST; 430/429 NORTH LIBERTY ST; 419 NORTH LIBERTY ST; 371 NORTH LIBERTY SU369 N LIBERTY ST; 371 N LIBERT

Local business offers to match donations for return of fireworks

BELCHERTOWN — The Town of Belchertown is preparing for the return of community fireworks on Sept. 24, the centerpiece of its America250 Semiquincentennial celebration, held alongside the Belchertown Fair. A new matching-donation opportunity from a local business is helping build momentum toward the event.

Window World of Western Mass. has offered to match community donations to the fireworks fund, dollar for dollar, up to \$12,000. The matching opportunity means that every gift made between now and the event will effectively double in impact, helping the community reach its fundraising goal.

“Belchertown has always been more than the place where we do business — it’s home. My family and I have built our lives here, and we’re grateful to be part of a community that has supported us for so many years. The Belchertown Fair has long been a tradition that brings families, friends, and neigh-

bors together, and the fireworks have always been one of the highlights. That’s why my family and I are proud to match donations to help bring the fireworks back this September. We hope our commitment encourages others to join us so this cherished tradition can continue creating memories for families throughout our community,” said Tim Drost, Owner, Window World of Western Mass.

Several community sponsors have already stepped forward to help fund the display, including Hulmes Transportation, Easthampton Savings Bank, and Country Bank, along with other generous local donors.

“Community sponsors like these are what make an event like this possible,” said Kyle Thibeault, Recreation Director. “This night is about so much more than fireworks — it’s tied to the Belchertown Fair and to our town’s celebration of America’s 250th anniversary. Having local businesses and residents invest in that means



the whole community gets to be part of something memorable together.”

Businesses interested in becoming a fireworks sponsor, across three sponsorship levels, are encouraged to contact Kyle Thibeault, Recreation Director, at

KThibeault@belchertown.org or 413-323-0419.

Residents interested in making a donation can do so through the Recreation Department’s fireworks donation page: www.belchertown.org/FireworksDonation

Belchertown alerts residents to spotted lanternfly infestation

Town urges property owners to learn to identify invasive pest and its preferred host plant

BELCHERTOWN—The Town of Belchertown is in a known area of spotted lanternfly (SLF) infestation, and officials are urging residents to learn how to identify the invasive insect and take steps to manage it on their property.

Spotted lanternfly is an invasive pest first introduced into the United States around 2014. While it does not bite, sting, or otherwise harm people or pets, it can seriously damage grapevines, tree-of-heaven, and black walnut. Heavy infestations also produce a sticky waste called honeydew that coats plants, vehicles, and outdoor furniture.

The pest’s appearance changes throughout the year. Egg masses, present from September through June, appear as flat, gray or beige waxy patches about one inch long. Young nymphs, seen May through July, are tiny, wingless, and black with white spots. Older nymphs, present July through September, are small, red, and wingless with black and white spots. Adults, seen August through December, are large insects at least one inch long with grayish, black-spotted wings and a red patch on the hindwings.

Spotted lanternfly’s preferred host plant, tree-of-heaven, is often mistaken for native sumac, a mix-up that can lead residents to remove the wrong tree or overlook the real one. The Town has shared a short video comparing tree-of-heaven and sumac



to help residents tell the two apart: <https://youtu.be/UfbSbN2sBgQ?si=1DVT09-EQWWyx9gc>

Residents are encouraged to take the following steps:

- Inspect trees, vehicles, and outdoor items for SLF adults, nymphs, or egg masses
- Avoid parking under infested trees
- Squish adults and nymphs when found in small numbers, and scrape and destroy egg masses
- Consider traps, professional treatment, or tree-of-heaven removal for heavier infestations
- Report SLF sightings outside known infested areas to the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR)

For the full management guide, including chemical and non-chemical treatment options, visit the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources’ spotted lanternfly page: <https://www.mass.gov/slf>

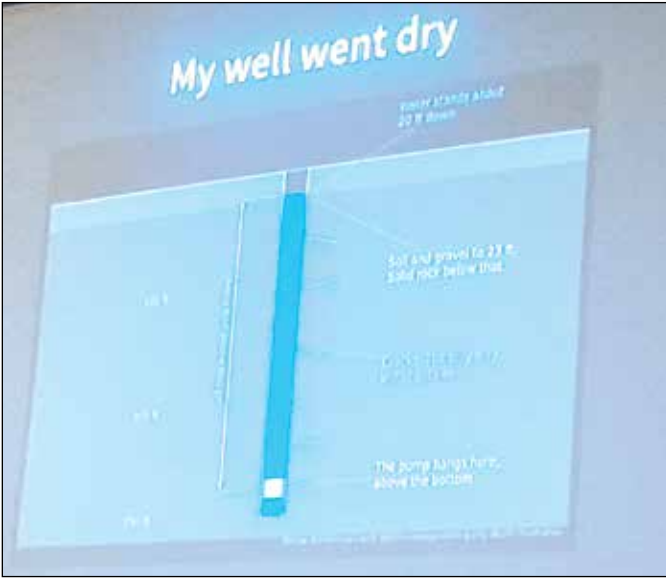
DROUGHT from page 1

were left by glaciers and tend to be more common in valleys and near streams, where water tends to seep into the pores and “in between the grains.”

“Bedrock aquifers are either granite or schist, where the water now is in the cracks,” Andreadis said. “Think of a cracked windshield that has a bunch of water.”

According to the professor, 99% of groundwater wells installed in Belchertown originate from bedrock. As a result, water distribution tends to be both unpredictable and variable even within the same neighborhood. Andreadis explained this phenomenon was why residents experienced massive differences in water availability within their homes.

“Let’s go back to the cracked windshield analogy,” Andreadis said. “You drill down, you get some water, but those cracks that have the water, we don’t know where they are. So, we can have the same street, the same rain, the same rock, but if your welding hits the right num-



TURLEY PHOTO BY BEN HERNANDEZ

The lecture explained how wells went dry.

ber of cracks...we might end up in a situation where our neighbor’s well is fine and ours isn’t.”

The presentation also hammered home how slow the groundwater replenishment process is. The replenishment process, despite conventional wisdom, is affected the most by what falls in winter;

with pain not felt until months after the season

resolves. Despite what common sense would infer, most of the rain received during the summer months doesn’t actually help with groundwater levels. Current years have yielded less productive precipitation in the winter, which resulted in the current level two drought classification for the region.

“That rain in July is not a deposit,” Andreadis said. “A lot of it is going to end up in

the river. Some of it is going to be used by trees or lawns but whatever’s left might go into our groundwater. So, it takes a lot longer for our groundwater to replenish than it does for rivers, for instance.”

Through graphs created from data collected by the United States Geological Survey, the professor illustrated how climate change has both affected and will affect the area’s future. He stated though warmer air may hold more water and make heavy rain more frequent, most of the water is expected to “punch the block or trees,” which in turn will affect groundwater availability.

“What’s going to happen is when it is going to rain, it’s going to be heavier downpours,” Andreadis said. “The river may react quickly. The groundwater pumps. Some of that water might end up in the river. Some of it might recharge. Some of it might end up back in the air evaporating, so it gets a bit complicated.”

Are you having difficulty communicating with your partner, struggling with boundaries, and healthy relationships?

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Quabbin Visitor Center lists upcoming programs

BELCHERTOWN — The Les and Terry Campbell Quabbin Visitor Center, 100 Winsor Dam Road, announces the schedule for upcoming programs.

All ages are welcome. All programs are free, but registration is required; outdoor programs are limited to 25 people.

Please dress appropriately for the weather and bring water and snacks. Please wear appropriate footwear and protect yourself against ticks.

Dogs are not allowed anywhere at the Quabbin Reservoir.

To register visit <https://www.mass.gov/locations/quabbin-reservoir/events>

Late Summer Meadow Visit

On Thursday, Sept. 3 from 10-11:30 a.m., participants will meet at the parking area at the Middle Entrance and walk along the Spillway Road to a small meadow across from the Boat Cove.

The one-mile walk is easy, but the road along the Spillway is heavily trafficked, so caution is advised. Please wear appropriate clothing and footwear, bring water, and come prepared for insects.

Hidden History: Webster Road Trail

On Sunday, Sept. 6 from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. explore the hidden history of the Webster Road trail. Meet at Hanks Meadow parking lot for a relatively flat terrain, approximately 2.5 miles round-trip hike.

Quabbin's ghost towns are hiding in plain sight - if you know where to look.

This two-hour guided interpretive walk will teach you how to read the natural landscape as you uncover clues that reveal the hidden history of Webster Road. Explore old cellar holes and historic stone walls, get to know some native and invasive plants, and learn more

about the families who lived in the town of Enfield a hundred years ago.

Exploring the West Side

Explored the West Side of the Quabbin Watershed via Gate 11 (Route 202, Daniel Shays Highway, Pelham) on Saturday, Sept. 19 from 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Join DCR staff for a 3.4-mile out and back hike on Quabbin's west side of the watershed. Participants will be walking down to the water on a dirt road through the forest.

Walking to the water, the hike covers 1.7-miles and drops 600 feet in elevation. Participants will then back-track and head uphill the way they came in.

Exploring Dana Common

Explore the Road to Dana Common on Sunday, Sept. 26 from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at Gate 40 (Route 32A).

The old foundations, stone walls, and shade trees of Dana Common will transport you to the past as you explore Quabbin's unique history. This 3.6 mile moderate round-trip hike will introduce you to some of the notable residents of Dana as you discover what life was like in the Swift River Valley over a hundred years ago. Photos illustrating Quabbin's past will bring Dana to life before your eyes.

Ware River Bridge Series: South

The Ware River Bridge Series: Rail Trail South, will be held on Tuesday, Sept. 29 from 11 a.m.-1 p.m., with parking at the Ware River Rail Trail, 300 Granger Road Barre, then carpooling to starting point for a 1.8 mile easy hike.

There are many old bridge sites in the Ware River watershed. Most no longer have the actual bridges, but you can still see the shape of the land that supported the bridge, and often also stonework from the bridge abut-

ments.

This walk will begin at one such site and travel to another, both on the beautiful Burnshirt River. The hike passes the historic Riverside Cemetery.

Soapstone Mountain Hike

This scenic Soapstone Mountain hike will begin at Gate 37 (from Route 122 in New Salem take Monson Turnpike Road) and follow an easy woodland road before branching off to a short but very steep hike up the mountain on Thursday, Oct. 8 from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. This 2.7 mile hike is challenging and has points which require climbing over large rocks, however the summit is one of the best views of Quabbin Reservoir

Quabbin Park

Explore Quabbin Park via the Combination Shoreline/Enfield Lookout/Webster Road Loop on Saturday, Oct. 10 from 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

Join DCR staff for a 3.6-mile looped hike in Quabbin Park. Participants will begin at the Observation Tower parking area located at Quabbin Hill and travel to Hank's Meadow and down to the water, dropping roughly 350 feet in elevation.

The trail then travels along the water before participants will ascend uphill back to where they began. Along the way they will stop at the Enfield Lookout which offers the best view of the reservoir in Quabbin Park.

Exploring the Road to Millington

This 3-mile round trip hike will introduce you to some of the residents of the lost village of Millington as you learn what daily life was like in the years leading up to the Quabbin Reservoir project on Saturday, Oct. 11 from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Meet at Quabbin Gate 29 on Elm Street and Route 202 in New Salem.

Participants will stop to see the Keystone Bridge along the way.

Ware River Bridge Series: North

The Ware River Bridge Series: Rail Trail North will be held on Sunday, Oct. 25 from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Parking is at the kayak/canoe launch on Worcester Road (Route 122), Barre.

This long, leisurely hike begins at the parking lot and travels down a densely vegetated trail past an old timber harvest, ending at the site of a former covered bridge. The bridge is no longer there, but the view of the river is as picturesque as it gets and well worth the visit.

The hike is 4 miles round trip and passes the historic Riverside Cemetery.

Rutland Prison Camp

On Thursday, Nov. 5 from 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. explore the Rutland Prison Camp, 299 Intervale Road, Rutland for an approximately 1.25 mile easy hike. There is uneven ground.

Join DCR staff as they explore the remains of this surprisingly successful social experiment. Ticks are still active so protection is advised, as is wearing orange during hunting season.

Group hike near Muddy Pond

Explore the Ware River Watershed for a group hike near Muddy Pond on Saturday, Nov. 7 from 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

Join DCR staff for a 4.1-mile looped hike in the Ware River Watershed. The route climbs/descends roughly 140 feet in elevation.

The foot path participants will travel on is non-technical. The last mile of the hike is on a scenic section of the Mass Central Rail Trail.

Participants will meet at the Route 122 rest area parking lot in the town of Oakham. The rest area is in the shape of a banana with grass and picnic tables.

The hike begins and ends north of Muddy Pond.

COLLEGE NEWS

HCC opens registration for fall 2026 noncredit classes

HOLYOKE — Registration is now open for noncredit professional development and personal enrichment classes at Holyoke Community College for the fall 2026 semester.

The fall calendar begins Tuesday, Sept. 8, with individual classes running on different schedules throughout the semester. Many are available as single sessions that cost as little as \$20.

Class topics include cooking, wine tasting, sewing, painting, piano, dance, conversational Spanish, music technology, voice-over coaching, investing, graphic design, financial literacy, retirement planning, Social Security strat-

egies, writing, starting a home business, applying to college, mediation, understanding AI (artificial intelligence), K-12 education (professional development), and computer technology (with specific classes geared toward seniors).

Most classes meet in the Kittredge Center for Business and Workforce Development on the main HCC campus, 303 Homestead Ave, or on Zoom. Cooking and wine tasting classes meet at the HCC MGM Culinary Arts Institute, 164 Race St.

To see complete fall course listings and schedules, or to register, please visit hcc.edu/bcs.

Williams named to Belhaven Univ. summer 2026 President's List

JACKSON, MS — Congratulations to Bradley Williams of Belchertown, MA on being named to the Belhaven University Summer 2026 President's List.

Williams is among a select

number of students named to the President's List. To be eligible for the President's List, a student must achieve a 4.0 grade point average while taking a full course load of at least 12 semester hours.

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OPINION

SOCIAL SECURITY Matters By Russell Gloor

We were bitten by Medicare’s IRMAA this year; what should I do?

Dear Rusty:

My wife and I file our taxes jointly.

In 2024, I took an IRA Required Minimum Distribution, which was significantly more than I was required to take.

My Medicare premiums were not affected in 2025 and our Social Security payments were not reduced. Then, our joint filing in 2025 kept us below the IRS’ “Modified Adjusted Gross Income level. Yet in 2026 our Medicare payments increased and our Social Security payments were reduced.

If my MAGI is below the maximum for 2025, will my regular SS payments/Medicare reductions be restored in 2027? Is there any action I need to take to ensure this will happen or will our Medicare payments and reduced SS payments be our new norm?

Signed: Worried Retiree

Dear Worried Retiree:

FYI, your Medicare premiums in 2026 were affected by the large RMD you took in 2024, which caused a Medicare provision known as the “Income-Related Monthly Adjustment Amount ” to apply for 2026.

When determining the Medicare Part B premium for next year (each fall), Medicare uses the income you reported to the IRS two years prior to calculate your Medicare Part B (and Part D) premium for upcoming year.

If you exceed the base “IRMAA” income threshold two years ago, then your Medicare premiums for the next year will include a supplemental amount on top of the “standard” Medicare premium for that year.

The amount of the supplement depends on how

much you exceed the base IRMAA threshold by (FYI, the base IRMAA threshold for 2026 for a married couple filing jointly was \$218,000). If your 2024 income exceeded that initial IRMAA threshold, you paid a higher Medicare premium, which also reduced your SS monthly payment because Medicare is deducted from your SS benefit. IRMAA uses a sliding scale to determine how much more than the standard Medicare premium you will pay.

However, that will all automatically correct itself going forward. In other words, when determining your premiums for 2027, Medicare will look at your 2025 income. If your 2025 MAGI is less than the base IRMAA threshold, you and your wife will both automatically revert to paying the standard 2027 Medicare Part B and Part D premiums.

You don’t need to take any action for that to happen; it will all be automatic.

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

in my BACKYARD By Ellenor Downer

I received an email from a Hampden resident, who sent two photos of Eastern bluebirds – one adult male and a fledgling.

She states, “I live in Hampden, for the past several years we have been blessed to have a pair of bluebird’s nest in our yard. They have had three broods of babies each year including this year.”

The fledgling in the above photo is a male. The photo was taken shortly after fledging. Wing feathers, wing coverts and tail feathers are essential in determining the sex of young bluebirds.

By day ten to eleven days after hatching, feather colors are noticeable. The blue tail in males and gray in females become apparent. In the male, the short tail at fledging is bright blue. Times may vary but by day 13 the tail color is apparent.

Both sexes have a gray spotted back and chest. They also have a white eye ring.



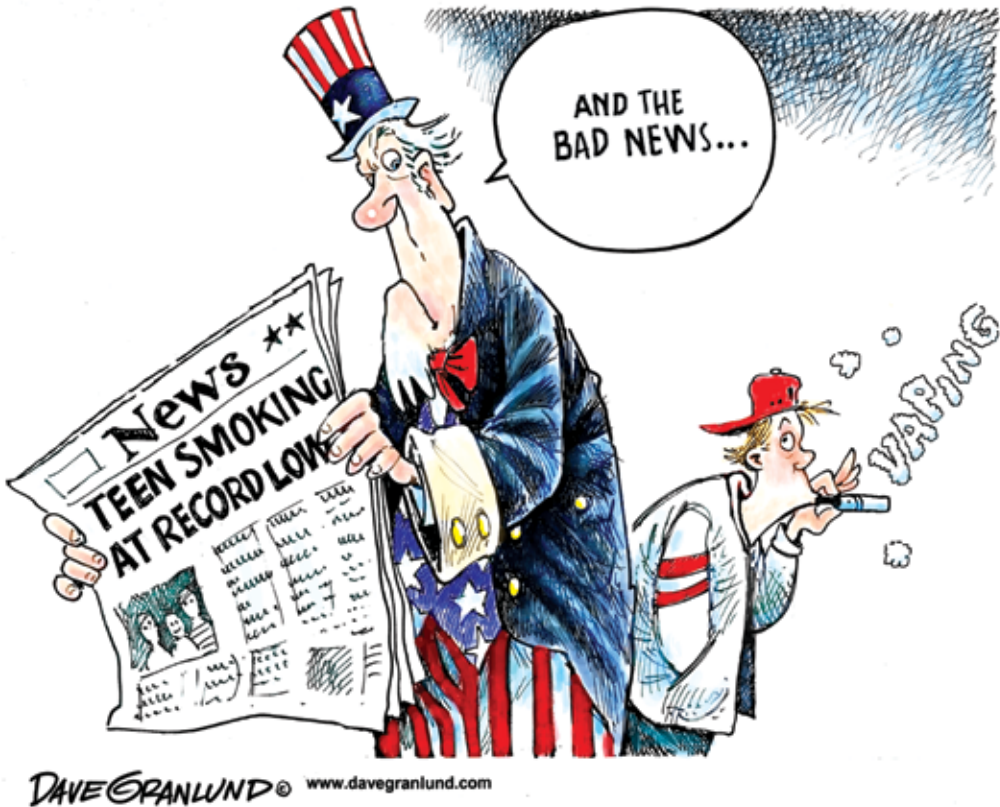
PHOTOS BY ELIZABETH FREDERICK This adult male Eastern bluebird is seen at the entrance of a bluebird house checking on his brood.

By the time a bluebird is 19 to 24 days old, the male has blue wing coverts and the female gray ones.

At five weeks old the young male has blue wing feathers and a bright blue tail. The female’s primary wing feathers are blue, but concealed. The base of her tail is blue and the rest bluish gray. Spots are still present on back and breast.

Young bluebirds continue to depend on their par-

Please see BACKYARD, page 13



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

A heartfelt ‘Thank You’ from the Belchertown Lions Club

Dear Editor:

The Belchertown Lions Club would like to extend our sincere thanks to the residents, businesses, organizations, and friends of Belchertown for making our 3rd Annual Cruisin’ the Common Car Show such a wonderful success.

This event would not be possible without the tremendous support and generosity of our community. To everyone who attended, displayed a vehicle, volunteered their time, sponsored the event, donated goods or services, or simply stopped by to enjoy the day—thank you! Your enthusiasm and continued support mean so much to the Belchertown Lions Club.

We would also like to give

a special thank you to the Belchertown Department of Public Works (DPW) and the Water Department for their invaluable assistance with the event setup and for helping make the day run smoothly. We are especially grateful for the use of the Old Town Hall restroom facilities, which was greatly appreciated by our participants and visitors.

The Belchertown Lions Club is proud to support our community, and we are pleased to remind everyone that all proceeds from Cruisin’ the Common go directly to local charities and community organizations. Your participation and generosity help us continue our mission of serving those in need right here

in Belchertown and the surrounding area.

We are incredibly fortunate to live in a community that comes together to support one another. Thank you for helping make the 3rd Annual Cruisin’ the Common Car Show a memorable day and for helping us make a difference in our community.

We look forward to seeing everyone again at the upcoming Belchertown Fair in September, at our monthly meatball grinder sales in the spring and summer, and of course at our 4th Annual Cruisin’ the Common Memorial Car Show next year!

With sincere appreciation,
The Belchertown Lions Club
We Serve

Preservation questions are popular this time of year

Dawn, who gardens in Tolland, asked a few questions of the Garden Lady this past week.

You see, this is the first year in three years that Dawn has a had a productive garden. Her former garden was too far from the house to be tended. It was tricky to irrigate and animals often found their way through or under the fence.

Dawn’s hard work ended up being a hearty meal for woodchucks and more. Now, with raised beds close to her house, she is grateful for a bountiful harvest.

First, she wanted to be reminded how to roast tomatoes.

I enjoy roasting my cherry tomatoes; it’s a great way to use them up when they produce like gangbusters.

Depending on the size, I either cut them in half or quarters and put them no more than two rows deep in a roasting pan. I sprinkle a teaspoon or two of extra virgin olive oil over the tomatoes and then I add half an onion and two-three cloves of garlic.

After mixing all the ingredients together, I bake at 400 degrees for about an hour, stirring midway. You know when it is done when the skins pucker and there is very little liquid left. Now you can either eat it this way, say over pasta or rice, or you can zip it up with a few basil leaves and you have made your own sauce.

No need to de-seed or remove the skins. Just think, all that added fiber and goodness, with less work to boot!

You can tailor your roasting to suite your own taste buds as well. Some folks add chopped peppers or eggplant.

Certainly you can use any type of tomato, too and add additional herbs or spices.

Speaking of peppers, Dawn also wanted to know how to roast peppers. It’s a

little different from tomatoes.

Peppers roast best when they are fully ripe – i.e., when they have changed color. I have mentioned it before, but my favorite roasting pepper is “Carmen,” a long bell pepper with thick walls.



Simply wash the fruits and position them whole in a single layer under the broiler, turning frequently until they bubble up and char slightly. This can also be accomplished on a gas grill or as my husband will attest, over the flame of your kitchen gas stove.

Once charred, place them in a paper bag or covered container. The steam will soften the skin to the point it can be rubbed off, revealing yummy, thick flesh.

Pull off the stem and remove the seeds and voila! Roasted red peppers are yours to freeze.

I just blot mine dry and put them in single servings in plastic freezer bags. The fruit is easily thawed by placing the bag into a shallow basin of water; likewise, you can pop the pepper popsicle on to a plate and let it thaw in the fridge.

Roasted peppers are fantastic on homemade pizza or blended into hummus.

I shared with Dawn that I was making pickles. She went on to say that hers never turn out well, so I texted her a copy of a recipe given to me by a dear coworker over 20 years ago. I am still making them.

I’m not sure who originally

gave Ron the recipe, but here it is for anyone wanting to use up an abundance of cucumbers. I’ve made it with full size cukes as well as picklers.

I would recommend that you fill your canning jars, be it quart or half gallon, with the cucumbers first. They can be packed tightly.

Then, add plain water to the jar all the way to the rim. Dump the water out into a large measuring cup to see just how much liquid you need.

Then you can adjust the other ingredients to the ratio in the recipe. I learned this trick the hard way after wasting ingredients because I didn’t need quite a double recipe.

- Ron’s Pickle Recipe**
- Ingredients:
- 14-16 cucumbers
 - 8 teaspoons pickling spice
 - 6 dill tops
 - 6 cloves garlic
 - 2 teaspoons sugar
 - 4 tablespoons Kosher salt
 - 1 cup vinegar
 - 5 cups water

Instructions:

Combine all ingredients into canning jars. Shake and leave on counter for 36 hours. Refrigerate for two days before eating. Will keep in the fridge for a few months although the flavor will intensify with storage.

Enjoy the harvest as much as Dawn is!

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 34 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.

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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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BAND from page 1

DeForge said his lifelong passion for music began when he enlisted brother brought home a “guy from Ohio,” who couldn’t return to his family. The guitarist recalled the man had a Gibson guitar with him, which sparked the mentor to take him under his wing.

“I said ‘oh, I always wanted to learn how to play guitar’ and he taught me how to play one song on a guitar,” said band member Joe DeForge, better known to friends by his nickname Crazy Joe. “And then the Beatles came out and that was it.”

The band initially played under the name, The Garage Fossils. The band formed as a result of members “jamming together” in 2006 and had an initial focus on working for charity. The initial run for the band fizzled due to band members dropping out as a result of being “older people.” Two years ago, the band contemplated hanging up the instruments. However, thanks to a gig offered by bass player Rick Peterson’s son, the band was able to continue playing on.

“His son said ‘Dad, I want you guys to play at my Jack and Jill,’” DeForge said, recalling the fateful day. “So, I scrambled and made some phone calls and got a hold of some people. We had just a couple months to get it together.”

The band’s new name,



The Friends of Granby’s Elderly organized the event.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY BEN HERNANDEZ

Over and Out performed a free concert for the public.

Over and Out, was a result of a disagreement after a brainstorming session. Realizing they didn’t want to go by their original name because of their new, younger member, the group got to work coming up with a new name.

However, none of the ideas pitched by the members seemed to stick until one fateful passing remark smashed the band’s creative block.

“Jake’s not a fossil,” DeForge said, referring to lead guitarist Jake Chartier.

“We threw it around and I threw a couple names up there. My bass player said ‘I don’t like any of them. I’ll catch you later, over and out.’ My singer goes ‘Over and Out? That sounds good.’ Everybody goes, ‘yeah, that sounds real good.’ That’s how it became.”

DeForge stated the group has been having a good time and returning to their roots lending their talents to charity events and fundraisers. He said playing events is a lot of fun and the band liked to give back to the community. With a new keyboard player joining four months ago, the guitarist is optimistic about the band’s future.

“We got such a really good thing going,” DeForge said. “I want to make it last as long as I can.”

Granby library lists September events

Book Sale

September 1st – 30th
Stop into the Library during regular open hours to browse our expansive book sale all month long.

Foraging Walk

Saturday, Sept. 12 at 11 a.m.

Gain greater food security by learning wild and feral edible and medicinal plants and fungi. Using the Library’s grounds learn how to identify and prepare fall foods using common wild edibles that you can find near where you live. Join naturalist and wild edibles enthusiast Arianna Alexandra Collins of Offerings for Community Building on our foraging walk. Pre-register.

Sci-Fi and Fantasy Book Club

Thursday, Sept. 3 at 5 p.m.
Join our discussions on the first Thursday of every month! Project Hail Mary by Andy Weir for September. Copies are available now.

Adult Book Group

Thursday, Sept. 10 at 6 p.m.
The book group will be discussing The

Correspondent by Virginia Evans. Grab a copy and join us!

Tabletop Games Club

Thursday, Sept. 10 at 5 p.m. and Saturday, Sept. 19 at 10:30 a.m.
The Granby Library Tabletop Games Club invites players of all ages 8 and up to gather and enjoy a variety of board, card, dice, tile, and other in-person tabletop games in a welcoming, social environment.

Knitting Group

Every Wednesday after-noon at 2 p.m.
Bring your latest project and join us for conversation, tips and tricks.

Friends of the Granby Library Meeting

Thursday, Sept. 17 at 4:30 p.m.
Did you know that the Friends sponsor our events? Join us for a meeting and see what’s new.

Celebrate Constitution Week Sept. 15 to 19

Stop in to browse our Constitution Week displays for adults and kids.

SUMMIT from page 1

already existed instead of planning for future growth.

Baudette said the town is now engaged in a zoning study to revisit that map and align it with community goals and market realities.

He warned that the current tax base is heavily skewed toward residential property, noting that “92% of the assessed value of the town is in houses,” leaving a “little piece that’s in business” to carry future revenue.

Town Planner Doug Albertson later underscored the need to modernize Belchertown’s zoning bylaw, which has not been comprehensively updated since 1992. Using a \$125,000 state One Stop grant and support from the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, Albertson said the town will revise its land use plan and zoning over the next year, with public input sessions planned.

He characterized the current bylaw as “woefully obsolete,” built up through incremental, reactive changes rather than a coherent strategy and said the update is meant to guide growth for the next 10 to 20 years.

EDIC: Former state school ‘at the finish line’

EDIC Chair Elizabeth Maroney reported that the corporation is nearing a crit-

ical juncture in the decades-long effort to redevelop the former Belchertown State School.

“We’ve been working with MassDevelopment since 2012 to clean up the buildings [and] the environmental concerns,” Maroney said, citing new roads and projects such as Christopher Heights and the Belchertown Day School. She told attendees that the area now known as Carriage Grove is “in really good shape” and that the EDIC is “ready” to move remaining parcels toward development.

EDIC member Jonathan Spiegel later said the EDIC expects, within six to 10 weeks, to bring Parcel D, which is a roughly 30,000 square foot area at Turkey Hill Road and Route 202, to market, with additional acreage from that tract going to the town for recreation. Parcel T is also expected to be ready for commercial offering in a similar timeframe.

Spiegel added that planning is also advancing at Lampson Brook, where the town intends to seek interest for a commercial zone and agricultural parcels, while returning larger fields to state agricultural leasing programs.

Plan outlined for cultural district

The Creative Economy Committee and Cultural

District Manager April Jasak-Bangs outlined a plan to seek designation of a state-recognized cultural district from the Massachusetts Cultural Council. The application is due Feb. 8, 2027, with a potential site visit in the spring and annual funding to follow.

Committee representatives said the proposed district will be a walkable corridor connecting Carriage Grove and the Town Common, highlighting local cultural assets and events. Jasak-Bangs emphasized that designation “is a great marketing tool for our town, especially around economic development,” and would automatically provide \$15,000 per year to support the district.

Jasak-Bangs also presented Gather, a planned art space and marketplace intended as a physical anchor for the district. She described Gather as “a vibrant destination where art, community, and local enterprise come together,” offering sales, exhibition and teaching opportunities for local makers while drawing residents and visitors into the district.

As part of the cultural district application, the town must show tangible investment. The Gather committee plans to ask the Selectboard for in-kind rent of the former Freedom Center space behind

the senior center, which could be converted into a small commercial kitchen and flexible creative venue once existing uses relocate.

Creative community and economic development planner Eric Weiss summarized a recent marketing study funded through a One Stop grant and conducted by consultant Fine Point. The study identified three primary nodes for growth as the south end, the Commons area and the Stop & Shop corridor and found that local businesses outnumber chains by an 80/20 margin.

Weiss said the study highlights unmet demand for restaurants and points to agritourism, recreation and existing anchors like Lake Wallace as opportunities to capture more of the region’s spending. He noted the challenge posed by empty storefronts around the Commons, where about 10% of spaces remain vacant, and estimated that roughly 10,000 vehicles pass through Belchertown daily.

Weiss urged the town to develop a coherent “sales pitch” for prospective businesses, asking, “Why would a business want to locate in Belchertown? What do they get out of it? What do we get out of it?”

He argued that existing groups and plans give the

town “all those pieces” but that they must be coordinated into a comprehensive economic development plan.

Barriers: infrastructure, housing and competition

During a structured discussion on barriers, participants repeatedly cited infrastructure constraints, particularly water and sewer capacity, as fundamental limits on growth.

Baudette questioned why the town’s under-capacity sewer plant and water system do not yet have a clear, public expansion plan tied to economic development, calling those utilities “the economic driver of growth in this town.”

Others pointed to aging or inadequate sidewalks, technology and Wi-Fi needs, limited public parking and the scarcity of affordable commercial space for startups. Members also highlighted the lack of workforce housing and public transportation as obstacles to recruiting and retaining employees in service, health care and hospital-ity sectors.

Town Manager Steve Williams cautioned that Belchertown must also account for external competition as nearby projects advance, including a potential passenger rail station in Palmer and the pending closure and redevelopment of

Hampshire College.

If Belchertown does not plan around those changes, he warned, “businesses that we’re attracting could easily go there,” where infrastructure and weekday hotel demand may be more favorable.

While the meeting produced no formal votes, there was broad support for forming a cross-board working group with representation from the Selectboard, Planning Board, EDIC and Creative Economy Committee to coordinate efforts between meetings.

Members agreed that future special sessions should build on concrete progress like zoning drafts, EDIC land sales, cultural district milestones and infrastructure planning rather than revisit the same high-level discussions.

Weiss closed one section by reminding the group that barriers also represent opportunities, if the town can align its long-term goal above those constraints.

“We still are going to circle all the way back to we have to have a goal that doesn’t sit in the middle of one of these barriers, but is prominently above and beyond all that,” he said.



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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 Aug. 16, through Aug. 20. 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
Sunday, Aug. 16
5:25 p.m. – Mellyssa E. Locket, of 19 City Hall Ave Apt. 24, Gardner, was

arrested on charges of WMS warrant, a number plate violation and operating with a suspended/revoked registration. An officer on patrol was dispatched to Daniel Shay's Highway for an erratic operator who may have hit a guard rail. They were seen heading south on North Main Street. The officer saw the vehicle going on Maple Street and stopped the vehicle. The officer identified the operator, they said they didn't hit a guard rail. They said their dog went across the seat and caused them to move abruptly. The officer saw some damage to the side of the vehicle. The operator said they didn't have their license on them. The registration was looked up and saw the operator's license was active and

there was an active warrant. Another officer arrived on scene for back up. The passenger didn't have a license, it was suspended. They asked for a friend to pick up them up. The person was transported to the station for booking. They were released.

ACCIDENTS/INCIDENTS
Friday, Aug. 14

12:59 p.m. – An officer responded to an accident on South Main Street. A vehicle attempting to cross onto South Main Street was struck in the rear by another vehicle. The operator of the second vehicle said they thought the first vehicle traveled forward. No injuries were reported and no tows were needed.
2:06 p.m. – A person pur-

chased a firearm a long time ago and sold it back to where they bought it from. They had ammunition they wanted to discard and turned it into the station for destruction.

Saturday, Aug. 15

8:29 a.m. – An officer on patrol got a call from Belchertown Fire Department concerning damage to property at South Street and South Liberty Street. A cement post was struck and only rebar was remaining. Pieces were found. There was no evidence of how the post was struck.

9:30 a.m. – An officer followed up about a larceny report they made in June.

12:38 p.m. – An officer responded to a two-vehicle

accident on Bay Road at Federal Street.

5:19 p.m. – An officer responded to a report of a possibly abandoned vehicle at a George Hannum Road business. They did a check on the vehicle and found out who it was registered it was in the lot for two to three months. The number listed was inaccurate and contacted the Ludlow police. they were able to leave a message for the owner. The vehicle was towed.

Sunday, Aug. 16

10:08 a.m. – A Turkey Hill Road business reported an incident of larceny. Management of a business reported a male party exited through the garden without paying for items. It appeared

the person put items in the passenger seat of a U-Haul. There is no other information at this time.

4:41 p.m. – Officers and Belchertown fire to residence to assist person who was having a mental health problem and attacked a person.

5:24 p.m. – An officer traveling south on Mill Valley Road saw a dirtbike traveling on the roadway and did a wheelie. The officer attempted to stop the dirtbike, which continued onto Fuller Street. The officer followed the dirtbike onto Springfield Road and then the dirtbike went off the road. It was then indicated the dirtbike went down the rail trail.

Please see **POLICE LOG**, page 13



TURLEY PHOTOS BY BEN HERNANDEZ
Outdoor cooks pose for a snapshot.



Church raffle drum and a smiling volunteer.

SUMMERFEST
from page 1

raise funds for the heating, the electrical and plowing for the winter time," Goodreau said. "That's the real driving force behind it, but also to gather as a community."

The event contained a plethora of raffles, including a hybrid fundraising event where attendees plunked their raffle tickets in front of presented prizes. The largest raffle was what Fr. Goodreau called a "lottery tree raffle," which served as the main event of the afternoon. The cash prize raffle featured winning values of \$500, \$250 and \$100.

"I know it's been more than 30 years at least," Goodreau said when asked how long the event has been running.

The pastor has served the parish for a little less than four years. He mentioned, though the barbecue chicken dinner was the largest event the parish ran, there were plenty of others scattered throughout the year.

"Last year we had a Patriots ticket raffle," Goodreau said. "That helped raise funds for the heating and plowing as well. We do various things like that over the course of the year. My first year here, we had (Boston) Red Sox tickets somebody donated, so we did a raffle for those."

Goodreau says most of the events were designed to maintain the lot the church already had, recruiting within their already existing parish body for volunteers to help with event planning and other day-to-day logistics.



Some of the treats available for sale along with a hard-working vendor.

However, the pastor stated finding volunteers nowadays has become difficult.

"It's hard to get volunteers," Goodreau said. "If you don't have the good people to help organize and run it, then that's why you see a fall-off of events."

He recalled attending many church-run festivals and functions in the past as a "little kid" and mentioned how much they dropped off in recent years due to a lack of willing volunteers, which has culminated into a lack of church community functions.

"You've got to get the younger people involved to help," Goodreau said, calling upon the local youth to "stand up and volunteer."

Despite his cautionary words the event remained



Raffle ticket distributors smile for the camera.

well-attended, with some parishioners also donating baskets used in the raffle. Notable donors were Buffalo

Wild Wings, the Pizza Palace of Granby and Belchertown's McCarthy's Pub.

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BAY STATE GAMES



TURLEY PHOTO BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

Andrew Dziadroz makes a play on the ball.

Boys take silver in 2026 Bay State Games

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

FITCHBURG—A year ago, Chicopee's Griffen Wrisley and Minnechaug's Tyler Supczak were starters for the West soccer team which captured the Gold medal at the annual Bay State Summer games.

The duo were the only returning starters on this year's West squad.

The West team took home the Silver medal at the Bay State Summer Games following a 2-1 loss to Central in this year's Gold medal match, which took place at the Game On Sports and Performance Center in Fitchburg on July 11.

"I was lucky enough to be a member of the Gold medal team last year," Wrisley said. "We have a bunch of new players on this year's team

and were hoping to win the Gold Medal again. It's a lot of fun being a leader of this team."

The other members of the West team, who live in the Turley Publications coverage area, are John Carra (Agawam), Zacharia Yarovoy (Chicopee), Antonio Maurico (Chicopee), Aidan Monaghan (Agawam), Kayson Gauthier (South Hadley), Spencer Parsons (South Hadley), and Braeden Fitzgerald (Agawam).

The West team finished pool play with a perfect 4-0 record.

They posted a pair of one sided matches against Northeast 6-2, and Southeast, 8-0. They also pulled out two matches by 2-1 results against Central and Metro.

Please see **BOYS**, page 10

Girls represented by two squads at Bay State Games

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

FITCHBURG— While the other sections of the state only had one girls' soccer team competing in this year's Bay State Summer Games, Western Mass. was represented by two teams for the first time.

The West Red team was coached by Matt Mosher, while Eric Woods guided the West Yellow team.

The two squads faced each other in the final pool game on July 11 at the Game On Sports and Performance Center in Fitchburg.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

Taylor Bartosz, of Wilbraham, looks to clear the ball on defense.

After building a 3-0 lead, the Red team withstood a late

comeback by the Yellow team for a 3-2 victory.

"We had more than 40 girls' try out for the two soccer teams, which shows how popular the sport is in Western Mass.," said Mosher. "Eric and I have a very good relationship. We try our best to make the teams equal. It's has been a lot of fun coaching this team."

It was the sixth consecutive year that Mosher coached a Western Mass. girls' soccer team at the Bay State Summers Games. His previous teams won two Silver Medals and three Bronze Medals.

Mosher was assisted by Laura Wray-Ramos, who's the longtime girls' varsity soccer coach at Agawam High School.

The members of the Red team, who live in the region, are Filomena Stellato (Agawam), Hannah Haesaert (South Hadley), Kyra Lippmann (Holyoke), Gabriella Ramos (Agawam), Riley Platt (South Hadley), Audrey

Afonso (Ludlow), Olivia Izzo (Agawam), Bridget Benoit (Belchertown), and Bri-Anne Kraus (Granby).

"All of the players on my soccer team have been playing with and against each other for years," Mosher said. "They know each other very well."

After finishing pool play at 2-1-1, the Red team surged to a 3-0 win over Northeast in the Gold medal game. It marked the first time that a West girls soccer team won the Gold medal at the Bay State Games since 2016.

"It's very exciting being a member of this soccer team," Haesaert said. "There are a lot talented soccer players in the west."

The Red team began pool play with a 2-1 loss to Northeast. The following day, they tied Central, 1-1, before celebrating a 3-0 shutout win against Southeast/Coastal.

During the past couple of years, Woods, who coaches the girls' soccer team at the

Please see **GIRLS**, page 10



Kalli White, of Granby, is pressured as she heads through the middle of the field.

Orioles repeat as Valley Wheel champions



Pete Paroli makes a swing.

WILBRAHAM – On Saturday, Aug. 15 at Spec Pond in Wilbraham, the Orioles defeated the Angels 15-8 in the championship game. The Orioles were propelled by nine runs in the first two innings. While the Angels would manage some offense later in the game, it was not enough to come all the way back in the matchup. The Angels were this year's pennant winners, taking first place with an 11-4 record. The Orioles won the championship for the second year in the row. They defeated the Twins in last year's championship game.



The Orioles are the 2026 Valley Wheel Over-28 Baseball League champions.

West baseball defeats Northeast for gold medal

MALDEN – Between July 29 and Aug. 1, the baseball Bay State Games took place in Malden. The West came out as this year's gold medal recipients. Here is a recap of the championship game between the West and Northeast:

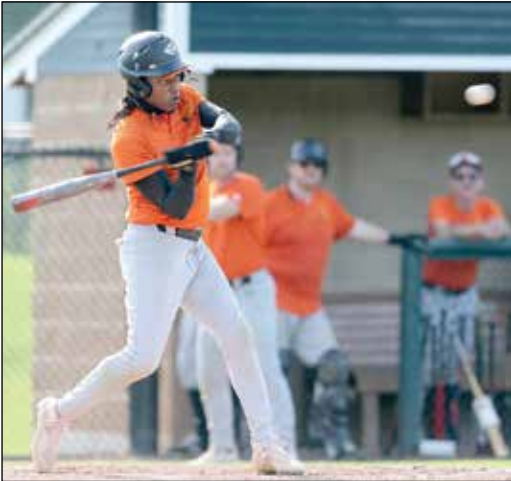
West got on the board in the first inning after Jaeden Azevedo hit into a double play, but one run scored.

Jared Burke hit a sacrifice fly, which helped Northeast tie the game at one in the top of the second.

West took the lead in the bottom of the fifth. An error scored one run, to give West the lead, 2-1.

Tyler Neville led things off on the mound for West. The starting

Please see **GOLD MEDAL**, page 10



TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPOTOS.COM
Henry Henriquez is focused as he swings.



Mike Burgos delivers a pitch for the Orioles.



Andy Roland fires a pitch for the Angels.



Sam Maxwell makes a backhand play.

SPORTS

Teddy Bear Pools takes playoff title in Tri-County

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

THORNDIKE—For the first time since 2012, the Tri-County League championship title belongs to a baseball team other than PeoplesBank.

The third-seeded Teddy Bear Pools & Spas ended the second-seeded PeoplesBank twelve year dynasty after sweeping the best of three semifinal series. Teddy Bear then captured the championship trophy for the first time since the 1980's with an 8-4 victory over the top-seeded St. Joseph's Saints in last Sunday's night decisive game three held at St. Joe's Park in Thorndike.

"Before the start of the regular season, I thought we had the most talented team in this league," said Teddy Bear player/manager Ryan Magni. "We have a couple of outstanding college baseball players on our roster, which made the biggest difference. It does feel great to win the championship title, but I do have a lot of respect for St. Joe's."

Ryan Magni played for St. Joe's for eight years before switching sides a couple of years ago. His younger brother, Brandon, was the St. Joe's

starting first baseman in game three.

Ryan Magni started the game in centerfield before replacing righthander Brendan Fournier on the mound in the bottom of the seventh inning.

St. Joe's scored two runs against the righthander in their final at-bats. The game came to an end when Brandon Magni hit a ground ball to the second baseman against his older brother.

"I've faced my brother many times over the years," Ryan Magni said. "I didn't have my best stuff tonight, but I didn't make it very easy for him."

St. Joe's, who lost to Peoplesbank in last year's championship series, was looking to win the TCL title for the first time since 2006.

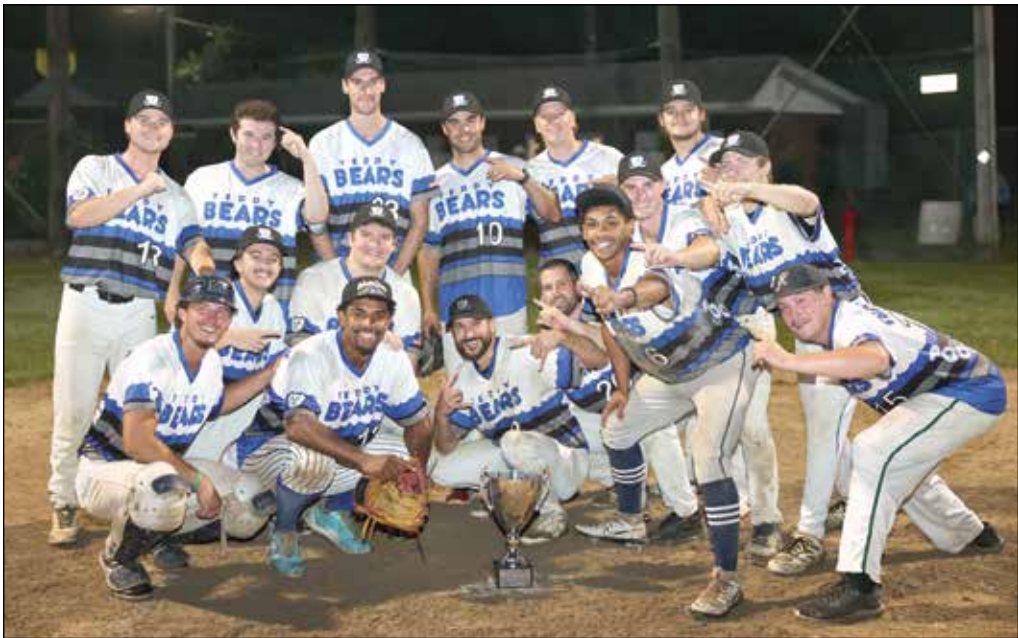
"They just capitalized on our mistakes in tonight's game," said St. Joe's manager Paul Marcinek. "It would've been nice if we could've scored a few more runs. We did

win the regular season championship with a 16-4 record, and we have nothing to be disappointed about."

Marcinek was assisted by Brian Hayes this season.

With one-out in the top of the first inning, Teddy Bear had runners on first and third when right fielder Willie Landman hit a ground ball up the middle. St Joe's shortstop Jacob Hayes made an outstanding diving stop before tagging second base and throwing a strike to Magni completing the inning ending double play.

Jacob Hayes, who's a member of the UMass Dartmouth baseball team along with his brother Jackson, belted a double to right center leading off the bottom half of



TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

Teddy Bear Pools becomes the first new playoff champions in more than a decade.

the opening frame. Brandon Magni followed with a groundball single into left field putting runners at the corners. St. Joe's took a 1-0 lead when centerfielder Pat Fitzgibbons hit a blooper just out of the second baseman's reach which scored Hayes. Magni also crossed the plate following a throwing error by the catcher.

Fournier, who graduated from Chicopee High School in 2017, retired 17 of the final 18 St. Joe's batters that he faced. St. Joe's only base runner during that stretch was Fitzgibbons, who hit a triple to right field with one-out in the sixth inning.

"I struggled in the first inning, but I started throwing more off speed pitches that kept them off balance. My teammates also made the plays behind me," said Fournier, who was the winning pitcher. "I've been playing in this league for almost ten years,

and it feels great to finally win a championship."

Teddy Bear cut the deficit in half against righty Jack Feltovic in the third inning.

With one-out, catcher Mike Toth, who graduated from Granby High School, was hit-by-a-pitch. Second baseman Ramon Jimenez singled to right field putting runners at first and third. Then Landman hit a sacrifice fly to right.

Jimenez graduated from Chicopee High School before playing Division 1 college baseball at Boston College and Central Connecticut. He was intentionally walked in his other three plate appearances.

The visiting team took the lead for the first time two innings later.

Ryan Magni and Jimenez reached base via walks, which was sandwiched between a Mike Toth fly-ball single, which loaded the bases with one out. Left fielder Josh Frometa (2-for-3) blasted a triple to center giving his team a 4-2 lead.

"The bases were loaded and I was looking for a pitch to drive," said Frometa, who played baseball at Chicopee High and A.I.C. "It was a huge hit at that point of the game, and it feels great to

win the championship title."

After scoring an unearned run in the sixth, Teddy Bear scored three more runs in the top of the seventh against lefthander relief pitcher Jackson Hayes. The key hit during that frame was a bases loaded double by first baseman Will Kennedy, who played for St. Joe's several years ago.

Teddy Bear entered the bottom of the seventh inning holding an 8-2 advantage.

St. Joe's DH Adam Zebian drew a walk against Ryan Magni leading off the final frame. Zebian was replaced at first base by pinch runner Adam Przybycien. Left fielder Ryan O'Leary followed with a triple to center scoring Przybycien. O'Leary scored on an infield hit by catcher Nate Carillon, who graduated from South Hadley High School.

Ryan Magni settled down and got out of the jam by retiring the next three batters, including his younger brother.

Teddy Bear Pools & Spas will be looking to defend their championship title in the summer of 2027, but challengers like St. Joe's and People'sBank will be looking to knock them off the top of the mountain.



Matt Drobiak slides safely back to first.



RIGHT: Jacob Hayes fires over to first.

LEFT: Joey DeMichele makes a play for St. Joe's.



TURLEY PHOTO BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

Margaret Healey, of Granby, looks to get around an opponent.

GIRLS from page 9

MacDuffie School in Granby, coached the Central/West team at the Bay State Games. His team won the Gold medal in 2024.

"The Central team had a mixture of players from Central and Western Mass. during the past couple of years," Woods said. "It's nice to coach a team with only players from the West. Soccer is a very popular sport in Western Mass."

The Yellow team lost to Central, 5-0, in the Bronze medal game.

The members of the Yellow team, who attend a high school in the region, are Taylor Bartosz (Minnechaug Reg.), Kelsey Morrisette (Chicopee Comp), Grace Sherman (South Hadley), Sofia Marsh (Granby), Cecelia Litz (Agawam), Kalli White (Granby), Margaret Healey

(Granby), Grace Curto (Agawam), Mackenzie Lynch (Agawam), Sydney Germain (Chicopee), Cayla Ribeiro (Chicopee), Eleanor Szlosek (Granby), and Jordyn Szado (Monson).

The Yellow team (0-3-1) began pool play with a pair of 4-1 losses to both Central and Northeast. They managed to tie Southeast/ Coastal, 1-1 the following afternoon.

In the West vs. West matchup, Healey scored a penalty kick goal and added a corner kick goal.

"It was really a lot fun playing in the Bay State games for the first time," said Healey, who's a rising sophomore. "I enjoyed competing against the other players from the West."

It was an enjoyable three days in Northern Worcester County for the two girls' soccer teams from Western Massachusetts.

BOYS from page 9

"Central was the best team we played in pool play," Wrisley said. "I scored a goal and had an assist in that game."

The West team was coached by Josh Wietecha, who's the boys' varsity soccer coach at Hampshire Regional. He graduated from Chicopee Comp in 2021 and helped the West team win the Gold medal at the 2019 Bay State Games.

Wietecha enjoyed coaching Wrisley at this year's Bay State Games.

"Griffen is one of the best soccer players that I've coached," Wietecha said. "He's an outstanding forward and takes control of every game."



This fall, Wrisley will be one of the few returning players on the Chicopee Pacers varsity team.

"We graduated twelve players from last year's varsity team," Wrisley said. "We only have a couple of varsity players returning."

Wrisley never thought about transferring to a different high school.

"Chicopee High School is a very special place for me and my family," Wrisley added. "We won the Western Mass. title for the first time in 43 years last year. It was very special."

Wrisley is the All-Time leading goal scorer for the Pacers boys' soccer team. He needs only three more goals to reach the 100 goal milestone. He currently has 116 career points.

Hugo Destapado, who coached the West team at the Bay State Summer games last year, is returning as the Pacers varsity boys' soccer coach.

"I would'n't be a successful soccer player without the help of my coaches," Wrisley said. "I'm looking to playing soccer for one final season at Chicopee High School."

The Pacers are scheduled to host Northampton in the season opener on Labor Day. They're also scheduled to play another match against Frontier Regional at historic Sztot Park two nights later.

LEFT: Aidan Monaghan, of Agawam, tries to play the ball off his chest.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

Lucas Cruz hustles past mid-field.



Linus Dandurand attempts to make a stop.

GOLD MEDAL from page 9 pitcher gave up five hits and one run over six innings, striking out seven and walking two. Chase Richmond stepped on the hill first for Northeast. The starting

pitcher gave up six hits and four runs (two earned) over five and two-thirds innings, striking out four and walking four. Logan Millet tossed one inning of zero-run ball for West in relief.

The reliever surrendered

zero hits, striking out none and walking none.

Camden Witczak went 1-for-2 at the plate and led the team with one run batted in. Leadoff hitter Hunter Donahue led West with three hits in three

at bats. West turned one double play in the game. Richmond and Ronny Leonor each collected two hits for Northeast. Burke led the team with one run batted in. Northeast turned two double plays in the game.

Nature through the eyes of a child

By Julie Midura

We recently brought our 1-year-old grandson, Dustin, to a local woodland area. After carrying him for miles, we lifted him out of the child carrier so that he could stretch his legs. Not yet walking independently, he grasped each of my index fingers, then carefully moved along the trail on unsteady feet.

A white birch tree just off trail caught his eye, and he steered me towards it. Once we reached it, he let go of my fingers and leaned his hands against the tree. His tiny fingers fell upon a loose piece of dry bark.

His eyes widened and a look of surprise came upon his face when the bark slipped from the tree into his hand.

Dustin looked at it, examining it with curiosity. Then, with all the seriousness a 1-year-old can muster, he reached up and pressed the fragment back against the gnarled tree.

He held his hand over the bark for a moment, like someone gluing one object to another. Once he seemed certain he had mended the trunk, he pulled his hand away.

Unsurprisingly, the piece of bark fluttered to the ground.

Dustin bent down, picked up the wayward piece of tree, and once again pressed it back against the trunk.

This time, he patted it carefully. But when he withdrew his hand, down went the scrap of wood once again.

Undeterred, Dustin repeated the process over and over and over again, certain that if he just kept trying, he could reattach the broken scrap of tree skin back onto the birch tree. But in spite of his ten-



Dustin, age 1, held a piece of birch bark in his hand.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Dustin explored nature with his grandparents.

lines in the dirt. Stirred the pine needles.

Absent of batteries, on-off switches, flashing lights and instructions – he held the stick as though it was a prized possession.

I felt an urgency to continue moving. There were trails waiting to be explored. Miles waiting to be walked. A time frame to be adhered to.

Instead, I lowered myself cross-legged and settled on the pine needle path next to Dustin. And there we remained, lingering in a place where time has forgotten what it means to rush.

Years from now, my grandson won't remember this day. He won't remember the rough texture of the twig he held. The beautiful white birch tree he attempted to mend.

He won't recall the day

sunlight streamed through the trees above him, as the grandparents who love him sat beside him while he discovered the natural world around him.

Regardless, perhaps he would leave the forest carrying something with him that would remain. Perhaps the forest was filling something inside of him that would not come from actual recollection, but was being planted nonetheless, before he could even form a sentence.

The twig came home with Dustin – a treasure he refused to let go of when I placed him back in the child carrier. The wayward scrap of bark, however, remained on the forest floor, where it would eventually return to the earth.

But long after the bark has dried, the unspoken lessons will remain.

Candlepin League News: Bowling wraps up the summer season

By Ryan Drago

Staff Writer

rdrago@turley.com

PALMER – To wrap up the summer, Diamond Junction Bowling Lanes hosted its monthly King of the Hill Tournament for the month of August.

This month's tournament featured eight entries with the top six qualifiers advancing to the stepladder. After

three games of qualifying, finishing in first place was Sean Comerford with a total score of 385.

In game two of the qualifier, Comerford scored 136 to pull himself back into contention. Mike Forgue finished in second place with a qualifying score of 376. Kristen Havens of Diamond Junction Bowling Lanes finished in third place with 376.

Forgue won the tiebreaker

to earn the second seed.

Finishing in fourth place was John Havens with 370. John Eckert received the fifth stepladder spot with a 368, and Nick Maslon got the sixth and final seed with a 367. Maslon finished strong with 107 to get into the ladder.

Each match was a one-game match until the finals, which will be a two-game match. The first steplad-

der match was between #6 seed Nick Maslon and #5 seed John Eckert. Maslon advanced after defeating Eckert, 109-91.

Maslon bowled against John Havens. Maslon advanced again after defeating Havens, 97-76.

Match three was between Maslon and K. Havens. The final score was 94-88 in favor of Kristen Havens.

The semi-final match was

between K. Havens and Mike Forgue. The match came down to the tenth and final frame as Forgue surpassed Havens by one pin, 91-90. Forgue advanced to the two-game final against #1 seed Sean Comerford.

In game one, Comerford bowled a strike in the last frame to score 110. Forgue began the final match with 101.

In game two, Comerford

scored 99 for a two-game total of 209 to win the August King of the Hill. Forgue finished in second place and combined for 182 during the final.

Comerford will return in September to defend his crown at Diamond Junction Bowling Lanes. In addition to the return of the King of the Hill, the fall league season also returns in September.



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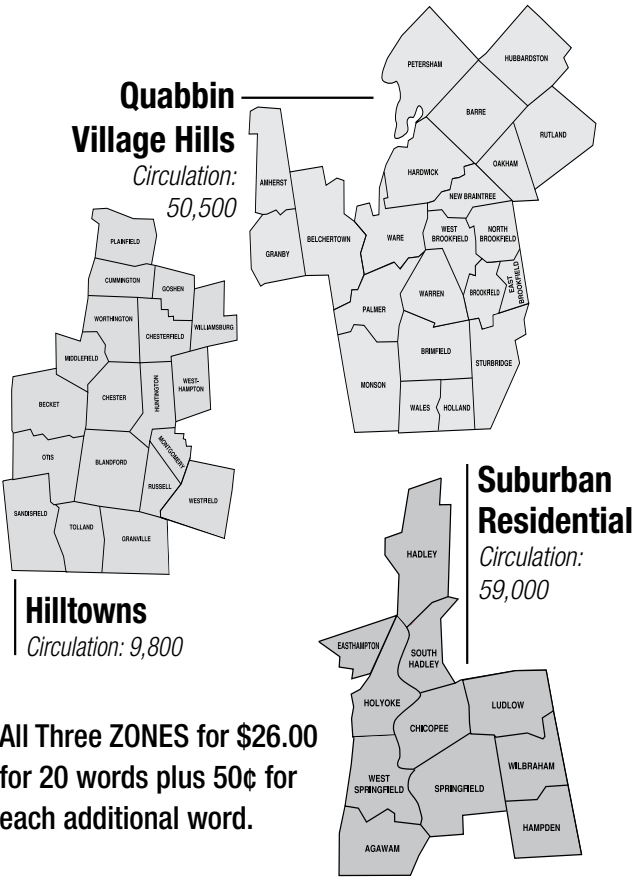
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GRANBY

Cultural Council hosting movie night on Aug. 28

GRANBY – The Granby Cultural Council is hosting a free movie night on August 28 at Cindy’s Drive-In campus. The large outdoor screen will be playing “Indiana Jones and the Raiders of the Lost Arc” in the field behind the town famous ice cream stand. Cultural Council chair Joanna Delphia recommends attendees bring blankets, lawn chairs and friends.

“Showtime is 8 p.m. We’ll have a booth up for about an hour,” Delphia said and mentioned later the booth opening will be at 7 p.m. “Of course, we’ll be taking donations but again, the event is free for the public.”

The movie night is one of many events in the works for the council, who strives to put Granby on the map as both a cultural epicenter and a local tourist attraction. The events are designed to not only

bring more eyes to the town but to increase awareness around the Cultural Council.

“One of the things that we would love to do is a food truck event,” Delphia said when asked which events she would like to see appear in Granby and what limitations the Council is facing. “We could have a great resource in Dufrense Park. We have have other buildings that we think we could use but we don’t. So, I think it’s really the space dictates a lot of what we can do.”

Those interested in running future events in Granby should be aware they do not necessarily have to be from the town, so long as the festivities take place within town limits. Those interested in pitching an event may reach out to the Granby Cultural Council at gculturalcouncil@gmail.com.

POLICE LOG from page 9

8:35 p.m. – An officer spoke with a person who reported they were being followed by a person. They were being followed for several months. They confronted the person at one point but didn’t recognize them. They were advised to call back to the department if they saw they were being followed again.

Monday, Aug. 17

11:19 a.m. – An officer responded to Federal Street and Amherst Road for an accident. A vehicle was rear ended by the vehicle behind it in line at a stop sign at Federal Street and Amherst Road. No injuries were reported and no tows were needed.

5:24 p.m. – There was follow up information provided for the person who reported being followed. It was the registration plate of the vehicle following them. The officer was able to go to the home of vehicle owner but no one answered.

10:56 p.m. – An officer responded to a domestic incident.

Tuesday, Aug. 18

5:40 p.m. – An officer responded to an accident on State Street at Barton Road.

A vehicle slowed quickly for the car in front of it. A second vehicle didn’t see the first slowing due to a sun glare. The second vehicle struck the first. There was minor damage to both vehicles. Both were able to be driven from the scene.

7:24 p.m. – Officers responded to a residence for a domestic incident.

Wednesday, Aug. 19

8:32 a.m. – An officer responded to a George Hannum Road business for a report of a person who was confused. They said they had an appointment when they didn’t have one. A relative came to pick them up, based on the conversation an immediate threat was filed on their license.

Thursday, Aug. 20

9:22 a.m. – Officers and Belchertown Fire paramedics to a residence for a person having a mental health crisis.

12:32 p.m. – An officer responded to a Jabish Street residence report breaking and entering over the last four years. There was unforced entry into the apartment during the day. The person they found an item broken on the floor. They wanted it documented.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of Planning Board Hearing Relative to Proposed Zoning By-law Amendments/Addition Pursuant to MGL c.40A, §5.

The Planning Board will hold a public hearing to discuss proposed amendments in the town’s zoning by-laws.

The public hearing will be held **September 8, 2026 at 7:15 p.m.** in the Select Board Meeting Room, Lawrence Memorial Hall

2 Jabish Street, Belchertown. **Remote access:** <https://meet.goto.com/173538941>; **Phone:** +1 (408) 650-3123; **Access Code:** 173-538-941.

The subject matter to amend the zoning bylaw, Chapter 145 of the Code of the Town of Belchertown, by amending Chapter 145, Article V, §145-11, Schedule of Uses, to permit certain business uses in the Industrial zone as posted on the town’s web site and on file with the Town Clerk and Planning Department.

The complete text relative to the proposed amendments are available for inspection during regular business hours at the Town Clerk’s office and the Planning Board office and at mass publicnotices.org 08/20, 08/27/2026

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.

PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

- 1 Email all notices to notices@turley.com
- 2 Access archives and digital tear sheets by newspaper title.
- 3 Find a quick link to the state of Massachusetts’ public notice web site to search all notices in Massachusetts newspapers.

Public notice deadlines are Friday at 3 p.m.

visit www.publicnotices.turley.com

BACKYARD from page 6

ents for food until six weeks old. Siblings tend to forage nearby until they join flocks of young birds. Some first brood birds even help raise their parents next brood if their parents have a double brood season.

Between July and October young birds begin to replace their juvenile plumage. Blue and brick red feathers begin to appear. By mid to late October all juveniles finish molting into their first adult plumage.

Leucistic crow

I met a New Braintree resident at the Oakham Post Office this week. He said he saw a crow with one white wing. Leucistic birds are birds that have abnormal plumage coloration due to a genetic mutation that causes a partial loss of pigmentation.

They may have washed out feathers or blotches of white feathers. While rare, they are



PHOTOS BY ELIZABETH FREDERICK

The fledgling male Eastern bluebird blends in with the ground cover. Blue feathers are visible.

found in many bird species around the world.

Whippoorwills

A Brimfield resident emailed, “I thought you’d be interested to learn that I still have several whippoorwills calling at dusk in the lower Haynes Hill/Paige Hill area of Brimfield.”

She stated, “I’ve only lived here four years, but they are here every year!. They start calling about 8:30 p.m.”

She stated, “My grandparents owned a house that bordered Reedy Meadow in Lynnfield. We heard Whippoorwills there. So cool to have them calling from my front and back yards at the

same time.”

While on vacation as a child on Lake Winnisquam, my dad, brother and I would hear them calling while fishing for horn pout at night. I used to hear them in Oakham, but I not heard one in years.

Owls hooting

I do hear barred owls hooting back and forth at night. Sometimes they are quite loud and can be heard even with the windows closed.

Juvenile red-tailed hawk

I received an email from a reader who saw a juvenile red-tailed hawk in her front yard. She stated, “It was quite beautiful. It had a small rodent for its dinner. It was really close to my front door, I’ve never seen a hawk so close to me.”

People may report a bird sighting by emailing edowner@turley.com or calling or texting 774-262-5882.



VETERANS DAY SALUTE

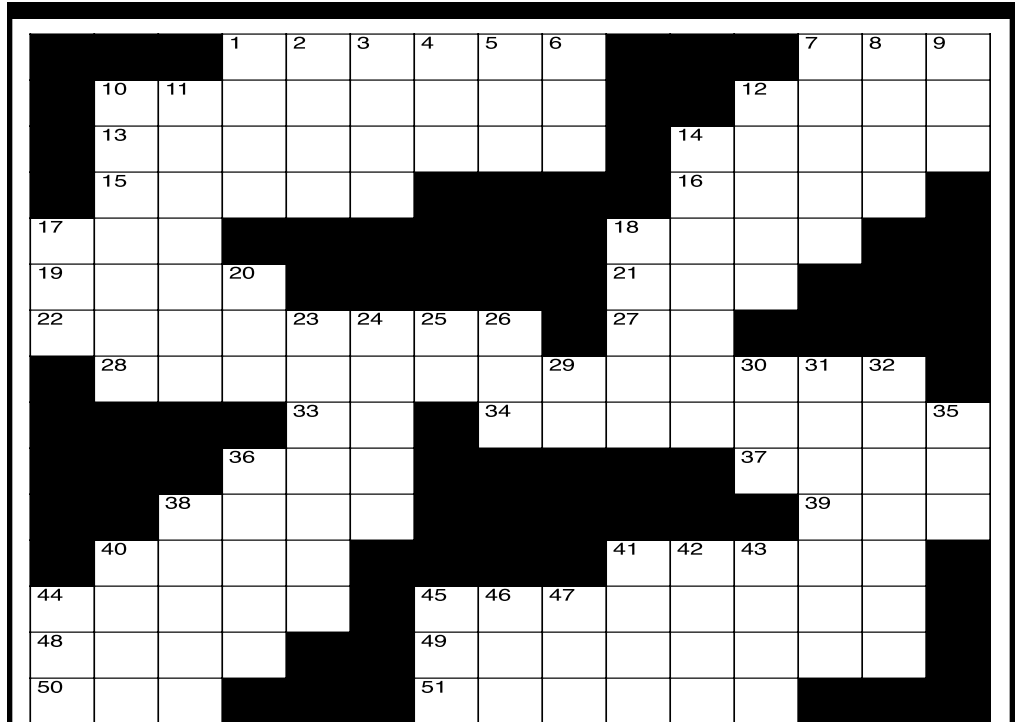
Sentinel ~ November 5, 2026

Sentinel will be saluting our local veterans (from all wars and branches, including honoring deceased veterans), reservists, active duty U.S. Military members.

Please submit a photo of your veteran with his or her name, rank, branch of military and hometown by email to jamie@turley.com or drop off a photo to **Sentinel, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069** All photos will be returned.

Please submit your photo no later than Monday, October 27, 2026.

There is no cost to submit a photo. No photos will be accepted after deadline.



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. A vast desert in Africa
- 7. Reciprocal of a sine
- 10. Type of phone
- 12. Biblical figure
- 13. One who renounces a religious belief
- 14. Warren and Monroe are two
- 15. Wild ox
- 16. Dismounted a horse
- 17. Cave dweller
- 18. Where infants sleep
- 19. Popular type of shoe
- 21. Clumsy large person
- 22. Evil-like
- 27. Integrated circuit

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Slovenly person
- 2. In addition
- 28. Austin-based athlete
- 33. Postscript
- 34. Follows 18
- 36. People of Gambia
- 37. Popular actor
- 38. Platform for a lectern
- 39. Taxi
- 40. American songwriter Sammy
- 41. Iranian city
- 44. Heavy clubs
- 45. One who is expelled
- 48. In bed
- 49. Lifelessness
- 50. Former CIA
- 51. Most slick

CLUES ACROSS

- 3.hovels
- 4. Pie ___ mode
- 5. Subway rodent
- 6. They ___
- 7. Indigenous S. American people
- 8. Fine sand
- 9. Central nervous system
- 10. Nightclub entertainment
- 11. The perfect example of something
- 12. Supreme Islamic leader
- 14. Pain
- 17. Binary-coded decimal
- 18. Projecting corner of an angle
- 20. “Succession” actor Brian
- 23. Dinner table decor

- 24. Ancient settlement in modern Turkey
- 25. You can call Paul Simon this
- 26. Opposite of a pro
- 29. Atomic #28
- 30. Type of drug (abbr.)
- 31. Arrives at
- 32. Nullifies
- 35. Bird’s beak
- 36. Partner to “oohed”
- 38. Ray-finned fishes
- 40. Taxis
- 41. Sat on and controlled
- 42. Sea eagles
- 43. Remain as-is
- 44. Chinese revolutionary
- 45. Tooth caregiver
- 46. Snake-like fish
- 47. Compensate



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