

# 40TH ANNUAL GIANT TAG SALE

## raises funds for new parish



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

BELCHERTOWN - Yard sale season is one of the best seasons, as people get ready to declutter their homes, and others look for the best and most sustainable ways to furnish their own.

For over 40 years, the St. Francis of Assisi parish has hosted a giant tag sale after the vision of the late Clare Oberly, who set up a few tables at their annual barbecue that got the tag sales started.

"From those sparse beginnings, it has evolved into 17 Departments," said Kathy Wood, who organized the tag sale this year.

The Giant Tag Sale is usually held on the 4th Saturday of August, and the parish spends time collecting items for the sale for 12 days in early August, where the items are cleaned, sort-

TURLEY PHOTO BY EMILY-ROSE PAPPAS

The Knick-Knack Department: Back row, left to right: Louise, Janina, Linda, Kay, Charlene, and Beth, and in the front row Virgel, Patty, and Margaret.

Please see **TAG SALE**, page 8

## A special group for your little one at the library

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

GRANBY – A huge part of learning for young children before preschool is getting to know the other kids their age as they learn the art of play, and socialization as well.

At the Granby Free Public Library, there is a series of special playgroups, as well as a preschool preparedness group for kids under preschool age, and approaching preschool.

The groups are run by dedicated and caring Parenting and Early Learning Specialist Marti Wiechman, where kids can get together to enjoy a special time meeting new friends.

Wiechman works for the Collaborative for Educational Services, which is under the Coordinated Family and

Community Engagement, or CFCE, grant, which helps provide the funds to make these playgroups possible.

"This grant is provided by the Massachusetts Early Education and Care Department (EEC), and it works to promote early literacy, child development, parent and caregiver education, and family community engagement. We deeply appreciate the Granby Library for hosting our weekly playgroups in Granby," said Wiechman.

The Granby Library's SFCE playgroups have had Wiechman as their host for about 10 years, meeting weekly on Wednesday and Friday mornings from 10:30 a.m. to noon.

"Caregivers attend each group with their children, ages birth to 5 years, and I set up the room to provide

Please see **LIBRARY**, page 4

## Getting ready for the school year with excitement

An interview with Supt. Mary Jane Rickson, of Granby Public Schools

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

GRANBY – As we are getting ready for a new school year, the students, teachers, and faculty are preparing for a new and wonderful time with new students and new opportunities to share.

Below is an interview with Granby Public School's Superintendent, Mary Jane Rickson, as she shares her excitement to welcome back to school the students and some new teachers, too.

What are you most looking forward to?

"As I begin my second year as superintendent, I am most looking forward to building on the leadership and momentum we established last year. I believe



SUBMITTED PHOTO

New teachers Amy Bentley, LPN, Grace Campbell, Special Educator, Megan Bagg, Special Educator, Robyn Wayrynen, ELL, and Logan Deni, Pre-school.

the district made progress in strengthening relationships, setting clear priorities, and beginning the work of align-

ing our district around student success. This year, I am eager to expand opportunities for students while deepening

our focus on teaching and learning. We will continue to

Please see **GRANBY**, page 5

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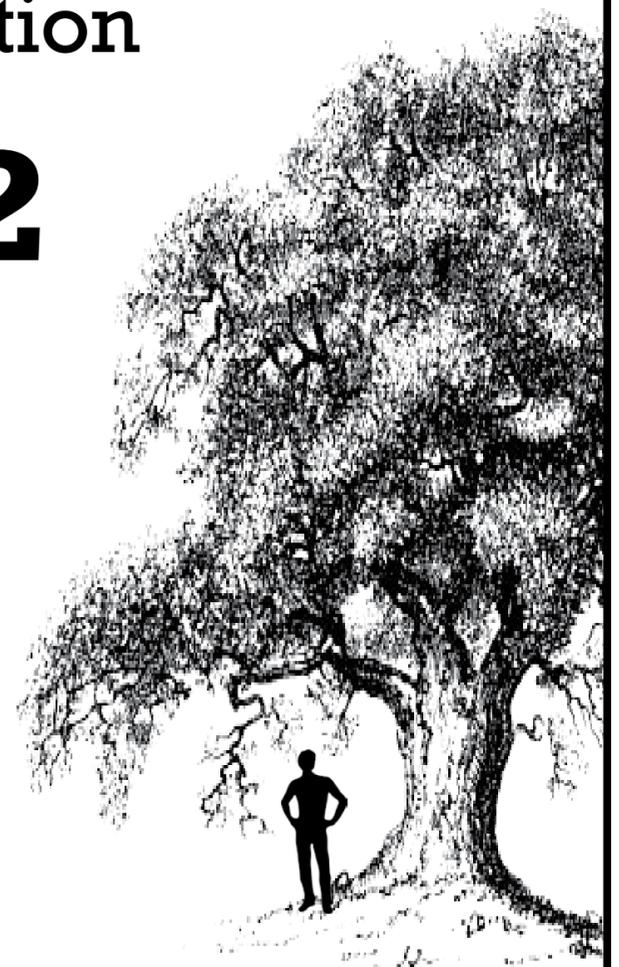
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9/11 Memorial Service to be held at Granby Public Safety Complex

GRANBY – The Granby Public Safety Complex was able to acquire a piece of a fire engine from the 9/11 scene, and it is now displayed outside the station. There will be a 24th Anniversary Memorial Service at 6 p.m. on September 11.

Granby Select Board selects Deputy Chief Evan Briant as New Fire Chief

GRANBY – Following a regional search, the Granby Select Board has unanimously selected Hadley Deputy Fire Chief Evan Briant as the next Fire Chief for the Town of Granby. Chief Briant brings more than 20 years of experience in fire and emergency medical services, beginning his career as a dispatcher and serving the past seven years as Deputy Fire Chief in Hadley. The selection process began with seven applicants, five of whom were interviewed by the Chief Selection Committee. Two semi-finalists advanced to an Assessment Center designed to test leadership in critical areas, including managing a simulated fire incident, delivering a budget presentation, and overseeing employee management. The results of the Assessment Center were then reviewed by the Select Board and the Town Administrator. The Select Board has authorized the Town Administrator to begin contract negotiations with Chief Briant.

School Com weighs Cold Spring School closure

By Melina Bourdeau  
Correspondent

BELCHERTOWN - In a pivotal meeting that could reshape the town's educational landscape, the School Committee is considering closing Cold Spring School to address mounting financial pressures and streamline district operations.

Facing a significant budget shortfall driven by escalating health insurance costs, school leaders are exploring a strategic consolidation that would relocate kindergarten and pre-K students to Swift River Elementary School, potentially saving the district approximately \$500,000.

Superintendent Brian Cameron presented a comprehensive analysis of the proposed changes, emphasizing the district's commitment to minimizing disruption to students and staff.

"If we do it, we have to carry it over. We have that safe transition pod for people to integrate," Cameron said.

The potential closure has sparked nuanced discussions about educational continuity, logistical challenges and community impact.

Jill Pelletier, Cold Spring School's principal, offered a balanced perspective, acknowledging both the emotional and practical considerations.

"I feel like I could argue

the closing or the keeping open either direction," Pelletier said. She highlighted the school's historical significance, noting its deep roots in the community where "a lot of people have a nostalgic view" - generations have attended the same building.

However, Pelletier also stressed the importance of a thoughtful transition. This included keeping the pre-K and kindergarten students together in the transition.

"While focusing on being resilient, I don't think telling three to six-year-olds in January it's time to pick up and move," she said, underscoring the need for a carefully managed process.

Thomas Ruscio, principal of Jabish Brook Middle School, provided critical insights into the potential challenges. He recommended the six-grade building model but warned of significant logistical hurdles.

Ruscio detailed traffic concerns that could arise from the reorganization.

"When we did the last traffic study... we had 300 kids that were dropped off by car to that building with two grades," he said, highlighting potential infrastructure challenges.

The district's Student Support Services Director, Becky Lynch, emphasized the benefits of reducing stu-

*We want to give you an opportunity to voice your concerns so we can make an informed decision."*

BRIAN CAMERON,  
Superintendent

dent transitions.

"Transitions are really tough for a lot of my students," Lynch said, pointing out that fewer school moves could benefit students, especially those with special needs.

Budget constraints are driving much of the discussion. The district faces a potential budget increase of \$656,352, primarily due to rising health insurance costs. Cameron outlined potential cost-saving measures, including strategic staffing and grant adjustments.

The School Committee is committed to avoiding staff layoffs.

"Not one person should lose their position over this," Cameron said, reflecting a collaborative approach to financial challenges.

Community engagement remains a priority. The committee plans to present

a detailed transition plan at their next meeting, inviting public input and ensuring transparency.

"We want to give you an opportunity to voice your concerns so we can make an informed decision," Cameron said, highlighting the committee's commitment to inclusive decision-making.

The potential consolidation would not only address financial constraints but could also provide educational benefits. Principals noted improved curriculum alignment and reduced transitions for students.

Swift River Elementary Principal Magda Harrison expressed enthusiasm for the potential integration.

"We would welcome Cold Spring to come into our building," she said, emphasizing the opportunity to create a comprehensive early education environment.

The school committee has set clear goals for the transition, including updating their handbook, using more accessible language and improving communication with other town boards.

While the decision is not final, the committee seems aligned on the potential benefits of closing Cold Spring School. The next meeting will include a comprehensive presentation and opportunity for public comment.

Join the Small Farm Institute for a pollinator field study

A Pollinator Field Study  
Thursday, Sept. 11, 2025,  
at 3:30 p.m.

Rain date: Tuesday, September 16th, 3:30 p.m.

UMass professor and post-doctoral researcher Dr. Jules Davis will lead a field study exploring late summer pollination on the NESFI campus. Participants will learn about the several flowers that bloom in late summer. They will also learn

to identify some of the many pollinators active at this time of year. During field work, participants will find a selected flower species and collect data on the pollinators found on it. Students will be exposed to basic field study data collection and analysis techniques. Bring your cameras!

In addition, participants will have the option to collect an insect, identify it, and prepare it for an insect col-

lection with the help of Dr. Davis.

Please pre-register at info@smallfarm.org and indicate if you are interested in collecting an insect.

Suggested donation per person: \$10

Walk-Ins are allowed if spots are available

Students grades 6 to 12 (and parents welcome, too)

NESFI website: www.smallfarm.org



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**The Town of Belchertown**  
**HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION DAY**

**Saturday, September 13, 2025**

**PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED**

Location: DPW, 290 Jackson St. (Highway Garage Location)  
Time: 9:00am-12:00pm (noon)  
Vehicles arriving after noon will not be accepted

**\*PAYMENT IS DUE AT TIME OF EVENT. CASH/CHECKS (Payable to Town of Belchertown)**

For a registration form and a list of Do/Don't items visit:  
<https://www.belchertown.org/206/Hazardous-Waste-Day-Information>

**Surrounding Towns are Invited to Take Part**



Reading a book to learn about colors.



Little Gavin Labelle exploring with paint dabbers.

**LIBRARY** from page 1

a variety of activities for all ages, with an emphasis on early literacy and sensory play, as well as fine motor skills, social skills, language, and art," said Wiechman. "At each group, we begin with free play, then practice clean-up skills before sitting for a story, and we always end with circle time songs."

The playgroups are designed to provide these children with experiences that will help them to grow into little people ready to take on preschool.

"I love that its hands-on and that he builds his social skills and play with other kids," said mom Jennifer Labelle about her son, Gavin. "There's enough time so they don't get overwhelmed, and he looks forward to it every week. Marti really puts a lot of thought into the activities."

"Another important part of each group is the time caregivers get to spend with other adults, to make new friends, find others to talk with who understand the many challenges of raising young children today, and to get information on resources available in the Granby community.

Over the summer, Wiechman did a pilot program with the EEC and the Boston Children's Museum to provide a six-week School Readiness playgroup, which focused on helping caregivers and their children to practice needed skills for a transition into school that is successful.

Some of the things they learned included self-care skills, independence, and how to work together with others in a group. They also got the chance to go on field trips, and explore outside as they learned with new friends.

"What I love most about these playgroups is the opportunity to help caregivers and children see the fun in learning through play," said Wiechman. "I also love supporting everyone who attends to be their best selves, and I strive every day to help create an atmosphere of safety, acceptance and appreciation for the wonderful uniqueness we each bring to our community."

All of the programs are free, and you can find a calendar of the many playgroups, workshops, and special events the Collaborative provides throughout the area at <https://www.collaborative.org/youth-and-families/early-childhood-programs/cfce/family-centers-and-playgroups/>.



Playing on the rug, imagining where the cars are travelling to.



There are plenty of fun puzzles and manipulatives to try.



Marti Wiechman is reading a book to a group of attentive listeners.

SUBMITTED PHOTOS



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SUBMITTED PHOTOS

GPS Staff: Danielle Wasleski, Kelly Loftus, Amy Bentley, Megan Bagg, Logan Deni, Katie Czarniecki, Rebecca Drew, Grace Campbell, Robyn Wayrynen, Amanda Berg, Cindy Sykes, Brad Rosenberg, and Principal Ali Jordan.

**GRANBY** from Page 1

strengthen math and literacy across the district, ensuring that our curriculum is both rigorous and supportive of all learners. At the same time, we remain committed to addressing the social and emotional well-being of every student, because we know that true success comes when academic growth and personal well-being go hand in hand. I am excited to carry forward the energy and commitment from year one into year two, as we work together to make a lasting impact for every student, every day."

**What do you love most about the Granby School System?**

"What I love most about our school system is the commitment and dedication of our staff. In a small but mighty community like ours, everyone truly supports one another and puts students at the center of everything we do. Each member of the district wears multiple hats, always willing to step in where needed, and that creates a sense of shared responsibility and teamwork that is really special. Someone recently described us as a 'relationship-centered district,' and I couldn't agree more — the strength of our connections with students, families, and each other is what makes this such a wonderful place to learn and work."

**How do kids inspire you? How do the staff and teachers inspire you?**

"Our students and staff inspire me every single day. The students are what keep me grounded — above all else, they help define me as an educator. I love our students; seeing them each and every day truly makes my heart grow. I see their joy in the classroom and the love they have for their teachers. When I walk into classrooms and their faces light up as they show me what they are learning, I can see the pride in their accomplishments and their excitement about new discoveries. That pride is contagious and inspires me to make sure every child has the chance to feel that same success. At the same time, our staff and teachers inspire me with their dedication and passion. In our district, they wear multiple hats, support one another, and always put students first. Their commitment, creativity, and care make us a true relationship-centered district. Together, the energy of our students and the unwavering dedication of our educators motivate me to keep moving our district forward and striving for excellence every day."

**Despite recent changes and budget changes, what changes are you looking forward to with the hope for the school year to provide some encouragement?**

"Despite recent changes and budget adjustments, I am looking forward to a

school year filled with opportunities to support and celebrate our staff. I have made it my mission to consistently express my gratitude for the dedication, compassion, and professionalism that our educators bring to their work each day. I will continue to find ways to ensure that they feel valued, respected, and encouraged, because I firmly believe that when staff know they matter, it directly impacts the success and well-being of our students.

"Although shifts in federal funding bring certain challenges, they also provide us with the chance to think creatively and prioritize what matters most. I am encouraged by the resilience and commitment of our staff, and I am hopeful that this year will highlight the strength of our collective efforts. More than anything, I look forward to fostering a culture where staff feel supported, students are inspired to learn, and families are confident in the education their children are receiving."

**What do you love most about being a Superintendent?**

"What I love most about being a superintendent is having the chance to advocate for children every single day. Every decision I make comes back to what is best for them and how we can give them the tools, opportunities, and confidence they need to succeed. I feel a deep responsibility and commitment to ensuring that all of

our students have the chance to become thoughtful, educated citizens who can contribute in meaningful ways to their communities.

Just as important are the relationships I get to build along the way—with staff, families, and community members. Those connections mean everything to me because they create trust, open communication, and a true sense of partnership. When we work together, we can accomplish so much more for our students. For me, the joy in this role comes from seeing the impact of those relationships and knowing that, together, we are making a real difference in the lives of children."

**What is your message to the students at the start of the school year?**

"My message to students is simple: A new school year is a chance to set goals, try new things, and discover more about yourself. I want our students to know that they matter—that their voices, their ideas, and their efforts truly make a difference.

"I also want them to remember they're not alone on this journey. Their teachers, principals, and all of us in the district are here to support them and cheer them on. My hope is that every student feels proud of who they are and confident in what they can achieve. This year is full of possibilities, and I can't wait to see all the amazing things they'll accomplish."



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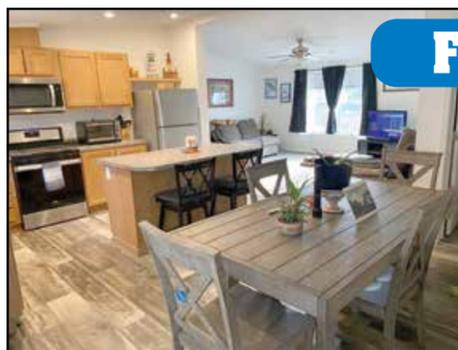
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## OPINION

SOCIAL SECURITY  
*Matters*

By Russell Gloor

## How do I apply for Social Security and receive my payments?

## Dear Rusty:

I'm ready to apply for my Social Security benefits, and I'm aware of how my benefits are calculated. What I would like to know about is how the application process actually works and how my benefits are received.

## Signed: Ready to Collect

## Dear Ready to Collect:

Essentially, you have two main options for applying for Social Security benefits, and also two separate options for receiving your payments:

To apply for benefits, you can either contact Social Security at 1-800-772-1213 to make a telephone appointment to complete your application while speaking to an SSA representative on the phone or you can submit your application for SS benefits online.

When using the telephone option, you will be guided by an SSA agent while completing your application and can discuss your benefit options directly with that agent, just be sure to be available to receive SSA's call at the scheduled time. You can also make an appointment by calling your local SS office directly get the number for your local SS office at this link: [www.ssa.gov/locator](http://www.ssa.gov/locator). It is not usually necessary to visit your local SSA office in person to apply.

If you are reasonably proficient with computers, you can, instead, apply online, but you will first need to create your personal SSA account online at [www.ssa.gov/myaccount](http://www.ssa.gov/myaccount). Once you have your personal account set up, you will be able to see your estimated benefit amount at different claim ages, which should help you decide when it is best to apply. Here is a short video which explains the process for applying for benefits online: [https://www.ssa.gov/hlp/video/iclaim\\_r01.htm](https://www.ssa.gov/hlp/video/iclaim_r01.htm).

If applying online, you can start your online application at [www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov) apply and re-access it multiple times as needed until you are ready to submit it; just be sure to write down the "reentry code," which is provided when you begin your online application.

When you are ready to submit the application, just select "Submit" and your application will be sent to SSA's application processing unit for review. They will contact you if there are any questions about your application or if any additional documentation is needed. Note that it typically takes a couple of months for your payments to start and note that payment is made in the month following the month earned. For example, if you begin your benefits in August your first payment will be received in September on either the second, third or fourth Wednesday of each month thereafter, depending on your birthday.

For receiving your monthly SS payments: you will (on your application) be able to specify how you wish your monthly payments to be made. The preferred option used by most beneficiaries is to have your monthly Social Security payment deposited into a financial (e.g., bank) account, details for which you will specify when applying. However, you can also choose to receive your monthly payments in the form of a debit card called "Direct Express," which will be replenished monthly. If you choose to have your payment deposited in your bank account, be sure to have your bank account information ready when you apply. Note that Social Security no longer issues payments via printed checks except in rare circumstances.

*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](http://amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at [ssadvisory@amacfoundation.org](mailto:ssadvisory@amacfoundation.org). Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.*

## How students learn about subtraction



## Gardening tasks best accomplished now

The mornings have been a little cooler this last week or so. I must admit that after the summer we had, the respite from the heat is a welcome relief.

With the unofficial end of summer just a few short days away, folks are starting to think about winterizing their pools, getting their boats in storage, closing up their cottages and the like. There are a number of things that we gardeners can do now to ease winter's blow and set the stage for a successful garden next year!

Here is a replay of a timely column that lays it all out there.

Order spring flowering bulbs now. I ordered mine just last week!

For the widest array of tulips, daffodils, crocus and the like, consider making your selection from a mail order company. Most have great web sites, offering photos of pretty much everything they sell. Our bulbs will arrive in early October – the perfect time for planting!

We get them into the soil prior to the ground freezing so that they will have a chance to send out roots, perfect little anchors for winter heave/thaw cycles. Once spring comes it is all about flowering. Yippee – a welcome sign that brighter days lie ahead!

Cure squash and pumpkins well prior to storage. Give your cucurbits a couple of weeks in the sun up off of the ground before you bring them indoors. This will harden the vegetable's skin and improve its longevity.

If temperatures dip below 50 degrees at night consis-

tently, find a dry, sunny spot inside to complete their curing, otherwise chilling injury may occur. It's also important to remove them from the garden if bugs or disease

es. New leaves will sprout and luster will return come March.

Instead of digging tender plants up, some folks prefer to take tip cuttings. During the rooting process, mist a few times a day to prevent wilting. You will have especially good luck rooting scented geraniums – it should take just about a month.

Take cuttings now, before the plant starts prepping for winter (yes, plants do, too!), and you'll have better luck.

Plant some autumnal color. Mums and kale are at their peak at local garden centers now. Choose a plant that is healthy, free of brown leaves and with a root ball that fills the pot and isn't sunken away.

Use these plants to fill in places in the border where annuals have gone by, or, fill a container or two for a quick burst of fall at your front door. Die-hard gardeners have no problem staving off the onset of winter with a last minute plant installation.

Be sure to cover with a sheet if frost threatens, to prevent the flowers from being nipped. With careful watering and some good luck, the mums may even return to the garden next season – just as we intend to!

*Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 32 years she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to [pouimette@turley.com](mailto:pouimette@turley.com) with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.*

in the  
Garden

by Roberta McQuaid



threaten.

In my garden I am vigilantly squishing the gray colored squash bugs that like to accumulate under the fruit. Once curing is complete, store squash and pumpkins where there is good air circulation and where temperatures stay around fifty to sixty degrees, with relative humidity between fifty and seventy percent.

Under these conditions most will last eight to twelve weeks depending on variety.

Dig up tender plants. Did you buy rosemary, bay tree, lemon verbena, French lavender or scented geraniums this spring? Unfortunately, not one of these favored herbs is winter hardy in our area.

I usually get them out of the ground once frost threatens, and will bring them inside overnight and back outside during the day for a few weeks until it gets too cold. From that point most of them will thrive in a bright but cool room of the house.

Don't be surprised if the lemon verbena loses its leaves soon after you pot it up or that the French lavender doesn't look all that zippy during the winter – both are normal responses.

A Brimfield resident reported he visited Lake Wallace in Belchertown with a friend last week and saw a great egret.

They also saw a great blue heron, at least three green herons, a few Phoebes and an Eastern kingbird. There were also several ducks, mallards and wood ducks. The two male wood ducks were in eclipse plumage.

The great egret is slightly smaller than the great blue heron, but they are still large birds with an impressive wingspan. They hunt in the classic heron way standing immobile or wading through water to capture fish with their bill. At one point, egrets were hunted to near extinction for their feathers for hat

decoration. The great egret is the symbol of the National Audubon Society.

Rivalry among nestlings is common and the large-

wingbeats per second at a speed of about 25 miles per hour. The oldest known Great

Egret was 22 years, 10 months old and was banded in Ohio.

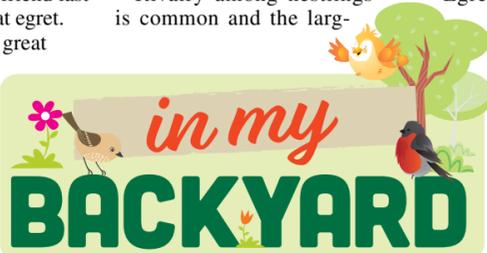
## Eagle sighting

A New Braintree resident and a friend went bass fishing on Brooks Pond in North Brookfield in a canoe recently. Half way out on the pond, they started to hear the seagull like calls of an eagle. As they rounded a little peninsula on the left side up in the top of a broken pine was a large eagle's nest.

The broken pine made a perfect platform for them to build a nest. They then saw the two mature adult pair with their white heads on a stump near the water. Up in the pine near the nest were two juve-

er chicks frequently kill their smaller siblings. The great egret is white with a yellow bill and black legs. During breeding, a patch of skin on its face turns neon green and long plumes grow from its back called aigrettes. These aigrettes were prized for ladies hats.

Great egrets fly slowly, but powerfully with just two



By Ellenor Downer



nil eagles, all dark brown. They weren't flying, but just squeaking for food.

They actually looked quite big for baby eagles. His friend said it was because they still had their fluffy feathers and developing new

feathers.

They fished nearby and watched them hop around. They seemed unbothered by them being about 60 feet from the shore of the penin-

Please see **BIRDS**, page 7

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Editor Policy

Letters to the editor should be 350 words or less in length. No unsigned or anonymous opinions will be published. We require letter writers to include his or her town of residence and home telephone number. We must authenticate authorship prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit or withhold any submissions deemed to be libelous or contain unsubstantiated allegations, personal attacks, defamation of character and offensive language. All unknown or alleged facts and quotations offered by the author need to cite credible, unbiased sources. Send letters to: Sentinel, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069 or via email to [sentinel@turley.com](mailto:sentinel@turley.com). The deadline for submissions is Friday at 5 p.m.

Turley  
Election  
Policy

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

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

Belchertown, Granby & Amherst  
SENTINEL  
TEAMEDITORIAL  
[sentinel@turley.com](mailto:sentinel@turley.com)SPORTS EDITOR  
Greg Scibelli  
[sports@turley.com](mailto:sports@turley.com)STAFF WRITER  
Emily-Rose Pappas  
[epappas@turley.com](mailto:epappas@turley.com)

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**BIRDS** from page 6

sula. Eventually the two adult eagles flew off probably in search of a meal for their big babies. So neat to be able to see eagles fairly common now in Massachusetts.

**Male cardinal**

I received this email, "I was just walking the dog after dark and my flashlight came upon this guy (male cardinal). I have seen him every night since. We just stare at each other for a few seconds and say good night."



**Sandhill Crane**



**Cedar waxwings**

report from July with a picture of a fully grown chick in the nest with an adult. It's unknown if the chick fledged successfully?" In Warren at the pond on New Reed Street the past several years I had seen Great Egrets there in August but none have been seen there this year.

**Cedar waxwings**

The Brimfield resident in referring to recent mention in this column about cedar waxwings, said a large part of their diet is fruit based. He read an article that stated that because their diet is mostly fruit based that if a waxwing nest is parasitized by a brown-headed cowbird the cowbird chick is not likely to survive because it can't survive on the fruit based diet.

on Aug. 14 in a field across from the Listening Center. Sandhill cranes also visit his field in Oakham as well.

**Warren birds**

The Brimfield resident said, "In Warren this week there are still adult ospreys about, on two visits I saw and adult on or near the nest. I have not seen a juvenile out of the nest so am not sure if any young fledged this year. I saw one chick in the nest earlier this summer and there is an eBird

**Bird bath**  
The Brimfield resident reports the bird bath in his yard is getting lots of use, especially by catbirds and blue jays. Goldfinch show up and drink from the drip as well as black-capped chickadees, chipping sparrows and house finches.

Four juvenile raccoons are regular visitors to the bird bath. He has a trail camera near the bird bath and it captures lots of pictures of the raccoons in the bird bath. Not sure what they are doing, it doesn't look like they are drinking and sometime the stones in the bath are moved around. A couple of times he's seen a pickerel frog in the bird bath.

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

**Loon census**

The Loon Preservation Committee reported on Saturday, July 19 from 8-9 a.m., 566 volunteers simultaneously surveyed 135 lakes across New Hampshire for loons. Together, they counted 541 adult loons and 109 loon chicks during the census hour. The New Hampshire loon census is part of a larger regional effort. While N.H. participants were out surveying for loons on their lakes, hundreds of volunteers in

Maine, Vermont, and New York were doing the same. This simultaneous survey of so many lakes helps create a "snapshot in time" of not just the loon population here in New Hampshire, but across the Northeast.

**Helping birds**

A reader from South Hadley suggested I include a section about ways to help birds. She even provided several tips for future columns. Some people also continue to

put out suet and that is so dangerous. It gets rancid in the heat and that's bad for birds. Perhaps even worse, it gets their feet and chest feathers greasy and when the preen, they spread the grease all over their bodies. This interferes with a bird's natural waterproofing and can also cause their nestling to be covered in grease.

**Sandhill cranes**

An Oakham resident saw two sandhill cranes in Barre

# Have you experienced a housing need?

## Share your story online or in person

**We want to address housing needs in our region with storytelling!** If you have a story to share about your current housing situation, challenges with finding housing, or being unhoused, we want to hear your story. Housing stories will be used to build awareness about the housing challenges in the region to bring further change. Stories will be collected through an online form or video interview. Photos or videos will be used with permission, or you may ask to remain anonymous.

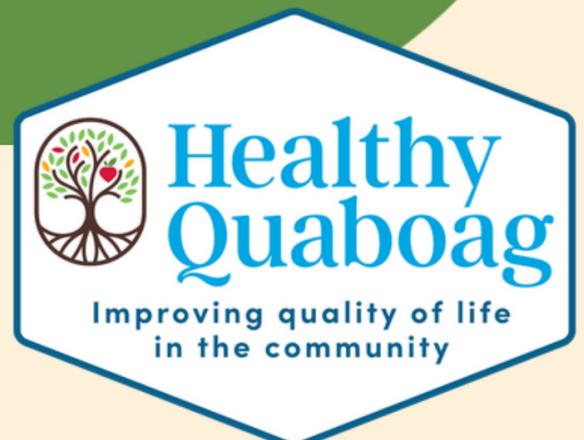


Submit stories through an online form (scan QR code or go to: <https://tinyurl.com/HQHousingStory>) or a recorded interview. You have the option of being anonymous for either format.



**\$50 compensation for those who share online or \$100 for recorded interviews**

For any questions, please contact Nisha Humayun at [nhumayun@townofware.com](mailto:nhumayun@townofware.com) or (413) 207-7698



# 40TH ANNUAL GIANT TAG SALE



The Hardware and Craft Departments: Steve, Carole, Bob, Becky, Jen, and Dave.



The Kitchen Department: Suz, Diane, AnnMarie, Roseanne, Mary, Sue, and Cathy.

**TAG SALE** from page 1

ed, priced, and packed up the day before to bring to the Town Common.

There were several "departments" located around the common, and volunteers serviced each one with its own checkout counters before you leave the tent. They also had items inside the Old Church.

There was a section for Knick-knacks, furniture, seasonal decor and craft supplies, electronics, hardware and sports, a baby section, and a section of children's toys and board games.

Inside the Old Church was jewelry, decor, frames and artwork, designer items, bedding, pillows, blankets, and bathroom decor and organization.

"The best part is the sense of community that is built as it goes. Whether it is making new friends or strengthening existing friendships," said Wood. "Most volunteers are parishioners, but not all - family and friends are recruited, and it's nice to see the bond that is made as they are welcomed."

There was over 100-member team of volunteers from the church and community

that got together to make the Giant Tag Sale happen.

"This is a team effort," said Wood. "Some work the entire time, and others may do just a few hours. Some even work from home, such as the Deacon's wife - Sandy - who provides complete "make-overs" for the donated Barbie-type dolls, making them better than new!"

The parish is working to collect funds, and the proceeds from the Giant Tag Sale will go directly to the fund for the desperately-needed new Parish Center on the Jabish Street campus.

"Seeing all the customers lined up before the sale on Saturday mornings is great," said Wood. "Most come every year and say how much they look forward to it. Newcomers compliment the well-organized event and are surprised at the bargains. Driving by, you know something great is going on!"

Whether the people who came were looking for a new outfit for the new babies in their families, a new desk organizer, a Halloween costume, new and charming furniture pieces, or some nifty items to add to a collection, the Giant Tag Sale really had some of everything.



Board games and toys are sure to keep all eyes off screens for some time of fun and laughter.

"We at St. Francis are blessed to be in this wonderful town of Belchertown," said Wood.

The Giant Tag Sale was a great success, bringing in over a thousand people to the event, and helping the parish one more step of the way to raising the money they need for their new parish.



What kinds of treasures lie here?



The Furniture Department: Rick, Vic, and Rob.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY EMILY-ROSE PAPPAS

RIGHT: Inside the Old Church, you can find the perfect frame for your art prints and photos.



Bags and shoes galore- some with brand new tags, and shoes that just didn't fit right, ready for a new pair of feet.

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- By Appointment Only
- Open House: Saturday, August 23 – 10:30 A.M. to 1:00 P.M.
- Preview & Registration: Friday, September 12 – 4:00 P.M. to 6:00 P.M.
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A FIVE THOUSAND DOLLAR CERTIFIED CHECK IS REQUIRED IN ORDER TO REGISTER TO BID ( please call for details of how to write the check out.) ALL BIDDERS ARE STRONGLY URGED TO GET FINANCING IN ORDER PRIOR TO AUCTION. Owner to provide Clear Title at time of closing. Winning bid is contingent upon SELLERS approval.



**Come to the library this fall**

BELCHERTOWN – The Clapp Memorial Library has some exciting programs and events coming up in September. Check it out!

**FOR CHILDREN**

**Aquatic Invertebrate Sampling**

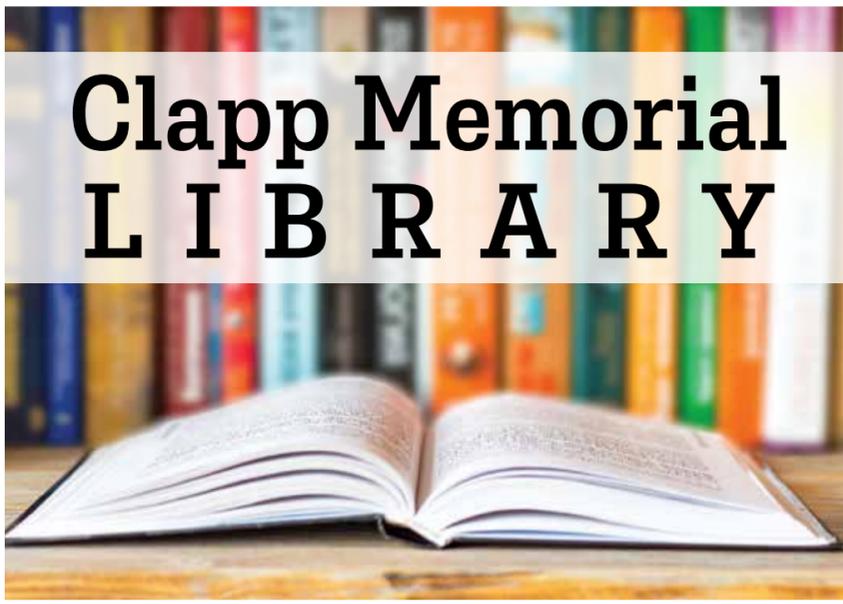
*Saturday, Sept. 13, 9 a.m.*  
Join us to investigate fascinating creatures and critters in Lake Wallace. Local biologists/parents, Caralyn Zehnder and Will Duncan, will show us the life cycles of aquatic invertebrates like dragonflies and damselflies and sample the lake to see what we can find. Lake Wallace is located behind the police station. We will meet at the far end of Foley Field (behind the baseball field) at the end of the ball fields. Play clothes, rain or water boots, and bug spray are suggested. This event is geared towards ages 4 and up. Registration is required. Visit our website at [clapplibrary.org](http://clapplibrary.org) or call 413-323-0417.

**Sister Detectives**

*Wednesday, Sept. 27, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.*  
Join local kid authors and sisters, Emma and Belley, as they go on a detective adventure! The sisters will read their self-written and illustrated book in both English and Chinese, followed by a fun craft for everyone to enjoy. Registration is required. Visit our website at [clapplibrary.org](http://clapplibrary.org) or call 413-323-0417. This program is funded by a grant from the Belchertown Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

**Fall Storytimes Stories and fun for children and their care givers!**

We'll tell stories, sing, dance, have finger plays, do crafts, and play instruments. Registration is required. Emails will be sent to confirm enrollment. When sessions are full, children will be put on a waitlist. To regis-



**Clapp Memorial LIBRARY**

ter, visit our website at [clapplibrary.org](http://clapplibrary.org) or call 413-323-0417.

**Babytime Storytime (3-12 months)**

*Mondays, from 9 to 9:45 a.m., on September 22, 29, October 6, 20, 27, and November 3.*

**First Steps Storytime (13-24 months)**

*Mondays, from 10 to 10:45 a.m., on September 22, 29, October 6, 20, 27, and November 3.*

**Toddler Time (2 year olds)**

*Tuesdays, from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m., September 23, 30, October 7, 21, 28, and November 4.*

**Preschool Storytime (3-6 year olds)**

*Thursdays, from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m., September 25, October 2, 9, 23, 30, and November 6.*

**Music and Movement with Julie**

*Saturdays: September 27, October 4, 25, and November 1, from 10:30 to 11:15 a.m.*

Join us for a four-week music series on Saturday mornings. Children will explore music in a fun and creative environment. This series is geared towards children ages 0 to 7, but all ages are welcome. Space is limited; registration is required. To register, visit

our website at [clapplibrary.org](http://clapplibrary.org) or call 413-323-0417. This program is funded in part by the Friends of the Clapp Memorial Library and in part by a grant from the Belchertown Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

**FOR TEENS**

**Teen Advisory Board First meeting of the school year**

*Friday, Sept. 12, 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.*

The Clapp Memorial Library's Teen Advisory Board will meet in the library's Activity Room for its first meeting of the 2025-2026 school year! TAB is a group of 7th-12th grade students who meet monthly during the school year to propose library programming for teens, provide input on teen services, volunteer, and have fun! At this meeting, teens will socialize, discuss the year ahead, and plan their community craft for the Belchertown Fair's Exhibit Hall. Teens can email [clapplibrartab@gmail.com](mailto:clapplibrartab@gmail.com) to register.

**Teen Wellness Table**

*Friday, Sept. 19, 2 to 3:30 p.m.*  
The Clapp Memorial Library will have a table on

their front lawn for teens in grades 7-12 walking from school to the Belchertown Fair. Teens can stop by for free water, granola bars, and snacks as supplies last! This program is funded by the Friends of the Clapp Memorial Library.

**FOR ADULTS**

**What "YA" Readin'? Book Club**

*Thursday, Sept. 4, 7 to 8 p.m.*  
The library's What "YA" Readin'? Book Group, a group for adults who read Young Adult books, will meet to discuss *Aisle Nine* by Ian X. Cho. Copies of the book are available for check-out at the circulation desk. New members are welcome!

**Genealogy Basics**

*Tuesday, Sept. 9, 7 to 8:30 p.m.*  
Learn the basics of effective family research with Dave Robinson of Old Bones Genealogy of New England. Dave will introduce research strategies and best practices when exploring records and documents on [ancestry.com](http://ancestry.com),

familysearch.org, and others. There will be a Q&A session at the end of the program. This program is funded by the Friends of the Clapp Memorial Library.

**Cookbook Club**

*Friday, Sept. 12, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.*

Do you like browsing cookbooks and trying new recipes? In the Cookbook Club, we each make a recipe from a cookbook and bring it for everyone to try. Taste, enjoy, and chat with your new cookbook friends! This month's book is *The Ikaria Way* by Diane Kochilas. Please register by emailing [mmarszalek@cwmar.org](mailto:mmarszalek@cwmar.org) and choose a recipe by September 5. Registration & confirmation required. Program limited to 12 participants.

**Literary Monsters**

*Saturday, Sept. 13, 4 to 5 p.m.*

Part concert. Part puppet show. Part ghost story. All spectacle! Shadow, Sound, Spectacle will present a unique perspective on the works of Poe, Shelley, Irving, Dickinson and others through the use of original music, shadow puppetry, cinematography and special effects. While all ages are welcome, this program is recommended for adults and teens. Funded by the Friends of the Clapp Memorial Library.

**Ladies of the 70's with Laura Hicks**

*Monday, Sept. 15, 7 to 8 p.m.*

Professional singer, Laura Hicks, will lead you through a musical journey punctuated by educational information pertaining to 13 women who left their musical mark. She will then perform one song from each of the artists. Singing along is encouraged! This program is funded by a

grant from the Belchertown Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

**Plant Swap**

*Tuesday, Sept. 17, 6 to 7 p.m.*

Bring a plant (or not!) to the library and swap it for a new one. This program will take place on the library lawn. Sponsored by the Belchertown & Around Plant Swap.

**Seed Saving - the Why and How**

*Tuesday, Sept. 16, 7 to 8 p.m.*

No matter your level of gardening, saving seeds is easy. Some people save seeds to save money, while others selectively save seeds from favorite varieties to further a particular trait. Come learn some simple seed saving basics as well as resources to further your knowledge. Presented by Paulina Borrego, Wrangler of the Mass Aggie Seed Library at UMass Amherst.

**Craft with the Teen Advisory Board!**

*Friday, Sept. 19, 4 to 5 p.m.*

The library's Teen Advisory Board is offering a free craft in the Exhibit Hall on the Friday of the Belchertown Fair. All ages are welcome to stop by and do a craft paired with this year's Fair theme, "Shake, Cattle, & Roll," as supplies and materials last!

**The Clapp Memorial Library is open:**

Monday 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.\*  
Tuesday 9:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.  
Wednesday 9:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.  
Thursday 9:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.  
Friday 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
Saturday 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
\*The Library will be closed Monday, September 1st in observance of Labor Day.

**Freedom Credit Union collecting cash and food donations for the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts**

REGION- Food insecurity continues to affect families across western Massachusetts, with inflation driving up the cost of everyday essentials. That's why Freedom Credit Union is again rallying support for its campaign benefiting the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts. Through August 31, the community is invited to contribute to a stronger community by donating nonperishable food, personal care items or monetary gifts at any Freedom branch. "Thanks to the generosity of our members, staff

and entire community, this campaign has grown annually, and so has its impact," said Freedom Credit Union President Glenn Welch. "Last summer, we collected more than \$3,350 in donations, along with nearly 1,435 pounds of food and personal care items. This year, we're aiming even higher. By simply adding an extra item or two to your grocery cart each week, you can make a lasting difference without stretching your budget."

Suggested donations of non-perishable food and per-

sonal care items include:

Baby formula, beans in cans or dried in bags, bread mixes, canned chicken, fish and meat, cereals, coffee and tea, cooking oils and spices, diapers, wipes and toilet paper, dried or canned fruit, evaporated/powdered milk, granola bars and crackers, feminine sanitary products, instant potatoes, pasta and noodles, peanut butter and nuts, rice and grains, sauces, shampoo and body wash/soap, soups, stews and chili in cans, toothpaste and toothbrushes and vegetables in cans.

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Chuck is 6 months old and ready to be adopted, he has minor hip dysplasia but a positive attitude and a zest for life.

Suki ready for her new family.

# Arcpoint Brewing Co. holds dog-friendly event

By Abigail McCoy  
amccoy@turley.com

BELCHERTOWN — Arcpoint Brewing Co. once again turned its pet-friendly taproom and outdoor area into a lively hub for dogs and their humans with its Pints & Pups expo, drawing rescue groups, trainers, groomers, artists, and plenty of wagging tails. The event, held on Sunday August 23, showcased local dog-focused businesses and gave community members the chance to adopt, shop, and connect; all while enjoying craft beer.

Arcpoint co-owner CJ Eldridge explained that the idea for Pints & Pups came out of the brewery's commitment to being a welcoming place for all.

"We're a pet-friendly place," Eldridge said. "We've had dogs here, but also pigs, too. We want people to just be here and be free, and be where they are when they're here. This event is a way to encourage that, and also to provide adoption opportunities."

This year's series is being led by Arcpoint's events coordinator, Lexi Watts, who has a personal passion for rescue dogs. "I love rescue dogs... I have one myself," Watts said. "I wanted to host a big event that would not only give rescues exposure but also highlight local dog-related businesses."

Among the vendors and partners was Better Together Dog Rescue, a foster-based nonprofit that works to bring dogs from the South, particularly Texas and Tennessee, to new homes in New England.

"Most of our dogs come from difficult situations, and fostering gives them the best chance to acclimate to home life before finding their forever families," said Jenny Franz, founder of the



Greg Dawson's pet portraits, you can find him on Facebook at Paintings by Greg E. Dawson.

organization. Franz launched Better Together in 2021 from her home in Belchertown, later expanding into a headquarters in Leverett. "We're always looking for volunteers and fosters," she added. "The more foster families we have, the more dogs we can save." The group has 18 puppies scheduled to arrive in Massachusetts within the next two weeks.

Visitors also had the chance to meet Sue Snyder and Greg Long, co-owners of Barking Bubbles Dog Boarding & Grooming. The couple operates a boarding, grooming, and doggy day-care service and were eager to connect with pet owners in the community. Their booth featured stylish col-



Harmony Acres Personalized Dog Training had their own tent.

Please see **DOGS**, page 15



Barking Bubbles has their own doggy mascot, a 12-year-old young man who sat underneath their booth's table most of the day.



Scout the Pit Bull Terrier Black Mouth Cur, he is a "Professional derp. Amateur explorer. Full-time goober."



Suki the American Staffordshire Terrier mix, she's around 4-6 months old.



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## Girls soccer gets bronze at Bay State Games

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

FITCHBURG—Both the Central and West girls' soccer teams began the annual Bay State Summer games with losses last month from July 10 to 12.

A couple of hours later, the West squad celebrated a 6-1 victory over the Central team at the Game On Sports and Performance Center in Fitchburg.

"We didn't play very well in our first game this morning," said West head

coach Matt Mosher, who also coaches the St. Mary's (Westfield) girls' varsity soccer team. "Once we got into a rhythm, especially during the second half, we took it to them in this game. We were a lot more aggressive."

The members of the West team, who are from the Turley Publications coverage area, are Allison Fleury (South Hadley), Kiana Ramos (South Hadley), Hannah Haesaert (South Hadley), Kayleen

Please see **GIRLS**, page 12



Laura Parolo makes her way up the field.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI



Kallie Tevepugh clears the ball away for Central.



Alivia Marcello chases down the loose ball.



Rylee Joseph sends a pass away ahead of pressure.



Allison Fluery, of South Hadley, socks a shot away.



The Twins Jordan McCarthy fires away.



The Orioles claimed the 2025 Valley Wheel Over-28 Baseball League Championship on Sunday, Aug. 17, beating the Twins 8-7.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

### Orioles hold on for Valley Wheel title

WILBRAHAM – On Sunday, Aug. 17 at Spec Pond, the Orioles staved off a big comeback from the top-seeded Twins to win the Valley Wheel Over-28 Baseball League championship. The Twins would hold a

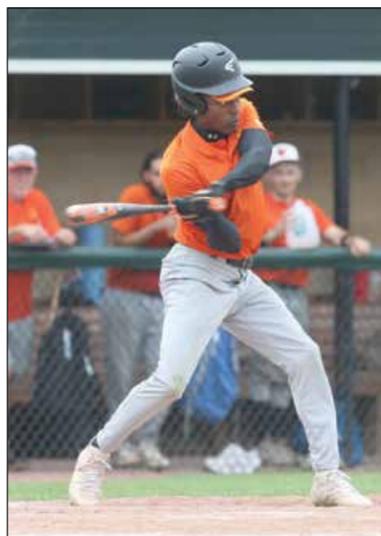
4-2 lead until the Orioles rallied and eventually held an 8-4 lead going into the bottom of the ninth inning. The Twins would score three times and get the tying run to second base before the Orioles were finally able to close it out for the title.



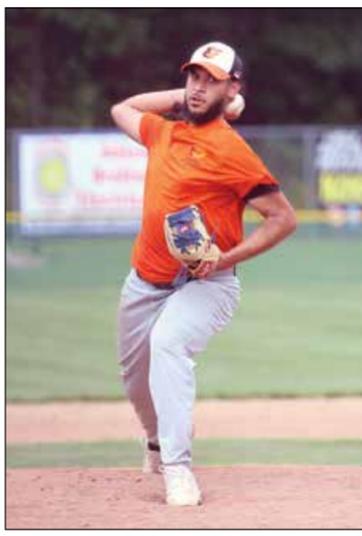
Jorge Figueroa fields a grounder to short.



Todd Bergstrom sends a throw to first.



Henry Henriquez takes a swing.



Mike Burgos delivers a pitch home for the Orioles.

## West dominates Bay State Games

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

FITCHBURG—The West boys' soccer team won the gold medal at the 2022 and 2023 Bay State Summer Games. After finishing in third place a year ago, the West squad didn't have very much trouble capturing the gold medal this year.

The boys' soccer showcase took place at the Game On Sports and Performance Center in Fitchburg last month July 10 to 12.

The West team began the tournament with a pair of victories.

After overcoming an early 1-0 deficit to defeat Metro, 5-1, in the morning match last Thursday, the West team dispatched the Central team, 6-0, in the afternoon affair.

"We're off to a very good

start in this tournament, but we haven't accomplished anything yet," said Hugo Destapdo, who coached the West boys' soccer team at the Bay State Summer Games for the first time. "We do have a solid group of players, but we're going to be facing some very good competition during the next couple of days."

During the fall, Destapdo is the boys' varsity coach at Chicopee High School. He replaced Marc Atkins as the West coach at the Bay State games.

The members of the 2025 West boys' soccer team, who are from the Turley Publications coverage area, are John Carra (Agawam), Timothy Haley (Belchertown), Yousif Hamid (Chicopee), Spencer Parsons (South

Please see **BOYS**, page 11



Enrique Galfour heads up the field.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

SPORTS



Shortstop Aiden Breen makes a play.



Bob Eccelston fields a grounder to second.



The Dodgers' Josh Turner attempts to make a backhand.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY  
WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

# Quabbin Valley playoffs get underway



The Pirates' Sam Crotto delivers to the plate.



Steven Bilodeau slings a throw to first.

**SOUTH HADLEY** – Last Sunday, the Quabbin Valley Baseball League playoffs got underway with a pair of quarterfinal games. In one matchup, the Tigers defeated the Braves 12-8 thanks to some great pitching late in the game by the Tigers' Brad Bullough. The Dodgers walked off on the Pirates in the other matchup 17-16 when a hit by Andrew Tuck plated the winning run. The Cardinals defeated the Dodgers 9-7 and the Orioles defeated the Tigers 17-7 in the semifinals held on Aug. 24, setting up a Cardinals-Orioles championship game on Sunday, Sept. 7 at 10 a.m. Booster Field in Easthampton.



Pitcher Mike Afflitto sends a pitch home.



Griffen Wisley, of Chicopee, heads for the goal with possession of the ball.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI



Brandon Barker is pressured near the opposing goal.

**BOYS** from page 10

Hadley), Tyler Supczak (Wilbraham), Evan Tyrrell (Chicopee), Griffen Wisley (Chicopee), Chase Henderson (Wilbraham), Tiago Destapdo (Chicopee), and Braeden Fitzgerald (Agawam/Pope Francis).

"Several college coaches will be attending these games, so this is a very good showcase for the players," Destapdo said. "There are a lot of talented soccer players in Western Mass."

The worst part of being a coach of an All-Star team is having to make cuts at try-outs.

"We had 35 players tryout, and we have 20 players on our team," Destapdo said. "Having to make cuts is very difficult. I wish we could've taken all 35 players."

The duo Henderson and Max Graham (Southwick/Pope Francis) combined to post the shutout against Central.

"They're different types of goalies," Destapdo said. "Chase is just tremendous with his feet. If he wasn't a goalie, he would be a very good field player. Max is a physical goalie."

Henderson, who's a rising senior, played the first half against the Central team.

Graham, who's a raising sophomore, played the sec-



A Central midfielder is pressured as he stops the ball.



Caleb Iborra sends a pass away for Central Mass.

ond half.

The West goalies received plenty of support from a locked down defensive unit led by Fitzgerald, Supczak, Hamid, and Casey Bestler (Frontier Reg.).

The West scored four goals during the first half against Central.

Glodie Manyegezi (Springfield Central) scored two of the goals. The other two first half goals were netted by Brandon Barker (West Springfield), and Will Sean McNally (Northampton).

The two second half goals were scored by Cajun Benson (Smith Academy).

Sean-McNally was credited with both assists.

The following day, the West team won two more matches against Northeast, 2-0, and Southeast, 5-0.

The West team then captured the Gold medal by squeaking out a 2-1 win against Coastal last Saturday morning.

In their five Bay State matches, the West team outscored their opponents, 20-2.



Nicholas Jennings attempts to settle the ball.



Tiago Despatado, of Chicopee, goes after the loose ball.



Evan Tyrrell looks up the field as he makes a pass.



Fikayomi Ankitan starts up the field after making a play on defense.

SPORTS

# Meservey, Riendeau, Farnum win at Monadnock

WINCHESTER, N.H. - Third-generation open-wheel ace Brett Meservey dominated Saturday night's 75-lap MRS Modified main event at Monadnock Speedway, as the Bay State blaster - last summer's series' Rookie of The Year - led 63 of the last 64 laps en route to his first career MRS win.

With Saturday's breakthrough victory, Meservey stayed atop the series' airtight 2025 championship points race - he came into the night's event only four markers ahead of Brian Robie, third in Saturday's 75-lapper - and, with the win, secured a guaranteed starting berth in Thompson Speedway's Race of Champions biggie set for later this season at the Nutmeg State oval.

Other winners at the Aug. 16 event on the high banks of Monadnock Speedway included Chris Riendeau, the quarter-mile speed-plant's reigning Super Street champion, who put his sluggish 2025 campaign back in high gear by soaring to his first win of the summer, and four-holer star Gordon Farnum, victorious for the

second time this month.

Aaron Thompson rebounded from a mid-race drubbing to top the Pro V8 Sportsmen.

Young Gun dominator Hunter Duquette earned his sixth victory lap of the summer, and Hayden Kingsley won the visiting 603 Mini Cup series Saturday night feature.

Ryan Doucette and Joey Jarvis led the thundering Modified Racing Series field to the green Saturday, with Doucette immediately taking charge. Previous series winner Matt Kimball, from row two, was close behind and rocketed up to second on lap five.

Meservey, who'd started alongside Kimball, blasted to the deuce spot four laps later, but Kimball wasn't done. Meservey took command on lap 11, with Kimball blasting back to second six circuits later. And the chase was on.

While the 24-year-old Meservey would be strongly tested most of the way, he never wavered en route to his first MRS feature win. Kimball inched ahead on a lap-18 restart but Meservey was soon back at the point

and, once in clean air, was unbeatable on this Saturday night.

Brian Robie, the points leader in Monadnock's weekly 604 Modified division, was up to third on lap 28 aboard a new tour car completed only earlier in the day but could advance no further as he settled for Saturday's bronze medal finish behind Meservey and Kimball. Joey Jarvis, strong all night, finished fourth at his 2025 home track, and Brad Zahensky was fifth.

Michael Lashua, stronger and better every week, led the first five go-rounds of Saturday's 30-lap Twin State Truck Services Super Street main event. Chris Riendeau, though, firing from row three, took charge on lap six and quickly opened a huge lead.

While Riendeau, fully shaking off his summer-long slumber, raced all alone, points leader Dylan Zullo, from way back in row five, passed Zach Zilinski for second but ran out of laps pursuing the blazing Riendeau.

With Zullo padding his 2025 championship points lead in second, Zilinski impressed in third, just

ahead of Hillary Renaud. JD Stockwell, second in points entering Saturday's event, finished the night as an infield spectator, credited with a disappointing 11th.

There were two levels of competition in Saturday's Brattleboro Towing and Recovery Pure Stock feature. There was Gordon Farnum, and then far behind him, everyone else, with some terrific battles for position waged from green to checkers in the one-caution 25-lapper.

Farnum, from row two, took charge on lap three and rocketed off into another time zone to win for the second time this season. Behind him, early leader Addison Brooks, bidding for her first win, held a perfect line until being bumpered aside on the final lap.

Andrea St. Amour finished second, with Brooks inches behind in third. Jimmy Zellman, the winner a week earlier, was fourth, and points leader Kyle Kenny completed the top five.

Mike Bollinger took the lead on lap four of the Pro V8 Sportsman feature, with Aaron Thompson soon glued

to his bumper. Thompson, though, was ushered to the outside lane on lap 14, his hope for victory then suddenly in doubt.

Thompson low-lined back to the front on lap 17, taking the lead from Seth Lamotte and sailing off into the sunset to score a popular victory at his former weekly track. Lamotte held strong for second, and Wollinger finished third.

Racers in the speedway's youth division Young Guns don't compete for points but if they did, Hunter Duquette would be well on his way to the 2025 title town, The Thorndike, Mass. teen led all the way Saturday to score his track-high sixth win of the summer. Maya Bell, victorious a week earlier, was second, and Sofia Rego, shaking down a new ride, came home third.

In the visiting 603 Mini Cups, a division equally powered by motors from Harbor Freight, Hayden Kingsley won by six lengths over Jacob Raby, who rebounded from a mid-race thumping to come home second. Kendall Whitehill was third on the night.

# VolleyHall announces 2025 induction celebration

HOLYOKE - The excitement is building in Holyoke as we prepare to welcome the volleyball world for the International Volleyball Hall of Fame's 2025 Induction Celebration, taking place Saturday, Oct. 18. This year's milestone event promises to be a weekend to remember, filled with inspiring speeches, historic moments, and the shared pride of honoring the sport's greatest contributors.

The Class of 2025 brings together nine exceptional individuals whose achievements have left an indelible mark on volleyball across the globe. They include Kent Steffes of the USA, a dominant force in men's beach volleyball; Laura Ludwig of Germany, one of the most decorated women's

Please see **VOLLEY**, page 17

GIRLS from page 10

Sullivan (Agawam), Lylia Ellis (Monson), Kyra Lippmann (Holyoke), Mia Oyler (Agawam), Riley Platt (South Hadley/Williston Northampton School), Kylie Warner (Agawam), Gabriella Ramos (Agawam), Alexis Canoa (Belchertown) and Laura Parolo (Agawam).

Mosher has been coaching at the Bay State Summer Games for the past five years. His teams have won two Silver Medals and two Bronze Medals.

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

"It took Laura and I a game to find out which players play well together. We moved some players around to different positions," Mosher said. "A lot of the players have played on the same club teams. It's been a lot of fun coaching at the Bay State Summer Games."

Both starting goalies in last Thursday afternoon's match attend Agawam High School. Sullivan was the starting

goalie for the West team, while Talia Oliveira was the starting goalie for the Central squad, which took home the Gold medal last year.

Because there weren't enough girls' soccer players from Central Mass. to fill the Central team roster, more than half of the players listed on their roster are from Western Massachusetts.

"About five years ago, we noticed that the Central team didn't have enough players," said Central head coach Eric Wood, who also coaches the girls' soccer team at the MacDuffie School in Granby. "We now fill out the Central roster with the players who don't make the West team. We have 15 players from Western Mass. on this year's team. It's been a great situation."

The other members of the Central team, who are from the Turley Publications coverage area, were Rylee Joesph (Holyoke/Hampshire Reg.), Eleanor Szlosek (Granby), Taylor Bartosz (Wilbraham/Minnechaug Reg.) Filomena Stellato (Agawam), Brenna Moreno (Granby), Grace Sherman



TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI  
Hannah Haesaert, of South Hadley, plays the ball off her chest.



Grace Sherman, of Holyoke, passes the ball up the field.

(Holyoke. South Hadley H.S.) and Kali White (Granby).

Even though the Central team went 0-4, it was still an enjoyable experience for the players.

"I just want my players to have a lot of fun here," Wood said. "I also keep in touch with the players throughout the year."

The Central squad took an early 1-0 lead following an unassisted goal by White.

A couple of minutes later, White had another shot attempt that clanged off the post.

The West team tied the score at 1-1 with less than two minutes remaining in the opening half.

Willow Claps

(Northampton) blasted a shot that deflected off the goalie's hands into the left corner of the net.

At the start of the second half, Warner put a shot into the upper left corner giving the West squad a 2-1 advantage. She also scored the final goal of the match.

The other three second half goals scored by the West team during the second

half were by Kate Moccio (Longmeadow), Addison Perich (Westfield), and Haesaert.

Central would end up going 0-4 during the Bay State Games while the West prevailed in the Bronze Medal Game on July 12, defeating Southeast 3-0. Coastal won the Gold for girls' soccer.

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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. 8 through Aug. 21. The information was provided by a member of the police department based on the review of the detailed log summary. This feature is designed to provide context and explanation to some of the calls police respond to every day.*

**ARRESTS/SUMMONS**

**Friday, Aug. 8**

6:44 a.m. – A 37-year-old Enfield CT man was issued a summons on charges with negligent operation of a motor vehicle, operating under the influence of drugs and a later charge of leaving the scene of property damage/accident. An officer responded to Orchard Street for a report of an overdose. The person drove into a driveway and crashed into an embankment after going forward again. They were transported to the hospital to be evaluated. The K-9 officer responded to the scene as well. An inventory of the vehicle was conducted, and drug paraphernalia was found. The vehicle was towed, and a summons was issued.

**Sunday, Aug. 10**

10:38 a.m. – Robert E. Wojtczak, 53, of 67 Pondview Circle Belchertown was arrested on charges of operating a motor vehicle after a suspension. An officer on routine patrol saw a vehicle and the person operating it. The officer knew they had a suspended license and stopped the vehicle. The person's identity and license status were confirmed. They were charged accordingly.

**Friday, Aug. 15**

4:21 p.m. – A 43-year-old Springfield male was issued a summons on charges of intimidating a witness. An officer spoke with a proba-

tion officer requesting documenting an incident on the body worn camera. They were helping a person who threatened and intimidated them.

**Sunday, Aug. 17**

1:07 a.m. – A 19-year-old Haydenville female was issued a summons on charges of uninsured motor vehicle, unregistered motor vehicle, speeding. An officer conducting stationary radar on Franklin Street, with speed limit of 45, saw a vehicle speeding at 62 mph. The officer stopped the vehicle. The officer advised the registration was revoked for insurance. They were towed from the scene. The person got a ride to the station to await a ride.

**Thursday, Aug. 21**

9:10 a.m. – A person arrested on charges of assault and battery on a family member, assault with a dangerous weapon, reckless endangerment of child and arson of a dwelling/house.

**ACCIDENTS/INCIDENTS**

**Friday, Aug. 8**

5:05 a.m. – An officer responded to a report of a vehicle stopped in the middle of the road on Federal Street with possible front-end damage. The officer was able to locate the vehicle, and the driver was slumped over the wheel. Belchertown Fire and paramedics were called. The person said they were working from a delivery company and took a nap. The damage was old and not recent. He was checked out and everything was okay.

2:15 p.m. – An officer was flagged down on north main street for a report of a person exposing themselves in a local business. It was reported they were leaving in a dark SUV. They were stopped and identified. The person denied the accusation and appeared to be intoxicated. Security camera footage was collected and reviewed and there were no charges filed.

3:53 p.m. – They got a late fee notice from their bank.



The person reported there was a check they dropped off in the mail recently and there was suspicious activity following reports a person had gone through the mailbox. The credit card company requested a police report.

5:29 p.m. – An officer responded to an accident on Main Street. Three vehicles traveling north on Main Street when the first vehicle stopped. The second vehicle struck the first vehicle in the rear, and a third vehicle struck the second in the rear. Two vehicles were towed from the scene, and no injuries were reported.

**Saturday, Aug. 9**

2:23 a.m. – An officer responded to an accident on Bardwell Street. A vehicle traveling west on Bardwell Street when it crossed over the central line and struck a mailbox then a utility pole on the other side of the road. The utility pole was completely sheered. The vehicle had front end damage. No injuries were reported, and the vehicle was not towed.

4:36 p.m. – An officer responded to assist Belchertown Fire and paramedics.

9:20 p.m. – An officer responded to an accident on South Washington Street. A motorcycle traveling north on South Washington Street went off the roadway. The operator said their phone went off and they got distracted. The motorcycle went through a front yard and came to a stop in a person's yard on South Washington Street. The operator was transported, and the motorcycle was towed.

**Sunday, Aug. 10**

9:18 a.m. – An officer responded to an accident. A vehicle parked off the road to the right of the fog line was struck by a passing vehicle on the left side. The vehicle struck the mirror of the parked vehicle. No tows were needed, and no injuries were reported.

11:22 a.m. – An officer took a report of a person

yelling. They could hear the person when they responded on scene. They were arguing with someone on the phone.

12:55 p.m. – An officer and Belchertown Fire and paramedics responded to a report of smoke in an apartment on Everett Avenue. A plastic cutting board was placed into an oven. There were concerns about the resident who were residing there. They were transported for an evaluation, and a report was filed with Elder Services.

**Monday, Aug. 11**

3:27 p.m. – An officer took a report of fraud. There was notification of numerous attempts to withdrawal false checks and cash from a resident's account. The bank put safety measures in place. They were advised to monitor their accounts.

4:04 p.m. – An officer took a report of property damage. A person reported they were at work when their vehicle was keyed in the parking lot and noticed the damage upon going out in the morning. No suspects at this time.

9:28 p.m. – An officer to a residence to help Holyoke Police with a shoplifting investigation. They wanted to see if a vehicle was at a residence in town. There was a vehicle with plates in the yard that came to a person who wasn't at the residence. It was a discrepancy in the plate which came back to the make year and model of the car but was swapped while the people were shopping in Holyoke. They were told to cancel the plates and replace with new ones. They were advised the Belchertown residents were not involved in the shoplifting, and Holyoke Police were going to get footage of the other vehicle.

**Tuesday, Aug. 12**

4:44 p.m. – An officer responded to Federal Street for a report of a front bumper that was found which was believed to be part of a past accident. The officer ran the plate which came back to a previous accident. The person involved later charged in

leaving the scene of property damage accident.

5:14 p.m. – An officer responded to Allen Road and Daniel Shays Highway for a report of an accident. A vehicle traveling east on Allen Road stopped at the intersection of Route 202 where it struck a second vehicle. The operator of the first vehicle said they had their directional on but wasn't sure if the second vehicle had its blinker on. The second vehicle had stopped to turn left when the accident occurred. No tows were needed, and no injuries were reported.

**Wednesday, Aug. 13**

3:17 p.m. – An officer responded to assist Belchertown fire and paramedics.

7:55 p.m. – An officer responded to a report of vandalism on a person, reported another vehicle drove by them and threw a rock at the vehicle causing the windshield to crack. There was front and rear dash footage. There was a dark Jeep Cherokee passing when the driver appeared to throw something. They tried to get a plate but wasn't able to. The vehicle wasn't located.

**Thursday, Aug. 14**

12:15 p.m. – An officer took a report of fraud. A resident reported an issue with an online company. They never got a package was ordered and not filled. The money was taken and it appeared the company is fraudulent the credit card company already. The matter was document.

5:16 p.m. – An officer responded to Brandywine Drive for a report of a stolen package. A resident ordered it and the delivery company said they never got the package and needed document for the retailer and the delivery company.

**Friday, Aug. 15**

1:50 a.m. – An officer spoke with a resident in a parking lot that was having marital issues.

4:12 p.m. – An officer responded to an accident on State Street. A vehicle struck a parked vehicle in a parking space. As the first vehicle attempted to pull into a spot, the operator of the parked vehicle opened their door, which was struck by the second vehicle. No injuries were reported, and no tows were needed.

**Saturday, Aug. 16**

3:44 a.m. – An officer responded to assist Belchertown fire and paramedics for a mental health crisis.

1:29 p.m. – An officer took a report of a person getting online messages, texts and phone calls from a person. The person blocked the involved person and advised the person of their rights.

**Sunday, Aug. 17**

12:55 p.m. – An officer took a report of fraud. The resident said several checks were set against their bank account for payment. They still had the checks, so it was unknown for they were submitted to the bank. Their account was frozen, and the matter was documented.

3:01 p.m. – An officer responded to a Depot Street business for a report of an accident in the parking lot. The operator struck a parked vehicle and was possibly impaired. The person was identified and evaluated by Belchertown fire and paramedics. They were transported and the vehicle was towed.

**Monday, Aug. 18**

8:47 a.m. – An officer responded to an accident on Main Street. A vehicle struck a deer while traveling north on Main Street. The deer then struck a motor vehicle. No injuries were reported, and no tows were needed.

12:34 p.m. – An officer took a report of a fraudulent check.

4:32 p.m. – An officer took a report of a fraudulent text. There was an archived message on a resident's phone they believed was an attempted hack on their phone.

**Tuesday, Aug. 19**

11:59 a.m. – An officer responded to a Turkey Hill Road business for a report of a vehicle broken into in the parking lot. The person said they exited, went into the business and returned to the vehicle to discover their dash cam was taken. There were no witnesses. There are no suspects at this time.

**Wednesday, Aug. 20**

1:16 p.m. – An officer responded to an accident on State Street. A vehicle stopped at a traffic light at State and Front Street when it was struck by a second vehicle pulled a trailer. The second vehicle was traveling south on State Street when a third vehicle approached the intersection, causing the second to strike the first. The second vehicle was towed from the scene and no injuries were reported.

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**Barking Bubbles:** One of the owners, Sue Snyder, the groomer Michelle Decker.

**DOGS** from page 10

lars and leashes from Lucy Fur Designs, a local 15 year-old named Chloe they work with, giving attendees both functional and fashionable options for their pets.

For those looking for a personal keepsake, local artist Greg Dawson offered a glimpse into his pet portrait work. Dawson, a semi-retired pastor and former art major, rediscovered his passion for painting about a decade ago. Since then, he has become known in the area for his hand-painted animal portraits. "It started as something I picked back up later in life," Dawson said. "Now, it's become a way for me to create something meaningful for people who love their pets."

In addition, Harmony Acres Personalized Dog Training joined the lineup, offering tips, resources, and demonstrations for training and care. Watts noted that these local partners bring variety and expertise that make the event special. "Everyone here has a different piece of the puzzle: training, grooming, boarding, adoption, or art," she said. "Together, it really shows how strong the local pet community is."

For the brewery, Pints & Pups is about more than business; it's about fostering connections. Eldridge said the brewery intends to host at least one or two more dog expos before winter. "We want to keep it going," he said. "It's fun for the community, and it's a way to support rescues and small businesses that share our values."

With the sound of laughter, clinking glasses, and the occasional bark echoing through the field, it was



**Sue Kimball and her 8-month-old lab-mix, Lacy, Lacy was even adopted back in June from Better Together Dog Rescue.**



**Suki and Daisy Mae play fight.**

clear the event succeeded in its mission. For Watts, who first met portrait artist Greg Dawson at a dog park and adopted her own rescue pup not long after, the day was

especially rewarding. "These dogs deserve a chance, and these businesses deserve the spotlight," Watts said. "Pints & Pups bring it all together."



**Patrons gather underneath a tent to enjoy their brews and mingle among other dog lovers.**

## Belchertown to host first-ever Lake Wallace Fall Fest on October 4

**BELCHERTOWN** – Belchertown will host its first-ever Lake Wallace Fall Fest on Saturday, October 4, 2025, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. This community celebration will feature three inclusive trail events: a 5K, a 1K, and an All Abilities Roll & Stroll designed to welcome participants of all ages, abilities, and mobility levels.

Beyond the races, attendees can enjoy celebrating the new enhancements to the Lake Wallace Sensory Trail, including expanded trailheads, a new Pocket Park, and original sculptures and benches created by local artists. The day will also feature live music, food trucks, and local vendors.

The Lake Wallace Fall Fest is also an opportunity for the public to contribute to the Lake Wallace gift account, which supports

trail maintenance, repairs, educational programming, and future expansions. Current funding priorities include:

- Installation of an informational kiosk with inclusive educational materials
  - Wayfinding & signage aligned with Belchertown's branding plan
  - Repairs to existing observation decks
  - Trail cameras for security, maintenance, and live nature viewing opportunities
- Local businesses and individuals are invited to become sponsors or community partners to help ensure a memorable, inclusive experience for all participants. Sponsorship levels range from Champion Donor (\$500+) with premium recognition, to general event sponsorship tiers starting at \$49.

For sponsorship details, contact recreation@belchertown.org.

Donations can be made by mailing a check to: Town of Belchertown, Belchertown Recreation Department, 66 State Street, Building #1, Belchertown, MA 01007

### About the Lake Wallace Sensory Trail

The Lake Wallace Sensory Trail is a fully accessible, inclusive nature trail in the heart of Belchertown, designed to welcome visitors of all ages and abilities. Featuring tactile guide cables, Braille signage, and open viewing areas, it provides both passive and active recreation opportunities while connecting the community to the natural beauty of Lake Wallace.

## Relay for Life's Luminaria ceremony coming Sept. 27

**BELCHERTOWN** – Our Quabog Valley Relay for Life Luminaria Ceremony is September 27 on the Belchertown Common and Belchertown United Church of Christ, starting at 6:30 p.m. in the church, then going outside to the common for the actual walk. In case of bad weather, the walk will be in the church.

We are hoping to have lots of Luminarias lined up to light our way as we walk. You can donate \$5 for each Luminaria

you wish. They can be in honor or memory of a loved one. If you wish to donate for any please go to the following link: <http://main.acsevents.org/goto/eleonoragray>.

Or mail a check to P.O.Box 924, Belchertown 01007-0924.

Please remember the Cancer Survivors and the ones that have lost their battle with Cancer by donating to Luminarias.

All are invited to attend this very moving ceremony.

## Firefighter's Association to host golf tourney

The Belchertown Firefighters' Association is having their 3rd annual golf tournament at Cold Spring Country Club, 330 Chauncey Walker Street, Belchertown on Friday, October 3rd. Registration is at 9 a.m., with a shotgun start at 10 a.m. For more information, visit the Belchertown Firefighters' Association Facebook page, send an email to [Belchertownfireassociation@gmail.com](mailto:Belchertownfireassociation@gmail.com), or call Tanner Clark (413) 315-0003 or Kevin Vickers (413) 575-1072.

## Livy's VIP Dance Oct. 5

**LUDLOW** – Livy's VIP Dance, in support of a fundraiser for Rett Syndrome, will take place on Sunday, Oct. 5, from 2 to 5 p.m. at the Gremio Lusitano Club.

The special dance is in memory of Livy, who succumbed to Rett Syndrome at the age of five.

Sparkle, shine and support. Music and memories with VIP Princess guests.

To learn more, contact Maggie Wurm at [maggie@rsangels.org](mailto:maggie@rsangels.org) or Shanon at [shanon.m.hardy@gmail.com](mailto:shanon.m.hardy@gmail.com).

To learn more about Rett Syndrome, visit [rsangels.org](http://rsangels.org).

For the event page, visit [rsangels.org/event/livys-v-i-p-dance/](http://rsangels.org/event/livys-v-i-p-dance/).

## Fall book sale coming to Granby Free Public Library

Find new-to-you books, magazines, and more from Sept. 2 thru 30

September 2 through 30. The Library is now accepting donations of hardcover and paperback books, DVDs, music CDs, playable video games, and audiobooks in good condition acceptable for resale. The Library does not accept donations of: Textbooks, encyclopedias, Reader's Digest books, or books with smoke, mold, mildew, or water damage. Donations are accepted at the Library during open hours. Please do not leave donated books outside the library or in our book return. Donations accepted until August 28. Thank you for your support!

The Granby Free Public Library is located at 297 E State St, Granby, MA 01033. Visit [granbylibrary.org](http://granbylibrary.org) for hours and more information.



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The Wilbraham Housing Authority seeks highly qualified applicants for the position of **Executive Director**. Responsibilities include the administration of 69 Chapter 667 Elderly housing units and 9 Chapter 705 Family housing units. The Executive Director reports to a five-member Board of Commissioners. Work schedule shall be a minimum of 22 hours per week during normal business hours, flexible as needed. The estimated salary range \$46,177.00 To \$54,326.00 is based on the Executive Office of Housing & Livable Communities' Executive Director Salary Schedule. The ideal candidate must have two years' experience in a housing, community development, public administration or a closely related field. Knowledge of the principles and practices of housing management, finances and maintenance systems in public or private housing. Excellent written and verbal communication skills required. Willingness to work with people of various socio-economic backgrounds. Must be bondable. Certification as a Public Housing Manager from an approved organization desired, and may be substituted as a property manager or similar classification by a nationally recognized housing or real estate organization such as an EOHLC-approved Massachusetts Public Housing Administrator Certification Program or HUD. Two-year full time post-secondary education in a related field may substitute for up to one year of experience. Applications will be accepted until 12pm, August 29, 2025. Please submit cover letter, resume and contact information for 3 references to: Mr. Peter Manolakis, Chairman Executive Director Search Committee, Wilbraham Housing Authority, 88 Stony Hill Road, Wilbraham, MA 01095. Contact: Peter Manolakis (413) 519-8195  
*Wilbraham Housing Authority is an Equal Opportunity Employer*

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Please submit resume to:  
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Deadline for resumes 12 PM, September 19, 2025. Equal Opportunity Employer

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**SQUIER & CO.** is looking to hire an oil truck driver \$35-\$40/hr. full time or part-time. Squier will provide help with endorsements and CDL training for the right candidate! **Email: squieroil@verizon.net. Call 413-267-3184** or visit us at 5 Squier Ave., Monson, MA. Monday-Friday.

**Town of Blandford**  
Town of Blandford is hiring a **PART-TIME ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT**

to the Assessors. Duties include administrative support for daily operations of the Assessors' office. Pay: \$18-\$20/hr, based on experience. Communication, customer service, organizational, and tech skills required. Send cover letter and resume to: [dhopson@townofblandford.com](mailto:dhopson@townofblandford.com).

**Town of Blandford** is seeking a fulltime **ASSISTANT TREASURER/COLLECTOR.**  
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**PUBLIC NOTICES**

**Belchertown Conservation Commission LEGAL NOTICE**  
 Pursuant to the authority of the Wetlands Protection Act (M.G.L. Ch. 131, Sec. 40, its Regulations (310 CMR 10.00) and the Belchertown Wetlands Protection Bylaw (Chapter 139), the Belchertown Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on **Monday, September 8, 2025 at 7:00 PM in the Lawrence Memorial Hall Auditorium, located at 2 Jabish Street in Belchertown, MA 01007** to review a **Notice of Intent** permit application submitted by M & G Land Development c/o J & P Engineering Services for the **proposed work to construct a single family home and associated facilities at Lot 6 Jensen Street (Assessor's Map 249-27) in Belchertown.** Work is proposed to occur within the 100-foot Buffer Zone to Bordering Vegetated Wetlands. Anyone interested in this matter should appear at the time and place designated.  
 08/28/2025

**Belchertown Conservation Commission LEGAL NOTICE**  
 Pursuant to the authority of the Wetlands Protection Act (M.G.L. Ch. 131, Sec. 40, its Regulations (310 CMR 10.00) and the Belchertown Wetlands Protection Bylaw (Chapter 139), the Belchertown Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on **Monday, September 8, 2025 at 7:00 PM in the Lawrence Memorial Hall Auditorium, located at 2 Jabish Street in Belchertown, MA 01007** to review a **Notice of Intent** permit application submitted by M & G Land Development c/o J & P Engineering Services for the **proposed work to construct a single family home and associated facilities at Lot 7 Jensen Street (Assessor's Map 249-27) in Belchertown.** Work is proposed to occur within the 100-foot Buffer Zone to Bordering Vegetated Wetlands. Anyone interested in this matter should appear at the time and place designated.  
 08/28/2025

**Belchertown Conservation Commission LEGAL NOTICE**  
 Pursuant to the authority of the Wetlands Protection Act (M.G.L. Ch. 131, Sec. 40, its Regulations (310 CMR 10.00) and the Belchertown Wetlands Protection Bylaw (Chapter 139), the Belchertown Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on **Monday, September 8, 2025 at 7:00 PM in the Lawrence Memorial Hall Auditorium, located at 2 Jabish Street in Belchertown, MA 01007** to review a **Request for Determination of Applicability** permit application submitted by Frank and Lisa Byrne for the **proposed work to remove a hazardous tree at 51 Lake Drive (Assessor's Map 102-96) in Belchertown.** Work is proposed to occur within the 100-foot Buffer Zone to wetland resource areas. Anyone interested in this matter should appear at the time and place designated.  
 08/28/2025

**Belchertown Conservation Commission LEGAL NOTICE**  
 Pursuant to the authority of the Wetlands Protection Act (M.G.L. Ch. 131, Sec. 40, its Regulations (310 CMR 10.00) and the Belchertown Wetlands Protection Bylaw (Chapter 139), the Belchertown Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on **Monday, September 8, 2025 at 7:00 PM in the Lawrence Memorial Hall Auditorium, located at 2 Jabish Street in Belchertown, MA 01007** to review a **Request for Determination of Applicability** permit application submitted by Paul Goulas for the **proposed work to construct a duplex and associated facilities at Lot 117 Amherst Road (Assessor's Map 216-117) in Belchertown.** Work is proposed to occur near the Riverfront Area to Scarborough Brook. Anyone interested in this matter should appear at the time and place designated.  
 08/28/2025

**Notice of Public Sale**  
 Notice is hereby given that LocalStorage Granby will sell the contents of the storage units listed below at a public auction to satisfy a lien placed on the contents (pursuant to the Massachusetts Lien Law, General Laws Part I, Administration of the Government, Title XV Regulation of Trade Chapter 105A, Self-Service Storage Facility. The sale will take place at the website <http://www.StorageTreasures.com>. The sale will be conducted on <http://www.StorageTreasures.com>, under the guidance of Christopher Rosa (AU005857) on behalf of the facility's management. Units will be available for viewing prior to the sale on <http://www.StorageTreasures.com>. All sales are final. Seller reserves the right to withdraw the property at any time before the sale or to refuse any bids. The property to be sold is described as general household items unless otherwise noted.  
**LocalStorage Granby, 138 W State St, Granby, MA 01033**, will list storage units on the website <http://www.StorageTreasures.com> until sold or disposed of on **September 11, 2025, 10:00 AM.**  
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 #124 Del Rio, Cesar: Nissan Maxima body, drive train, tires, car parts  
 #164 Sutherland, Admiral: dirt bike, speakers, bags, tools  
 #182 Sourdiffe, Brian: mini bike, tools, clothing  
 #730 Carter, Wayne: mattress, baby toys, fishing poles, furniture  
 08/28, 09/04/2025

**OBITUARY**

**Richard John Coville**

8/6/75-8/10/25

**BELCHERTOWN** — Richard "Rick" Coville of Belchertown passed away peacefully with his loving family by his side on August 10, 2025. Rick was the youngest of three and grew up in Palmer, with his two sisters. As a youth, he played football for the Palmer Cowboys. He graduated from Palmer High School in 1993, where he played football and hockey and then went on to work as an apprentice plumber. Rick continued to excel at his craft as a plumber and was also skilled in all HVAC capacities. Rick was very hardworking and always willing to take on any job with great knowledge and dedication. He loved working for his current employer, DF Plumbing and Mechanical Contractors in Belchertown, MA, where he has many friends. His strong work ethic and unwaver-



ing humor will be greatly missed by his team.

Rick was predeceased by his grandparents, Mary and Richard Coville, Sr.; Elaine and Donald Brunelle; his father, Richard Coville, Jr.; and stepfather, Robert Hafner. Rick is survived by his two children, Alexis Eve Coville and Ayden Joseph Coville; his mother, Melodie Hafner of Belchertown; his sisters and brothers-in-law, Jennifer and Kevin Lynch of Wilbraham; Kimberly and Kyle Cote of Warren; his stepbrother, Gregory Hafner of Las Vegas, NV; his nephew, Matthew Dreisch; his nieces, Mackenzie Fagan and Molly Lynch; and many aunts, uncles and cousins, locally and in California.

Rick is loved by many for his humor, his quick-witted nature, and his personable demeanor. He made every occasion more fun. Rick was also very generous with a heart of gold and would help anyone in need.

Rick was a devoted Red Sox baseball fan his whole life. He also loved football and was a fan of the Green Bay Packers. His favorite pastime was playing golf. He always loved spending his leisure time on the golf course. He was an amateur chef at home with a natural talent for cooking. For many summers, Rick and his sisters took their children on an annual beach trip, and he would be up early each morning to cook breakfast for everyone. He loved his family and took pride in caring for his children.

Rick will always be remembered for making people laugh and for making life so much more enjoyable. He is loved for so many reasons and is greatly missed by his family with profound sadness. The family is keeping final plans private.

There will be a "Celebration of Life" event to honor Rick's memory in October. Further information to follow.

**DEATH NOTICE**

**Richard John Coville**  
 Died August 10, 2025

*The Sentinel*  
**OBITUARY POLICY**

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$275, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph.

**Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: [obits@turley.com](mailto:obits@turley.com).

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

**VOLLEY** from page 13

beach players in history; Dimitar Karov of Bulgaria, a trailblazing men's indoor player; Ivan Miljkovi of Serbia, a powerful and prolific scorer on the men's indoor stage; Rosa Garcia Rivas of Peru, a legendary women's indoor player; Francesca Piccinini of Italy,

a beloved women's indoor star; Jürgen Wagner of Germany, an Olympic medal-winning beach volleyball coach; Barry Couzner of Australia, a transformative leader in ParaVolley; and Guillermo "Willy" Paredes of Argentina, a respected international referee.

In addition to this extraordinary class of inductees,

five special award winners will also be recognized for their outstanding contributions to the sport. Joop Alberda will receive the Mintonette Medallion of Merit Award, Peter Diamond will be presented with the Mayoral Award for Excellence, Paul Sunderland will be honored with the Award

for Media Excellence, the Court of Honor Award will go to PAVO – Professional Association of Volleyball Officials, and Elegant Affairs will be recognized with the William G. Morgan Award.

**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**

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- CLUES ACROSS**
1. Taxis
  5. Space Systems Command
  8. Plant seed by scattering
  11. Alliances
  13. Fiddler crabs
  14. Heroic tale
  15. Yemen capital
  16. Misleading gesture
  17. Cain and \_\_\_
  18. Simple shoe
  20. Hundredweight
  21. Children's toy in the snow
  22. Gets rid of
  25. Free of deceit
  30. Performed a dance
  31. Chinese philosophical principle
  32. Exaggerated
  33. Refrain from inflicting
  38. A doctrine
  41. Can be subdued
  43. A place to bathe
  45. Land used for pasture
  48. Curved piece of iron
  49. Automobile
  50. Fencing sword
  55. Breezes through
  56. Child
  57. NBA legend
  59. Horsley and lacocca are two
  60. Midway between northeast and east
  61. Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation
  62. U.S. leader during much of WW2
  63. Lair
  64. Fibrous material
- CLUES DOWN**
1. Home of "60 Minutes"
  2. Expression of sorrow or pity
  3. \_\_\_ fide: legitimate
  4. Immune response
  5. Assistance and support
  6. Glared
  7. Spanish saloon
  8. Pitch black
  9. S-shaped lines
  10. Statistical test
  12. \_\_\_ Paulo, city
  14. Graduation garb
  19. A way to record
  23. Not good
  24. Weather events
  25. A pituitary hormone
  26. Jamie Foxx film
  27. Rocker's accessory
  28. One point east (clockwise) of due north
  29. One who obtains pleasure from another's pain
  34. Consume
  35. Licensed for Wall Street
  36. Sick
  37. Israeli city \_\_\_ Aviv
  39. Removed the husk
  40. Mass of rocks and sediment
  41. Two-year-old sheep
  42. Area units
  44. Prison overseer
  45. Walked
  46. Wartime escort aircraft carrier
  47. Tax
  48. 50 percent
  51. Swiss river
  52. Tattle
  53. Actor Idris
  54. Resist authority (slang)
  58. Egg of a louse



**EARLY DEADLINES**  
 In observance of LABOR DAY,  
**PUBLIC NOTICES EARLY AD DEADLINE**  
 Place your public notice no later than **NOON**  
**Thursday, August 28**  
 – Thank you!



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