

Committee preps for school year

Student handbook gets updates, field work continues

By Melina Bourdeau
Correspondent

BELCHERTOWN – The School Committee approved updated student handbooks, heard assurances that high school playing fields will be ready for fall sports and authorized hiring an outside investigator for a personnel matter during a brief School Committee meeting.

The committee spent most of its time on handbook changes and the condition of Belchertown High School's stadium field.

Members also signed off on surplusing an aging district van and endorsed bringing in an attorney to investigate an unspecified personnel issue, with costs covered by

Please see **SCHOOL**, page 13



Celebration commemorates centenarians

By Ben Hernandez
Staff Writer

BELCHERTOWN – Joyous seniors gathered at Christopher Heights Assisted Living Center to celebrate the lives of several residents with cake, ice cream and dancing. The

celebration honored seven women between the ages of 100 and 105.

"We have 710 years of life right here at this table," Director of Marketing Lorna Stone

Please see **CELEBRATION**, page 11

Quad-boards reveal plans

Cultural district to be created

By Ben Hernandez
Staff Writer

BELCHERTOWN – A special quad-board meeting unveiled new plans to create a cultural district within town limits on Aug. 24. Plans centered around the goals to attract new businesses to town, strengthen the local economy and to gather space to be designated as a cultural district.

"We are working on getting cultural district designation through the Massachusetts

Historical Cultural Council," Clapp Memorial Library Director and Creative Economy Committee member Cyndi Harbeson said. "We've been in active communication with them."

Harbeson clarified the initial application work was complete and they were working on finalizing the map for the projected cultural district. She stated the committee still had to "work through the other elements of the application." The application process needs to be complete by Feb. 8.

"Hopefully, if successful, we'll have a site visit in April or May of next year," Harbeson said. "The application includes highlighting the cultural assets of Belchertown."

Harbeson detailed the next steps, which included a line-

Please see **BOARD**, page 11

Residents support fundraiser race

By Ben Hernandez
Staff Writer

BELCHERTOWN – The tenth annual Speaking Out About Addiction and Recovery 5K race took place at The Fields on 60 State St. on Aug. 29. The event marked its 10th anniversary within town. The rally is a collective effort between the grassroots organization SOAR, the Belchertown Police Department and Honest Beginnings; a sober living organization and residential recovery program for adults suffering from drug addiction, alcoholism or other addictive behaviors.

The organization is a grassroots movement organized by families affected by people struggling with

addiction. Co-founder Jill Rossi helped create the non-profit organization Speaking Out About Addiction and Recovery due to her own son's battle with addiction.

"My son was struggling with addiction," said Rossi. "It's a really lonely spot to be in and you feel like nobody understands."

SOAR's efforts began as weekly support meetings, which eventually involved both people recovering from addiction and people actively battling addiction. Rossi stated the organization was "acquainted with the president of Honest Beginnings" through his attendance of previous meetings and who became "very involved" with help-

Please see **RACE**, page 10



Runners leaving the gate.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY BEN HERNANDEZ

DAR offers historical presentation

By Ben Hernandez
Staff Writer

GRANBY – The Granby Free Public Library hosted a free seminar about lesser-known authors and journalists instrumental to the American Revolution. Titled "Revolution in Their Words," the discussion was led by volunteer lecturer and Daughter of the American Revolution representative Dr. Denise Gosselin.

The Daughters of the American Revolution are a nonprofit and nonpolitical organization dedicated to preserving American history, providing free education to the public about the country's roots. Founded in 1890, the organization, among other things, maintains historic properties, sponsors marker restorations and preserves historical documents.

"A lot of different histories of the Revolutionary War focus on battles, generals and troops as well as the Founding Fathers," Gosselin said as she began the night's presentation. "This presentation explores the war from the perspective of the people and the words of the people that lived during that tumultuous time."

Gosselin focused the discussion on prolific writers and thought leaders of the time. Though some touched upon during the lecture may not have necessarily taken up, they were nonetheless influential in shaping the country. This was due to the very high literary rate at the time, which Gosselin illustrated as being instrumental to championing the cause for American independence.

"At the time of the revolution, literacy among the people

in New England approached 90%," Gosselin said. "Of course, this varied by gender, class, race and location, but 90% of any population for the literary rate is just phenomenal."

Gosselin stated there were a number of publications in circulation, both for and against the British crown, designed to persuade a vast uncertain audience over to their side. She cited famous writers for the time, which included Thomas Paine of



"Common Sense" fame and the prolific John Hancock, though also showcased many other less known historical figures who were nonetheless

important to the time.

Once such lesser known noteworthy mention was Phyllis Wheatley, a literate slave from West Africa who bought her freedom in 1773. Wheatley produced an extensive body of pro-rebellion poems, which put her at risk of being arrested and tried by British soldiers. A

poem written to George Washington gained such traction within revolutionary circles Washington himself wrote a thank you letter to her, which was then published in newspapers for all to see.

"She is oftentimes referred to as the poet laureate of the American Revolution," Gosselin said.

Please see **DAR**, page 13

TURLEY PHOTOS BY BEN HERNANDEZ

Dr. Denise Gosselin was the night's lecturer at the presentation entitled "Revolution in Their Words."

poem written to George Washington gained such traction within revolutionary

circles Washington himself wrote a thank you letter to her, which was then published in newspapers for all to see.

"She is oftentimes referred to as the poet laureate of the American Revolution," Gosselin said.

Please see **DAR**, page 13



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SURROUNDING TOWNS ARE INVITED TO TAKE PART

Lake Wallace Fall Fest returns Oct. 3

BELCHERTOWN – Belchertown will host the 2026 Lake Wallace Fall Fest on Saturday, Oct. 3, 2026, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Following the success of last year’s inaugural event, the Fall Fest returns with a full day of inclusive recreation, live music, local vendors, community organizations, and family-friendly activities.

The event will feature three trail events designed to welcome participants of different ages and abilities: a 5K, 1K, and Roll & Stroll.

The 5K begins at 10 a.m., followed by the 1K at 11 a.m. and the Roll & Stroll at 11:15 a.m. Beyond the races, attendees can enjoy live music, food vendors, craft and retail vendors, community organizations, family activities, and opportunities to explore the accessible Lake Wallace trails.

Community announcements and race awards will take place at 12:30 p.m.

Accessibility at the Heart of Lake Wallace

Accessibility is central to the vision for Lake Wallace. The Lake Wallace Sensory Trail was created to provide people of all ages and abilities with the opportunity to experience nature, recreation, and community in the same space.

The trail provides opportunities for people who walk, use mobility devices, roll, or simply want to enjoy the outdoors at their own pace. Features such as accessible trail surfaces, tactile guide cables, Braille signage, open viewing platforms, and other improvements help make Lake Wallace a place where more people can participate and enjoy the outdoors together.

The Fall Fest celebrates that vision by bringing the community together on the trails and creating opportunities for everyone to participate, not just as spectators, but as runners, walkers, rollers, families, volunteers, vendors, and community members.

Supporting Lake Wallace

The Lake Wallace Fall Fest is also an opportunity for the

community to directly support improvements at Lake Wallace through the Lake Wallace Gift Account.

Lake Wallace is a unique community resource that has been made possible through a combination of grant funding, community support, and the dedication of volunteers. Much of the work that has gone into developing and improving the area has been volunteer-driven, with grants helping fund major improvements and the community



helping support the ongoing needs of the space.

Last year, the community raised more than \$6,500 through individual donations, race registrations, sponsorships, and day-of raffle ticket sales. Those funds helped support:

- Replacement of gravel in washed-out areas of the accessible trail
- Installation of an informational kiosk at the trailhead
- Branded wayfinding signage
- Additional guiderails and posts along a section of the new accessible trails near Foley Field

These may seem like small improvements, but they make a meaningful difference in how people experience and navigate Lake Wallace.

This year, organizers have set a goal of \$10,000 to continue building on this progress



and support additional accessible trail improvements, recreation amenities, signage, maintenance, and projects that make Lake Wallace welcoming and enjoyable for everyone. A huge thank you to our key sponsor this year the Amherst Area Chamber of Commerce helping us get closer to this goal with their \$1000 donation.

Direct donations can be made online at www.runreg.com/lwff or on the Belchertown Recreation Website, Cash or by check provided day of the event or dropped off/mailed to the Belchertown Recreation Department:

Town of Belchertown
Belchertown Recreation Department
66 State Street, Building #1
Belchertown, MA 01007

Note: Lake Wallace Fall Fest Donation

Every race registration also includes a contribution to the Lake Wallace Gift Account. The 5K and 1K each include a \$15 donation, while the \$20 Roll & Stroll registration is a direct donation to the Lake Wallace Gift Account.

“Lake Wallace is a special place in our community, and the Fall Fest gives us an opportunity to celebrate everything it offers,” said event organizers. “The accessibility of this space is what makes it so meaningful. We want people of all ages and abilities to be able to experience nature, recreation, and community together. The support we saw last year directly translated into improvements at the trail, and we’re excited to see what we can accomplish together with an even bigger fundraising goal this year.”



Sights from last years festival.

SUBMITTED PHOTOS



Registration
Full 5K and 1K registration closes Sept. 17. Registrations after Sept. 17 will be available as donation-only registrations and will not include an event T-shirt or raffle ticket. The Roll & Stroll does not require advance registration.

Sign up before Sept. 17, 2026, at: www.runreg.com/lwff

For Sponsorship inquiries, Vendor Booth participation, or general event questions please reach out to info@belchertownruns.org.

Follow the Lake Wallace Fall Fest Facebook page to keep up to date on event announcements, registration reminders, vendor and performer spotlights, fundraising updates, and more as we get closer to Oct. 3.

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.

The continued development of Lake Wallace is supported through grant funding, community donations, and volunteer efforts, allowing the Town and community partners to make improvements while continuing to pursue new opportunities to enhance accessibility, recreation, education, and stewardship.



Local business offers to match community donations for fireworks

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

Window World of Western Mass. has offered to match community donations to the fireworks fund, dollar for dollar, up to \$12,000.

The matching opportunity means that every gift made between now and the event will effectively double in impact, helping the community reach its fundraising goal.

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

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

Several community sponsors have already stepped forward to help

fund the display, including Hulmes Transportation, Easthampton Savings Bank, and Country Bank, along with other generous local donors.

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

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

Businesses interested in becoming a fireworks sponsor, across three sponsorship levels, are encouraged to contact Kyle Thibeault, Recreation Director, at KThibeault@belchertown.org or 413-323-0419.

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

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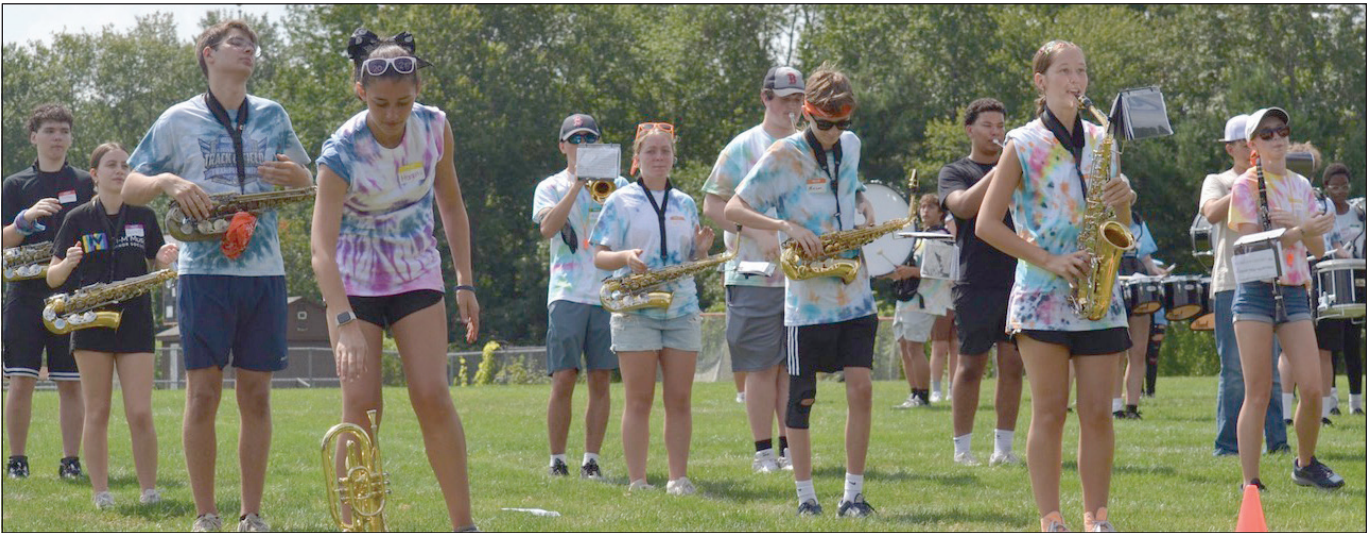
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SCHOOLS

BHS band camp



BHS Marching Orioles worked all week at band camp with their band director, Cassi Stewart, drum majors, section leaders, and leadership team to prepare for the upcoming marching season. They taught new players the marching drills, reviewed with the band, began the half time show, and showed their spirit.



Belchertown High School volunteers sparkle at Camp Sunshine

By Lori Vaz and Ava Swiatlowski

BELCHERTOWN – During the week of August 17th - 21st, BHS Juniors Ava Swiatlowski, Grace Perron, Aubrey Klingensmith, and Sam Letzeisen traveled to Casco, Maine in order to volunteer at the Nephrology/ Solid Organ Transplant Week at Camp Sunshine. They spent their time there helping and interacting with children battling various kidney and liver diseases, making sure that the kids had a special week free from worrying about their given conditions.

Unlike a typical summer camp, Camp Sunshine is a camp meant to allow children battling life threatening diseases and their families the chance to enjoy a week of relaxation and family-fun. Year round, Camp Sunshine hosts families and volunteers from around the country for one week at a time, both staying on campus in provided housing. The camp covers all costs for family housing, dining, and travel, allowing them to come totally for free. Throughout the week, children's time is split, half the day being spent with their families, while the other half is spent with volunteers and the other children in their age group. Both children affected by the disease and their siblings are allowed to participate in camp activities,



BHS Juniors: Ava Swiatlowski, Grace Perron, Aubrey Klingensmith, Sam Letzeisen.

children's ages ranging from birth to 17. When parents are not with their children, they too are put into groups and are allowed to participate in the various activities the camp offers. Volunteers are assigned a variety of different roles, some acting as counselors, while others work in the kitchen or at the on-property waterfront. BHS students have volunteered at Camp Sunshine before, several volunteering on their own as well as many that went to volunteer as a school trip when it used to be offered. During their time at the camp; Swiatlowski, Klingensmith, and Letzeisen all served as counselors. Swiatlowski and Klingensmith were counselors to the 6-8 age group, while Letzeisen was a coun-

selor to the 9-12 age group. They participated in a number of activities; including accompanying children on 1 on 1 fishing trips with professional fishermen, helping them perform in the camp's talent show, and aiding them in various other activities, such as rock climbing, navigating ropes courses, archery, and boating. Perron served as a volunteer life-guard, working both at the Camp's indoor pool and their waterfront on Sebago Lake. Perron's mother, Elizabeth Perron, also attended the camp as a volunteer alongside the girls, working as a kitchen volunteer to help prepare and serve meals three times a day to all camp attendees. Camp Sunshine is a very special place, as it allows children and their families

a unique opportunity. By hosting weeks for specific diseases, it creates a community among the families who attend. While children spend time with each other, it gives them the chance to

bond and befriend other children that have faced the same challenges that they have. Children are able to talk and empathize with each other over shared struggles, allowing them to realize that they are not alone. The experience of the parents is similar, discussion groups and parent hangouts allowing them to discuss their hardships with other people who can understand what they've been through. One parent told Swiatlowski in a conversation at dinner, "There really is no other place like this camp. It's amazing for the kids because it allows our children to meet other kids who have the same scars that they have, scars that none of their friends back at home have. It's also amazing for the parents. I've been coming

for 8 years, and every year when we talk about what we've been through, I always cry. We all do. But it feels so good, because everyone else in the room has been through the same thing. They understand what my mom and friends back at home don't understand, and the feeling of letting all my pent up emotions go makes it hard to leave camp and have to bottle them all back up again." The experience is also one that is very special for the volunteers. All five volunteers that attended this week from Belchertown felt that their experience at the camp was very fulfilling and meaningful. They enjoyed how volunteering gave them the chance to make the children happy, and all hope to return to volunteer again next summer.



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Welcome to a new school year

SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Belchertown High School Principal, Christine Vigneux and Orioles in classes of 2026-2028 welcome in new BHS Orioles and the Class of 2030 at the annual new student orientation.

COLLEGE NEWS

Arabik of Granby graduates from the URI

KINGSTON, R.I. – The University of Rhode Island celebrated more than 4,000 of its newest alumni during the University's 2026 Commencement. Approximately 3,800 undergraduate degrees and 900 graduate degrees were conveyed to students during the ceremonies which took place May 15-17, 2026. Gabriel Arabik of Granby was among the graduates, receiving a Bachelor of Science in Computer Engineering.

Belchertown Select Board announces vacancies

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

All vacancies are posted until filled.

The Town wishes to fill the following vacancies:

Agricultural Commission: The Town wishes to fill one (1) associate member seat on the Agricultural Commission. This commission promotes agricultural-based economic opportunities; preserves, revitalizes and sustains the Belchertown agricultural industries, and encourages the pursuit of agriculture as a career opportunity and lifestyle.

Capital Improvement Planning Committee: The Town wishes to fill one (1) seat on the Capital Improvement Planning Committee. Those interested must be Belchertown residents with demonstrated knowledge of construction, facility maintenance, fleet management, architecture, engineering, or a related field.

Conservation Commission: The Town of Belchertown is currently seeking to fill a vacancy on the Conservation

Commission. The Commission is a volunteer board that reviews projects that fall under jurisdiction of the Wetlands Protection Act and local Bylaw. The position requires attending meetings every second and fourth Monday of the month, a basic comprehension of the local, state, and federal wetlands regulations, and occasional site visits. Qualified candidates have also demonstrated an interest, expertise, or experience in environmental protection. Commissioners must also have a willingness to attend training sessions, gain the relevant knowledge in a timely fashion, remain current, and generally make the necessary time commitment. If interested, please send a letter of interest to the Conservation Department at conservation@belchertown.org. Any questions call the office at 413-323-0405.

There are also two vacancies for associate members, who although are not voting members, they can gain knowledge and experience and could be elevated to a voting member in the future.

Energy and Sustainability Committee: The Town wishes to fill one (1) full member vacancy on the Energy and Sustainability Committee. Its purpose is to develop and recommend sound energy and sustainability programs and policies for the Town. Energy relates to the fuel choices we make for buildings, vehicles, and industry. Sustainability means meeting our own needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Visit their webpage at www.belchertown.org.

Family Center Committee: The Belchertown Family Center

Committee is seeking passionate, service-minded individuals to fill two (2) active voting member positions. This committee is charged with oversight of the Belchertown Family Center and its support programming for families, and is actively working to create a breadth of resources for our community.

Memorial Committee: The Town wishes to fill a vacancy on the Memorial Committee. This committee ensures placement, care and maintenance to all town memorials and monuments on property owned or maintained by the Town of Belchertown.

MVP Housing Trust: The Town of Belchertown is seeking three (3) residents to serve as Trustees on the Belchertown Affordable and Resilient Housing Trust Fund Board of Trustees, alongside one (1) member of the Belchertown Selectboard and one (1) member of the Belchertown Planning Board.

This is a public charitable trust for the purpose of creating, preserving, rehabilitating and supporting community housing as defined in Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44B, for the benefit of low- and moderate-income households in the Town of Belchertown.

As a Trustee, you'll have the opportunity to make a lasting impact on the community by helping preserve safe, stable housing for Belchertown homeowners. Trustees work together to establish policies, evaluate funding opportunities, build community partnerships, and guide the Trust's efforts to help homeowners maintain and improve their existing homes.

Once the board has been

appointed, the frequency, dates, and times of meetings will be determined by the Board of Trustees.

Applicants are required to be residents of Belchertown, and those who possess professional or personal experience in affordable housing, real estate, banking, finance, architecture, climate resilience or social services are desirable.

For more information on the Belchertown Affordable and Resilient Housing Trust, please visit <https://www.belchertown.org/786/Affordable-and-Resilient-Housing-Trust>

Scholarship Committee: The Town wishes to fill the Home Schooling Representative seat on the Scholarship Committee. If you are interested in serving in this capacity, please submit a letter of interest.

Taxation Aid Committee: The Town is looking to fill one (1) vacancies on the Taxation Aid Committee. This is a one-year appointed volunteer position which will consist of the Chair of the Board of Assessors, the Treasurer/Collector, and three residents from Town with the purpose of defraying the real estate taxes of elderly and disabled persons of low income and which shall be funded by voluntary donations made by taxpayers through an earmark on their real estate and motor vehicle excise tax bills.

Zoning Board of Appeals: The Town wishes to fill two (2) openings for associate member seats on the Zoning Board of Appeals. The ZBA is responsible for hearing and deciding on applications for Special Permits, Variances and Appeals from decisions of the Zoning Enforcement Officer/Building Inspector.

GRANBY

Granby Free Public Library lists upcoming events

Book Sale

September 1 – 30

Stop into the Library during regular open hours to browse our expansive book sale all month long.

Foraging Walk

Saturday, Sept. 12 at 11 a.m.

Gain greater food security by learning wild and feral edible and medicinal plants and fungi. Using the Library's grounds learn how to identify and prepare fall foods using common wild edibles that you can find near where you live. Join naturalist

and wild edibles enthusiast Arianna Alessandra Collins of Offerings for Community Building on our foraging walk. Pre-register.

Sci-Fi and Fantasy Book Club

Thursday, Sept. 3 at 5 p.m.

Join our discussions on the first Thursday of every month! Project Hail Mary by Andy Weir for September. Copies are available now.

Adult Book Group

Thursday, Sept. 10 at 6 p.m.

The book group will be discussing The Correspondent

by Virginia Evans. Grab a copy and join us.

Tabletop Games Club

Thursday, Sept. 10 at 5 p.m.
and Saturday, Sept. 19 at 10:30 a.m.

The Granby Library Tabletop Games Club invites players of all ages 8 and up to gather and enjoy a variety of board, card, dice, tile, and other in-person tabletop games in a welcoming, social environment.

Knitting Group

Every Wednesday at 2 p.m.
Bring your latest project

and join us for conversation, tips and tricks.

Friends of the Granby Library Meeting

Thursday, Sept. 17 at 4:30 p.m.

Did you know that the Friends sponsor our events? Join us for a meeting and see what's new.

Celebrate Constitution Week

Sept. 15 to 19

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

BUSINESS

The Kitchen & Bath Co. achieves NARI certification

BELCHERTOWN – The Kitchen & Bath Co. is proud to announce that members of its team have earned the Certified Kitchen and Bath Remodeler (CKBR) designation along with the Certified Remodeling Designer (CRD) designation, and the Certified Remodeling Project Manager (CRPM) designation awarded by the National Association of the Remodeling Industry (NARI).

"These certifications represent a meaningful milestone for our team and reinforce the level of expertise we bring

to every project," said Anna Drost, Founder and Creative Director of The Kitchen & Bath Co. "We are committed to continued education and professional growth so we can deliver thoughtful design, skilled craftsmanship, and a remodeling experience our clients can trust. I'm especially proud of our team for achieving these designations, which reflect the standards we hold ourselves to every day."

This recognition underscores The Kitchen & Bath Co.'s continued investment in professional development

and its commitment to delivering high-quality remodeling services for homeowners throughout the region. As a family-owned company specializing in kitchens, bathrooms, and whole-home living spaces, the firm blends intentional design with quality materials and skilled craftsmanship to create spaces that are both functional and beautifully tailored.

The CKBR, CRD, and CRPM designations from NARI recognize remodeling professionals who demonstrate advanced industry

knowledge, hands-on experience, and a strong commitment to ethical practices and continuing education. CKBR-certified professionals specialize in kitchen and bath remodeling, CRD-certified designers are recognized for their expertise in functional space planning and full-scope design development, and CRPM-certified professionals focus on project management, overseeing planning, coordination, and execution to ensure successful project delivery from start to finish.

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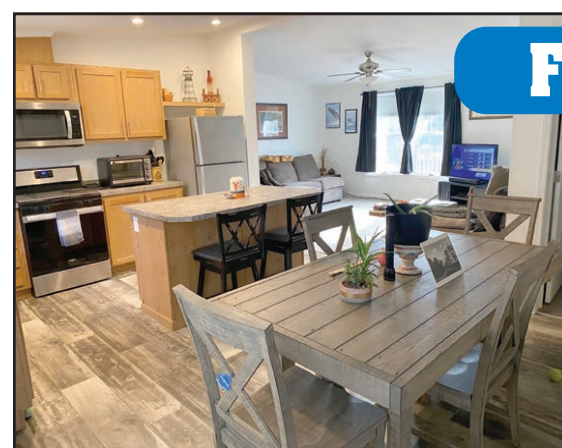
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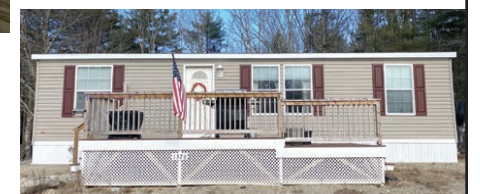
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OPINION

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Everyone who didn't get raffle tickets in our mailing

To the editor

Last week we mailed our BFFA donation letter with raffle tickets for our annual Fair fund-raiser. We found that, due to an equipment failure at the processing facility, not every letter had raffle tickets included. We apologize.

Extra tickets are available in the lobby of the Fire Department (10 N. Main

St.) from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Friday without having to enter the office area.

If you didn't get tickets (or even a letter) please consider picking up a booklet of ten tickets and making a donation to support us.

Thank you and stay safe.
Belchertown
Firefighters Association

SOCIAL SECURITY
Matters
By Russell Gloor

Will Social Security run out of money soon?

Dear Rusty:

I'm concerned about Social Security running out of funding, since I rely on it for my income and I'm at an age where my having to go back to work is not an option I can consider.

The job market for people my age is slim. I've been reading reports and it doesn't sound reassuring. Your thoughts?

Signed: Concerned Senior

Dear Concerned Senior:

Thanks for sharing your concerns. This topic is a fairly complicated one, but I'll do my best to explain it.

Social Security income from payroll taxes, interest on reserves, and income tax on SS benefits has been insufficient to pay 100% of SS benefit obligations since about 2020.

Since that time, SS has been drawing money from the Social Security Trust Fund reserves to pay full monthly benefits to everyone.

In 2020, there was nearly \$3 trillion in SS reserves held in the SS Trust Funds, but as of the end of 2025, those reserves have dwindled to about \$2.56 trillion because they are being used to pay full SS benefits to all.

Without program reform, the SS trust funds will be fully depleted in 2032, which would result in an across-the-board cut of about 22% to everyone's monthly SS payment. And that would be devastating to millions of Americans!

However, Congress is acutely aware of this issue; they have been for years but have largely ignored previous warnings. Now, however, those predicted benefit cuts are dangerously close to becoming a reality.

As a result, we are beginning to see serious, even bipartisan, discussions in Congress about reforming Social Security to restore it

to solvency to avoid future benefit cuts.

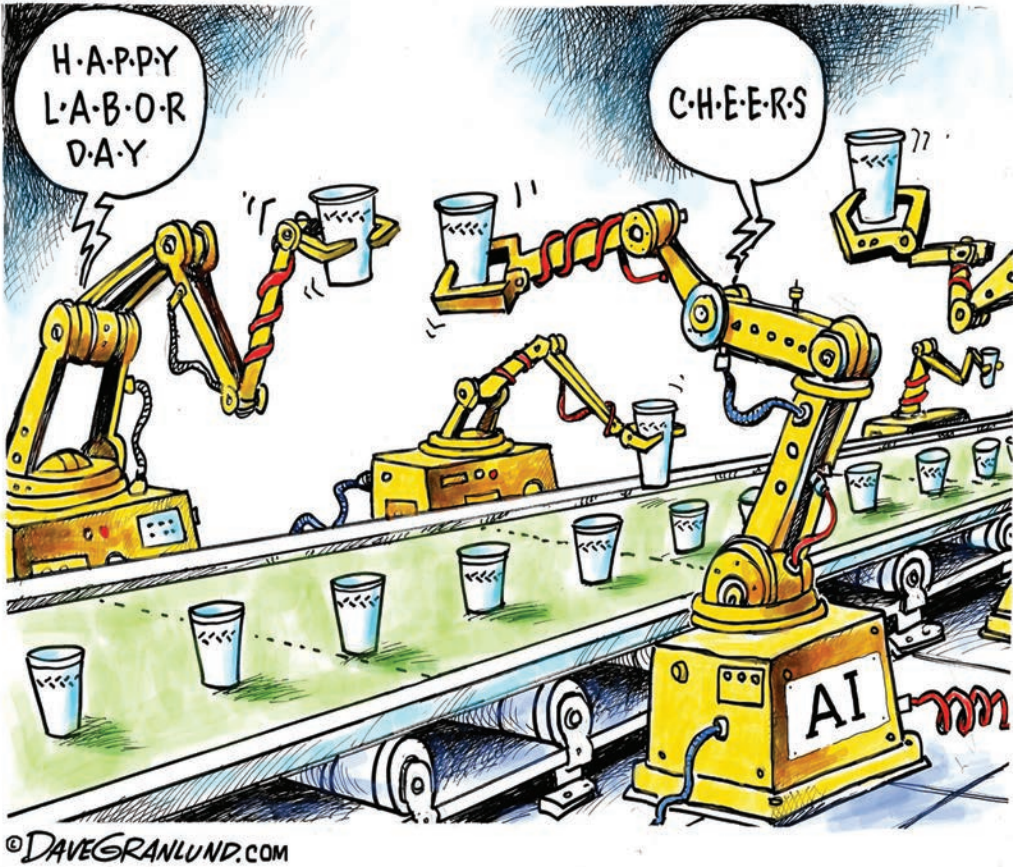
For our part, AMAC and the AMAC Foundation have been working on a proposal to restore SS to full solvency for generations and we have offered our proposal to various Congressional Representatives and to the SSA Commissioner and his executive staff.

The proposal has been well received, and we are very optimistic that Congress will finally take real action to restore SS to solvency to avoid any benefit cuts. Frankly, doing otherwise would amount to political suicide!

AMAC is closely monitoring this situation and are very proactive in Washington, D.C. to ensure that benefits are not cut in 2032 and thye will continue their vigorous efforts and their vigilance to avoid Social Security insolvency.

They are confident that Congress will act in time to avoid any reduction in SS benefits, and they can stay informed of their efforts by watching the AMAC Social Security information website at www.socialsecurityreport.org.

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



Rooting cuttings is a great way to overwinter your favorite plants

Late summer is a great time to take cuttings of summer plants such as geranium, fuchsia, and coleus.

Oftentimes planters containing these beauties are too big to overwinter. Likewise, these plants may be growing in your yard and maybe you are fearful of trying to dig them up and move them inside before frost hits.

It's also fun to root herb plants like rosemary or mint, so that you can enjoy them as seasoning in your favorite dishes over the winter months.

Getting a piece of stem to form roots is relatively easy. Here are a few tips that will guarantee your success.

First, make sure that the plant you are taking the cuttings from, called the "stock plant," is insect and disease-free and well hydrated. Plan to take cuttings in the morning before the heat of the day has a chance to cause any wilting.

A clean, sharp pair of scissors or hand pruners is the best tool for the job. Cuttings can be taken at any time during the growing season.

Spring is also a great time to take cuttings of plants that you've overwintered provided they are growing well.

Begin by examining your stock plant. Those stems with the closest placed nodes are the best choice for cutting material.

Nodes are the point on the stem from which the leaves grow. There is a strong accumulation of hormones in this area; for that reason stem cuttings are taken just after a node.

or liquid forms. Follow the directions on the container.

I have found that "less is more" when using these products. When you are ready to "stick" the cutting make an indentation into the growing medium with a pencil or dibble first- do not push in with the stem! After the cutting is inserted firm around it well so that it stays in place. Put the container, cuttings and all in a clear plastic bag and place in a shady location.

The humidity within the bag ought to prevent the stems from wilting.

Water well, only about once weekly. After a month or so roots will begin to form on the scented geraniums; rosemary may take six weeks or more.

Transplanting into individual pots can be done once the roots equal or surpass the size of the cutting. I like to start out with a small pot and transplant up a size or two at a time as the plant grows.

The Ware Grange will be hosting workshop on this timely topic on Friday, Sept. 11 at 7 p.m. at the hall on Route 9 in Ware. Bring a potted plant to share cutting material or use a selection of plants that I will bring to try your luck at this skill.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 31 years she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to pouimette@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.

If you wish to shorten the amount of time it takes for rooting to occur a commercial rooting hormone can be used. These come in powder



Turley Publications Letters to the Editor Policy

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

Turley Election Policy

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

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

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VETERANS DAY SALUTE

Sentinel ~ November 5, 2026

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

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

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

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

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■ PUBLIC SAFETY

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. 21, through Aug. 27. The information was provided by a member of the police department based on the review of the detailed log summary. This feature is designed to provide context and explanation to some of the calls police respond to every day.

ARRESTS/SUMMONS

Saturday, Aug. 22
9:38 p.m. – A Belchertown resident was arrested on charges of assault and battery on a family member.
11:12 p.m. – An officer responded to a call reporting a vehicle headed into town from Granby was a rolling domestic. The vehicle was stopped and a person was arrested on charges assault and battery.

Monday, Aug. 24
4:36 p.m. – An officer followed up on a past shoplifting incident. A summons was issued for a 43-year-old Belchertown woman for shoplifting.

ACCIDENTS/INCIDENTS

Friday, Aug. 21
11:39 a.m. – Police and Belchertown Fire paramedics responded to a location to assist with a juvenile having a mental health crisis.
5:42 p.m. – An officer spoke with a person about a wellbeing check about another person. They were concerned for their mental health.

Saturday, Aug. 22
10:52 a.m. – An officer responded to an accident on Park Street. A vehicle going south on Park Street struck a vehicle parked on the side of the road. There was damage to both vehicles. No injuries were reported and no tows were needed.
3:10 p.m. – An officer responded to a north Washington Street residence about a past break in to a motor vehicle. Items were

missing. The officer spoke with the neighbors who said there was a vehicle leaving an adjacent parking lot but had no identifying features to provide. There are no suspects at this time.

Sunday, Aug. 22
7:18 p.m. – An officer took a report of a larceny of packages from a delivery. It was a past assault. They were missing packages and thought there was a person who was responsible living in the area. The person allegedly was punched by the suspect. The officer spoke with the suspect who denied it.

Monday, Aug. 24
5:01 p.m. – An officer assisted a person with getting their possessions.
6:19 p.m. – An officer responded to Michael Sears Road for a report of a person bitten by a dog. Belchertown Fire paramedics responded to the scene. The bitten person encountered a neighbor that was also walking dog. The person was bit on their calf in the process. The were transported from the scene.

Animal Control was notified.
7:53 p.m. – An officer and Belchertown Fire paramedics responded to a location for a juvenile experiencing distress.

Tuesday, Aug. 25
2:21 p.m. – An officer conducting traffic enforcement on Federal Street around Allen Road noticed a line of vehicles behind a tractor trailer. A vehicle stopped at Allen Road and then at a dangerous close time, turned left in front of tractor trailer. The officer pulled out the line of vehicles, activated their lights and siren to pull over the vehicle in front. The vehicle was going over speed limit and pulled over but did not stop. The vehicle continued through intersection of George Hannum without stopping. Then the car stopped for a red light. Then the light turned green, and the vehicle turned into a Daniel Shay's Highway business. The officer approached the vehicle after it parked. The operator was frustrated and based on

their responses, the officer felt the person's cognitive ability to operate the vehicle diminished. An immediate threat was filed against their license. The vehicle was towed. They were evaluated by Belchertown Fire paramedics and eventually transported home.
5:05 p.m. – An officer spoke with a resident about an incident that occurred.

Wednesday, Aug. 26
10:58 a.m. – An officer saw a sharps container with a small paper bag with several prescription bottles with pills inside. For public safety. it was brought to the station to be turned into property.
11:23 a.m. – An officer spoke with a person claiming their identify was stolen. A bank account was opened in their name, and their social security number was taken. Someone else was trying to transfer money out of their account. They contacted their bank and no loss was reported.
4:21 p.m. – An officer responded to an accident on Federal Street. A vehi-

cle was struck in the rear by a second vehicle and then a third vehicle struck the second vehicle in the rear. The third vehicle fled the scene and was not located. No injuries were reported. No tows were needed. The third vehicle as identified as a grey sedan.
8:41 p.m. – An officer took a report of an alleged 209A violation.

Thursday, Aug. 27
7:28 a.m. – A person found a cell phone on main street. The phone was entered into property.
12:40 p.m. – An officer conducted a follow up investigation about a past break-in and entering a vehicle.
12:40 p.m. – An officer and Belchertown Fire paramedics responded to a report of a juvenile experiencing distress. They were transported to the hospital.
3:43 p.m. – An officer took a report of a threat. A person said they had an interaction with a neighbor and the neighbor threatened them.
4:58 p.m. – An officer conducted a follow up.

Granby Police Log

Editor's Note: The Granby Police Department responded to 157 calls for the week of Aug. 21, through Aug. 27. Those arrested are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law. The Granby Police Department provides all information.

Saturday, Aug. 22
7:32 p.m. – While on patrol, an officer observed a vehicle fail to stop for a stop sign at the intersection of Taylor and Carver Streets. The vehicle was stopped and the operator was issued a civil citation.
9:50 p.m. – An off-duty Northampton officer reported an erratic operator on traveling on East State Street. The vehicle was located and later stopped by a Granby officer.

9:51 p.m. – The vehicle from the previous call was located and later stopped by a Granby officer after observing further erratic operation.
10:09 p.m. – The operator from the previous stop was placed under arrest. Jeremy Stokes, 36, of Belchertown was placed under arrest and charged with a marked lanes violation, a second offense of operating under the influence of alcohol, operating under the influence/child

endangerment and negligent operation of a motor vehicle.

Sunday, Aug. 23
4:05 a.m. – A resident called to report a single vehicle accident, possible rollover. Granby Police and Fire responded and determined that the vehicle had not rolled over. The operator was transported to the hospital with non-life-threatening injuries.
1:49 p.m. – A motorist reported a two-car accident.

Granby Police and Fire responded. There were no injuries.

Monday, Aug. 24
3:23 a.m. – A caller reported that their son struck a guardrail on Aldrich St. There were no injuries.

Wednesday, Aug. 26
3:24 a.m. – The clerk at Cumberland Farms called to report a male and female party possibly having an argument in the parking

lot. Officers responded and found that the male party left prior to their arrival. The female party was asked to leave per the clerk's request.

Thursday, Aug. 27
8:32 a.m. – A motorist reported striking a bear and afterwards it ran into the woods.
2:14 p.m. – A motorist reported a minor two-car accident in the Dunkin Donuts parking lot. There were no injuries.

■ AMHERST

Amherst Arts Night Plus returns Nov. 5

AMHERST – Following the success of this spring's return event, the Amherst Business Improvement District and Amherst Center Cultural District are excited to announce that Amherst Arts Night Plus will return on Thursday, Nov. 5, from 5 to 8 p.m., bringing another evening of art, music, creativity, and community to Downtown Amherst.

After making its long-awaited comeback this past April, Arts Night Plus once again invites residents, students, and visitors to explore downtown businesses while discovering local artists, performers, and cultural organizations. The November event will continue to celebrate the vibrant creative community that makes Amherst a destination for arts and culture.

Call for Artists
Participating artists will have the opportunity to display artwork or perform in downtown businesses and cultural institutions for the evening. All artists in the Amherst region are eligible to submit work, and there is no fee to apply.
Interested artists are invited to submit their work for display by completing the submission form by Oct. 1.
Submit artwork for Amherst Arts Night Plus: <https://forms.gle/EtUULiNqxuhzktpu5>
Musicians and other performers are also encouraged

to reach out about opportunities for pop-up performances during Arts Night.

Call for Volunteers
The organizers are also seeking volunteers to help make the evening a success. "It takes a village for Amherst Arts Night to reach its full potential," shared Ben Coakley, Arts & Culture Coordinator for the Amherst BID. "We are seeking creatives, art enthusiasts, and folks who enjoy planning community events, public relations, and marketing to join us in this work. There are lots of ways to get involved, from helping curate and promote the event to connecting with artists, businesses, and arts organizations. We want this to be a fun and collaborative community effort!" Email Ben at culture@amherstdowntown.com to get involved.

Opportunities for businesses and community organizations to participate will be announced in the coming weeks.
Mark your calendars and stay tuned for additional details, including participating artists, performances, and event locations.
For more information, follow @amherstdowntown on Instagram. For questions or to learn more about getting involved in arts and culture initiatives, please contact:
Ben Coakley at email: culture@amherstdowntown.com

Fine Arts Center announces visual arts exhibitions

AMHERST – The Fine Arts Center's visual arts program will present a diverse slate of exhibitions this fall, bringing together internationally recognized artists, emerging and mid-career talents, and student voices across three campus galleries.
The 2026-2027 visual arts season will feature 15 exhibitions at the University Museum of Contemporary Art, Augusta Savage Gallery and Hampden Gallery, with work spanning painting, sculpture, photography, fiber arts, sound installation and interdisciplinary practice. Receptions, artist talks, workshops and other public programs will offer audiences opportunities to engage directly with artists and their work.

Augusta Savage Gallery
Augusta Savage Gallery opens the semester with a three-week run of "Surveying Gravity: A Mirror for Growing Contradictions" by Justin Randolph Thompson, on view Sept. 4 through Sept. 25, with a reception on Sept. 10. The show is an exploration of legacy and remembering, told through Thompson's relationship with his grandfather Randolph W. Bromery, the former UMass chancellor for whom the Fine Arts Center's main building is named.
Oct. 2 through Nov. 13, the gallery will showcase

quilted portraits and other artworks by Desmond Beach in "The Souls of Black Folk." The exhibition explores what it means to protect and honor Black bodies who are subject to systemic injustice in the United States.
Later in the semester, from Nov. 20 through Dec. 9, UMass graduate student Fariyah Aliyah Shah embarks on an exploration of cultural, land and personal memory through photography, video and sound. The multimedia project traces Shah's connections to Canada and Guyana.
Hampden Gallery
On view Sept. 8 through Dec. 15 at Hampden Gallery, "Ghosts, Echoes, and Other Wonders" showcases the work of local printmaker Anita S. Hunt. Bringing together old and new prints, drawings, collages and paper sculptures, the exhibition explores Hunt's relationship with rural New England.
Meanwhile, in the gallery's intimate Incubator Project Space, digital photographs by Mexico City-based artist Álvaro Alejandro López invite viewers to encounter the book as both a material object and a living score that each reader brings to life. A reception for López's "De Natural Libris" and Hunt's exhibition will be held Sept. 17.
This semester, Hampden Gallery continues its

emphasis on advancing the careers of artists at all levels through a series of hands-on workshops led by local artists, and its craft studio that is open to all students and the public during regular gallery hours.
University Museum of Contemporary Art
The University Museum of Contemporary Art opens Sept. 15 with two single artist exhibitions and one group exhibition, all running through Dec. 13.
"Athena LaTocha: Buried Heat" features a series of ten sand-cast iron sculptures. Known for her large scale drawings — described by the New York Times as art that "reads the land in deep time" — LaTocha places a renewed emphasis on her sculptural works, which she developed through vigorous research into the geography, history and cultures of the Mesabi iron range for which they are named. The sculptures will be shown alongside two monumental works on paper that convey the artist's emotional and intellectual response to the land.
In the West Gallery, the museum will display costumes and works of art by multidisciplinary artist Dianne Smith in a show that draws on Smith's Belizean heritage, "Sonic Futures, Radiant Bodies" envisioning Black futurity through photography, sound, performance, scul-

ture and ritual. And in the East Gallery, a selection from the museum's permanent collection of contemporary works on paper, "Between Earth and Sky: Artists in Dialogue with the Land" presents the work of artists engaged with the American landscape from the 1960s through the present day.
Another feature of the museum's season, its In Sight series, will spotlight one work of art from the permanent collection each month in recognition of national cultural heritage and awareness months. The series will feature the work of Papo Colo for Hispanic/Latinx Heritage Month in September, Daisy Patton for National Disability Awareness Month in October, and George Morrison for Native American Heritage Month in November.
The museum will host an opening reception for its fall exhibitions on September 24. Later, it will once again host its popular interactive Vote for Art event, through which it invites the public to participate in selecting new acquisitions from a group of pieces identified by undergraduate students enrolled in the museum's introduction to art curation class, Collecting 101. New programming includes a book club partnership with the Jones Library.
Full exhibition and reception schedules follow.

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

We invite you to join us
Friday afternoons from 1-2:30 pm
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Belchertown preparing for season

BELCHERTOWN – Last week, the Belchertown High School football team was outside hard at work during preseason practices. The Orioles have a busy schedule this week, with scrimmages scheduled against Easthampton and on Saturday at Amherst. The Orioles open up the regular season hosting Quaboag Regional on Friday, Sept. 11 at 6:30 p.m.



The Belchertown line works on a drill.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM
Players are in upper pads as they run drills last week.



A running back takes his handoff.



A Belchertown quarterback attempts a pass.



Practices got underway last week.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY
WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM
One varsity hopeful gets low for a hit.



The Rams work on their bumps.



The Rams work on their sets near the net.

Girls 'set up' to compete

Granby girls volleyball opens the season on Sept. 9.

GRANBY – Last week, Granby High School girls volleyball got their preseason underway with tryouts followed by intense practices getting ready to open the regular season.

wThe Rams did have a scrimmage with neighbor Belchertown, and have a while before they open up the regular season. Granby's opener is on the road and will be a lengthy trip as they head to Monument Mountain of Great Barrington on Wednesday, Sept. 9 at 5:30 p.m. Their home opener is on Friday, Sept. 11 against Duggan at 5:15 p.m.

UA awards scholarship



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Western Massachusetts Baseball Umpires Association Board Member Chris Anderson awards a \$500 scholarship earlier this summer Sean Krol. The umpires' association funds the scholarship through dues paid by its members. Anderson hopes in the future to fund more scholarships either through fundraising or donations, saying its important to give back to the sport they love, and promote education for high school seniors who play. Applications for next year's scholarship will open up early in 2027.

RACE from page 1

ing her son. Inspired by Honest Beginning’s example, SOAAR set out to create their sober housing with-in Belchertown.

“We wound up joining forces, so to speak,” Rossi said. “Naturally, with what they were doing, they already had sober houses running.”

The first Recovery Rally took place in 2016 and was a fundraiser designed to secure property within Belchertown for a “stable indepen-

The Belchertown K-9 Police Unit.



The Dancing Witches perform.

dent sober-living resource” within

town limits. Now, with the property secured from previous years, SOAAR’s event aims to fund the required equipment and property needed to support the sober house within town limits.

The event offered a number of different family-friendly activities, which included lawn games, local entrepreneurs selling their wares, a meet and greet with Marshall from Paw Patrol, raffles, face painting and a K-9 demo orchestrated by Belchertown Police.

Additional draws included a cornhole tournament at 12:30 and festive performances by The Dancing Witches. Wandering Waffles provided a food truck to feed the hungry crowd, along with free hot dogs and hamburgers supplied by the Belchertown Police Association.

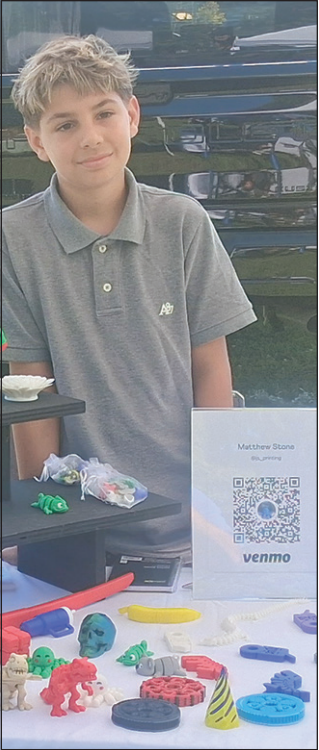
The well-attended 5K race began with a one-mile family fun walk to complement the competition. Max Schindel from New York came in first

TURLEY PHOTOS BY BEN HERNANDEZ

for the men, with a time of 18 minutes and 38 seconds. Second was John Schindel with a run time of 19 minutes 19 seconds, followed by Ware’s Michael Siok at 19 minutes and 31 seconds.

Belchertown’s own Emily Baecher came in first for the women at 20 minutes 56 seconds, followed by Jennifer Donovan from Ludlow at 21 minutes and 51 seconds. Belchertown’s Julie Jablonski took third for the women with a run time of 22 minutes and 21 seconds. Despite the athletic displays, Rossi reminded everyone in attendance what was really important.

“This is more than a race,” Rossi said. “It’s a day where the community comes together to celebrate recovery and the resilience of the human spirit.”



Matthew Stone representing his business, JS Painting.

A dancing witch cheers on finishing racers.



The face painting booth was filled with smiling faces.



Local author Dawn Gray sells her books at the race.



Jill Rossi poses in front of her parent organization’s tent, Honest Beginnings.

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
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53						54				55	56			
57										58				
59					60					61				

- CLUES ACROSS**

 - 1. Manila hemp plant
 - 6. Turkish river
 - 10. Something to read
 - 14. In a way, initiated
 - 15. Popular Apple TV series
 - 17. King Charles is part of it
 - 19. Earlier
 - 20. Foot (Latin)
 - 21. Zodiac sign
 - 22. A browning of the skin
 - 23. Remain as is
 - 24. Turfs
 - 26. It's used to slaughter animals
 - 29. Volcanic crater
 - 31. The mother of Jesus
 - 32. One's life story
 - 34. One-time Liverpool coach Slot
 - 35. Counterparts
 - 37. Jacob __, American journalist
 - 38. Digital audiotape
- CLUES DOWN**

 - 1. Swedish rock group
 - 2. "Friday Night Lights" director Peter
 - 3. Currency exchange fee
- 39. River in South Africa
 - 40. Kimono sashes
 - 41. Rooting somewhere
 - 43. American spy Aldrich
 - 45. A way to call for
 - 46. Taxi
 - 47. Pancakes made of buckwheat flour
 - 49. Swiss river
 - 50. Popular type of video game (abbr.)
 - 53. Have surgery
 - 57. Formal withdrawal from a union
 - 58. Performs spoken improv
 - 59. Greek war god
 - 60. 2,000 lbs.
 - 61. Helps to evade capture
- 4. Feline
 - 5. Folk singer DiFranco
 - 6. Ghostly pale from distress
 - 7. Rapid eye movements
 - 8. Monetary unit of Macao
 - 9. Lawmakers
 - 10. Colorless mineral
 - 11. At some prior time
 - 12. American protest singer
 - 13. Opener
 - 16. Seldom
 - 18. Relaxing places
 - 22. Touchdown
 - 23. From end to end
 - 24. Kids love him
 - 25. Metal-bearing solid
 - 27. Skin care product manufacturer
 - 28. Thirteen
 - 29. Angry
 - 30. Member of a Semitic people
 - 31. One-thousandth of an inch
- 33. Former CIA
 - 35. Most lemony
 - 36. Engage in
 - 37. Mass of fish eggs
 - 39. Food supplies
 - 42. Backbones
 - 43. American real estate investment firm
 - 44. Megabyte
 - 46. "Three Coins in the Fountain" songwriter
 - 47. Dutch colonist
 - 48. Full-grown pike fish
 - 49. Emergency prep expert Edwards
 - 50. Flute
 - 51. Dismissive sound
 - 52. Slang term for marijuana
 - 53. Young women's association
 - 54. Cosmopolitan city
 - 55. Narrow isthmus in Thailand
 - 56. Pointed end of a pen

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.

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CELEBRATION from page 1

said as she congratulated the women during the centennial ceremony. She read words of wisdom collected from the centenarians.

"She's 105 and fabulous," Stone said during the ceremony. "One of her quotes that made her live to 105 was being with young people."

A former Auxiliary Women's Club president in Ludlow, the 105-year-old Ann Condon recommended to stay active in clubs, to volunteer and to have a daily glass of wine. The 102-year-old Amelia Dominik attributed her longevity to a high power, simply stating "God is good to me."

Edalina Cormier, also 102, advised attendees to "keep going" and to not think about age. 101-year-old Lucy Cincotta credited her long life to "eating fresh vegetables from the garden and farm, prayers, family and traveling." Centenarian Sophie Kaczuska stated the key to a long life was "good homemade food, soups, little meat" and keeping away from sweets.

The 100-year-old Evelyn Riddle attributed her success to "being very active" when she was young. A life-long athlete, Riddle played tennis, golf, field hockey, soccer and softball in her youth. In her later years, she participated in the Mass Senior Games at Springfield College and won a gold medal in 1992. She also won a bronze medal at the event the following year. She also reported having five generations within her family and also advocated traveling.

"When I was retiring, my PCP said to me 'once you retire, just keep moving. Stay busy.' So that is what I did," said 101-year-old Ann Genaro. The first Christopher Heights resident ever, Genaro stated she's



Christopher Heights residents celebrated seven peers who lived past their 100th birthday.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY BEN HERNANDEZ

"really enjoyed" the years spent at the assisted living center and has met a lot of "wonderful people" during her tenure. She's kept busy over the years through volunteering, going to the senior center and remaining engaged with her family.

The current director, Lorna Stone, has been at the Belchertown branch since its opening in 2018. As she applauded the seven's achievements, she also thanked her staff for providing a quality of life and care befitting the dignity of the people in residence. She noted the average lifespan for a person in residence was 22 months, a figure exceeded by the seven featured in the ceremony.

"We're one big happy family," Stone said. "You do what you do for your family, but these residents are our family."

Activity director April Kosuda also expressed how proud she was about the residents' longevity and how proud she was to be part of the Christopher Heights family. She echoed the celebrated residents when asked what she thought was the secret to their success.

"I think it's the move-

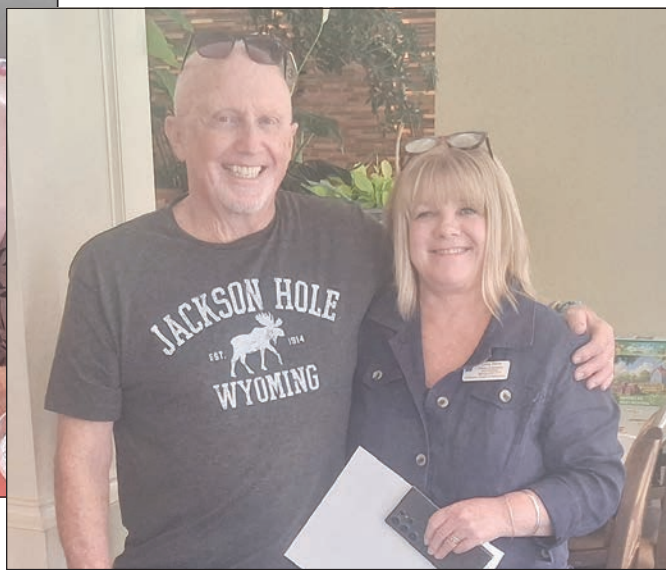
ment," Kosuda said. "Keep going. We all have issues. We all have things going on, but not letting that bog you down and to keep pushing forward and keep moving... you have to have some type of inspiration to keep moving forward. And honestly, they're my inspiration."



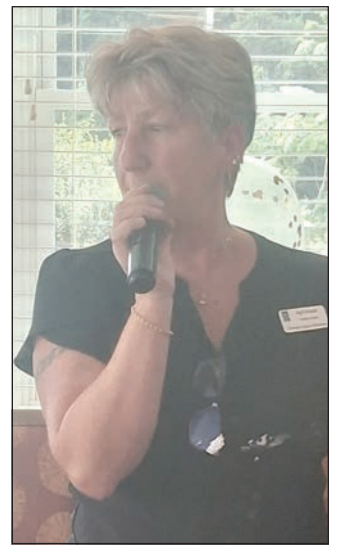
105-year-old Anne recommends a glass of wine daily to live long and prosper.



Christopher Heights residents smile for the camera.



Ann Condon's son and Director of Marketing Lorna Stone.



Activities Director April Kosuda gives a few words to the day's proceedings.

BOARD from page 1

item commitment in the town budget to create the cultural district, and identified Community and Economic Development Planner Eric Weiss as the "designat-

ed compensated individual" involved in the process. Pending a successful site visit, she stated the next step would be receiving a notification of acceptance next September.

"We are building a relationship with the Massachusetts Cultural Council right now and their representative, who is fielding all of the questions for all of the potential cultural

districts," Cultural District Manager April Jayzach Banks said. "We're working on a map of all our cultural assets."

Banks clarified the appointed cultural district

would have to be within "a walkable distance in town" and cited the area around Carriage Grove as a potential location. She stated the number of cultural events which occur around the area make it a prime candidate for designation.

"Now, that's not to say that we don't have cultural events and cultural activity throughout our entire town," Banks said. "But that is the designated walkable area that we can focus on to get this designation."

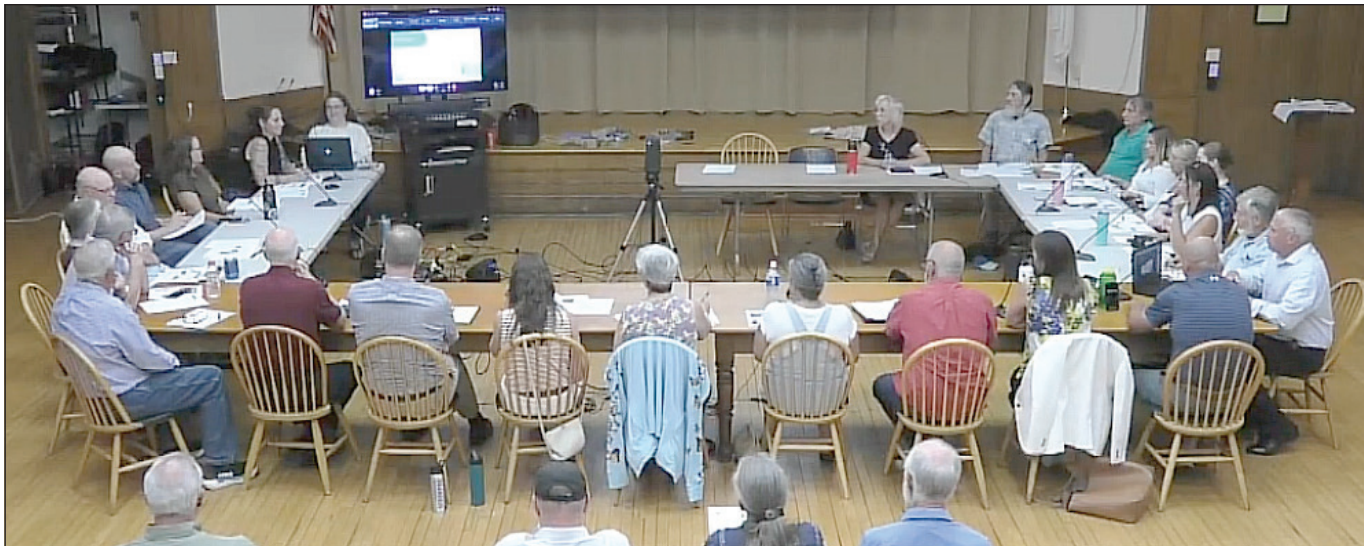
She also noted a cultural designation would be a "great marketing tool for our town" and mentioned the opportunity for economic development should the designation be approved. Banks also cited it would open the door for more grant opportunities as well.

"If we're awarded designation, the town is awarded

automatically \$15,000 per year to help maintain that cultural district," Banks said. "And then, there are other opportunities beyond that."

Banks shared an overview of a "placemaking and economic development project" related to the initiative. She stated the project has been in development since 2022 and was a collaboration between herself and the Creative Economy Committee, which is a consortium of local artists, makers, musicians, authors and local nonprofits.

"Gather Art Space and Marketplace will be a vibrant destination where art, community and local enterprise come together," Banks said as she introduced the cultural district concept. "Gather showcases locally made arts and goods while creating opportunities for artists and makers to exhibit, sell, teach and connect."



A wide shot of all the board members.

TURLEY PHOTO BY BEN HERNANDEZ



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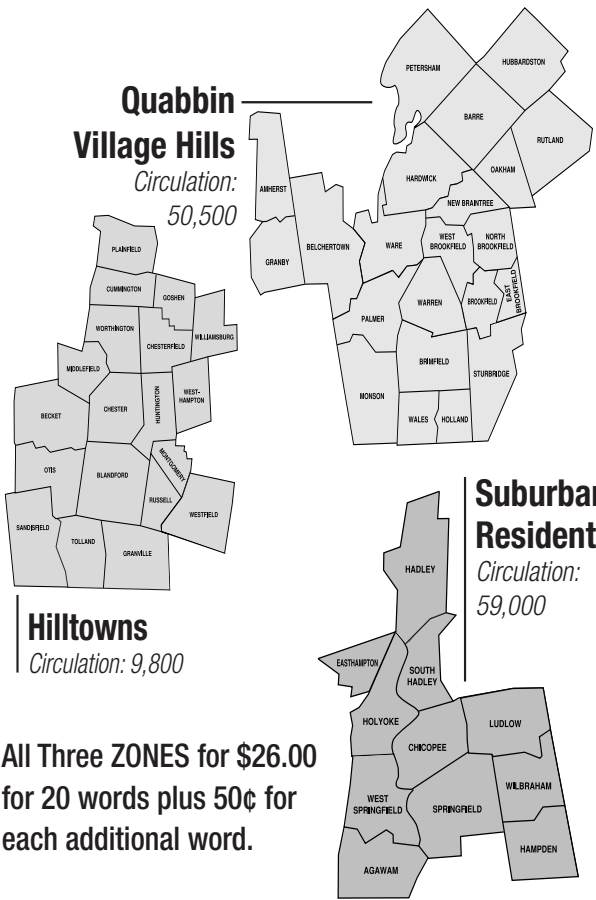
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SCHOOL from page 1

an existing reserve fund. Belchertown Superintendent Brian Cameron said the high school stadium field has been aerated, overseeded and top-dressed and is being manually watered while crews work to repair an idle irrigation system. The water district has agreed to let the schools run the system once a week using town water, Cameron said, but the lines and heads have deteriorated after two years of inactivity, with

“stuck zone valves, broken valves, broken heads, heads that need to be adjusted.” Cameron said fall use of the stadium includes roughly five football games, nine girls’ soccer games, nine boys’ soccer games and three field hockey contests, for about 26 events total. The committee later turned to a slate of updated handbooks. School Committee member Ruby Bansal questioned changes at Belchertown High School, noting that only a change sheet, not the full handbook, was initially

available in the committee’s materials. Once the correct document was shared, Cameron said the high school handbook now emphasizes the impact of family trips on chronic absenteeism and formalizes a schedule of electronic notices at specific absence thresholds. He said the family vacation section now notes that chronic absenteeism “may lead to academic failure for the year,” and that automated attendance letters will be sent at days three, five and eight. The daily schedule

was also updated to a 7:40 a.m. to 2:18 p.m. school day. Cameron added that most edits across the district handbooks involved directory information, updated arrival and dismissal procedures at Swift River School, new timeout and seclusion language and negotiated changes in the central office, team leader and employee handbooks. The committee voted unanimously to approve the handbooks. Members also briefly discussed a high school

rule that the school “does not schedule, facilitate, or provide physical or virtual space for student appointments with external agencies.” Cameron said the restriction grew from a past situation in which a student was left “in crisis” after a private therapy session on campus. He said he would verify whether a prior partnership with Behavioral Health Network, which had been treated differently, remains in place. In other business, the committee declared a 2006

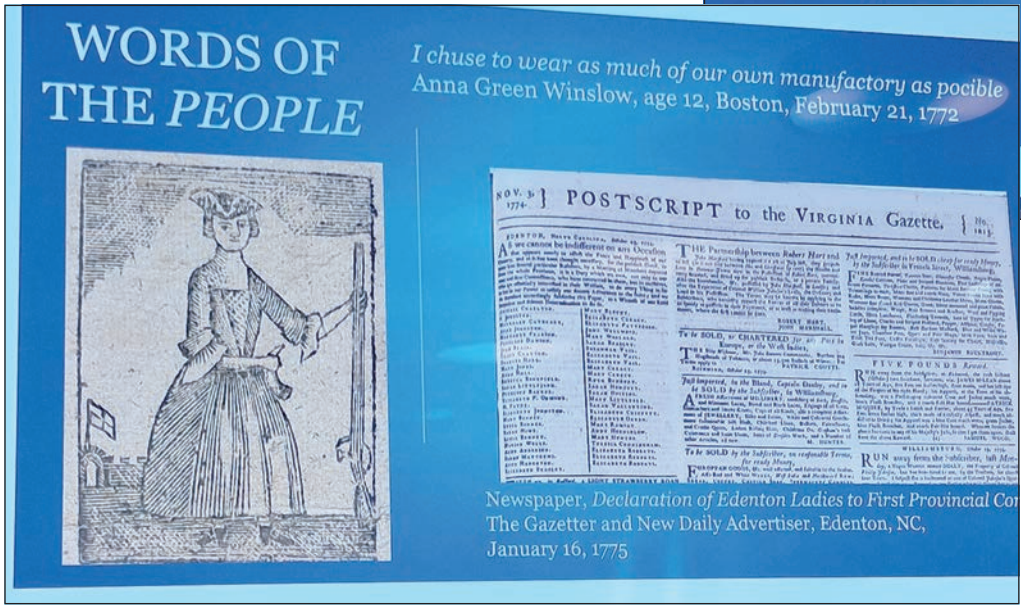
Ford Econoline van surplus after a facilities official cited significant body rot and mechanical failures. The district plans to ask whether the town wants the vehicle or consider donating it to Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical High School before disposal. The committee also voted to hire an outside attorney to act as an investigator in a personnel matter at a recommendation of current legal counsel. Cameron said the cost would be drawn from a reserve fund maintained for such issues.

DAR from page 1

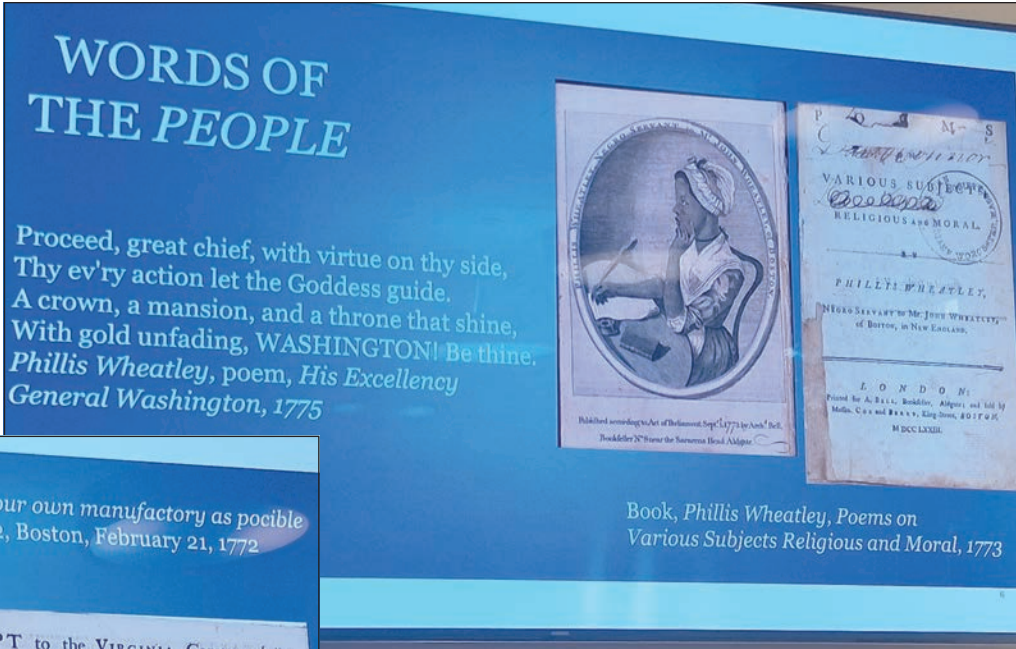
The presentation also featured Anna Green-Winslow who, despite being only 12 years old at the time, was very active in politics. A member of the prominent Winslow family in Boston, both her diary entries and letters to her mother offered a unique glimpse into the political sphere at the time. Gosselin also highlighted ordinary people, who offered unique glimpses into contemporary New England living. She cited Moses Short, whose diary not only chronicled farm tasks such as pulling flax and hauling hay, but illustrated how revolutionary soldiers came from every walk of life. There was no better example of this than the 5,000 black soldiers who fought in the American Revolution. Gosselin reported most of the soldiers were integrated within existing ranks, save for the First Rhode Island regiment, which was comprised entirely of black soldiers. “This regiment was made up entirely of black soldiers, 179 in total, and they were commanded by white

soldiers,” Gosselin said and pointed to Dunmore’s Proclamation created in 1775, which promised freedom to any of Virginia’s 200,000 enslaved people willing to take up arms for the British. “According to the Virginia Gazette, about 800 men did sign up to that call,” Gosselin said. “Many of them wore shirts that read ‘Liberty to Slaves’ painted on the front.” The presentation revealed

how much history is created by ordinary people thrust into extraordinary circumstances. It demonstrated how the United States’ past is both complicated and involved people from all manners of social stations. Those interested in learning more about the Daughters of the American Revolution and the free lectures they provide may check out their work at <https://www.dar.org>.



A blurb on young activist Anna Green Winslow.



A section featured famous writers of the time, including freed slave and poet laureate Phillis Wheatley.

“She (Phyllis Wheatley) is oftentimes referred to as the poet laureate of the American Revolution.”

– Daughter of the American Revolution representative Dr. Denise Gosselin

PUBLIC NOTICES

SALE OF MOTOR VEHICLE
This ad is pursuant to MA Gen. Law Ch.255, Sec. 39A as of September 17, 2026 the following motor vehicles will be for sale to satisfy a garage keepers lien:

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Color: White
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09/03, 09/10, 09/17/2026

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 14, 2026 at 7:00 PM in the Town Hall Auditorium, located at 2 Jabish Street in Belchertown, MA 01007** to review a **Request for Determination of Applicability** permit application submitted by Clifford Bowen for the proposed work to build a single family home at Lot 84.01 Amherst Road (Assessor’s Map 101-84.01 and 84.02) in Belchertown. Work is proposed to occur outside the 100-foot Buffer Zone to Bordering Vegetated Wetlands. Anyone interested in this matter should appear at the time and place designated. 09/032026

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampshire Division
Docket No.
HS26P0532EA
Estate of:
Norman Joseph Ashline
Also Known As:

Norman Joseph Ashline, Jr.
Date of Death:
May 21, 2026
INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE
To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Norman J. Ashline, III of Belchertown, MA** a Will has been admitted to

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B	E	G	A	N		S	E	V	E	R	A	N	C	E
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				T	A	N		S	T	E	T			
		S	O	D	S			P	O	L	E	A	X	
M	A	A	R				M	A	R	Y		B	I	O
A	R	N	E		T	W	I	N	S		R	I	I	S
D	A	T		V	A	A	L				O	B	I	S
	B	A	S	I	N	G			A	M	E	S		
			P	A	G	E		C	A	B				
	B	L	I	N	I		A	A	R			F	P	S
G	O	U	N	D	E	R	T	H	E	K	N	I	F	E
S	E	C	E	S	S	I	O	N		R	I	F	F	S
A	R	E	S		T	O	N			A	B	E	T	S

informal probate. **Norman J. Ashline, III of Belchertown, MA** has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve **without** surety on the bond. The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts

Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of

administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner. 09/03/2026

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