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Candlelight vigil recognizes lives lost to overdose



2,357 purple flags representing the 2,357 Massachusetts residents who lost their lives to overdose in 2022.

PHOTOS BY AIMEE M. HENDERSON

BY AIMEE M. HENDERSON
Correspondent

BELCHERTOWN - Last year, 2,357 Massachusetts residents lost their lives to overdose.

To recognize those lives, as well as bring awareness to and reduce the stigma of drug-related deaths, Belchertown Overcoming Adversity Together (BOAT) held a candlelight vigil on the town common on Aug. 31.

A visual display of 2,357 purple flags filled the center of the common—each one representing a life lost. In Belchertown alone, from 2020 to present day, there have been 12 lives lost to overdose.

Jesse McCarty, of Ware, spoke during the vigil, sharing his story of addiction and recovery.

“The worst part for me...is the pain and suffering of not only the person who has

the addiction but the people who are connected with them. The whole family goes through it,” he said. “There’s just a much better way to live.”

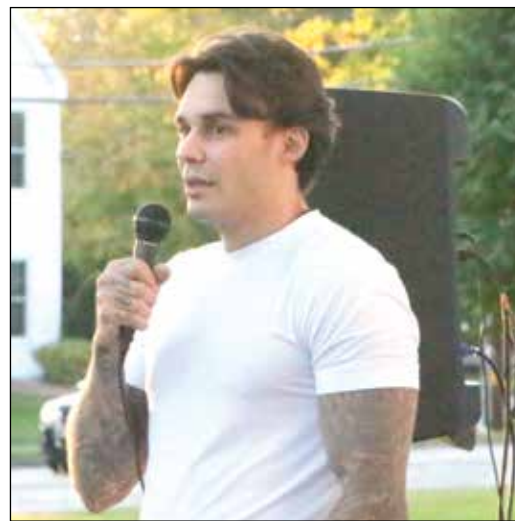
McCarty said recovery for him is a life-long journey that is taken one day at a time.

“Today, I have over two years sober,” he said, adding that there are so many beautiful things in his life, especially his newborn daughter.

“I would not trade whatever pleasure I get from drugs and alcohol for what I have today,” he said. “The thing that brings me the most pain is the trouble my family went through and those that I’m very close with. It’s a very dark place to be—inside your body and mind.”

“The most beautiful thing about recovery for me is the peace I feel inside now.

Please see **VIGIL**, page 2



Jesse McCarty, of Ware, speaks during the Candlelight Vigil in observance of International Overdose Awareness Day.

Saint Francis tag sales ‘enormously prosperous’

BY KIMBERLY PALMUCCI
sentinel@turley.com

BELCHERTOWN - The 2023 Saint Francis of Assisi Tag Sale is now in the history books, and event organizers have described the sale, held on August 26, as “enormously prosperous.”

“A special thank you to all who stopped by and shopped to make this year’s effort so successful,” event organizers released in a press statement.

This traditional, “much-anticipated” activity culminates annually during a one-day, six-hour sale, but the multi-level foundation for success is set well before.

Please see **TAG SALE**, page 4

Cultural Council seeks funding proposals

BY KIMBERLY PALMUCCI
sentinel@turley.com

BELCHERTOWN - The town’s Cultural Council is seeking funding proposals for community-oriented arts, humanities, and science programs.

The Belchertown Cultural Council (BCC) has announced it will be accepting applications for the 2024 grants cycle through Tuesday, Oct. 17.

“Organizations and individuals are invited to apply for grants that

Please see **FUNDING**, page 4

Granby Selectboard hears veterans’ district proposal

BY MELINA BOURDEAU
Correspondent

GRANBY - A proposal to create a veterans’ services district with the five communities of Granby, Hadley, South Hadley, Holyoke, and Amherst was presented to the Selectboard by

South Hadley Veterans’ Services Director Mike Slater and Holyoke Veterans’ Services Director Jesus Pereira.

While the Selectboard didn’t take a vote on the matter, they were asked to provide an answer by later October or early November. The district would

allow for veterans’ services officer or director to be able to get accredited, which isn’t possible for the current officer, Dave Mendoza, because he doesn’t work enough hours.

Slater said the district would allow for greater funds from the U.S. Department of Veterans

Affairs.

“Granby is currently pulling in \$201,000 a month. When you look at the census data for the veteran population, there’s the ability to look at service connecting and finding another benefit through the VA for 210 more residents that are veterans,” he

said. “There’s a potential to bring in another \$330,000 a month to Granby.”

Pereira spoke to the Board as well, stating that the structure of the department was suiting the needs of the veterans in the city.

Please see **PROPOSAL**, page 7

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COURTESY PHOTO

The 29th annual Zonta Golf Tournament will be held at Cold Spring Country Club in Belchertown this weekend.

Golf fundraiser this weekend ‘packs a big punch’

BY KIMBERLY PALMUCCI
sentinel@turley.com

BELCHERTOWN – An event this weekend aims to offer a day of fun while helping build a better world for women and girls through scholarships and grant programs.

The 29th annual Zonta Golf Tournament will be held at Cold Spring Country Club in Belchertown on Saturday, Sept. 9, with an 8:30 a.m. shotgun start.

“Men and women players of all levels are welcome,” the Zonta Club of Quaboag Valley released, adding that the cost of \$120 per person includes the greens fee, cart, pastries/snacks and box lunch, raffles, prizes, and “a day of fun for a worthy cause.” Registration forms are available online at zontaqv.org/golf or by contacting Deb Wood at DebWood197@gmail.com or Mary Knight at 413 323-4806 or info@zontaqv.org.

“We also welcome local businesses and supporters who would like to donate to this worthwhile event. Contact us to learn more,” the Zonta Club shared. The Zonta Club of Quaboag Valley is part of Zonta International, according to a press statement, a “leading global organization of individuals working together to build a better world for women and girls since 1919.”

“This golf fundraiser is a critical part of serving our mission,” the Club released. “Profits are used to fund scholarships and grant programs that benefit women in need.” Western Massachusetts projects, the Club added, include raising awareness about ending child marriage, domestic violence, trafficking of women and children, reimagining manhood, supporting suicide prevention, and mentoring homeless women veterans.

Pet supply tag sale upcoming

BELCHERTOWN – The town’s Animal Control will be holding a pet supply tag sale from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. on Saturday, September 9, at the shelter, 165 George Hannum Street. All money will benefit the shelter’s “Gift Fund,” which helps supplement medical and pet food needs of the community.

For sale will be new and used harnesses, collars, sweaters, coats, carriers, leashes, beds, toys, bowls, and various other pet items. There will even be some “one-of-a-kind items,” all of which have been donated by town members and friends, event organizers said. “Items will be at bargain prices, so you can buy extras for your pets or as gifts for pets of family and friends,” a press statement reads.

Cash, check, or Venmo will be accepted.



VIGIL from page 1

Outward things come and go...if I can have peace in my heart and mind today, that’s the most beautiful thing I can have,” McCarty said.

One of the things McCarty treasures the most about being in recovery is the ability to be there for those who are struggling.

“I know from experience the suffering, the pain, just the wanting it to stop but not being able to,” he said. “When people come to me today and ask for help, I can be there for them.”

Also in attendance were the officers of the Belchertown Police Department’s Drug Addiction and Recovery Team (DART). Sgt. Neil Lozier, who has been a part of DART since 2017, said it took implementing DART for there to be a “break in the cycle” of how officers responded to overdose calls.

DART officers are trained in opioid overdose response and are able to provide additional post-overdose resources, including connecting individuals with peer recovery coaching or transportation to a treatment facility.

Nick Southwick-Hall, found-

er and executive director of Honest Beginnings, a program that supports recovery from substance use disorder in Western Massachusetts through a certified sober housing environment, spoke highly of the DART officers.

“Our police officers are taking their time to try to help serve us where we’re hurting,” he said. “I’m so humbled by them taking their time to do that...we are very fortunate for what we have in this town.”

Nationwide, the CDC reported 79,770 opioid-involved overdose deaths, which is a two percent decline from 2021. However, the “number of fake pills circulating the U.S. has increased,” according to a press statement released by BOAT.

“The DEA has seized over 371 million fake pills in 2022, which six out of 10 were laced with a deadly dose of Fentanyl.”

For more information about BOAT, visit belchertown.org and click “Belchertown Overcoming Addiction Together” from the “Committees” dropdown menu. The website also has several links to support services.



PHOTO BY AIMEE M. HENDERSON

A luminary bag is placed among the purple flags that represent the lives lost to overdose in 2022.

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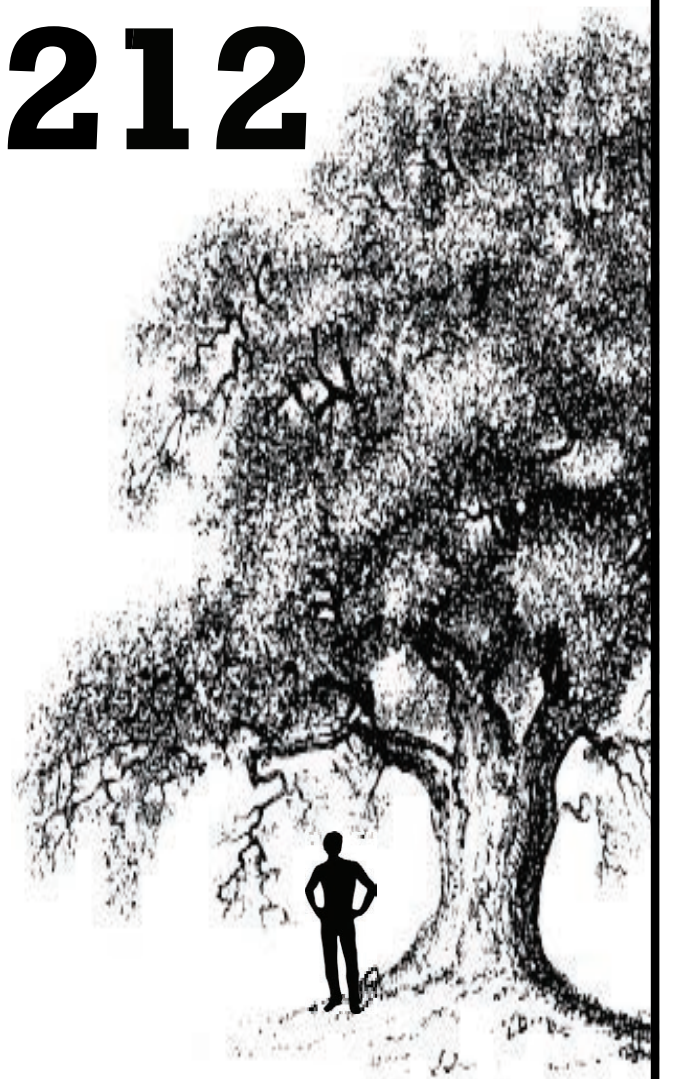
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Select Board announces board, committee vacancies

BY KIMBERLY PALMUCCI
sentinel@turley.com

BELCHERTOWN – The town’s Select Board is seeking citizens to share their expertise by serving on a town board or committee.

Those who have time and are interested in getting involved in the town’s activities are asked to submit a letter of interest to: Select Board, The Finnerty House, One South Main Street, P.O. Box 670, Belchertown, MA 01007, or by email to selectboard@belchertown.org.

The town has announced that it wishes to fill the following vacancies:

Trustee for the Calvin Bridgman Library Fund

Three-year elected volunteer position

Random hours as needs arise; this position will be elected at the 2024 Annual Town Meeting. Individual will work with two other Trustees to oversee disbursements of funds to libraries within the town of Belchertown.

Deadline: May 10, 2024

Trail Stewardship Council

One vacancy

The town wishes to fill a vacancy to represent landowners of the town on the Trail Stewardship Council. Interested individuals should be knowledgeable about local land use and related issues. Additional information specific to this council can be found at newenglandtrail.org.

Deadline: September 29, 2023

Animal Control Advisory Board

One vacancy

This board has the authority to conduct hearings as allowed in the town’s by-laws and pose reasonable conditions as deemed appropriate. The ideal applicants may be a dog breeder, a dog trainer, a veterinarian, a non-pet owner from the community, a medical professional specializing in emergency medicine, an animal enthusiast or caregiver, a pet owner, and/or interested residents.

Deadline: September 29, 2023

Cultural Council

One vacancy

The Cultural Council promotes an appreciation of the arts and culture by participating in the development and administration of funds for local cultural activities, awarding grants each year to support cultural activities in town, using the funding the town receives from the Massachusetts Cultural Council. Additionally, the council sponsors two flagship events: Food Truck Fridays and Winter Light Night.

The Belchertown Cultural Council generally meets on the first Tuesday evening of the month via Zoom. They are especially interested in recruiting a member who is experienced with website design and social media platforms.

Deadline: September 29, 2023

Communications Committee

Two full-member seats

The purpose of this committee is to develop a communication plan for the town of Belchertown, to improve information flow from the town to the public. Experience with marketing, commu-

nications, and/or social media is highly preferred.

Deadline: September 29, 2023

Veterans’ Services Advisory Board (VSAB)

One anticipated At-Large vacancy

VSAB works closely with the town’s Veterans’ Agent on issues pertaining to veterans, including Veterans Day and Memorial Day ceremonies, war memorials, veterans’ graves, or any other related areas of concern.

Deadline: September 29, 2023

Scholarship Committee

Home-schooling representative seat

Those interested in serving in this capacity may submit a letter of interest.

Deadline: September 29, 2023

Belchertown State School

Buildings and Grounds Committee

Two additional full-member seats

The committee will advise the town and the Select Board on funding opportunities for maintaining and developing the remaining State School buildings, as well as advising on historical and cultural development opportunities. Expertise with real estate/architecture, grant writing, or historical experience to strengthen the skill set of the committee is highly preferred.

Deadline: September 29, 2023

Belchertown Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Task Force

Multiple vacancies, newly-developed Task Force

The focus of the Task Force is to devel-

op a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Statement for the Select Board to review and to consider adopting, to seek out opportunities to acknowledge and/or celebrate the diversity within the community, and to welcome the whole community to join in, offering suggestions on how the town addresses specific or potential acts of violence, including hate speech, should such acts arise in the community, region, or state.

“Efforts should be made to include voices from the community or communities that are directly affected,” the town released.

Partnership opportunities with surrounding towns to strengthen regional or state efforts might also be explored. This is a seven-member committee to include a representative from law enforcement, a representative from Town Hall, and five community members representing diversity in one or more of the following areas: racial and ethnic backgrounds, social positions with respect to gender identity and sexual orientation, social positions with respect to disability, and age groups and prior vocational experiences.

All are encouraged to apply.

Deadline: September 29, 2023

Zoning Board of Appeals

Associate Member seat

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.

Deadline: September 29, 2023

FUNDING from page 1

support cultural activities in the community,” the BCC released in a press statement. “Grants from the BCC can be used to support a variety of artistic projects and activities in Belchertown—including exhibits, festivals, field trips, short-term artist residencies, performances, workshops, or lectures.”

The BCC is part of a network of 329 Local Cultural Councils (LCC) serving all 351 cities and towns in the Commonwealth.

“The LCC Program is the largest grassroots cultural funding network in the nation, supporting thousands of community-based projects in the arts, sciences, and humanities every year,” Belchertown’s Cultural Council released. “The state legislature provides an annual appropriation to the Mass. Cultural Council, a state agency, which then allocates funds to each community.”

According to reports, past projects funded by the BCC include a pastel painting workshop at the Clapp Memorial Library, Sarah the Fiddler at the Senior Center, The Belchertown Skatepark Graffiti Jam and Skate Deck Paint Party, the sculpture installation Anillo at the Lake Wallace Sensory trail, and much more.

“All proposals and ideas are welcome,” the BCC added.

For local guidelines and information on the BCC, visit the website at: belchertownculturalcouncil.com or email grants@belchertownculturalcouncil.com.

Application forms and more information about the Local Cultural Council Program are available online at mass-culture.org.

TAG SALE from page 1

“This sale is rooted in a deep sense of community amongst the parishioners of Saint Francis and is framed upon a foundation of pure volunteerism,” organizers shared. “Traditionally, the planning begins in mid-winter when the town common space, tents, permits, and tables are reserved by a member of the leadership team. This event is a monumental task supported by well-seasoned, dedicated volunteers.”

The leadership is shared among a team of people who monitor various aspects and shifts during the collection period, with an effort made to assign a department head to each of the 17 departments to help with organization, according to the press statement.

“This strong spirit of volunteerism continues to enable the annual event to stay on track and contributes to its success.”

The 2023 Tag Sale Committee released that it “appreciates the timely donations from the community.”

“The hundreds of contributing residents respected the collection period and for most items, abided by the acceptable and not acceptable item lists,” the Committee shared. “Donating individuals gave so many treasures and quality merchandise—thank you.”

Appreciation is a hallmark of Saint Francis parish, event organizers added.

“In preparation for the sale, a committed legion of volunteers sorted, cleaned, tested, priced, packaged, and loaded items for over 155 hours during the two-week collection period,” the press statement reads. “The Friday before the sale, for over ten hours, the battalion of volunteers carted the boxed items from the Parish Center and trailers to set up the display areas on the common.”

This year, due to the impending rain, six of the departments were set-up inside the Parish Center; another band of volunteers covered most booth displays in tarps to protect the merchandise from rain and morning dew, event organizers said.

“The dedicated security team protected the area with stakes and tape, and manned the town common overnight,” they added. “The opening of the sale started with a prayer by Pastor, Father David, and then instructions were announced as throngs of buyers gathered around the taped marked boundaries, peering at treasures.”

During the sale, a volunteer legion of sales clerks, cashiers, and accountants worked “as though the town common and Parish Center [was] truly a department store with designated Brinks-like cash pickup and body guards,” a press statement reads.

At the 2 p.m. conclusion of the sale, a division of cleanup volunteers made haste to restore the area to its pre-sale glory, according to reports; by 5:30 p.m., the tag sale area was once again a “lush, green, park-like setting.”

“This year showed strong improvements in having other communities come to claim unsold items so that there was very little to dispose of,” event organizers said, adding that recipients included: local libraries; Hartsprings; Belchertown Senior Center Thrift shop; and Bethlehem House in Easthampton.

“This annual parish community-building tradition and fundraiser would not be possible without the historical foundation that was planted over 30 years ago when during what was the annual chicken barbeque, the late Claire Oberly started to use a few tables in the lower level of the former church to hold a concurrent tag sale in preparation of fundraising to build the proposed ‘new’ church, now on Jabish Street,” event organizers added. “The strong foundation has grown and been refined through a series of committed leaders.”

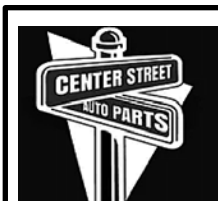
In the future, the 2023 St. Francis Tag Sale Committee hopes that the “younger generation of parishioners is compelled to continue this project.”

The 2023 Tag Sale Committee said it is “grateful to everyone who played an active role in this project’s success, starting with the cleaning of many closets, garages, and storage sheds in anticipation of donating.”



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Clapp Memorial Library announces September events

BELCHERTOWN - The Clapp Memorial Library offers a wealth of resources for the community, as well as a full schedule of free public programs for all ages.

"Stop in at 19 South Main Street, or go to clapplibrary.org to see what's new," the library released in a press statement.

The library will be open:
 Mondays and Fridays, 9:30 a.m. – 6 p.m.
 Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, 9:30 a.m. – 7 p.m.
 Saturdays, 9:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Upcoming programs at the Clapp Memorial Library include:

Drum Away the Blues

2 p.m. on Saturday, September 9

Using assorted percussion instruments, Music Educator/Percussionist Craig Harris will provide adults and children with "the key to stress relief tools for emotional balance." To guide his vocal, imagery, and drumming exercises and interactive participation, preschoolers to senior citizens "discover the joys of creating music, strengthen their ability to work with a group, cooperate with others, follow directions, make decisions, build self-esteem, improve abstract thought processing, creatively express themselves, foster a lifelong love of music, establish a positive mood, and relieve stress," the library released.

Transform Your Yard to Support Pollinators, A 12-Step Guide

7 p.m. on Tuesday, September 19

Many people now realize the importance of pollinators and other essential wildlife and want to make their yard pollinator-friendly, but don't know where to start. In this talk, master gardener Heidi Dollard will step you through the process of evaluation, planning, and implementation, with many options for large and small changes.

Additionally, story times for ages three months to six years old will begin the week of Monday, September 18. Story times feature age-appropriate stories, songs, finger plays, and art activities; registration and confirmation are required. For more information and to register, visit clapplibrary.org/story-hour.

Babytime Storytime (3-12 months)

9 - 9:45 a.m., Mondays (September 18 & 25, October 2, 23, & 30, and November 6)
 Babytime is for ages three – 12 months.

First Steps Storytime (12-24 months)

10 - 10:45 a.m., Mondays (September 18 & 25, October 2, 23, & 30, and November 6)
 First Steps is for ages 12 – 24 months.

Toddler Time (Two-year-olds)

9:30-10:30 a.m., Tuesdays (September 19 & 26, October 3, 24, & 31, and November 7)
 Toddler Time is for two-year-old children.

Preschool Storytime (Three- through six-year-olds)

9:30-10:30 a.m., Thursdays (September 28, October 5, 19, & 26, and November 2 & 9)
 Preschool Story Time is for children ages three to six.



COURTESY PHOTO

Pictured is Megan Scoon, who won the "Jane Austen" gift basket.

'Adult Summer Reading Challenge' sees success

BELCHERTOWN - The Clapp Memorial Library has concluded its Adult Summer Reading Challenge on August 19.

There were 200 participants this year, according to a press statement; patrons were challenged to read books from ten different categories and received a raffle ticket for each book read.

"Thanks to the Friends of the Clapp Memorial Library, we were able to offer seven different prizes, including gift cards and gift baskets."

The winners this year were: Mary Weller, Nancy Bell, June Mercier, Megan Scoon, Julia Mawson, Elizabeth Parent, and Lauren Parent.

Town awarded Sportshaven infrastructure funding

BELCHERTOWN - As part of a recent community development block grant, the town has been awarded \$1,350,000 to support infrastructure improvements at Sportshaven Mobile Home Park.

According to representatives from the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission's (PVPC) Community Development Department, as well as Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll and Secretary of Housing and Livable Communities Edward Augustus Jr., \$64.9 million in Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) were distributed across Massachusetts—including more than \$9 million for local communities as a result of PVPC's grant writing efforts. The Pioneer Valley Planning Commission is a state-designated regional planning agency for the 43 cities and towns of Hampden and Hampshire Counties, according to a press statement.

Granby Library hosts fall nature story times

GRANBY - Nature story times, crafts, and hands-on with Ranger Tasha will be held twice monthly at the Granby Library this fall.

Presented by Tasha Daniels, park ranger/visitor services specialist at the Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. Children ages three-five, siblings, and homeschoolers, are invited to drop in.

This month's first event, Butterfly Migration, was held on Sept. 5. Upcoming is:

How Do Critters Prepare for Winter?

10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, September 19

Hear a story about how squirrels get ready for winter.

Ranger Tasha will bring real bear, bobcat, and beaver pelts to show how these animals prepare for cooler weather.

Future nature story time dates include October 3 & 17 and November 7 & 21. The Granby Free Public Library is located at 297 East State Street, Granby. Call the library at 413-467-3320 during open hours for more information.

Granby Library hours:

Tuesdays, Wednesday, and Fridays: 10:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Thursdays: 10:30 a.m. – 7 p.m.

Saturdays: 10:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

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OPINION



I'm 64. When should I claim my Social Security?

Dear Rusty,

I am 64-years-old and still working full-time. My question is—when should I start my Social Security? I would like to start it in January 2024 and go part-time at work, but would I be losing much Social Security by not waiting until full retirement age?

Signed: *Trying to Plan Ahead*

Dear Trying to Plan:

You are smart to evaluate the impact of claiming your Social Security benefits early. First, be aware that your full Retirement Age for Social Security purposes is 66 years and 8 months and that is when you get 100% of the SS benefit you've earned from a lifetime of working.

It appears you already know that if you start benefits before your FRA, you'll be subject to Social Security's "earnings test," which limits how much you can earn from working before they take away some of your benefits. But if you go part time at work you can mitigate the earnings test and claim your benefits early – just understand that your payment will be permanently reduced by doing so.

If you claim your benefits to start in January 2024, you'll be taking your Social Security about 18 months early, which means that instead of 100% of your FRA entitlement you'll get about 90% (a reduction of 10%).

The earnings test will still apply and we don't yet know what the 2024 earnings limit will be, but it will be something more than the 2023 limit of \$21,240. If your 2024 earnings exceed the annual limit, SS will take away \$1 in benefits for every \$2 you are over the limit. They "take away" benefits by withholding future payments until they recover what you owe for exceeding the limit.

If you work part time and don't exceed the 2024 annual earnings limit, there will be no penalty and you will get every month's SS payment. If you find you will exceed the annual 2024 earnings limit, you can call Social Security and inform them of that and by how much, and they will suspend your benefits for the number of months necessary to avoid overpaying you.

If you don't inform them and you exceed the annual 2024 limit, they will catch up in 2025 when they get your 2024 earnings information from the IRS and issue an Overpayment Notice requiring you to pay back the amount owed, half of what you exceeded the 2024 annual limit by. As you likely know, the earnings test no longer applies after you reach your full retirement age.

So, the decision on when to claim your Social Security benefit is yours to make, and you are smart to consider your work plans - but should also consider your life expectancy and marital status. If you are married and eventually die before your lower earning spouse, your spouse's benefit as your survivor will be based on your benefit amount at the time of your death.

Thus, your age when you claim your benefit may also affect your spouse's benefit as your survivor; the longer you wait up to age 70 the more your spouse's survivor benefit would be. And if you enjoy at least average longevity, which is about 84 for a man your current age, then by waiting until your FRA or later to claim you'll not only get a higher monthly payment but also get more in cumulative lifetime benefits.

If, however, your financial circumstances are such that you need the SS money sooner, then claiming earlier may be the right decision, provided you don't substantially exceed the annual earnings limit prior to reaching your full retirement age. I hope the above provides what you need to make an informed decision.

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 ssadviser@amacfoundation.org.

Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.



LETTER

Thank You

Dear Editor,

A young lady asked me a question. How big is your family? My answer to that question was what is the population of Belchertown? This community's kindness is measured up of many small gestures that together make all the differences in the world. There are no other words than

thank you to express how appreciative I have been over these past 40 years. Thank you all for making my dream come true, not only with your show of support on our August 19 anniversary celebration, but each and every day of these past 40 years.

Love, Jan XO

Janice McCarthy



Fall plants extend the season

Over the last few days, I have heard the same sorry statement again and again: "I can't believe summer is over."

I am not sure if this is because school has started, or if honestly, folks feel cheated out of summer because of all the rain and overcast skies we had. Probably it's a little of both!

There have been a few coldish mornings, enough to make me get excited about all that is fall. Pumpkins, crisp apples, beautiful foliage and you guessed it, autumn plants!

Read on for a column from the archives, one that will inspire you to add some late season color to your landscape.

It is always fun to freshen up the garden with new plants. I think of adding a splash of color at this point in the season as a last hurrah before old man winter sets in.

There are all types of mums, and flowering cabbage and kale available for sale right now. Unfortunately, they command higher prices than summer annuals do.

This article will teach you how to get the most out of your investment.

Choose mums carefully.

Daisy and other decorative flower types will generally not last as long in the garden as "cushions" will. These have petals straight through to the center of the flower-no yellow center is visible.

Because the flower head is dense it tends to hold up after a heavy rain and as well as after the first few frosty nights. Although mums are pretty in their pots, they will do better if planted in the ground or at least repotted into a larger container.

The poor things have been growing in the pots you bought them in for quite a while and are usually root-bound. Because of this it is important to slice the roots in a few places just as you would annuals or perennials at planting time.

This way they will have a chance to expand into the new soil you have provided. Mums tend to dry out quickly and require water often.

If you notice that your plant has wilted before you have had a chance to plant it,

submerge the pot in a bucket of water- the shrunken soil ball will soak up water like a sponge!

Although mums can stand temperatures a few degrees below freezing, it is still a good idea to cover them if an early hard frost is in the forecast. Try using bushel baskets, old sheets or blankets, etc.

It is a nuisance, but so many times I have been grateful that I went through a bit of work to be able to enjoy my mums for weeks longer than if I hadn't.

If you are hoping that your mums will return for another season, cut them back to "fist height" in November, and provide them with a loose mulch after the ground freezes. The term "hardy mum" doesn't always prove true, but planting them properly, providing ample water and mulching for the winter will increase your odds of a repeat performance.

Remove the winter mulch around the time forsythias bloom.

Prevent gangly growth by pinching them back to a manageable height two or three times prior to mid-July. Expect blooms this time next year.

Flowering kale and cabbage can add nice texture to the fall garden. The same planting instructions apply here, but I have found that they can be finicky about water.

Consistent overwatering and they rot; giving them too little and they wilt. The best advice: test them before you get out the hose by inserting your finger into the top couple inches of soil.

Kale and cabbage need little in the way of grooming other than an occasional bottom leaf removed. Slugs do tend to enjoy the foliage, however, so set up some traps or barriers nearby.

The color on cabbage and kale will intensify as the weather gets colder, and the plants will continue to look good well into December, provided we don't get an early long-standing snow- it will eventually make the leaves mushy. While it's tempting to leave them in your containers and add greenery and such for the holidays, it's not recommended unless the planters are in a protected spot.

Plant now for your garden's last hurrah of the season- you'll be glad you did!

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.

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READING NEWSPAPERS IS A QUEST LIKE NO OTHER

COMMUNITY

Slow and steady wins the race



Painter turtles sit atop a log at Lake Arcadia in Belchertown.

PHOTO BY RAYMOND LAROCQUE PHOTOGRAPHY

Constitution Week upcoming, Sept. 17-23

BELCHERTOWN – In honor of this month’s upcoming Constitution Week, the Clapp Memorial Library in town will offer a selection of books for all ages related to the U.S. Constitution.

According to a press statement issued by the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), community members are urged to “reflect on the United States Constitution during this month’s annual observance,” held in honor of this “foundational document of national governance.”

The DAR initiated the observance in 1955, according to reports, when the service organization petitioned the U.S. Congress to dedicate September 17–23 of each year to the commemoration of Constitution Week.

“Congress adopted the reso-

lution, and on August 2, 1956, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed it into Public Law #915,” DAR released. “The celebration’s goals are threefold: to encourage the study of the historical events that led to the framing of the Constitution in September 1787; to remind the public that the Constitution is the basis of America’s great heritage and the foundation for its way of life; and to emphasize U.S. citizens’ responsibility to protect, defend, and preserve the U.S. Constitution.”

In the press statement, DAR described itself as the “foremost advocate for the awareness, promotion, and celebration of Constitution Week.”

“The annual observance provides innumerable opportunities for educational initiatives and community outreach, two mission areas of crucial importance

to the National Society,” DAR released.

One of the “largest patriotic women’s organizations in the world,” DAR has 190,000 members in approximately 3,000 chapters across the country and in several foreign countries.

“DAR members promote historic preservation, education, and patriotism via commemorative events, scholarships and educational initiatives, citizenship programs, service to veterans, meaningful community service and more.”

For additional information about DAR and its mission, visit dar.org.

Additionally, the public is invited to join the Betty Allen Chapter NSDAR Bell Ringing Ceremony at 3:30 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 17, at the historic chapter house, located at 148 South St., Northampton.

PROPOSAL from page 1

“We had about 75 families in the chapter 115 program, we were putting out roughly \$400,000 a year in that program through accreditation from the VA. So, everyone in my office is currently accredited with the VA to have us have access to the VA data,” he said.

By helping these families, Pereira said they were able to reduce the number of families in that program from 75 to 23.

Holyoke has three full-time employees in the veterans’ services department, and being part of the district would allow Granby residents to have access to those officials, too.

Slater said using the district model would allow for Granby

veterans and surviving spouses to be able to contact an officer five days a week compared to the six hours that the current veterans services officer provides.

Selectboard member Crystal Dufresne asked what would happen to the current VSO under the district model.

“The VSOs would be consolidated under one officer under a host community, which is currently being negotiated, ideally it would be Holyoke or South Hadley that would be administering all of the HR and IT support,” Slater said.

He said Granby would pay a bill to South Hadley for veterans’ services office access, which would be staffed five days a week. Appointments would still be possible, for those who

needed them.

Currently, the town budgets \$23,000 a year for its veteran’s services and it would be proposed the town would need to increase that to about \$32,300, based on veteran population, according to Slater.

Locally, Northampton has a district of 12 communities and there are several districts throughout the state.

Granby Veterans’ Services Officer Jeff Roule said the town has seen four VSOs in the last four years and the trend will continue because of part-time work.

“I think we owe it to our veterans to have that continuity of a district where even though a piece might leave, the district stays,” he said. “So, our veterans will always be serviced.”

Honest Beginnings, SOAAR plan annual 5K and music festival

BY AIMEE M. HENDERSON
Correspondent

BELCHERTOWN – To help continue its support for those in recovery from substance use disorder, Honest Beginnings and Speaking Out About Addiction and Recovery (SOAAR) will host its largest fundraiser on Saturday, September 16, from noon - 5 p.m. on the Belchertown Town Common.

The seventh annual 5K & Music Festival has become a popular family event in Belchertown, said Jill Panto, Honest Beginnings board member, adding that there is a feeling of community throughout the day with “something for everyone.”

The day’s agenda will include: activities for kids; local vendors selling their goods; resource tables with important information; raffles; guest speakers; and of course, the popular 5K and family walk. Music will be provided throughout the day, and there will be several options for food from the Sober Chef, Rustic Fusion, and the Belchertown Police Department grilling burgers and hot dogs.

Those interested in joining the 5K & Family Fun Walk may register online at:

eorunner1.wufoo.com/forms/soaar-addiction-recovery-awareness-2023/

The entry fee is \$30 for the 5K and \$20 for the fun walk (one mile) ahead of time, or \$35 for the 5K and \$25 for the fun walk on the day of. Online registration ends on Sept. 14 at midnight. Leading the walk once again will be David Holmes, in honor of his

son, Caleb, and others, who have been lost to substance misuse.

SOAAR began as a way for local families with loved ones struggling with the effects of substance misuse to help others experiencing similar situations. As they reached out to other families, they recognized that they could be a support system for one another. At the same time, Honest Beginnings was providing sober housing but were very aware that the families were in need of additional support.

On Jan. 19, 2016, the founders of SOAAR joined the Board of Directors of Honest Beginnings to team up with fulfilling a common mission—to support those in recovery as well as those who love them.

Since starting the 5K & Music Festival seven years ago, Panto said it has become a major fundraiser and has allowed Honest Beginnings to keep the operations of the house and other services running.

“We believe that this event has helped to bring awareness to the realities of substance misuse and the hope that exists,” she said. “We also believe that by working and interacting with the community and other local organizations, we are helping to reduce stigma.”

For those who want to get involved to support the event, Panto said there are still openings for vendors, bands, and volunteers. Email soaar01007@gmail.com to get more information.

“We feel very blessed and supported by the community and beyond, through the participation and positive feedback that we receive each year,” Panto added.

Granby library offers month long book sale, Sept. 1-30

GRANBY – Throughout the month of September, a fall book sale will be ongoing at the Granby Free Public Library, Sept. 1-30.

Book lovers will be able to choose from a large assortment of used and like-new books in fiction and non-fiction, according to a press statement. Used DVDs, video games, audiobooks, and CDs will also be on sale. Stop in

during the library’s regular operating hours, which are: Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Thursdays from 10:30 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Saturdays from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

The Granby Free Public Library is located at 297 E State Street, Granby. All proceeds benefit the Friends of the Granby Library.

DRIVERS WANTED

The Belchertown Senior Center is looking for drivers to deliver meals to homebound elders generally on weekdays between 10:30 am and 12:30 pm depending on the route.

This position starts at \$7.25/hour plus mileage reimbursement. This is more than a job, it is an opportunity to be of service to people in need. In addition to delivering meals, you are an important daily contact for the elders.

A valid driver’s license, reliable vehicle, a good driving record and reliability are required.

If you would like to join our team, please complete an application online at www.belchertown.org/human_resources or email jobs@belchertown.org for more information.

Applications will be accepted until positions are filled.

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<p>GREAT ON THE GRILL</p>		
<p>USDA INSP. STORE MADE ITALIAN MARINATED 1/2 CHICKEN..... \$2⁴⁹ lb</p> <p>USDA INSP. STORE MADE BBQ MARINATED BONELESS PORK BUTT STRIPS \$2⁹⁹ lb</p> <p>USDA INSP. FRESH BEEF BRISKET \$3⁹⁹ ea</p>	<p>90 Meat Outlet</p> <p>HOURS: Mon. - Wed. 8-4 Thurs. 8-6 • Fri. 8-6 • Sat. 8-3</p> <p>90 Avocado St. Springfield 413-737-1288 www.90meat.com</p> <p><small>We reserve the right to limit quantities.</small></p>	
<p>SALE DATES: 9/7/23-9/13/23 BUY DIRECT FOR SAVINGS • SELECTION • SERVICE</p>		

PUBLIC SAFETY

Belchertown Police Logs

Editor's note: The following are brief explanations of select entries in the Belchertown Police log and arrests for the weeks of Aug. 16 through Aug. 22. 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. Of the 337 calls police responded to, there were 20 incidents, one accident, six arrests/summons and eight citations.

ARRESTS/SUMMONS

Thursday, Aug. 24

9:11 p.m. – A 22-year-old Belchertown man was arrested and charged with assault and battery on a household family member and intimidating a witness.

ACCIDENTS/INCIDENTS

Wednesday, Aug. 23

7:55 p.m. – Officers responded to assist Belchertown Fire and paramedics with a person in a mental health crisis.

Thursday, Aug. 24

9:02 a.m. – A person came to the station to return a purse found on Main Street. There was an assortment of credit cards, cash, and a driver's license. Attempts were made to locate the person and they came into the station later to get the property.

4:36 p.m. – An officer spoke with person about property stolen from a relative's home. The person had passed away recently. There was a speaker that was missing. There are no suspects at this time. The person wanted the matter documented.

Friday, Aug. 25

12:21 p.m. – An officer spoke with a victim of a Facebook scam. The person sent the scammer two separate payments over the app, Zelle. The person was attempting to make payments for goats on the marketplace. The officer requested photos and screenshots. The officer was provided with additional information.

11:55 p.m. – Officers responded to assist Belchertown fire and paramedics.

Saturday, Aug. 26

2:44 a.m. – An officer took a phone call in regards to an intoxicated acquaintance. The person calling said their acquaintance was drunk and acting erratically.

They said they felt safe, and they wanted to deal with the issue. The person wanted the matter documented. They later called back a second and a third time. The person said the acquaintance was dumping suitcases on the floor and they wanted the person to go to bed. The officer responded on scene. No altercation occurred. The person was allowed to get their items and then left the residence.

5:40 a.m. – Officers responded to a North Main Street residence for a report of a person whose car window was shot out by a BB gun. The officer tried to canvas the area and didn't have success. The officer attempted to contact the person they believed to be involved in the incident.

2:32 p.m. – An officer spoke with a person about a possible 201A violation. The person they had the order against was communicating with a mutual friend. It was determined the order wasn't violated and the incident was documented.

6:52 p.m. – An officer responded to an accident on Sabbins Street. A vehicle was traveling west on Cold Spring Road when the operator couldn't make the turn onto Sabbins Street. The vehicle entered oncoming traffic going southbound, then went the other direction. The vehicle struck an embankment, and a rock. The vehicle was towed and no injuries were reported.

Sunday, Aug. 27

11:46 p.m. – At roll call, an officer was going through previous calls and during a previous shift they went to North Main Street to help the fire department with a medical call. The officer was concerned the injuries from the medical call were caused by a different source than reported but didn't have enough information to prove it. The matter was documented.

Monday, Aug. 28

1:54 p.m. – A person reported damage to their vehicle that was parked in South Cemetery. The person called for a tow, but the tow company was taking a long time to respond so the person left and went home. The vehicle was towed to Fitchburg where it was reported. The person saw there was damage to the vehicle and checked with the mechanic. The mechanic reported the damage was done before the vehicle arrived at the shop. The person wanted the matter on file and they planned on pursuing the matter further.

3:03 p.m. – An officer responded

to a bank in town for a report of a person attempting to pass a fraudulent check. The person had a printed driver's license and presented a debit card and a check. The caller thought something was suspicious because the person kept moving around and covering their face. The person was in a rush and said they would go to a different branch. The officer discovered the person's name on the documents reported their ID was recently stolen as was their purse. The person was known to attempt to pass fraudulent checks in the past.

Monday, Aug. 28

10:59 p.m. – A person spoke with an officer about a possible 201A violation. They got a message on an iPad app. The officer spoke with the other person who denied sending the messages.

Tuesday, Aug. 29

2:08 a.m. – An officer was on patrol while parked at a Federal Street business. A person approached the officer and spoke about a relative's dog that got loose and they were trying to catch it. They explained they checked different locations and were approached by a vehicle. The person in the vehicle threatened to shoot the person then the vehicle chased them through the location. They believed the other vehicle was parked at a different business. They didn't know the operator and why they were being threatened. The officer called to check the area and adjacent businesses or parking lots. No vehicle was located.

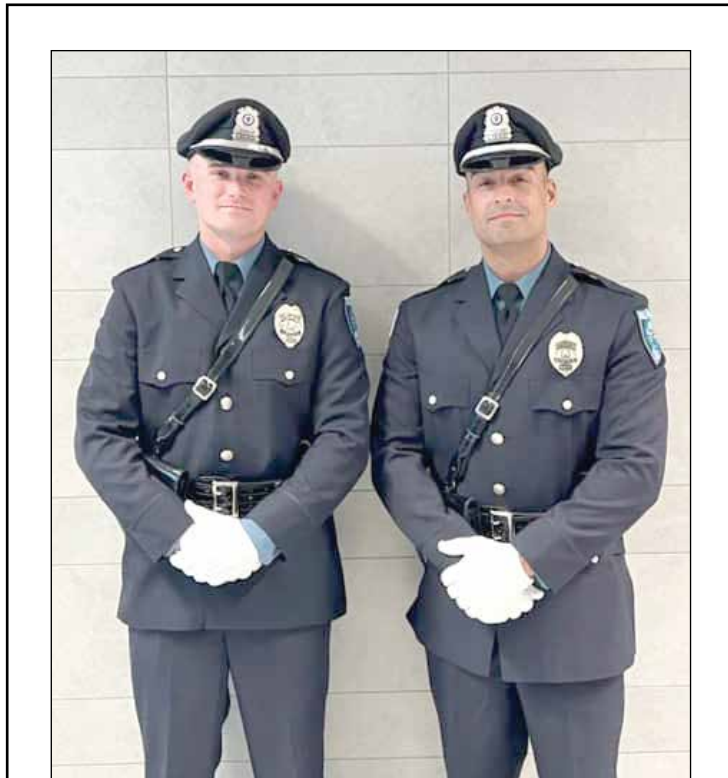
9:30 p.m. – An officer took a report of a stolen video game console along with its controllers. Earlier in the day, the person was removing boxes from their home. The suspects were one of three movers that removed the PlayStation five. The serial number was provided to the officer and the owner was going to report it as stolen to PlayStation.

Granby Police Logs

Editor's Note: The Granby Police Department responded to 129 calls for the week of Aug. 25 through Aug. 31. Those arrested are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law. The Granby Police Department provides all information.

Friday, Aug. 25

9:37 a.m. – An employee reported that someone stole plants



COURTESY PHOTO, BELCHERTOWN POLICE DEPARTMENT
Officers Cameron Woodward and Nicholas Jimenez

Officers congratulated on graduation

BELCHERTOWN – The town's police department has congratulated Officers Nicholas Jimenez and Cameron Woodward on their recent graduation from the Holyoke 1st ROC.

"The ceremony was held at the West Springfield High School with friends, family, and colleagues in attendance," the police department shared in a statement on social media.

After 21 weeks in the police academy, Officers Jimenez and Woodward will begin an 8-12 week field training program, police added.

from the front of the business. An incident report was completed.

Monday, Aug. 28

1:01 p.m. – A student struck another student's parked vehicle in the parking lot. Very minor, no injuries. An accident report was completed.

11:20 p.m. – A vehicle was observed by an officer doing donuts in the Dufresne lot. The vehicle was stopped, and the operator was summons to court for malicious damage to property.

Tuesday, Aug. 29

8:09 a.m. – A MassDOT employee reported locating a Jeep Wrangler that went into the bushes/drainage ditch in front of Cumberland Farms. There was no one inside of the vehicle. The

operator came back to the scene and was issued a criminal citation for crossing marked lanes, failure to stop for a stop sign, and leaving the scene of a property damage accident.

2:35 p.m. – A motorist reported a minor two-car accident. There were no injuries and an accident report was completed.

Wednesday, Aug. 30

12:22 p.m. – A resident reported that someone stole a security camera. An incident report was completed.

Thursday, Aug. 31

2 p.m. – A resident reported that someone has been opening credit cards in their name. An incident report was completed.

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Please contact **Pat James 413-726-8661.**

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OPPORTUNITY

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SENIORS

Belchertown Senior Center announces events

BELCHERTOWN - The town's Council on Aging is a community-based resource for citizens of Belchertown aged 60 and over.

The Senior Center is located at 60 State Street, just off Route 202 at the William Gerald Whitlock Municipal Complex (next to the police station), and is home to a variety of programs and services.

Hours are Mondays from 8 – 3:30 p.m., and Tuesdays-Fridays from 8 – 4:30 p.m.; contact the Senior Center at 413-323-0420.

Upcoming events at the Senior Center include:

Nutrition Program

The Nutrition Department offers both congregate and home delivered meals, Monday through Friday. All meals are home cooked and prepared daily in the kitchen; meals are balanced and nutritious, served with dessert and choice of juice, coffee, tea, or milk. There is no fee for these services, but there is a suggested, voluntary, confidential donation of \$2.50 for adults 60 and over. (Increasing to \$3 on October 1). Guests under 60 are required to pay \$5. This money is used exclusively by the kitchen to defray rising food costs.

Congregate Meals

In-person dining is offered Monday through Friday at 11:30 a.m. Reservations must be made 24 hours before by calling Kim at 413-323-0420 ext. 508.

This is an opportunity to enjoy a delicious meal while socializing and meeting new people.

Home Delivered Meals

Meals are delivered Monday through Friday between 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. to those clients who are eligible. Supper and weekend meals are also available. Eligibility is based on individual circumstances, and can be available on a short- or long-term basis.

For more information, contact the program staff:

Laura Wagner, Nutrition Program Coordinator, 413-323-0420 ext. 507 or LWagner@belchertown.org;

Mariah Diesi, Nutrition Program Assistant, MDiesi@belchertown.org

Social Services and Outreach

Certified SHINE Counselors Review and assist with Medicare, health insurance, and prescription plan renewals. Other services are available, including referrals to local agencies, a private pay list, home visits to ensure safety and to determine needs, and more.

Please call for an appointment at 413-323-0420

Laurene Kendall, Social Services Coordinator, ext. 505 or Heather Woodworth, Social Services Asst., ext. 509

Transportation

Van service in Belchertown can be scheduled within town to and from the BCOA and to local businesses for food, prescriptions, or personal care—\$1 each way.

Medical transportation by a driver in a personal vehicle can be scheduled for medical appointments in or out of town. Fees apply, and vary based on income and distance of travel.

Walmart and Big Y bi-weekly trips can be scheduled to Ware—\$3 round trip.

Rides are scheduled on a first-come, first-serve basis and as the schedule allows.

Please call 413-323-0420 for information or to schedule.

Kim Rossi, Transportation Coordinator, ext. 508

Health & Wellness

At BCOA, there is "something for everyone," including classes, clubs, wellness clinics, and other activities each week.

Footcare: Piper Sagan, RN and Certified Foot Care Specialist, provides services on the second Monday of every month. She will assess overall foot health, clip/file nails, file callouses, and recommend shoe wear and cushioning as needed. She will finish with a massage using healing essential oils to promote foot health—\$50 per visit.

Skincare: Diane Neill, licensed esthetician, offers facials and waxing ser-

vices on the third Wednesday of every month. She offers a Signature Facial, a Microdermabrasion Facial, LED Light Therapy, or waxing services. Prices vary by service.

Massage: Jodi Kaufman, licensed massage therapist and certified in geriatric massage, offers one-hour massages on the first Tuesday of every month—\$70 per visit.

Yoga: Classes offered Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at 9:30 a.m.—\$5/class. Preregistration required.

Tai Chi: Classes offered outdoors (weather permitting) on Tuesdays and Fridays at 10 a.m. Suggested donation is \$0.50 cents/class.

Healthy Bones & Balance: Classes offered Tuesdays and Thursdays at 10 a.m. Suggested donation is \$0.50 cents/class.

Wholefood/Plant-Based Program: Group meets on the third Thursday of every month at 10 a.m. Free to attend.

Quabbinaires Walking Group: Walks take place three-four times per month. Days and times vary. Free to attend.

Nurse "Office Hours": Walk-in blood pressure/glucose checks and general questions. Offered second and fourth Mondays, 10-11 a.m.

Exercise Equipment Room: State-of-the-art treadmills, exercise bikes, and weights. Free to use. No appointment necessary.

Grief/Loss Support Group: Group meets on the first Wednesday of every month at 12:30 p.m. Free to attend.

Call Stephanie at 413-323-0420 ext. 501 for more information or to sign up.

Ukelele Group: Every Monday at 12:30 p.m., bring your own ukulele, and play for fun.

Rainbow Coffee Hour: Second Wednesday of the month, 10 a.m.

Veterans Social Hour: Second Wednesday of the month, 10 a.m.

Book Club: Third Monday of the month, 10 a.m.

Wii Bowling: Every Friday, 10 a.m.

For even more events and offerings, contact the Belchertown Senior Center.

Bus trip to NYC scheduled in December

REGION - Spend Saturday, December 9, in New York City on a 36-passenger King-Gray coach bus; spend the day shopping, sightseeing, or museum hopping, according to a press statement.

The roundtrip fare is \$77 and includes the driver's gratuity. Participants will arrive at 6:45 a.m. at Ludlow High School's parking lot at 500 Chapin Street for a prompt 7 a.m. departure. There will be one rest stop going to NYC and one coming home. The bus will drop passengers off in Times Square.

Departure from NYC will be at 6 p.m. from the New York Palace Hotel (formerly The Helmsley Palace) on 455 Madison Avenue at 50th Street. Checks are asked to be sent to Gloria Fortunato, 52 Deer Run, Belchertown, MA 01007.

In the notation section of the check, write your cell phone number, a press statement reads. The deadline for seat reservation is November 1, and a wait list will be kept.

Granby Library invites kids to design a bookmark

GRANBY - Children ages Pre-K-12yrs are invited to design and enter a bookmark in the 2023 10th Anniversary of the Granby Free Public Library's new building and the 40th birthday of the Friends of the Granby Library Bookmark Contest.

Stop by the library during open hours to pick up a bookmark template and entry form.

"Your bookmark should represent what the Granby Library means to you and to the community," a press statement reads. "One lucky winner will have their bookmark printed in time for library anniversary festivities this fall and will win a \$25 prize."

Bookmark entries are due back to the library by September 17.



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OBITUARIES

DEATH NOTICES

Schiffer (Dukeman), Karen E.
Services September 6, 2023

Kittrell, Dr. James Raymond
Died August 26, 2023
Services September 2, 2023

Sansoucy, Harvey A.
Died August 31, 2023
Services September 9, 2023

Syriac, Steven
Died August 14, 2023
Services are private

Dr. James Raymond Kittrell

AMHERST - Dr. James Raymond Kittrell, 82, of Amherst, passed peacefully, surrounded and held by his beloved family, on August 26, 2023.



Dr. Kittrell was born on October 28, 1940, to Raymond and Dorothy (Wheeler) Kittrell in Arkansas City, Kansas. James was predeceased by his parents, Raymond and Dorothy, his brother Kenneth, sister Sarah, and son Gregory James. He is survived by his high school sweetheart and cherished wife, Ruth; their children, Jeffrey Alan (Susan),

Keith Douglas (Annaliese), Scott Andrew (Jennifer), Dianne Elizabeth (Andrew); and 13 grandchildren.

James was a devoted husband, father, and grandfather who prioritized family. He especially valued education in his children's and grandchildren's lives. He was very involved in youth sports and supported his children's diverse activities wherever those activities took them. James was a President of the Amherst Youth Hockey Association and former troop leader of the local Boy Scouts of America chapter. He was always quick to comfort, quick to support, and slow to judge whenever life's crossroads led the family down alternate pathways. James was hard-working, brilliant, loving, and could command any room's attention with his seriousness and infectious laughter. There were never more important people in a room than his grandchildren, and the family he created with the love of his life, Ruth, was genuinely the joy of his life.

Dr. Kittrell graduated from Arkansas City High School in 1958, then attended Oklahoma State University, earning a Bachelor of Science in chemical engineering in 1962. He then attended the University of Wisconsin, earning a Master of Science, PhD, and completing post-doctoral studies in chemical engineering in 1965. His career started with Standard Oil of California (Chevron) in 1965, working in their San Francisco research division and subsequently their Los Angeles oil refining division. He accepted a position as a Professor of Chemical Engineering at The University of Massachusetts in 1971, rising to tenured faculty until he and his wife Ruth founded KSE, Incorporated in 1977, which continues in operation today.

KSE specializes in consulting services and technology research and development with Dr. Kittrell recognized as an expert in industrial forensic analysis. Dr. Kittrell has published over 100 technical articles and is an inventor on over 60 U.S. patents in the petroleum processing, environmental remediation, and chemicals industries. He has consulted in petroleum processing in the U.S., Australia, New Zealand, Canada, Venezuela, Britain, and France. He consulted for the Queen's Royal Commission on Petroleum and wrote the refining section of the Australian National Petroleum Strategy. He has taught Petroleum Refining at the University of Massachusetts and to OPEC representatives. He is a member of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers, the American Chemical Society, the Air & Waste Management Association, ASHRE, and the National Fire Protection Association. He is a Principal and Advising Member of the NFPA Technical Committee on Transportation of Flammable Liquids. He has received numerous competitive awards for advanced scientific and commercial studies under various U.S. government agency Small Business Innovation Research programs. One of his inventions received the R&D 100 Award as one of the 100 most technologically-significant new products of the year, termed "The Oscars of Invention" by the Chicago Tribune. KSE received the SBIR Technology of the Year Award for Environment, Energy & Resource Management. The Company was also recognized with the U.S. EPA Environmental Innovator Technology Award and a second SBIR R&D 100 Award.

Dr. Kittrell was actively working at the company he built and loved until his last days and was awarded his final patent in July of this year for manufacturing bio-based plastics.

The family received extended family and friends on Friday, September 1, 2023, at the Rindt-Erdman Funeral Home of Arkansas City, Kansas. Services were held on Saturday, September 2, 2023, at the funeral home, followed by interment at Parker Cemetery in Arkansas City, reception following. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to the Alzheimer's Association in his honor at: act.alz.org/goto/InMemoryofJamesRKittrell

We want to thank the Cooley Dickinson Hospice team and all the health care professionals for their tender care and compassion during this challenging time. Our family would also like to extend our sincere gratitude and appreciation for everyone's prayers, love, and support.

God Bless You All.

Harvey A. Sansoucy

BELCHERTOWN - Harvey A. Sansoucy, 81, of Bath, New Hampshire, passed away at his home with family at his side on Thursday August 31, 2023. He was born in Holyoke on May 8, 1942, to Harvey and Pearl (Boisvert) Sansoucy. He attended Chicopee High and Trade School, graduating with the class of 1961.



Harvey married his high school sweetheart at St. Rose of Lima Roman Catholic Church on June 15, 1963, and they made their home in Chicopee, where Harvey found work with the Daniel O'Connell's and Sons construction company. He started his own company, Friendly Builders, in 1972. The family moved to Belchertown in 1976. Over the years, he expanded the business to include Friendly Security and Friendly Home Inspection. Harvey continued to work until March of 2023, finally retiring at the age of 80. Harvey and Carol purchased a property in Bath, New Hampshire, in 2009 and built a home. They split their time between Belchertown and Bath, moving full-time to Bath in 2015. In his free time, Harvey enjoyed hunting, hiking, archery, and

camping with Carol in their travel trailer, especially the three-month trip they took across country to Alaska in 2006.

He is predeceased by his parents. He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Carol Sansoucy; three sons, Ronald Sansoucy and his wife Julie of New Smyrna Beach, Fla., John Sansoucy and his wife Karen, Belchertown, and Jeffrey Sansoucy and his wife Trish of Bolivia, North Carolina; four grandchildren, Keith Sansoucy and his wife Lorna of Palmer, Nathan Sansoucy, Danielle Sansoucy, and Stephanie Sansoucy, all of Belchertown; his sister Liane Pueschel and her husband Robert of South Hadley; as well as many nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

A memorial service will be on Saturday September 9, 2023, at 11 a.m. at the Trinity Church of the Nazarene, 41 Nazarene Drive, North Haverhill, New Hampshire, with the Rev. George Hemway as officiant. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in memory of Harvey Sansoucy to Trinity Church of the Nazarene Food Pantry, 41 Nazarene Dr. North Haverhill, NH 03774, or Bath Historical Society, PO Box 44, Bath, NH 03740.

To offer the family an online condolence, please visit www.rickerfh.com

Ricker Funeral Home & Cremation Care of Woodsville is assisting the family.

Karen E. (Dukeman) Schiffer

BELCHERTOWN - Karen E. (Dukeman) Schiffer, 72, passed away August 26, 2023.

Born in Cambridge on February 6, 1951, she was the daughter of Thomas and Helen (Tierney) Dukeman. Karen grew up in Cambridge and graduated from Elms College with her degree in nursing. Since 1984, she has resided in Belchertown with her husband, Tilo.



Karen worked as a school nurse in the Belchertown Public School System for 24 years and enjoyed her time there with students and faculty. She loved tending to her flowers and took much enjoyment in her time quilting, most especially with her dear friend, Nancy K. Traveling through

the years included trips to Alaska, Hawaii, the Grand Canyon, Sedona, Cancun, and beyond. Karen also loved to cook and made delicious meals enjoyed by many. Karen's love will forever remain with her husband, Tilo, along with their children, Matt Schiffer of Belchertown and Melanie Schiffer of Theresa, New York, and their grandson, Nathan Schiffer of Belchertown. Karen will also be long remembered by her sister, Mary, and her husband, Jim Lovell of Hampton, New Hampshire, and brothers George Dukeman of Hampton, New Hampshire, and Todd Dukeman of Pennsylvania.

Visitation was held Wednesday, September 6, at the Beers & Story Belchertown Funeral Home with a service that began at 6 p.m. In lieu of flowers, please consider donations in her name to D'Amour Cancer Center, baystatehealth.org/giving.

Please visit beersandstory.com.

Steven Syriac



BELCHERTOWN - Steven Syriac, 55, of Summerfield, Fla., passed away August 14, 2023. He was born in Springfield on



November 19, 1967, to the late Richard and Daisy (Dodge) Syriac. Steven was a Belchertown resident since the age of 12 until 2011 when he relocated to Ware. Then, in 2016, Steven moved to Summerfield, Fla.

Steven proudly served his country in the United States Navy until 1987. In 1994, he began working for the Belchertown Ambulance Service. He played an integral role in developing the company into a full-time service with certified paramedics, and really helped to build the company into what it is today. In 1999, Steven

was the Director of EMS. After moving to Florida, Steven became very involved with the Guardian Ad Litem Program for foster children. He loved to work and enjoyed cooking.

Besides his parents, Steven was preceded in death by his nephews, Danny and Richard Raymond Syriac III. He leaves behind his children, Katelyn Harrington and husband Steve, Stephanie Syriac, and Nicole Syriac. He also leaves his sister, Marjorie Syriac Dunham, of Conn.; brother, Rick Syriac, of South Carolina; Aunt Joanne Sayers of South Carolina, grandchildren, Jamie and Maddison; as well as many nieces and nephews.

All services are private. In lieu of flowers, donations in Steven's name can be made to the Belchertown Emergency Medical Services.

Please visit beersandstory.com to extend online condolences.

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 \$225, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

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

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Regional bank to host two free shred days in the fall

EASTHAMPTON and BELCHERTOWN - bankESB has invited customers and members of the community to two free "Shred Days" at local offices. Events will be held from 9-11 a.m., or until the truck is full, on the following dates and at the following locations. No appointment is necessary.

Saturday, September 23: Easthampton office, 241 Northampton Street

Saturday, October 14: Belchertown office, 40 State Street

Local residents can "reduce their risk of identity theft by bringing old mail, receipts, statements or bills, cancelled checks, pay stubs, medical records, or any other unwanted paper documents containing personal or confidential information and shredding them safely and securely for free," a press statement reads.

A professional document destruction company will be on site in the bank's parking lot and can accept up to two boxes of documents per person.

SPORTS

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Cassandra Flaherty sends a pass away.

Rams hit the turf

CHICOPEE – Last week, Granby girls soccer, which has a tough season last year, made their way to neighbor Chicopee Comprehensive for a scrimmage. The Rams are going to have a busy first week of the season, which includes a matchup at Monson on Friday, Sept. 8.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM
Rhea Gagnon fights for the ball near the sideline.



Olivia Redmond looks to make a pass.



Mabel Carillon possesses the ball and considers her next move.



Ellie Szlosek moves play up the field.

Brownies, Orioles lock up in preseason



Belchertown's season opener was earlier this week

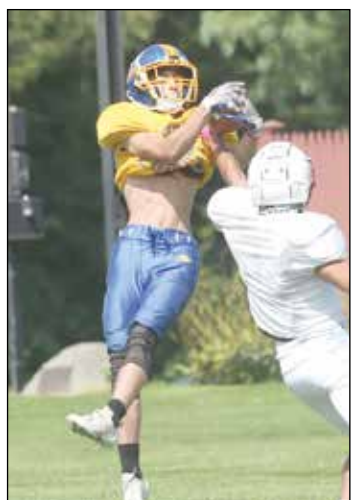
AGAWAM – The two teams faced each other wearing similar t-shirts over the summer, and now Agawam and Belchertown boys soccer prepared for the fall season with a scrimmage last Wednesday against one another at Agawam High School. The teams no longer face each other in the regular season. Agawam opened the season against Monument Mountain and next faces Mt. Greylock at home Monday, Sept. 11. The Orioles opened up this week against West Springfield and host East Longmeadow on Monday evening.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI
Belchertown boys soccer scrimmaged at Agawam last



During the summer, Belchertown's varsity summer team made the PVSSL semifinals.



Jarrett Skowrya jumps to make the catch.

Pioneers test their mettle

WILBRAHAM – Last Saturday morning, Pathfinder Regional football traveled a short way to Wilbraham & Monson Academy and had their final scrimmage action before the regular season is supposed to begin. The Pioneers are scheduled to open the season right nearby, taking on neighbor Palmer High School on Friday, Sept. 8 at 7 p.m.



Hunter Griswold looks to make a decision with the ball in traffic.



Ethan Nopleggi makes a reception and stays inbounds.



Cecil Burgess-Bruso tries to avoid a tackle as he runs toward the sideline.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

SPORTS



Monson's Connor Hicks receives a pass and makes his way up the field.



Max Robbins looks to catch up with the ball.



Noah Rivera stops the ball.

Paul, Hall team up to host tip-off event

SPRINGFIELD – The Chris Paul Family Foundation and Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame announced the third annual circuit of two Historically Black College and University (HBCU) events, the HBCU Tip-Off and Challenge, presented by the AEA Foundation.

The HBCU Tip-Off will take place Nov. 18-19 at the Mohegan Sun Arena in Uncasville, Connecticut, and the HBCU Challenge will be held Dec. 16-17 at Michelob ULTRA Arena at Mandalay Bay Resort and Casino in Las Vegas.

“As an HBCU graduate himself, Chris Paul has long been a prominent voice for the empowerment of HBCU athletes,” said John L. Doleva, President and CEO of the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame. “The Hall of Fame is honored to work alongside Chris to create opportunities for these student-athletes, and we look forward to watching them play in two competitive weekends of basketball.”

Paul, an active philanthropist and entrepreneur, has actively supported HBCUs for years. He currently serves on President Joe Biden’s advisory board on Historically Black Colleges and Universities. Paul executive produced Why Not Us: North Carolina Central Basketball, Why Not Us: FAMU Football, and Why Not Us: Southern Dance on ESPN+. In addition, Paul partnered with Harvard Business School to bring its Entertainment, Media and Sports program to select HBCUs to develop a pipeline for students pursuing careers in those industries. He launched HBCU voting initiatives to encourage students to vote during the past election and partnered with Sour Patch Kids and the Thurgood Marshall College Fund to create The Mischief for Change Scholarship, a college scholarship fund with a \$1 million commitment over the next five years for students attending HBCUs. In 2022, Paul graduated with a degree from Winston-Salem State University.

“We are looking forward to the third year of our HBCU events,” said Paul. “These events present a unique opportunity for student athletes to play on a national stage. I’m excited to collaborate with the Basketball Hall of Fame, Mohegan Sun, and MGM Resorts and am grateful to all of our partners for their commitment to HBCU schools and athletes in partnership with this event.”

Tickets for the 2023 Chris Paul HBCU Tip-Off and HBCU Challenge will both go on sale on Friday, Sept. 8.

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Pioneers cap season with Festa match

LUDLOW – After another season with a playoff appearance in the USL-2 League, the Western Mass.

Pioneers got together one last time for the annual Friendly Festa game on Sunday afternoon. The exhibition has

been happening for the past several years during the town’s Festa celebration.



Kyle Tomas winds up for a long kick.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM
 Goalie Al Albano sends the ball up the field.

Foursomes needed for charity golf tournament

AGAWAM – Registration and signups are currently open and underway for the Sixth Annual “Shoot Fore The Stars To Cure Cancer” Golf Tournament to benefit the Dana Farber Cancer Institute. In the first five years, the event has raised over \$15,000 for cancer research. The four-person scramble event will take place on Monday, Sept. 18 at Wintonbury Hills Golf Course in Bloomfield, CT. The event will be an 11 a.m. shotgun start. There will be prizes up for grabs (Closest to Pin/Long Drive) along with a putting contest. Entry fee covers golf, lunch and dinner. Please contact ShootFOREtheStarstoCureCancer@gmail.com more information. We hope you can join us.



Railers name new vice president

WORCESTER – The Worcester Railers Hockey Club (@RailersHC), proud ECHL (@ECHL) affiliate of the New York Islanders (@NYIslanders) is pleased to welcome David Aitken to the front office staff as the Vice President of Tickets & Corporate Partnerships.

“David has a proven track record of driving revenue in minor league sports,” said Railers HC President, Stephanie Ramey. “He has been a direct contributor of significant AHL ticket sales growth in both Rochester and Cleveland and will bring new ideas to enhance the Railers experience for fans and sponsors.”

Aitken will oversee all revenue channels for the Railers and will help further develop the ticket sales and corporate sponsorships departments. Most recently, Aitken spent nearly five years as the Director of Ticket Sales with the Rochester Americans (AHL) and Rochester Knighthawks (NLL), as part of Pegula Sports and Entertainment, the parent

company of the Buffalo Sabres and Buffalo Bills. His responsibilities included strategy, budgeting, and personnel.

Under Aitken’s leadership, the Amerks achieved their highest season ticket numbers and ticket sales revenue in the franchise’s 67-year history. The Amerks concluded the 2023 Calder Cup Playoffs with the highest attendance for the AHL clubs playing more than one home playoff game, which featured three of six home games with a sell-out crowd of 10,662 at their venue.

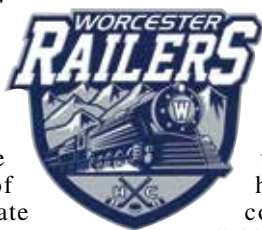
Prior to his time in Rochester, Aitken spent eight seasons with the Cleveland Monsters (AHL) as part of the Cleveland Cavaliers (NBA) organization. His position with the team was Sr. Manager of Business Development where he led all new business ticket sales efforts, as well as managed a senior level team of ticket representatives. During this time, Aitken was also responsible for youth hockey game-day programming and community outreach efforts for six seasons and

was instrumental in the founding of the Monsters’ “Grow the Game” and Learn to Play initiatives in Northeast Ohio.

Aitken’s tenure in Cleveland was highlighted by placing among the AHL’s top 10 in group sales for five seasons and generated the most group sales in franchise history at that time in the 2015-16 season. He was also part of the 2016 Calder Cup champion Lake Erie Monsters staff which won the AHL’s President’s Award for Business Team of the Year.

Aitken is originally from Chester town, NY in the Lake George region, and is relocating to Worcester with his wife Colleen, and their three daughters, Leah, Emma, and Olivia. His start date with the Railers is Monday, July 24.

The Worcester Railers HC 2023-24 Opening Weekend at the DCU Center is Saturday, Oct. 21 and Sunday, Oct. 22 vs. the Adirondack Thunder & Trois-Rivieres Lions. Season memberships, mini-plans, and group packages for the 2023-24 season are on sale now by calling the Railers front office at 508-365-1750 or by visiting RailersHC.com.



Schools offer another year of meals at no cost for students

BY KIMBERLY PALMUCCI
sentinel@turley.com

BELCHERTOWN – The town’s public schools will again participate in the National School Lunch Program and the School Breakfast Program.

As part of this program, Belchertown Public Schools will offer “healthy meals every school day,” according to a press statement.

The Massachusetts legislature has provided funding to make meals available at no cost to all students during the 2023-24 school year, regardless of household income. However, families should still complete a “Meal Benefit Application” as this provides data for key funding for academic resources and may also connect families to additional benefits, the press statement reads.

“This data will also support the additional funds provided by the Commonwealth for this pilot,” the Belchertown Public Schools released. “Household size and income criteria are used to determine eligibility for free and reduced-price benefits if the household does not receive assistance or the children are not in the other categories mentioned above.”

Children can get free or reduced-price meals if the household’s gross income falls at or below the limits on the Federal Income Eligibility Guideline chart.

“To apply for free or reduced-price meals, households can fill out the application and return it to the school unless the household has already received notification that their children are approved for free meals this year,” the schools shared. “Application forms are being distributed to all households with a letter informing households of the availability of free and reduced-price meals for their children and what is required to complete on the application.”

Applications also are available at belchertownps.org and at the principal’s office in each school; only one application is required for all children in the household and the information provided on the application will be used for the purpose of determining eligibility and verification of data. Applications may be verified at any time during the school year by the school or other program officials, the press statement reads. An application for free or reduced-price benefits cannot be approved unless it contains complete eligibility information as indicated on the application and instructions.

“In the operation of child feeding programs, no child will be discriminated against because of race, sex, color, national origin, age, or disability,” the Belchertown Public Schools released. “Families can apply for benefits at any time.”

If a household member becomes unemployed or if the household size increases, the household should contact the school, according to the press statement. Such changes may make the children of the household eligible for benefits if the household’s income falls at or below the Federal Guidelines.

To request an application, contact Barrett Grazioso at brgrazioso@belchertownps.org; under the provisions of the free and reduced-price policy, Grazioso will review applications and determine eligibility. Parents or guardians dissatisfied with the ruling of the official may wish to discuss the decision with the determining official on an informal basis, the schools released.

“Parents wishing to make a formal appeal for a hearing on the decision may make a request either orally or in writing to Brian Cameron, 13 Maple Street, Belchertown, MA 01007.”

When known to the Belchertown Public Schools, households will be notified of their children’s eligibility for free meals if they are members of households receiving assistance from the following: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP); Food Distribution

Please see **FREE LUNCH**, page 15

Great Falls Discovery Center announce Sept. events

REGION – Here are the September events at the Great Falls Discovery Center, located at 2 Avenue A, Turners Falls.

All programs are free and open to the public; an adult must accompany children, according to a press statement, and inclement weather cancels outdoor programs.

“Explore the natural, cultural, and industrial history of the Connecticut River Watershed in our dynamic exhibit dioramas,” the Center released. “Adjacent to the Canalside Rail Trail, the center also includes the Great Hall exhibit gallery, restrooms, and drinking water.”

Great Hall Exhibit: Intervals

Ongoing, through Oct. 2
Karen Axtell presents “Intervals,” mixed-media prints about time on handmade paper, layered with oil and water-based materials. The prints reference the rings of trees, the depth of rivers, the shape of leaves, ebb of tides, phases of the moon, and more.

StoryWalk: Agua, Agüita

Ongoing, through Sept. 26
Enjoy a story, fresh air, and exercise. Join on the center’s grounds for a free self-guided StoryWalk featuring a children’s bilingual picture book, “Agua, Agüita / Water, Little Water” by Jorge Argueta, for readers ages four and up. Follow the path to book pages posted along the route.

Nice & Easy Walks

Fridays, Sept. 8, 15, 22, & 29, 1-2 p.m.
An easy-paced, one- to two-mile guided walk along the Canalside Rail Trail or downtown Turners Falls, geared for seniors, but open to all ages. Join others seeking fresh air and exercise. A DCR Park Interpreter highlights natural and local history along the way. Wear appropriate clothing for the weather and sturdy footwear and bring water. Meet outside the main entrance.

Kidleidoscope Story Hour

Fridays, Sept. 8, Dragonflies; Sept. 29, Raptors; 10:30-11:30 a.m.
For ages three-six, accompanied by an adult. Learn more about wildlife neighbors who share our home. Program includes a story, activities, and a craft. Activities are indoors and outdoors, weather permitting. Siblings and friends welcome. Meet in the Great Hall.

Great Falls Coffeehouse Presents:

Jim Eagan & Anand Nayak
Friday, Sept. 8, 7-9 p.m.
Join for the Friends of the Great Falls Discovery Center’s concert series featuring

Takeout turkey dinner at United Church Sept. 18

WARE – A turkey dinner will be offered at United Church of Ware, 49 Church St., on Monday, Sept. 18 from 5-6 p.m., takeout only.

The dinner includes turkey, potatoes, stuffing, veggie, roll, coffee, tea and dessert. Dinners are \$15 per person; cash or check.

Drive up to 49 Church St., and a runner will take your order and bring it to your car. For more information, call the Church office at 413-967-9981.

Cub Scouts hold car wash on Saturday

WARE – Cub Scouts from Ware Family Pack 520 will hold their car wash fundraiser at NAPA Auto Parts, 175 West St., on Saturday, Sept. 9 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

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Belchertown Sentinel

local talent. Enjoy a mix of folk and folk blues with ginger-style guitar from Jim Eagan and Anand Nayak. Refreshments available. Sliding scale suggested donations, all in support of educational programming at the Center. Meet in the Great Hall.

Canal Draw Down History Stroll

Wednesday, Sept. 13, 5-6:30 p.m.
Check out the annual draining of the Turners Falls canal, take a stroll along the Canalside Rail Trail, and absorb local history with Northfield Mountain Recreation and Environmental Center staff, historian Ed Gregory, and DCR staff. Meet at the entrance of the Center for this free two mile walk on flat terrain. Meet outside the main entrance.

Art Naturally Series

Saturday, Sept. 16, 10:30 a.m. - noon
Discover nature through story, poetry, and art in this series of free Art Naturally programs. Using words and images, instruction, and techniques one can create an art piece inspired by the natural world to take home. For adults, teens, and children ages six and up (accompanied by an adult). All art materials provided. Meet in the Great Hall.

Adventures in the Microcosmos: Foldsopes

Sunday, Sept. 17, 10:30 a.m. - noon
Learn how to use an origami microscope. Join ornithologist Ezekiel “Zeke” Jakub, co-founder of the non-profit Conservation Panama, for “adventures in the microcosmos,” an opportunity to observe tiny parts of the world up close and get an introduction to scientific methods and conservation—all while using a Foldscope. Free. Registration required. Please call 413-863-3221 to sign-up. For children and families ages nine and up. Meet in the Great Hall.

Artist Reception: Intervals
Sunday, Sept. 17, 2-4 p.m.
Join Karen Axtell for a reception celebrating her work, “Intervals,” a series of mixed-media prints about time. Meet in the Great Hall.

Source To Sea Cleanup: Canalside Rail Trail

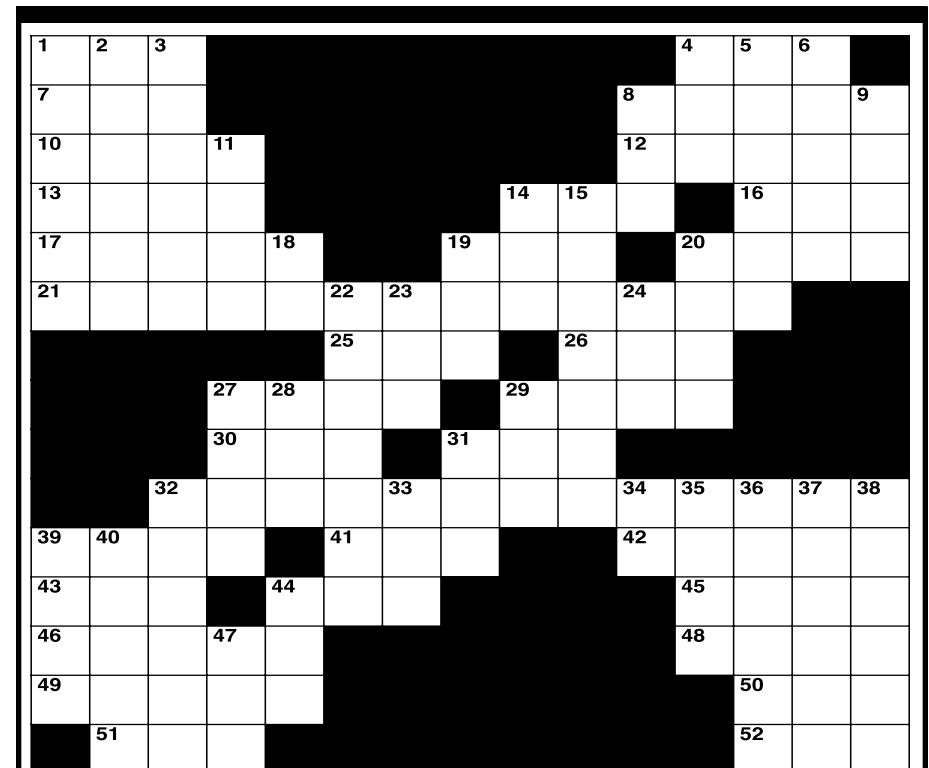
Saturday, Sept. 23, 10 a.m. - noon
Hard work, real fun, true impact: the annual fall trash cleanup of the Connecticut River and its tributaries. Join DCR staff to clean-up the Canalside Rail Trail. To register, visit bit.ly/canalside2023 or contact DCR staff at 413-863-3221 for more information. Meet at the main entrance.

At Sword’s Point: A History of Trade Unions in the Machine Tool Industry in Franklin County

Saturday, Sept. 30, 2-3:30 p.m.
Public historian Tom Goldscheider discusses Franklin County precision steel tool manufacturing, where it was a world leader for generations. Workers organized with a democratic trade union that was targeted in a national political campaign aimed against it. This led to a peaceful confrontation in Greenfield and surrounding towns that surprised onlookers near and far. Meet in the Great Hall.

At Sword’s Point: Oral History project

Saturday, Sept. 30
“Did you or someone you know work in the local machine tool industry? Your stories can help enrich this research,” the Center released.
Those interested in sharing their memories may introduce themselves at the At Sword’s Point event or contact the presenter at tom.goldscheider@gmail.com.



CLUES ACROSS

- Second sight
- Standard electrode potential
- Type of gibbon
- John Joseph ___: American industrialist
- Manning and Whitney are two
- Abrupt
- Baroque musical instrument
- Post-burning residue
- When you hope to arrive
- Sign up (Brit. Eng.)
- Sun up in New York
- Employee stock ownership plan
- Where people live
- Method to record
- an electrogram
- Angry
- No longer living
- Simple
- Swiss river
- Portion of a play
- It’s under the tree
- Wood sorrels
- No (Scottish)
- Dialect of English
- Former Steelers’ QB
- Popular beer
- It can make you sick
- Tropical tree and fruit
- Company officer
- Contact lens term
- Your consciousness of your own identity
- “Ghetto Superstar” singer
- Piece of turf

CLUES DOWN

- Number of players on each side in a football game
- Containing salt
- Reasoning or knowledge: a ___
- Car mechanics group
- Leave a place
- Southern Colombian capital
- Old English letter
- Tide
- Walk heavily
- Chemical compound (abbr.)
- Artificial openings
- Luteinizing hormone
- Unit of energy
- Circular movement of
- water
- A way of holding
- Popular book of words (abbr.)
- States’ group
- Dashes
- Body part
- Electronic countermeasures
- Consumed
- Small bird
- Unhappy
- Football’s big game (abbr.)
- Valued object offered in good faith
- Wild goats
- Precede in place
- Small edible fish
- Notice of death
- Body cavity of a metazoan
- Partner to cheese
- Not around

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SECRETARY WANTED for a few hours a week, Monson area. Please call author **917-373-2143**.

HELP WANTED

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The position works under the general supervision of the Town Manager in cooperation with the elected Town Planning Board. Please go to **www.townofpalmer.com** for a full job description. Send resume and cover letter to **rmcnut@townofpalmer.com** or to 4417 Main Street, Palmer, MA 01069. Salary commensurate with experience.

This position requires a Bachelor's Degree in planning or related field and five years' experience in municipal planning, or any equivalent combination of education and experience. Strong interpersonal, written, and oral communications skills and a working knowledge of MS Office and ArcView GIS.

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FOR RENT



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5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20
21	Base Price \$26.50	22	Base Price \$27.00
23	Base Price \$27.50	24	Base Price \$28.00
25	Base Price \$28.50	26	Base Price \$29.00
27	Base Price \$29.50	28	Base Price \$30.00
29	Base Price \$30.50	30	Base Price \$31.00
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33	Base Price \$32.50	34	Base Price \$33.00
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FREE LUNCH from page 13

Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR); or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), if the State program meets Federal standards.

An application is not required for free meal benefits for Assistance Program participants, and all the children in the household are eligible for free meal benefits, according to the press statement. "If any children were not listed on the notice of eligibility, or if a household does not receive a notice of eligibility, the household should contact the school to have free meal benefits extended to them," the schools shared.

Participants in the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) may be eligible for free or reduced-price meals, but they will need to turn in an application including household size and total income. When known to the Belchertown Public Schools, households will also be notified of any child's eligibility for free meals if the individual child is considered "Other Source Categorically Eligible," because the child is categorized, as defined by law as: foster; homeless; migrant; runaway; enrolled in an eligible Head Start, or enrolled in an eligible pre-kindergarten class.

If any children were not listed on the notice of eligibility, the household should contact the school about their eligibility through the list above, school officials said, or should submit an income application. Households notified of their children's eligibility must contact the school if the household chooses to decline the benefits.

For more information, call Grazioso at 413-310-0373.

PUBLIC NOTICES

**Public Hearing
Special Permit
Legal Notice
Belchertown
Planning Board**

In accordance with the Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 40A, Sections 9 and 11, the Planning Board will hold a public hearing to discuss a special permit application for an accessory apartment by Derek Stebbins and Jillian Brunell for 130 Shea Ave., Map 217, Lot 23, Belchertown, MA.

A public hearing will be held as follows:

Place: Belchertown Town Hall, 2 Jabish St., Belchertown, MA

Date: September 26, 2023

Time: 7:00 PM

Remote access information:

Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.

<https://meet.goto.com/173538941>

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The application is available for inspection during regular business hours at the Town Clerk and Planning Board office, 2 Jabish Street.

Daniel Beaudette
Chair, Planning Board
09/07, 09/14/2023

**SALE OF
MOTOR VEHICLE**

This ad is pursuant to MA Gen. Law Ch.255, Sec. 39A as of September 15, 2023 the following motor vehicle will be for sale to satisfy a garage keepers lien:

2003 Mercedes M-Class
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Color: Black

LKO: Trevon Alexander
Address: 45 Coolidge Road
Chicopee, MA 01013

Relentless Towing
Belchertown, MA
413-530-3804

08/31, 09/07, 09/14/2023



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.

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The Sentinel
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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 \$225, 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.

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EDUCATION



COURTESY PHOTO

Seton Hall University has announced its spring dean's list.

Resident qualifies for Seton Hall dean's list

BELCHERTOWN – Resident Madison Duffy has qualified for the spring 2023 dean's list at Seton Hall University.

After the close of every semester, undergraduate students com-

pleting all courses with a GPA of 3.4, with no grades lower than "C", qualify for the dean's list, according to a press statement from the school.

Local residents named to Simmons University dean's list

BELCHERTOWN – Two residents have been named to the 2023 spring semester dean's list at Simmons University in Boston.

Belchertown's Simone Robinson and Abigail Rothstein have made the list.

To qualify for dean's list sta-

tus, undergraduate students must obtain a grade point average of 3.5 or higher, based on 12 or more credit hours of work in classes using the letter grade system, according to a press statement issued by the school.



Black-crowned night heron

The Massachusetts Audubon Society reported the sighting of a black-crowned night heron in Pittsfield.

The black-crowned night heron is about 25 inches long and is gray and white. It is a stocky heron with pale yellow legs, which turn reddish in the breeding season.

The immature is brown with white streaks below and large, buff white spots on its back and wings. It keeps its immature plumage for two years. The immature black-crowned night heron is distinguished from the yellow crowned night heron by its greenish-yellow lower bill. The yellow-crowned has a dark bill.

Although the night heron will feed by day, as its name implies this species feeds mostly at night or at dusk. They roost in trees.

It feeds on fish, amphibians, insects and small mammals. It also will eat the young of other bird species such as terns, herons and ibises. They inhabit freshwa-

ter streams, lakes, rice field, dry grassland and salt marshes.

These herons nest either in colonies or singly. The female lays three to five pale blue green eggs in a nest of twigs, reeds and finer material placed against a tussock or in the reeds, shrub or trees up to 160 feet.

When greeting other black-crowned night herons, they stretch their necks horizontally with breeding plumes on the head raised and they touch bills. They make a low, hoarse "quok" sound often heard at dusk. During nesting, they make a "rok rok."

Red-winged blackbirds

I received an email this week from someone who lives in the West Springfield Agawam area. She said, "Red-winged blackbirds are one of my favorite birds, but I always wondered why they leave the area so early?" She also said, "I go to areas where I know they nest, but never see them after mid-July or so."

Red-winged blackbirds are one of the first to arrive in early spring with the males coming first, then the females. They migrate anytime from late August to early October and gather in flocks for the trip south.

Audubon Society sightings

Other Audubon Society sightings reported for August in Berkshire include an alder flycatcher in Washington and a yellow-bellied flycatcher a the

Jug End State Reservation in Egremont. In Hampshire County, four sandhill cranes were at East Meadows in Northampton and four more sandhill cranes at the Arcadia Sanctuary.

Migrants tallied at Quabbin Park in Ware included four common nighthawks, two yellow-bellied flycatchers and four Cape May warblers. In Worcester County 14 Common Mergansers were seen near fishing area #3 at Quabbin Reservoir in Petersham and four Bonaparte's Gulls were tallied along the Dana shoreline in Petersham.

Two black vultures were seen soaring over Mt. Wachusett in Princeton and in Paxton there was a Cerulean warbler. Mount Wachusett is a popular spot for birders to view hawk migrations during September and October. Two Cape May warblers were seen at the Moose Hill Wildlife Area.

Wild turkeys

It seems wild turkeys are everywhere. I have seen groups of three or four Tom turkeys and much larger groups of hens and their poults. Several times I stopped while a large flock of hens and youngsters crossed the road.

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.



Casa PIZZERIA

PIZZA is as individual as the state, region or even country that makes it!

Do you have a favorite hard-to-find pizza style or are you a super foodie who loves to discover new options?

Then Why Haven't You Been to Casa Pizzeria in Ludlow, MA Yet?

- Did you know Casa Pizzeria won **1st Place Best Pizza** award for the entire state starting out in the **SPRING 2018** with the MassLive (best of pizza) online poll?
- Did you know that pizza globetrotting mega celebrity **Dave Portnoy** from **Barstool Sports** made an exclusive trip to Ludlow **SPRING 2022** just to try Casa Pizzeria? Their score is so high on his "One Bite APP" he had to try it for himself, and he gave them a huge 7.9 score!
- Did you know in the **FALL of 2022** Casa Pizzeria won **1st Place at PIZZA PASTA EXPO** Atlantic City, New Jersey (the second largest pizza competition in the world!) winning the title **Best in Northeast!!** in the super elite Traditional Pizza Division?
- Did you know Casa Pizzeria was featured in **JAN 2023 PIZZA TODAY** Magazine? The largest pizza related magazine in the country.

Now That You Know...You Need to Go!
(But please, make sure you know how to order)

Casa Pizzeria doesn't make pizza like other shops! Other pizza shops make **one style** of pizza in **3 - 5 sizes**. Like you would make a sandwich on different types of bread, Casa Pizzeria makes pizza on **TEN** different bake styles of **the crust**, inspired by **pizzeria legends** in big U.S. cities and even around the world. It's like visiting multiple

HOURS:
TUESDAY-SUNDAY:
4PM-8PM ONLY
MONDAY CLOSED

"At Casa Pizzeria making pizza is a craft not a job."

6 CRAFT PIZZA STYLES

NEAPOLITAN CRUST
Typical size and style most common for the "wood fired" pizza's of Italy. OUR crust is high temp gas fired heat. We added more crispness and less super soft doughness.

NEW YORK CRUST
Iconic PIE CUT thin crust round pizza served everywhere in New York City. SUPER thin with a puffy crumb edge.

NEW HAVEN CRUST
SUPER THIN with a little char, all the way to the edge. An addictive crispy "Thin Crust" complete with that legendary well done, slight char similar to the Greatest New Haven pizza shops.

BOSTONIAN CRUST
This one is inspired by one of the oldest legendary pizza shops in Boston. At that shop they put toppings under the cheese! Then light splashes of red sauce on top of the cheese.

MONTANARA "DEEP FRIED" CRUST
The Montanara is a Deep Fried Crust that is making its way to the US as pizza lovers discover this rare delight.

GLUTEN FREE CRUST
Casa Pizzeria teamed up with an Artisan Gluten Free Crust Bakery to give up one of the finest GF think crusts we've ever tasted.

4 PAN PIZZA STYLES

GRANDMA PAN CRUST
"Thinner" version of the Sicilian PAN pizza. OUR take is topped with Mozzarella, light Red Sauce, fresh torn Basil, Olive Oil, and Parmesan.

SICILIAN PAN CRUST
A lot like the Grandma but MUCH THICKER. Topped with Premium Mozzarella cheese, lightly topped with OUR Italian Tomato Sauce, Fresh Basil, Corto Olive Oil, sprinkled with good Parmigiano.

DETROIT PAN CRUST
Super Thick like Sicilian, made with caramelized cheese baked into the edges of the pan topped with the classic two stripes of thick rich red sauce.

CHICAGO "DEEP DISH" PAN CRUST
Premium Mozzarella cheese base, topped with Italian Tomato Sauce, Basil, Olive Oil, finished with good Parmigiano.

SCAN FOR WEBSITE  DELIVERY THROUGH CASA ONLINE OR AVAILABLE THROUGH SLICE/DOORDASH/GRUBHUB. BEST PRICES AT CASA ONLINE.  SCAN FOR MENU 

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