

Tax Work-Off Program returns

Senior Center
looking for people
to participate

By Ben Hernandez
Staff Writer

BELCHERTOWN – The Belchertown Senior Center is looking for qualified individuals to participate in their Senior and Veterans Tax Work-Off Program. The program connects willing workers with community endeavors in exchange for paid positions and reductions to property tax.

“This is a fairly new program,” Belchertown Senior Center Executive Director Jessica Langlois said. “This upcoming year will be our third year doing it. We’ve gotten some new departments who are going to have opportunities for volunteering and working.”

The program currently has 10 slots available, five dedicated for older adults ages 65 and older and five for veterans of any age. The appli-

Please see **TAX WORK-OFF**, page 4

International Overdose Awareness Day

candlelight vigil

held in Belchertown

By Ben Hernandez
Staff Writer

BELCHERTOWN – A candlelight vigil was held in honor of International Overdose Awareness Day at the Belchertown Town Common on Aug. 31. The vigil was held to reduce the stigma surrounding substance use and overdose, as

well as raise awareness about substance issues within the wider community.

“This is our eighth year holding the International Overdose Awareness Day Vigil on the Common,” said Belchertown Overcoming Adversity Together (BOAT) Co-Chair and Belchertown

Please see **VIGIL**, page 8



The Wall of Light honored those lost.

SUBMITTED PHOTOS



A reminder of how addiction affects not just the person afflicted but those they leave behind.

Granby weighs next steps after Forge Pond Dam grant denial

Advances
town initiatives

By Melina Bourdeau
Correspondent

GRANBY – Officials are regrouping after the state rejected a grant for repairs to Forge Pond Dam, while advancing a slate of infrastructure and civic initiatives intended to strengthen town services and prepare for capital needs.

The Selectboard used its Aug. 10 meeting to acknowledge a major setback for the dam project while moving ahead on smaller but consequential items, from committee work and facilities maintenance to fiscal planning and public safety upgrades.

Together, the actions outline the town’s strategy of pairing incremental improvements with pursuit of large-scale funding for aging infrastructure such as Forge Pond Dam.

Town Administrator Ron Aponte told the board the state has turned down Granby’s latest funding request for work on Forge Pond Dam.

Aponte said the project remains a priority and the town will continue to seek outside support, given the cost of repairs and the difficulty of absorbing them within the operating budget.

Board member Mark Bail noted that state legislators are also attempting to help from

Beacon Hill.

“We had Mindy Dom did put an earmark in for \$1 million. Whether they’ll survive the budget process, we don’t know, but she did do that,” he said.

No vote was taken on the dam, but the discussion underscored that officials are counting on a mix of competitive grants and legislative earmarks to address the structure rather than relying solely on local taxpayers.

As part of routine facilities

upkeep, Aponte reported that the Senior Center parking lot is slated for sealcoating, likely on Aug. 15 to 16 or, if weather intervenes, Aug. 22 to 23. The lot will be closed during work, affecting staff and any residents who use the building over weekends.

The work is one of several smaller capital and maintenance items proceeding while the town pursues larger infrastructure dollars.

Aponte said the town is close to finalizing a web-

site maintenance contract with local consultant Ginny Hejamowitz, with plans to bring in vendor “Munibid” once the agreement is signed to begin upgrades and ongoing support.

On the West Street building project, he reported that the town has asked IT vendor Entree to revise its proposal after finding that labor costs were out of scale with hard-

Please see **GRANT DENIAL**, page 5

Cultural Council seeks unique community events

By Ben Hernandez
Staff Writer

GRANBY – The Granby Cultural Council is seeking unique events to fund this year within town limits. Those interested to lend their talents to the town should know grant applications are being accepted between now and Oct. 15.

“Applicants can come from anywhere in the world as long as they have their event

in Granby,” said Granby Cultural Council Chair Joanne Delphia.

Applicants must fill out an application to describe who they are, what they are offering, where they intend to perform and how their event benefits the town of Granby. Previous funded events included the highly successful Movie Night at Cindy’s

Please see **CULTURAL COUNCIL**, page 5

Pathfinder welcomes new principal

By Marcelo Gusmão
Staff Writer
mgusmao@turley.com

PALMER – As Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical High School reopens for the new year, the community welcomed Principal Jay Taylor to the staff.

Taylor has a diverse background in education, which has involved working in multiple roles as both a teacher and an administrator. He described himself as feeling honored and excited to be joining Pathfinder Tech.

“Each role taught me something different and helped shape who I am as school leader,” Taylor said.

This week, Taylor is coming off of the late-week Professional Development ahead of students arriving at Pathfinder this past Monday. This served as Taylor’s opportunity to introduce himself to the staff, and discuss all the opportunities the school has to offer and why he loves technical vocational education.

“People see relevance in their learning,” Taylor said.

“Schools like Pathfinder Tech have the opportunity to change the trajectory of people’s lives.”

“Above all I have an uncompromising dedication to students. What works best for students is the compass I bring to instructional leadership,” Taylor said. “My leadership style is being visible, being present, interacting with students and being available in hallways. My goal is to be the first person that welcomes every kid into the building.”

“It used to be if you didn’t fit into this box that the school system expected, then you’d be ‘discarded’ to a vocational school,” Taylor said. “Nowadays, it’s the place where everyone wants to be.”

Taylor shared a story from his own background as an illustration of what vocational technical schools like Pathfinder are for.

“When I was young, I wanted to be a lawyer forever, everyone knew that,” Taylor said. “I went to college as a prelaw student, and organically had a conversation with a professor who said he used to be a lawyer making millions in New York City, but never had time for his family. He said teaching was the best thing.”

“At the time, I thought maybe law wasn’t for me,” Taylor continued. “Sophomore year, coming home for Thanksgiving, I announced I didn’t want to be a lawyer anymore, and would maybe become a teacher someday.”

Taylor proceeded to switch majors to political science as an easy way to transfer credits. He was able to obtain a highly coveted internship for Senator John Kerry and worked in his Western Massachusetts office, where he performed clerical duties, ranging from opening letters, responding

to emails, writing proclamations and putting everything through Kerry’s auto-pen.

“It was awesome,” Taylor said. “They actually asked me to stay on even after I graduated.”

After graduation, Taylor didn’t know what to do with his degree until he happened to run into a friend at a social gathering who was a substitute teacher at Taylor’s old high school.

“I absolutely loved it,” Taylor said. “I was the substitute everyone requested.”

That summer, Taylor encountered another friend, who was in charge of Duggan Middle School in Springfield, and invited him to teach English. After teaching at Duggan for a year and passing his Massachusetts Tests for Educator Licensure, Taylor moved to a middle school in Chicopee, where he taught social studies to seventh and eighth grade.

In Chicopee, Taylor worked as a soccer coach for the high school, and applied to teach social studies at Chicopee Comprehensive

Please see **PRINCIPAL**, page 3



TURLEY PHOTO BY BEN HERNANDEZ

The future municipal office building for Granby town government.

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\$1 Million MVP Grant awarded to transform Tadgell School

BELCHERTOWN—The Town of Belchertown has been awarded a \$1,000,000 grant through ECO One Stop, a new program from the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs. The grant will help transform the former Tadgell School into a community resilience hub. It comes through the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Action Grant, one of seven programs the state combined under ECO One Stop for its first round of funding.

“Securing this funding through the very first round of ECO One Stop shows how much stronger our applications become when departments work together toward a shared goal,” said Dawn Cote, Grants Coordinator for the Town of Belchertown. “We’re grateful to our state partners for this investment, and we’re looking forward to building on it.”

The project will turn the long-vacant Tadgell School into a flexible space for the community. It could someday include meeting rooms, health and social service offices, space for local businesses, and a place residents can turn to during emergencies.

“The Tadgell School has sat empty for too long, and residents have made it clear that a true community gathering space is long overdue,” said Steve Williams, Town Manager. “This grant lets us take a meaningful first step toward turning that building into something the whole community can use and be proud of.”

The town will keep pursuing additional state, federal,

and other funding as the project moves forward.

oneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) will lead the project as the town’s contracted partner for this next phase of work. PVPC has supported Belchertown throughout its MVP Planning 2.0 process, and this new contract continues that partnership as work on Tadgell moves forward.

“The Tadgell resilience hub emerged as one of Belchertown’s top three resilience priorities through the MVP 2.0 process, reflecting more than three years of community engagement. This grant turns that community-defined priority into action and advances a welcoming, adaptable resource that will strengthen connections, expand access to services, and help the town prepare for climate-related challenges,” said Angela Panaccione, Senior II Environmental Planner at PVPC.

This award is part of the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness program, a partnership between the state and local communities to build resilience to climate change. Communities start with MVP Planning, a process that brings together residents, local officials, and community organizations to identify a community’s climate hazards, its most vulnerable people and places, and the priority actions needed to address them. Completing that process earns a community official MVP designation, a status that confirms the town has done its planning work. That designation makes the town eligible for Action Grant funding, like the grant

Belchertown just received, to carry out those priority actions. From there, communities can update their priorities through MVP Planning 2.0 and apply for more Action Grant funding to keep the work going. Nearly every community in Massachusetts, ninety-nine percent, participates in MVP planning, and the program has awarded more than \$248 million for climate resilience projects statewide.

“This funding lets us keep moving forward on the planning and design work already underway for Tadgell,” said Doug Albertson, Town Planner. “Our goal is a building that reflects what residents actually want and need, and that can adapt as those needs change over time.”

Belchertown earned its own MVP designation by completing this planning process, which is what made the town eligible to apply for this Action Grant. To learn more, read the MVP program one-pager from the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/fy27-mvp-action-grant-one-pager/download>

Residents have already helped shape this project through past community surveys and public meetings. Survey results are available at <https://www.belchertown.org/DocumentCenter/View/9844>, and the schematic designs presented in June 2026 can be viewed at <https://www.belchertown.org/DocumentCenter/View/10857>. As the project moves forward, the town will share further opportunities for residents to stay involved.

Belchertown Cultural Council now accepting grant applications

BELCHERTOWN—The Belchertown Cultural Council (BCC) is now accepting applications for Fiscal Year 2027 grants supporting local arts, humanities, and science programming in town.

The BCC is part of the Local Cultural Council Program, the largest grassroots cultural funding network in the country. Each year, the Massachusetts Cultural Council distributes state funding to 351 local and regional councils, including the BCC, who then regrant that money to support cultural programs and projects in their own communities.

Individuals, groups, and organizations are all eligible to apply. Funding can support a wide range of activities, including field trips, artist residencies, community events, public art, performances, and other programs in the arts, humanities, and sciences that benefit Belchertown.

The Fiscal Year 2027 application window opens Sept. 1, 2026 and closes Oct. 15, 2026 at 11:59 p.m. Full eligibility requirements and step-by-step instructions are available on the Local Cultural Council application process page at massculturalcouncil.org. Applications must be submitted through the Massachusetts Cultural Council’s online grants management system; paper and mailed applications cannot be accepted.

The Massachusetts Cultural Council is also hosting a virtual info session (webinar) on the Local Cultural Council application process on Sept. 10, 2026 at 6 p.m. No travel is required, and the session is open to anyone interested in applying for the first time or with questions about the process.

“We’re excited to open another grant cycle and support the artists and organizations that make Belchertown’s cultural life so vibrant,” said Mel Donovan, Chair of the Belchertown Cultural Council. “The info session is a great way to get your questions answered before you start your application, and BCC members are always happy to help too.”

Local BCC members are also available to answer questions throughout the application period. Residents can visit the Belchertown Cultural Council page at belchertown.org/bcc to learn more, find contact information, and access the application.

ConComm seeks new member

BELCHERTOWN—The Town of Belchertown is currently seeking to fill one full voting member vacancy and one associate member vacancy on the Conservation Commission.

The Commission is a volunteer board that reviews projects that fall under jurisdiction of the Wetlands Protection Act and local Bylaw and the Stormwater Management Bylaw.

The position requires attending meetings every second and fourth Monday of the month, a basic comprehension of the local, state, and federal wetlands regulations, and occasional site visits. Qualified candidates have also demonstrated an interest, expertise, or experience in environmental protection.

Commissioners must also have a willingness to attend training sessions, gain the relevant knowledge in a timely fashion, remain current, and generally make the necessary time commitment.

If interested, please send a letter of interest to the Conservation Department at conservation@belchertown.org. Any questions call the office at 413-323-0405”

Fall into fun card party set for Sept. 24

WILBRAHAM—The Wilbraham Women’s Club will be holding its annual “Fall Into Fun” Card & Game Party and Luncheon on Thursday, Sept. 24, at the Saint Cecilia Parish Center, 42 Main St., Wilbraham.

Check in time is 11:30 a.m. with lunch served at noon. The donation is \$10 and there will also be a raffle for cash prizes.

Come with friends and play any game of your choice (dominoes, Mahjong,

bridge, Canasta, pitch, etc.).

Proceeds help to fund the club’s scholarships and contributions to area charitable organizations. For reservations call Sue Agnew, 413-596-9480.

PRINCIPAL from page 1

High School, the local vocational technical school. Taylor said this is when people started recommending that he apply to be an administrator.

“I left Chicopee to work in Westfield as the supervisor of social studies, where I supported all the social studies teachers in grades five-12 by doing evaluations,” Taylor said. “It was good, but I didn’t work with kids anymore. I really wanted to be able to work with kids and also be an agent for change.”

This is when Taylor decided to pursue a position as assistant principal, which he filled at Lawrence School in Holyoke after the COVID-19 pandemic. Taylor then moved to Baird Middle School in Ludlow when the principal resigned.

He described being “voluntold” by the superintendent to take on the responsibility of supporting the interim principal.

“I got a lot of pressure to throw my hat in, and was offered the position,” Taylor said. “I loved it at the middle school. It was a great learning experience and took a lot of hard work.”

Taylor described the early days at Baird as “really dysfunctional and unorganized,” but he was able to put systems in place to support learning and restore calmness to building.

“Through hard work, that building dramatically changed,” Taylor said. “Now

people go to the building and say it’s one of the quietest middle schools. People are smiling when they had never smiled before.”

Taylor said he was able to work together with the staff at Baird to improve the culture at the school.

“I really liked that, and the kids were great,” Taylor said. “But I had itching to get back into high school and specifically vocational school. Since I taught at Chicopee Comp, I had always enjoyed working there, and I loved that kids were able to see the relevance in their learning through vocational schools.”

Besides the increased relevance of technical programs, Taylor also appreciates the strong connections that vocational schools have with their communities. He has said that teaching at the high school level feels more rewarding and impactful for the students.

“Every single place I’ve worked has been a meaningful experience, but most gratifying for me, personally, has been the high school level,” Taylor said. “Vocational schools like Pathfinder provide opportunities to seriously change the trajectory of someone’s life. When you graduate from a school like Pathfinder, you’re not just career-ready, but also college capable.”

Having worked at multiple vocational technical schools, Taylor said that Pathfinder has a unique advantage by serving nine different com-

munities in the area.

“Chicopee Comp (and other vocational technical schools) all have great instructors, administration, students, and communities they serve, but Pathfinder has a broader availability to service students,” Taylor said. “We pull in students from all different towns, so we have more diversity economically and socially. We have the opportunity to create these cultures and bring people together, that’s something I’d say Pathfinder has an advantage in that sense.”

Taylor also spoke about the cutting-edge equipment at Pathfinder, saying that the school “offers the best materials and resources for our students.”

“I got my first tour of the building with the Head of Maintenance, and I felt like a kid in a candy store going through the tech programs and seeing the tools,” Taylor said.

Though he said talking about himself was “the most uncomfortable part” of his day, Taylor shared a little bit about his home life. His wife,

Dr. Elizabeth Taylor, also works in education, in the field of school psychology.

“I absolutely love her, she’s the best,” Taylor said. “The best Professional Development I get is at dinner table, talking with her.”

The Taylors live in Feeding Hills with their two children, Catherine, age 10, Matt, age 8, and their black labrador, Shep. Taylor said Matt, who shares his name with his

father but goes by his middle name, is an athlete who plays hockey, lacrosse and soccer, and Catherine, nicknamed “The General,” seems to have inherited his drive to be a lawyer.

“I’m deeply affected by my family and take any chance I get to spend time with them. They’re the anchor in my life, and I love them more than anything,” Taylor said.

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■ PUBLIC SAFETY

Belchertown Police Log

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

ARRESTS/SUMMONS
Friday, Aug. 28
11:52 a.m. – A summons was issued to a 35-year-old Attleboro man on charges of shoplifting.

An officer responded to a Turkey Hill Road business for a report of shoplifting. They left in a blue Honda Odyssey. An angle grinder was taken. Witnesses took photos of the suspect. A staff member told the officer they spoke with the person who said they just left the courthouse. They spoke with security there, who provided a residential address in Ware. Ware Police they were able to get the identity but couldn't locate the suspect.

Saturday, Aug. 29
2:11 p.m. – Rebecca Anne Hightower, 36, of 68 Penyon Way, East Falmouth, was arrested on charges of failing to stop for police, reckless operation of a motor vehicle, three counts of failing to stop/yield, a marked lanes violation, a passing violation and speeding.

An officer on patrol running radar on North Liberty Street, a posted 35 mph area, saw a black Hyundai speeding. The radar displayed a speed of 50, then the vehicle accelerated. The officer reported the vehicle was going 64 mph before they lost sight of it. The officer approached the vehicle, activated their lights and the vehicle continued, passing others along the way. As the officer got closer, the officer got the license plate. The vehicle went through a stop sign on North Main Street and Mill Valley Road. The vehicle also went through a red light and made no effort to stop. The officer used their PA system to try to get the vehicle to stop. At the intersection of Route 9 and 202, the light was red. The officer saw two detail officers directing traffic then saw more blue lights on Daniel Shays Highway. There was a motorcycle parade turning onto Daniel Shay's Highway. The vehicle went through the motorcycles and slowed down enough to allow the officer to stop them. The person was found to be the registered owner of the vehicle and was charged accordingly.

Monday, Aug. 31
12:36 p.m. – A 61-year-old South Windsor CT man

was issued a summons on charges of operating with a suspended license. An officer responded to Main Street for a car crash. No injuries were reported. A vehicle stopped for a cross walk and was rear ended by another vehicle. One vehicle was towed from the scene.

Thursday, Sept. 3
2:08 p.m. – A 29-year-old Ware woman was issued a summons for operating with a suspended license and negligent operation of a motor vehicle. An officer responded to a single crash into a pole and the pole was on fire. The caller was unsure if they and the passenger were able to get out of motor vehicle. Both people were transported to the hospital. The vehicle was towed.

ACCIDENTS/INCIDENTS
Friday, Aug. 28
9:47 a.m. – An officer responded to a golf course regarding vandalism on the seventh hole that occurred sometime overnight. A person dragged their feet across the grass to make vulgar words and images. There were other ones done by a stick. The matter was documented.
11:54 p.m. – An officer took a report of fraud from a business owner. They sent a check to be deposited and it was partially cleared. Then the business that sent the original check wanted a full refund. When the person didn't refund the money, they began to get harassed about it. The person was then threatened as well.
1:51 p.m. – An officer responded to a North Main Street residence for damage to the vehicle a worker did work on sidewalk hit and damage to the car. The car was unoccupied and parked in the area. The bobcat loader caused damage to the parked car. Photos were taken and the worker was identified. The owner of the business who owned the bobcat was going to pay for the damage to the vehicle.
5:05 p.m. – An officer and Belchertown Fire paramedics responded to a person having a mental health crisis.
6:31 p.m. – An officer took a report of fraud from a Mill Valley Road resident. They said someone hacked into their phone and transferred money from their account liked to their phone. The person contacted their bank. They reported they couldn't use their phone anymore. They were going to send over an itemized list of items purchased after the phone was hacked.
7:29 p.m. – An officer responded to an accident at a residence. A vehicle parked on the side of the road backed up and struck a person that was walking near the car. They weren't transported to the hospital but later sought medical attention.

Saturday, Aug. 29
2:25 a.m. – A person asked

to perform wellbeing check on a child who lived with another parent.
10:27 a.m. – Someone reported a wallet found on a trail. An officer went to a location, and the officer obtained the wallet. The person who owned the wallet worked at a nearby business. They were away for the weekend, and the wallet was entered into property.
12:57 p.m. – A person located a video camera in their kitchen while cleaning. They were going through a divorce and wanted to report it.
Sunday, Aug. 30
4:30 p.m. – An officer responded to a group home for a person who having a mental health crisis.
4:30 p.m. – An officer responded to a domestic. The incident was verbal and a report was filed.

Monday, Aug. 31
6:45 p.m. – An officer took a report of a neighbor who threatened another neighbor. All the electrical meters are all in one area and a power company was able to go in and turn it off. A person then caused a disturbance with a renter with a neighbor. There was concerned because they could shut off the power by going into a location.
8:06 p.m. – An officer responded to North Main Street for a report of a domestic violence incident. Peace was restored.

Tuesday, Sept. 1
6:38 p.m. – An officer spoke with resident about a scam involving their computer. They got a message on their computer saying there was a virus. The person followed the prompts and was then told to download several PDFs. The person didn't lose any money but was advised to contact their bank and get their computer checked.

Wednesday, Sept. 2
2:13 a.m. – An officer responded to a domestic violence incident.
6:01 a.m. – An officer responded to a North Washington Street for a report of a woman found in a barn. The officer was updated that the person left going toward North Liberty Street. Then the officer got a call from a resident who reported a person was on their front porch. The officer contacted Belchertown Fire and paramedics for an evaluation and the person was transported to hospital.
7:48 a.m. – An officer responded to an accident at the school parking lot. One vehicle pulled into a parking spot at the school and began to back up. A second vehicle was going past the first vehicle at the same time and struck the first. No injuries were reported and no tows were needed.
7:53 a.m. – An officer responded to a Federal Street residence for a report of a person recording another per-

son. There are ongoing issues with a neighbor who was identified and recording. The other person said they were recording as well. The people were provided information about the harassment order process.
9:26 a.m. – An officer responded to Gulf Road for a report of vandalism to a farm stand on the property. It was run by the family's children. There was video of the incident were a vehicle stopped at the farm stand. Tomatoes were thrown and a suspect smashed baled of hay, ripped open bundles of wood and spread things across the road. The farm stand itself was moved down the road and thrown into the woods. There are no suspects at this time.
5:53 p.m. – A person called to follow up about a previous incident.
7:43 p.m. – An officer responded to State Street for a report of a vehicle that went off the road and struck street signs. There was a second vehicle that pulled over and spoke with the operator of the first vehicle to see if they were okay. Then the first vehicle left the scene. The officer couldn't locate the vehicle and there was a request to Granby to look out for the vehicle. There were two signs damaged: one speed sign and a right to farm sign.
8:18 p.m. – An officer responded to an accident on Federal and Allen Road. A vehicle traveling south on Allen Road stopped at an intersection and a second vehicle going west on Federal Street tried to avoid the first vehicle. The second vehicle lost control and left the roadway. Minor injuries were reported and the person declined transportation.
Thursday, Sept. 3
10:45 a.m. – An officer and Belchertown Fire paramedics responded to a residence for a person having a mental health crisis.
7:39 p.m. – An officer responded to a North Main Street residence for a possible harassment prevention order violation. It was an incident between two neighbors.
9:01 p.m. – An officer spoke with a person in the lobby about ongoing issues with a person they believed was following them. A report was taken.

Granby Police Log

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

Lake Wallace Fall Fest returns October 3

BELCHERTOWN—The Belchertown Recreation Department is partnering with the Friends of Lake Wallace for the Lake Wallace Fall Fest Fundraiser on Saturday, Oct. 3, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Lake Wallace (behind the recreation department).
Following the success of last year's inaugural event, they are bringing the community together again for a fundraiser showcasing accessible recreation, nature, community, and fun for everyone.
And it's not just a race! The Fall Fest is a celebration with live music, local vendors, food, family activities, community organizations, and plenty of opportunities to enjoy Lake Wallace, all while helping raise funds to support its continued improvement and accessibility.
Run, Roll & Stroll:
Choose your way to enjoy the Lake Wallace trails:
5K – 10 a.m.- \$35
1K – 11 a.m. - \$30
Roll & Stroll - 11:15 a.m. - \$20
Just a t-shirt & donation - \$25
5K and 1K registration includes an event T-shirt, raffle ticket, and

a \$15 donation to the Lake Wallace Gift Account.
The Roll & Stroll is a \$20 donation to the Lake Wallace Gift Account and does not require advance registration.
Register at www.runreg.com/lwff
T-shirt included 5K and 1K registration closes September 17. Registrations after that date (including day of) will be donation-only and will not include a T-shirt or raffle ticket.

Your Support Makes a Difference
Lake Wallace Sensory Trail is a special community resource made possible through grant funding, community support, and the dedication of volunteers.
Last year, the community raised more than \$6,500 through race registrations, donations, sponsorships, and raffle tickets. Those funds helped support accessible trail repairs, an informational kiosk, branded wayfinding signage, and additional guide rails and posts near Foyle Field.
This year, there is a goal of \$10,000 to continue improving Lake Wallace and expanding opportunities for accessible recreation.

TAX WORK-OFF

from page 1
cation process started on Sept. 1 and will continue throughout October. The program aims to reduce the worker's property tax by \$1,000 in exchange for about 66 hours of work performed between January and November of next year.
“The Select Board really wanted an opportunity to help those with financial relief,” Langlois said. “A lot of surrounding towns already offer this program, so it was something that I know that we’ve always wanted to get off the ground and running.”
There are many factors considered for eligible workers, which include age, a maximum gross income return of \$50,000 or less for a single person or \$82,000 for a married couple and a bank balance assessment disclosed on the application.
“It’s calculated by the state’s minimum wage, which is \$15 an hour,” Langlois said, when asked how worker compensation was calculated. “We take the \$15 an hour and we divide it by the \$1,000 you can earn, which gives us 66 hours.”
This sum doesn't include state and federal deductions, which includes federal taxes, Medicare

and Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (OBRA) considerations. Upon program completion, Langlois stated about \$800 would be deducted from the worker's property tax for the year through the assessor's office.
“As long as we have a slot open, you are more than welcome to apply every year,” Lanlois said when asked if the program would take on returning applicants. She stated there were no mandatory term limits for the program, so long as there was a need for the work and there were slots available.
Langlois also confirmed people applying for handyman positions shouldn't shy away if they don't have the required tools for the job, as equipment would be provided by the department. However, should the person already have the tools, they are more than welcome to use their own.
“The fire department is back on the list,” Langlois said when asked for a workplace example. “The Senior Center is on the list this year and the school department is on the list.”
Langlois also added the town's Communications Committee was also looking for people to help the communication manager. Those interested in applying for open roles may contact the Belchertown Senior Center for more details.
“It's a great way to have financial relief for an older adult or veteran,” Langlois said. “You get the tax relief and the financial relief and the town gets help with things.”



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3rd Annual Car and Bike Show Sept. 12

BELCHERTOWN—St. Francis of Assisi Church is holding their 3rd Annual Car and Bike Show on Sept. 12 with a rain date of Sept. 13.

There will be 3 best in show trophies along with a “most unique” and “crowd favorite” trophy.

There will also be a best in show trophy for motorcycles.

Registration is \$20 and admission for spectators is free.

The event is from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Raffles and food/drink items (including our famous breakfast sandwiches) will be available for purchase.

Bruce Marshall from the Valley Classic Hits will be our DJ. Proceeds benefit the St. Francis Building Fund.

Please call 413 335-7658 Wilbur Quirk if you have any questions.



CULTURAL COUNCIL from page 1

Drive-In on Aug. 28, which drew over 100 attendees, as well as the Art of Needle Felting at the Granby Public Library.

“The first criteria for us is that the event has to happen in Granby,” Delphia said. “It needs to serve a specific faction of our community.”

The Council puts a yearly survey for residents to determine which events to attract to the region. The surveys ask residents what they would like to see, what sort of events interest them and who they would like to serve within the community.

“Disproportionately large

GRANT DENIAL from page 1

ware pricing. At the same time, a previous assumption that security firm Ratcliffe was on the state bid list proved incorrect. A competing firm, Oakers, has now been identified as both eligible and lower cost for cameras, entry controls and cable pulls.

Those adjustments are intended to keep the project on track without overcommitting limited capital dollars.

The Board of Assessors is moving to advertise for a Director of Assessments, a position officials say is needed to strengthen the town’s ability to manage the tax base and stay ahead of neighboring communities on growth and compliance.

Aponte explained that if a qualified candidate is hired during the current fiscal year, the town would likely rely on municipal fund transfers beginning May 1 to cover any shortfall in the asses-

Granby Free Public LIBRARY



September Happenings

Book Sale
September 1-30
Stop into the Library during regular open hours to browse our expansive book sale all month long.

Foraging Walk
Saturday, Sept. 12 at 11 a.m.
Gain greater food security by learning wild and feral edible and medicinal plants and fungi. Using the Library’s grounds learn how to identify and prepare fall foods using common wild edibles that you can find near where you live. Join naturalist and wild edibles enthusiast Arianna Alexandra Collins of Offerings for Community Building on our

foraging walk. Pre-register.

Adult Book Group
Thursday, Sept. 10 at 6 p.m.
The book group will be discussing The Correspondent by Virginia Evans. Grab a copy and join us!

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

Knitting Group
Every Wednesday afternoon at 2 p.m.
Bring your latest project and join us for conversation, tips and tricks.

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

Celebrate Constitution Week!
Sept. 15 to 19
Stop in to browse our Constitution Week displays for adults and kids.

are usually events for elderly people and children,” Delphia said. “So we tend to look at creative ways that will focus on those two age groups.”

The chair cited Talking Hands Theater and the Springfield Symphony Musical Petting Zoo as examples, the latter of which took place at the Granby Public Library. Upcoming events scheduled are the Jazz Bones Christmas Holiday concert in December and a proposed paint and sip taking place at the winehouse on Nov. 15.

“We’re looking for different kinds of ideas and events,” Delphia said. “We try to stay away from doing

the same type of event over and over.”

Delphia stressed originality when it came to what determined a potential event, along with “reasonable” financial compensation asks should the activity need to be funded. A \$1,000 maximum is imposed on any event requesting town funding due to budgetary restrictions. However, partial compensation up to the maximum may be awarded, which is determined on a case-by-case basis.

“We look at every single applicant that comes to us,” Delphia said. “What we try to determine is, first of all, is it original and new? Sometimes, we’ll just give a

partial award...we could say ‘well, we can give you 500 towards this event.’ It’s up to them if they want to accept the award or not.”

Those interested in applying should note the grant application cut-off date is Oct. 15th. Additional help may be found at the Granby Cultural Council’s Facebook page or may reach out to granbyculturalcouncil@gmail.com.

“I also want to encourage people, if they know how to teach something to children or to adults,” Delphia said. “We’re always looking for those kinds of events as well.”

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OPINION

SOCIAL SECURITY Matters

By Russell Gloor

Why change Social Security now? It's a working 'Ponzi Scam.'

Dear Rusty:

Maybe everybody has the same reaction that I do to Social Security insolvency.

I do not understand a system that has been basically run like a Ponzi Scam since its inception; why have you decided (in 2026-2027) that now is the time to change a perfectly good Ponzi Scam.

In all reality, this began with Babylon. I'm sure that if you searched the meaning of the words "Babylonian money magic," you would understand what I'm talking about.

If this is as good as the Earth has, why would you mess with a perfectly rotten thing. Why would you decide to change currencies to some sort of fragile digital currency?

Signed: Skeptical Senior

Dear Skeptical Senior:

You touch on an item that the Association of Mature American Citizens Foundation has dealt with many times over the years, specifically the notion that Social Security has the characteristics of a Ponzi Scheme.

Our position in response to that notion is that Social Security was created and operated with full transparency with its financial status, formulas and long-term deficits completely and publicly documented and reported to the President and Congress annually.

Unlike the infamous Charles Ponzi, the government has a permanent pool of contributors through mandatory FICA and SECA (self-employment) payroll taxes and is designed to remain in operation infinitely as long as there's a taxpaying workforce.

Moreover, the Social Security system is overseen by Congress, specifically the Senate Finance Committee and the House Ways and Means Committee, and the Government Accountability Office. The Social Security Administration is subject to routine hearings by these congressional overseers and maintains an independent Office of the Inspector General to ensure the integrity of its financial operations.

Contrary to Ponzi victims, all participants retiring from the workforce and their dependents recover their Social Security contributions via

benefit payments, some more than others based on their level of participation in the system. Also, contrary to Ponzi Schemes, Social Security was designed as a social insurance system and has operated successfully in that mode for over nine decades.

What raises the notion of a Ponzi Scheme comparison these days is the looming insolvency facing Social Security just six years from now. This financial problem, however, has nothing to do with fraud.

Rather, it is a function of workforce demographics and the fact that Congress has long deferred corrective action on a problem that has been known for the past four decades.

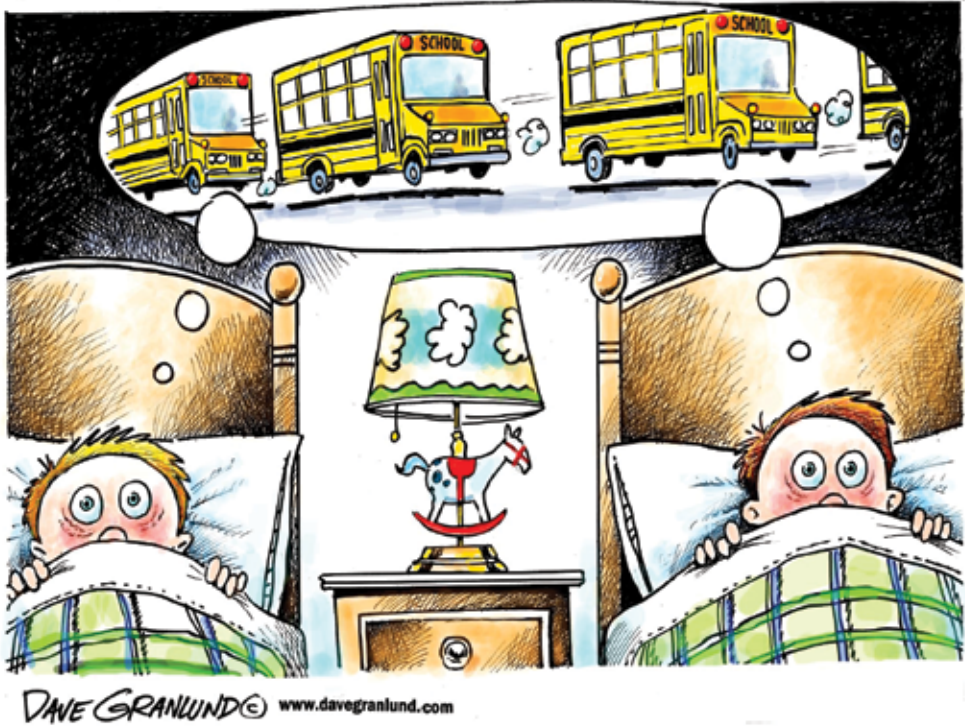
We sometimes hear well intended, but sometimes uninformed comments from some Washington politicians invoking the Ponzi Scheme reference, but we believe that Congress is finally waking up to the urgency.

And we also believe Congress is now starting to move seriously to set a course for correction in time to ward off the impact of insolvency. AMAC is proud to be a part of the collective thinking currently surfacing, and our Social Security Guarantee is in play as a plan to be considered.

We invite you to review our SS reform plan (at <https://amac.us/social-security-guarantee/>) and likewise to stay tuned to our Social Security Report website (<https://socialsecurityreport.org/>) where we post regular updates on a variety of matters pertaining to Social Security and retirement.

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

While visions of school buses danced in their heads...



LETTERS

It takes a village ...

Letter to the editor

This spring, Belchertown Little League integrated girls' softball into their program. It was a huge success and a great learning experience for all the girls to develop their skills.

Justin Hooten, who is the Vice President of Softball for Belchertown Little League, and Jay Lafleur, a well-known local business owner, are both volunteer coaches for the league and have given countless hours to supporting our girls through a fun, competitive environment.

This will be the first year that a fall league is available for youth softball and practices are already underway.

Because the field has not been used since the spring season, the infield had become overgrown. Justin, Jay and Ben Haynes, whose daughter plays in the league, spent hours returning the field to its proper condition.

Many volunteers in town are integral to the success of these programs; I would just like to give recognition and



Before



After

extend appreciation to them for all their dedication that has made this league possible. All the parents are so

thankful to them for their commitment and dedication!

Molly Adams
Belchertown



By Ellenor Downer



Osprey at nest

PHOTO BY DOUG MOORE

Doug Moore of Belchertown took this photo of an osprey protecting its young from a red winged blackbird at Lake Wallace on July 17.

The osprey, also known as the fish hawk has the ability to dive into water to catch fish. It also has the ability to hover.

Ospreys are unusual among hawks in possessing a reversible outer toe that allows them to grasp with two toes in front and two behind. Barbed pads on the soles of the birds' feet help them grip slippery fish. When flying with prey, an osprey lines up its catch head first for less wind resistance.

These hawks are excellent anglers. Over several studies, ospreys caught fish on at least one in every four dives with success rates sometimes as high as 70%. The average time they spent hunting before making a catch was about 12 minutes.

The osprey readily builds its stick nest on manmade structures such as telephone poles, channel markers, duck blinds and nest platforms designed especially for it. Such platforms have become an important tool in reestablishing ospreys in areas where they had disappeared. In some areas nests are placed almost exclusively on arti-

cial structures. Osprey eggs do not hatch all at once. Rather, the first chick emerges up to five days before the last one. The older hatchling dominates its younger siblings and can monopolize the food brought by the parents.

If food is abundant, chicks share meals in relative harmony; in times of scarcity, younger ones may starve to death.

These birds may log more than 160,000 migration miles during its 15 to 20-year lifetime. Scientists track ospreys by strapping lightweight satellite transmitters to the birds' backs.

The devices pinpoint an osprey's location to within a few hundred yards and last for two or three years. During 13 days in 2008, one osprey flew 2,700 miles from Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts to French Guiana, South America.

The oldest known osprey was at least 25 years, two months old and lived in Virginia. It was banded in 1973 and found in 1998.

Glossy ibis

On July 13 Doug Moore saw a glossy ibis at Lake Wallace. They expanded their

Turley Publications Letters to the Editor Policy

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

Turley Election Policy

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

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

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NEWS & FEATURES

As a paper of record, we attempt to cover all general news, personality profiles, and community features that we know about. This includes all selectmen and school committee meetings as well as spot planning board, board of health, finance, and other town meetings determined by the issue's relevance to our readers. There are the annual major community event features that we should always cover, but we are more than open to suggestions of other features to celebrate the fabric of our communities and their many interesting occupants. Our loyal advertisers provide funding for this paid staff coverage.

For more information on news or community features for The Sentinel, please email sentinel@turley.com

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Belchertown Community Energy Choice Program Year 2

BELCHERTOWN—The Belchertown Community Energy Choice program just passed the two-year mark since the program launched in June 2024. With this town program, residents and businesses are allowed to band together and buy their electricity in bulk, offering lower supply rates, more renewable energy content and stable pricing.

Currently, there are 4,511 residential accounts enrolled in the program. The majority (88%) are on the Belchertown Standard default option with a supply rate of 13.37 cents / kWhr and 10% more renewable energy content than the State standard. This amounts to a collective savings of approximately \$1,265,900 for town residents over the last two years compared to National Grid supply rates over that period. More good news is in the carbon displacement savings. Associated CO2 displacement savings amounted to 4,200,000 lbs since program launch. This is equivalent to greenhouse gas emissions from 444 gasoline powered passenger vehicles driven for 1 year, or carbon offset of 31,500 trees over a year, or emissions from 256 homes’ energy use for one year. Figures are approximate and provided by Good Energy, program consultant.

The savings will be even more beginning in August as the National Grid basic supply rate will be going up to 17.185 cents per kWh beginning Aug. 1 through Jan. 31, 2027. The BCEC program rates are locked in through the end of 2027.

Even more carbon offset can be achieved by enrolling in the Belchertown 100 option, which offers a 100% renewable energy supply for less than a penny more than the Belchertown Standard rate (14.31 cents / kWhr for Belchertown 100) and still less than the National Grid basic supply rate, now at 17.185 cents / kWhr. For those that have chosen to go 100% renewable through a third-party electricity supply service, the Belchertown 100 tends to be the better value when comparing rates.

Three things you can do to save money and help the environment depending on your situation:

- Check the second page of your electric bill. If it does not say Belchertown Community Energy Choice under the Supply Services section or National Grid is still listed as your supplier, consider enrolling in the town program.
- To maximize environmental benefit, consider opting up to the Belchertown 100 choice. It is an easy and cost-effective action you can take to help protect the environment.
- If you are with a third-party supplier for your 100% renewable source, check when your contract renews and make the switch to the Belchertown 100 option.

Enroll and learn more at Energy.Belchertown.org.

Free coaching program helps residents navigate heat pump rebates and savings

BELCHERTOWN—Belchertown residents interested in switching to a heat pump can now access free, one-on-one coaching to help them find rebates, tax credits, and savings, as part of a new regional program.

A heat pump is a heating and cooling system that moves heat rather than generating it, allowing it to both warm a home in winter and cool it in summer using significantly less energy than traditional furnaces or air conditioners, often resulting in lower utility bills.

Through the Pioneer Valley Energy Coaching program, trained volunteer coaches, including one from Belchertown, are available at no cost to guide homeowners through choosing a heat pump, finding a qualified installer, and applying for available rebates and tax credits that can significantly offset installation costs. The program is a regional pilot funded through a grant from the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources, a state agency, awarded to the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission.

“This program is a real resource for our residents,” said Steve Williams, Town Manager. “Making the switch to a heat pump can feel complicated, and having a trained coach walk you through the process, at no cost, takes a lot of the guesswork out of it and can help save real money along the way. Thank you to our Energy and Sustainability Committee and the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission for their work bringing this resource to Belchertown.”

The program is currently focused on connecting residents with coaching services. Additional volunteer coaches may be needed in the future, and anyone interested in becoming a coach is welcome to contact the Town for more information.

Residents can request a free energy coach by visiting the Pioneer Valley Energy Coaching website: <https://pioneervalleyenergycoaching.org/>

Belchertown Fair news

BELCHERTOWN—It’s less than 1 month to the annual Belchertown Fair and Parade, Sept. 25-27, 2026. This year’s theme is “Stars, Stripes, and Fair Nights.”

New this year is a Youth Giant Pumpkin contest. Show up at the Pulling Ring on Friday evening at 5:30 p.m. for weighing.

The Exhibit Hall will be hosting an “Apron Contest” on Saturday, 9/26 at 3 p.m.

The categories and additional info can be found on pages 21-22 of the Exhibit Hall booklet.

Ask your Granny for her most storied apron, or if you’d like to create one from scratch, solid white ones will be available on a first-come, first-served basis during the Exhibit Hall drop off periods.

The Fair Committee would like to remind booth vendors of the annual Gerry Whitlock Awards for Best Booth Theme Presentations. Get creative and show off your patriotism.

Local business offers to match donations for return of fireworks

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

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

“Belchertown has always been more than the place where we do business — it’s home. My family and I have built our lives here, and we’re grateful to be part of a community that has supported us for so many years. The Belchertown Fair has long been a tradition that brings families, friends, and neighbors together, and the fireworks have always been one of the highlights. That’s why my family and I are proud to match donations to help bring the fireworks back this September. We hope our commitment encourages others to join us so this cherished tradition can continue creating memories for families throughout our community,” said Tim Drost, Owner, Window World of Western Mass.

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

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

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

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



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Department of Developmental Services



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VIGIL from page 1

Public Schools Drug-Free Communities Program Director Kris Hoag.

The event began as a small community gathering in Melbourne, Australia to remember those who lost their lives to overdoses and as a way to support those affected by substance use. Over the past 25 years, IOAD transformed into a global movement designed to bring communities together to honor those lost to substance issues and console the grieving families affected. The event is also designed to inform the public about overdose prevention and recovery.

“The candlelight vigil was inspired by the need to remember and honor the lives of community members lost to overdose while supporting the families and loved ones left behind,” Hoag said. “Holding the vigil on the Town Common creates a visible, welcoming space where the entire community can come together to grieve, remember and show support.”

The vigil began with 45 minutes were dedicated to self-guided open reflection. A Memory Table and a Wall of Light was provided, adorned with photos and names of those lost to overdoses. A Creative Healing Station was also on site with activities such as Kindness Rock Paintings, Dragonfly Designs and Luminary Bag Creating available.

Water, tissues, lavender sachets and grounding spaces were also available for those who needed them. A Legacy in Action Table offered a space for participants who wished to show how they would carry forward a loved one’s legacy, which was accompanied by soft music to facilitate a quiet and reflective atmosphere.

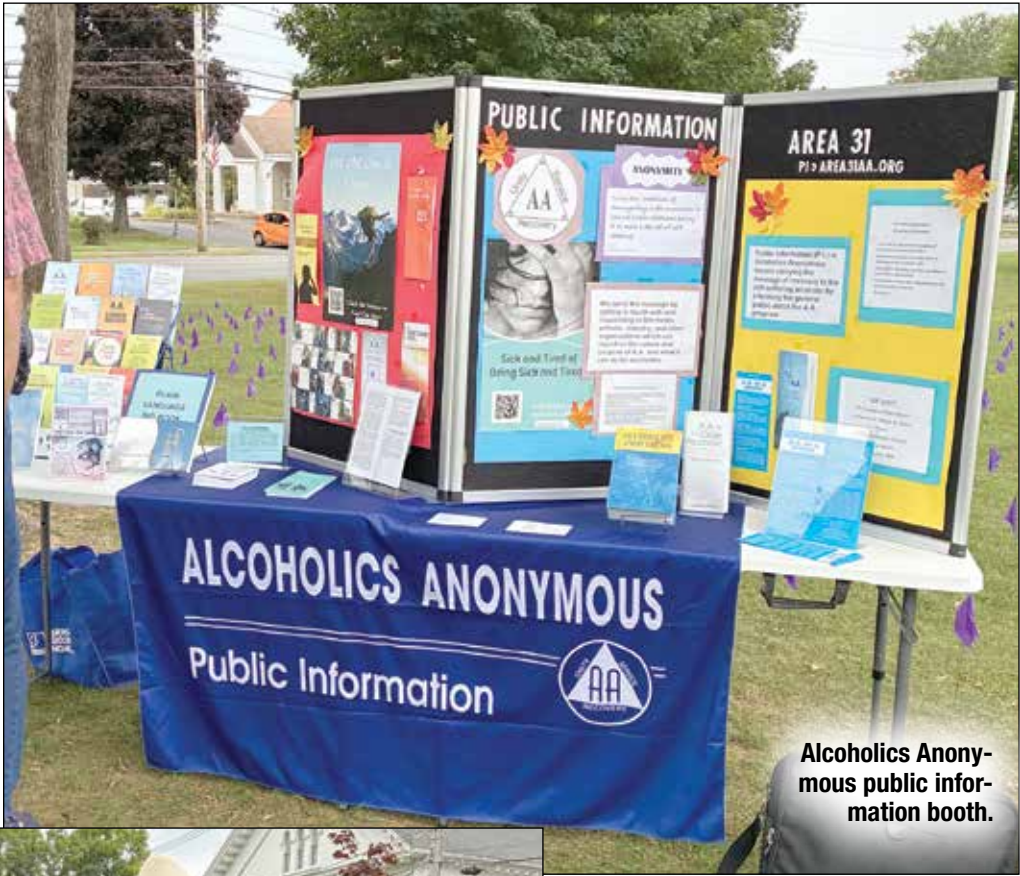
The official ceremony had speeches from BOAT Co-Chair Angela Battle and comments from State Representative Aaron Saunders. BOAT Secretary and Drug-Free Communities Community Engagement Coordinator Alene Motta shared a poem with attendees, which was followed by a

first light candle relay.

Participants lit candles during the relay as names were read aloud for the reflective audience. Hoag offered a few words and invited others to speak their peace, which continued until Reverend Michelle Grube lead the attendees in a closing prayer to mark the ceremony’s end.

Though under somber circumstances, the vigil provided an opportunity for Belchertown residents to come together. Residents gathered to offer each other compassion, provide hope for their neighbors and reinforced the community’s commitment to preventing future loss.

“Every life lost to overdose matters,” Hoag said. “No individual or family should have to face the impact of substance use alone.”



Alcoholics Anonymous public information booth.



Drug Addiction Recovery Team representatives.



Belchertown Overcoming Adversity Together booth.



Staff from the Empower Health Group.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Candles in the Town Common.



A Self-Care Station table was available for attendees.

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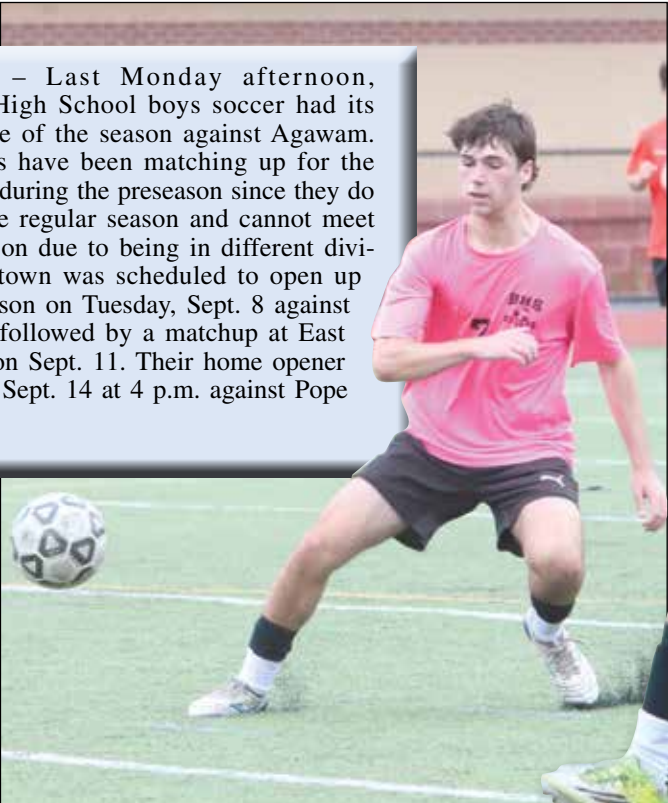
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Orioles in preseason action



The Orioles, sporting their summer soccer jerseys, were in scrimmage action last week at Agawam.

AGAWAM – Last Monday afternoon, Belchertown High School boys soccer had its first scrimmage of the season against Agawam. The two teams have been matching up for the past few years during the preseason since they do not meet in the regular season and cannot meet in the postseason due to being in different divisions. Belchertown was scheduled to open up the regular season on Tuesday, Sept. 8 against Longmeadow, followed by a matchup at East Longmeadow on Sept. 11. Their home opener is on Monday, Sept. 14 at 4 p.m. against Pope Francis.



A Belchertown midfielder clears the ball.



The Orioles possess the ball near mid-field.



The Orioles get ready to send the ball deep during scrimmage action.



Belchertown hopes to continue its record of making playoff appearances.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI
The Orioles opened up the regular season this week.



The Rams and Brownies clashed in preseason action.



Granby advances the ball up the field.



The Rams were involved in a preseason scrimmage at Agawam last week.



The Rams try to keep play on the offensive end of the field.

State semifinalist Rams ready for new season

AGAWAM – Granby High School girls soccer started out its preseason with a scrimmage at Agawam last Wednesday afternoon. A short distance away less than a year ago, Granby engaged in a phenomenal matchup in the state semifinals with Monson at Clark Field in West Springfield. Granby lost that matchup, but is looking to make it back to the state tournament again this year. The Rams opened the season earlier this week at home against Hampshire Regional. The Rams travel to Southwick on Sept. 11 at 4 p.m. They are back home on Monday, Sept. 14 against Pittsfield at 4 p.m.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI
RIGHT: The Rams are pressured by the Agawam defense.



T-Birds announces series of promotional themes for new season

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Thunderbirds are excited to unveil a stacked promotional and theme schedule for the 2026-27 AHL season, marking the 100th anniversary of professional hockey in the City of Firsts. This year's promo calendar blends fan-favorite traditions with new giveaways and never-before-seen surprises sure to delight T-Birds fans of all ages.

“As we celebrate the 100th anniversary of professional hockey here in Springfield, we take immense pride in knowing this game has been a staple of our community for a century—and in the atmosphere we’ve cultivated for fans of all ages,” said Thunderbirds President Nathan Costa. “Our mission has always been to create traditions and marquee nights that people look forward to year after year—blending pop culture, meaningful community initiatives, and inventive, spirited experiences that make every game memorable. Thanks to our incredible fans, the Thunderdome has grown into one of the most electric environments in the league, and that passion and deep connection to our fanbase continues to fuel everything we do.”

Once again this season, fans should note that all Saturday home games will kick off with 6:05 p.m. puck drops, along with one Wednesday night matchup on March 10. Paid parking will continue to be available throughout the season at the nearby Convention Center CarPark, and The Landing—the outdoor plaza next to the CarPark—will be open and activated for select nights during the season. Fans seeking free parking can still take advantage of the MGM Springfield garage.

The puck drops on Saturday, Oct. 10, with Opening Night presented by MGM Springfield as the T-Birds welcome the Laval Rocket to town as head coach Steve Ott and captain Chris Wagner leads their squad into an exciting new season. Ahead of puck drop, fans can stop by The Landing for the Community Bank N.A. season-opening Block Party, presented with support from the Springfield BID, from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m., featuring live music by Fever, food & drink, and plenty of energy to launch another unforgettable season. The T-Birds are poised to celebrate an 11th consecutive Opening Night sellout inside the Thunderdome.

In addition to the appearances and themes below, fans can expect to see specialty jerseys corresponding to the following themes: Teddy Bear Toss, Heritage Night, Ice-O-Topes Night, Pink in the Rink, and St. Patrick's Day.

SPORTS

Railers announce
preseason matchup

WORCESTER – The Worcester Railers Hockey Club (@RailersHC), proud ECHL (@ECHL) affiliate of the St. Louis Blues (@StLouisBlues), announced a home pre-season game, presented by Bando Performance, to be played on October 10th at the Fidelity Bank Worcester Ice Center. at 7:05 p.m.

New this season, this year's preseason game in Worcester on Oct. 10 will be a ticketed event. All proceeds from the game will be donated towards the Captain's Fund, which provides financial assistance and support for youth hockey families. Fans can purchase \$5 tickets for the opener.

Promotional Schedule

The Worcester Railers have announced the themes for all 36 home games for the 2026-27 season. This season's promotional schedule includes 13 different giveaway nights, eight nights with specialty jerseys, and nine nights where the Railers will be donning their brand new Heart of the Commonwealth Jerseys. Fans can click here to view the full 2026-27 Worcester Railers Promotional Schedule.

The Worcester Railers HC 2026-27 Opening Weekend at the DCU Center is Sat., Oct. 17th and Sun. Oct. 18 vs. the Maine Mariners and Trois-Rivières Lions. The 508 Club is now on sale for the 2026-27 season.

Quabbin Visitor Center
lists upcoming programs

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

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

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

Dogs are not allowed anywhere at the Quabbin Reservoir.

Follow link to register or visit <https://www.mass.gov/locations/quabbin-reservoir/events>

Exploring the West Side

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

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

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

Exploring Dana Common

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

The old foundations, stone walls, and shade trees of Dana Common will transport you to the past as you explore Quabbin's unique history. This 3.6 mile moderate round-trip hike will introduce you to some of the notable resi-

Please see **QUABBIN**, page 11



Taylor Allen is pressured by an opponent.



Kayleigh Peters is closely pressured.



Abigail Carmody gets ready to make a big kick.

Pathfinder
girls soccer
gets going

PALMER – Last Thursday afternoon, Pathfinder girls soccer had its preseason scrimmage, taking on cross-town rival Palmer High School. The two teams are both gearing up for the regular season. Pathfinder was set to open the season on Thursday, Sept. 10, taking on Lee at home. The Pioneers are on the road Monday afternoon, Sept. 14 at Commerce at 4 p.m.



Ellyana LaValley keeps play moving up the field.



Aubrey Ortiz sends the goal kick away.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

LEFT: Eudyn Wood takes a free kick.



VETERANS DAY SALUTE

Sentinel ~ November 5, 2026

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

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

All photos will be returned.

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

There is no cost to submit a photo.

No photos will be accepted after deadline.

Racing heats up Stafford Motor
Speedway with final races

STAFFORD SPRINGS, CT – With Stafford Motor Speedway approaching its final races of the 2026 season, drivers are quickly running out of time to either establish themselves as a championship contender, or make a move up in the standings before the season ends. Here is a division by division breakdown of how each of Stafford's five weekly divisions has played out thus far in 2026:

SK Modified® Division

Stafford's premier weekly division sees Keith Rocco on track to claim a fifth career track championship. A fifth SK track title would tie Rocco with Bob Potter for the second most in Stafford history, trailing only the late great Ted Christopher with 9 SK titles.

Todd Owen kicked off the 2026 season with what was his first SK Modified® feature win since Sept. 2024. Owen, defending SK track champion Jon Puleo, and Tyler Chapman all took turns holding the SK point lead in the early stages of the season, but Rocco's consistency sees him currently holding a 66-point advantage over Puleo with Marcello Rufrano and Owen tied for third, 86 points behind. Rocco took the point lead for the first time following the July 10 feature event and he has not

relinquished the lead since. Rocco heads into the Sept. 4 Paradiso Insurance LM 50 program riding a streak of 10 consecutive top-8 finishes, but all it would take is one bad night for Rocco for his comfortable 66 point margin to disappear.

Late Model Division

Stafford's Late Model division is the tightest championship fight going at Stafford with the top-8 drivers spread less than 50 points, or one race win, apart. Five different drivers have each held the Late Model point lead at some point during the 2026 season. Chris Buffone opened the season with a victory in the NAPA Spring Sizzler and after losing the point lead to Kevin Gambacorta and then Chris Meyer, Buffone was back on top before Adam Gray took over the lead following the June 12 feature event. Gambacorta would swap the lead with both Gray and Meyer once more before Gray went back into the lead following the July 10 feature event and he has held the lead ever since. Much like Keith Rocco in Stafford's SK Modified® division, Gray is racing for what would be a fifth career Late Model track title at Stafford. Meyer goes into the final 4 races trailing Gray by 10 points, Gambacorta is third 24 points

behind, Wayne Coury, Jr. is fourth, 34 points behind, Michael Bennett is fifth, 40 points behind, Darrell Keane and Buffone are tied for sixth 42 points behind and defending track champion Paul Varricchio, Jr. is eighth, 46 points behind.

SK Light Division

Stafford's SK Light division has seen its 2026 season evolve into a story of two dominant seasons. Chris Matthews opened the season with a victory in the NAPA Spring Sizzler and looked like he would have things on cruise control as he posted podium finishes in the first 7 races with 1 win, 5 second place, and 1 third place finish among those 7 races. Although Matthews has added 3 more wins to his season total since that streak, he has also finished outside the top-15 five times since then and he has fallen to 4th in the standings, 66 points behind Nick Anglace.

Anglace has been the other hot SK Light driver during the 2026 season, racking up 7 wins over the first 17 races. Anglace's win total trails only Ryan Waterman, who has 10 wins in the Street Stock division, for the most feature wins at Stafford this season. Former SK Light

Please see **RACING**, page 11

Dirt Dogs take Pioneer Valley championship



Andres Conde delivers a pitch for the Knights.

SOUTH HADLEY – On Aug. 22 at Beachgrounds Park, after trailing earlier in the game, the Dirt Dogs came back to defeat the Knights 7-5 to sweep a best-of-three game championship series to win the Pioneer Valley Baseball League’s title for 2026. This was the first year of Pioneer’s merger with the Quabbin Valley Baseball League. The merger included the addition of the Blue Jays to bring the league to six teams. The Dirt Dogs had Pioneers best record of 19-2 in the regular season and the Dirt Dogs went on to win five consecutive games in the double elimination playoffs. The Knights went 16-4 in the regular season and were defeated in winner’s bracket of the playoffs by the Dirt Dogs. They would go on to beat the Wolves 2-1 in 11 innings in the elimination final to make it to the championship series for a rematch with the Dirt Dogs. The Dirt Dogs won the championship opener 18-4 at Mackenzie Stadium in Holyoke on Aug. 18. Pioneer will have a four-team fall league for the first time, which begins on Sept. 12.



Tory Buck takes a swing and fouls off a pitch.



Pete Moulin sends a pitch away for the Dirt Dogs.



Tom Burzynski leads off first base.

Matt Morin sends a throw to first.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

RACING from page 10

champion Tyler Barry has quietly kept himself in contention for a second track title, holding the point lead himself for several weeks before Anglace took over the top spot in the standings. Barry has yet to win a race in 2026, but he is the co-division leader with 11 top-5 and 14 top-10 finishes this season. Barry goes into the Sept. 4 race 20 points behind Anglace with Dalton McCarthy, who scored his first career SK Light victory earlier this season, sitting third, 42 points behind.

Limited Late Model Division

Jason Lafayette opened the Limited Late Model season with victory in the NAPA Spring Sizzler, which vaulted him into the early season point lead. Lafayette would hold the point lead until the middle of June when Jeremy Lavoie took over the top spot. Lavoie and Lafayette traded the point lead several times with former track champion Rich Hammann also taking the lead for a week before Lavoie went back to the front, where he remains going into the Sept. 4 feature event. Lavoie is seeking what would be his

fourth career track championship in the Limited Late Model division and he leads Norm Root, III, who is still looking for his first win of the 2026 season, by 10 points. Lafayette and Hamman are currently tied for third in the standings, 28 points behind Lavoie.

Street Stock Division

The Street Stock division has been a one-man wrecking crew in 2026 as Ryan Waterman has absolutely dominated the competition. Waterman has amassed 10 wins over the first 16 races this season to see himself 48 points clear of Brent Gleason

in second place. Waterman has been so dominant this season that he has finished 15 of the 16 races this season in the top-4 with the lone blemish on his record a 17th place finish in the July 31 feature event. Gleason has yet to win this season but he is the only driver to have recorded a top-10 finish in each of the first 16 races. Jason Raymond is currently third in the standings with 3 victories and he is 58 points behind Waterman. The only other driver within 100 points of Waterman is PJ Evans who is fourth in the standings, 96 points behind.

QUABBIN from page 10

dents of Dana as you discover what life was like in the Swift River Valley over a hundred years ago. Photos illustrating Quabbin’s past will bring Dana to life before your eyes.

Ware River Bridge Series: South

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

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

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

Soapstone Mountain Hike

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

Quabbin Park

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

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

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

Exploring the Road to Millington

This 3-mile round trip hike will introduce you to some of the residents of the lost village of Millington as you learn what daily

life was like in the years leading up to the Quabbin Reservoir project on Saturday, Oct. 11 from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Meet at Quabbin Gate 29 on Elm Street and Route 202 in New Salem.

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

Ware River Bridge Series: North

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

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

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

Rutland Prison Camp

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

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

Group hike near Muddy Pond

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

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

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

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

The hike begins and ends north of Muddy Pond.

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HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED:
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SERVERS WANTED
Inquire at Girly's Grill,
1315 Park St., Palmer, MA 01069
or call 413-284-0005.

The Town of Oakham
is seeking a dependable individual
to serve as a
PART-TIME CUSTODIAN
for the Oakham Town Hall and Library.
Position Details:
• Approximately 5-7 hours per week
• \$20.35 per hour
• Responsible for general cleaning and
custodial duties at the Town Hall
and Library
Interested candidates should email
admin@oakham-ma.gov
for further information and town
employment application.
The Town of Oakham is an
Equal Opportunity Employer.

HELP WANTED

TOWN OF WARE JOB OPENING
Part-Time Custodian
The Town of Ware is seeking applicants for
the position of custodian. Duties include
cleaning restrooms, sweeping, vacuuming,
and mopping floors, cleaning windows,
taking out trash and restocking supplies.
Part-time, non-benefited, \$17.50 per hour,
12 hours per week.
Job applications can be found on the Town
of Ware website <https://www.townof-ware.com>
under Human Resources, at
the Ware Town Hall, or e-mail your appli-
cation or resume to resumes@townof-ware.com. AA/EOE

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FOR RENT


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OPPORTUNITY

ALL REAL ESTATE advertised herein is
subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act,
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cause of race, color, religion, sex, handi-
cap, familial status, or national origin, or
intention to make any such preference,
limitation, or discrimination." We will not
knowingly accept any advertising for real
estate which is in violation of the law. All
persons are hereby informed that all dwell-
ings advertised are available on an equal
opportunity basis.

FOR RENT


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handicap, familial status (number of
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origin, ancestry, age, marital status, or any
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limitation or discrimination.
This newspaper will not knowingly accept
any advertising for real estate that is in
violation of the law. Our readers are hereby
informed that all dwellings advertising in
this newspaper are available on an equal
opportunity basis. To complain about
discrimination call The Department of
Housing and Urban Development " HUD"
toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E.
area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll
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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	31 Base Price \$31.50	32 Base Price \$32.00
33 Base Price \$32.50	34 Base Price \$33.00	35 Base Price \$33.50	36 Base Price \$34.00
37 Base Price \$34.50	38 Base Price \$35.00	39 Base Price \$35.50	40 Base Price \$36.00

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PUBLIC NOTICES

SALE OF MOTOR VEHICLE

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

2019 Nissan Armada
Vin: JN8AY2NC7K9587053
Color: Black
LKO: Eric Witherspoon
2 Executive Park Dr., Apt. 233
Merrimack, NH 03054

2016 Land Rover Discovery
Sport
Vin: SALCR2BG0GH546990
Color: White
LKO: Tyanna Beth Yaman
62 Cady St.
Ludlow, MA 01056

Relentless Towing
Belchertown, MA
413-530-3804
09/03, 09/10, 09/17/2026

PUBLIC NOTICE
Department of Environmental
Protection Wetlands Program
Notice of 401 WQC
Application and Variance

Notice is hereby given that New England Power Company (NEP), 170 Data Drive, Waltham, MA 02451, seeks a 401 Water Quality Certification (WQC) and Variance for the Central to Western Massachusetts Energy Improvement Project/E5/F6 Asset Condition Refurbishment Project located within Millbury, Auburn, Leicester, Spencer, East Brookfield, North Brookfield, West Brookfield, Ware, Belchertown, Pelham, Shutesbury, Leverett, Sunderland, Deerfield, Conway, Shelburne, and Buckland, MA.

NEP plans to replace existing structures, improve access to structures, reconductor the lines, replace existing shieldwires with optical groundwire, and perform vegetation management activities within the existing transmission corridor. A Variance is requested for temporary construction matting and permanent structure foundations within wetlands located within 400 feet of the high water mark of the Quabbin Reservoir.

Additional information may be obtained from Theresa Portante, BSC Group, Inc., 1 Mercantile Street, Suite 610, Worcester, MA 01608, (617) 896-4509, tportante@bscgroup.com.

Written comments on the 401 WQC and Variance should be sent within twenty-one (21) days of this notice to:

MassDEP Wetlands Program
– Major Projects and Policy Unit
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900
Boston, MA 02114
christina.y.wu@mass.gov

Any group of ten persons, any aggrieved person, or any governmental body or private organization with a mandate to protect the environment who submits written comments may appeal the Department's Certification. Failure to submit written comments before the end of the pub-

lic comment period may result in the waiver of any right to an adjudicatory hearing.
09/10/2026

Commonwealth of
Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampshire Probate and
Family Court
15 Atwood Drive
Northampton, MA 01060
(413)586-8500
Docket No.
HS24P0417EA
In the matter of:
William Henry Vageline
Also known as:
William H. Vageline
Date of Death: 03/25/2023
CITATION ON PETITION
FOR ALLOWANCE OF
ACCOUNT

To all interested persons:
A Petition has been filed by: Margo J. Vageline of Belchertown MA requesting allowance of the First account(s) as Personal Representative and any other relief as requested in the Petition.

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before 10:00 a.m. on 09/23/2026.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an Affidavit of Objections within thirty (30) days of the return date, action may be taken without further notice to you.

Witness, Hon. Diana S. Velez Harris,, First Justice of this Court.
Date: August 28, 2026

Mark S Ames,
Register of Probate
09/10/2026

Commonwealth of
Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampshire Probate and
Family Court
15 Atwood Drive
Northampton, MA 01060
(413)586-8500
Docket No.
HS26P0580EA
Estate of:
Bonnie Lee Prindle
Also known as:
Bonnie L. Prindle
Date of Death: 07/08/2026
CITATION ON PETITION
FOR FORMAL
ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:
A Petition for Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Julia W. Colson of West Hartford, CT requesting that the Court enter a formal De-

cree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that Julia W. Colson of West Hartford, CT be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in unsupervised administration.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 09/30/2026. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED
ADMINISTRATION UNDER
THE MASSACHUSETTS
UNIFORM PROBATE CODE
(MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. Diana S. Velez Harris, First Justice of this Court.
Date: September 01, 2026

Mark S Ames,
Register of Probate
09/10/2026

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

OBITUARY

Jolene Sandra Rice, 75

Jolene Sandra Rice, 75, passed away on Thursday, August 27, 2026. She was born on December 2, 1950, in Elgin, Illinois, and lived a life marked by kindness, warmth, and devotion to the people and interests she held dear. Jolene was a loving, friendly, and kind woman whose gentle spirit touched the lives of many and whose memory will be cherished by all who knew her.

Jolene was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother, sister, and friend. She was preceded in death by her parents, Carl Schultz and Beverley Schroeder; husband, George Rice; as well as her brothers, William Schultz and Gary Schultz. Though she experienced the loss of loved ones throughout her life, she carried herself with grace and strength, always remaining steadfast in her care for her family and in the relationships she nurtured over the years.

She is survived by her sons, Jeffery (Christina) Stephens Jr., and James Stephens. She also leaves behind her beloved grandchildren, Brandon Stephens, Jeremy Stephens, Grace Stephens, Noah Stephens, and Laine Stephens, who brought great joy to her life. Jolene is also survived by her sister, Lynn (David) Buetow; her sister-in-law, Karen Schultz, and many nieces and nephews who will remember her with love and gratitude. Her family was the center of her

world, and she treasured every opportunity to share time, stories, and memories with them.

Jolene had many interests that reflected her curiosity, creativity, and appreciation for life's simple pleasures. She enjoyed collecting and selling antiques, and she had a special eye for items with history and character. She also found joy in crafting, where her creativity could shine, and in gardening, where she took pleasure in nurturing beauty and growth. She spent time researching genealogy, a pursuit that reflected her deep interest in family history and connection. She also loved to read, finding comfort, knowledge, and enjoyment in the pages of a good book.

Those who knew Jolene will remember her for the loving way she treated others, her friendly nature, and the kindness she extended so freely. She had a welcoming presence and a thoughtful heart, and she made others feel valued and cared for. Her life was a reflection of quiet strength, devotion, and sincerity, and she leaves behind a legacy of love that will continue through her family and all who were fortunate enough to know her.

In keeping with her wishes, cremation has taken place. Jolene Sandra Rice will be remembered with affection and respect, and her memory will live on in the hearts of her family and friends.



DEATH NOTICE

Jolene Sandra Rice
Died Aug. 27, 2026
Services private
Throop Funeral Home

The Sentinel
OBITUARY
POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries. One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place. The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$275, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice (with a word limit of up to 500 words) 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.

Condolence for the family may be left on Jolene's guestbook at www.throopfh.com.
Throop Funeral Home, Coopersville.

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- CLUES ACROSS
1. Longtime Vogue editor
Wintour
5. A Spanish title of respect
10. A way of looking
12. Properly
14. Rolled steel
16. Not down
18. Law degree
19. Consume food
20. Intermediate ecological stage
22. Old world, new
23. Dispense justice
25. Stiff hair-like structure
26. Ethiopia
27. Cool!
28. Father
30. An enthusiastic devotee of sports
31. Holm oak
33. Be united
35. Rattling breaths
37. Supermarket chain
38. Provided with a quality
40. Samoan monetary unit
41. Swiss river
42. Hill (Celtic)
44. Have already done
45. ATM company
48. Syngman __, Korean president
50. Very willing
52. Arctic explorers (abbr.)
53. Food listings
55. Bachelor's place to crash
56. Big Blue
57. Sports magazine
58. Relating to a place north of south of the equator
63. Female follower of Bacchus
65. A type of laugh
66. Slovenly women
67. Large jug
- CLUES DOWN
1. Boxing's GOAT
2. Zero
3. Midway between north and northeast
4. Concurred
5. Added flavor
6. Amount of time
7. Eggs of parasitic insects
8. S-shaped moldings
9. Atomic #45
10. ___ d'art: small artistic item
11. A godparent's "kids"
13. Nocturnal burrowing lizard
15. Hit lightly
17. Aircrafts
18. Witness
21. Alluding to something
23. Take to the limit
24. Baklike structure in a plant or animal
27. Start over
29. Administered
32. Romanian monetary unit
34. Unit of liquid capacity
35. Equips with weapons again
36. Disney town
39. Female deer
40. Title of respect
43. A place to go rafting
44. A way to conclude
46. Type of television
47. Georgia rockers
49. Leonhard __, Swiss mathematician
51. Slang for gun
54. River in Bosnia and Herzegovina
59. Bar bill
60. Small, gray-headed crow
61. Frozen water
62. Norwegian krone
64. Commercial

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