

Belchertown marks 25 years since Sept. 11

Submitted article

BELCHERTOWN — At 8:46 a.m. on Friday, Sept. 11, residents, town and state officials, and members of the police and fire departments gathered outside the Belchertown Fire Department to mark 25 years since the September 11, 2001 attacks.

The start time was deliberate. It was at 8:46 a.m. on that Tuesday morning in 2001 that American Airlines Flight 11, which had departed Boston's Logan International Airport, struck the North Tower of the World Trade Center.

Firefighter Kevin Girard

served as master of ceremonies. Belchertown resident Laura Hicks opened the ceremony with the National Anthem and closed it with "God Bless America."

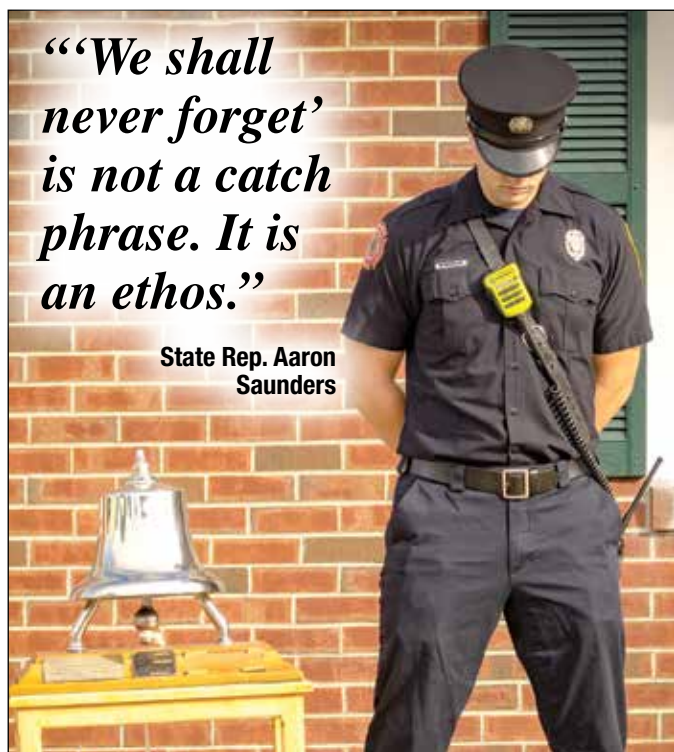
Firefighter/Paramedic Miranda Garreffi, who joined the department earlier this year, led those gathered in two prayers, including the Firefighter's Prayer.

Members of the fire and police departments stood in honor as the flag outside the station was raised to full staff and then lowered back to half-staff. Town Manager Steve Williams, Fire Chief John Ingram, Select Board

Please see **25 YEARS**, page 4



Firefighters stand in respect of those that were lost on 9/11.



Firefighter William Ingram stands with head bowed.

"We shall never forget" is not a catch phrase. It is an ethos."

State Rep. Aaron Saunders

Granby adopts new police use-of-force policy

Donations cut West Street relocating costs

By Melina Bourdeau
Correspondent

GRANBY — The Select Board adopted a rewritten police use-of-force policy

and learned that donated labor and equipment have cut roughly \$40,000 from the cost of relocating an equipment shelter at the West Street building, where the town is preparing to consolidate municipal offices.

Police use-of-force policy adopted
Police Chief Kevin

O'Grady presented an updated use-of-force policy built from the Municipal Police Training Council and POST model policy, adopted after the Police Reform Act and expanded with additional definitions. O'Grady said the model consolidates crowd-gathering provisions that Granby had kept in a separate section, and that he

retained local language the state model lacked including procedures for decontaminating a subject after pepper spray exposure.

The policy has been vetted by MPTC and POST attorneys with input from the Massachusetts Chiefs of Police Association, O'Grady said, and he must attest to compliance. He noted the

policy would take effect after 30 days absent action but asked the board to vote. Town Administrator Ron Aponte added that adoption reduces the town's liability exposure in the event of an injury. The board voted unanimously to approve the policy as presented.

Please see **POLICY**, page 8

Lake Wallace Fall Fest returns on Oct. 3

By Ben Hernandez
Staff Writer

BELCHERTOWN — Belchertown is scheduled to host the annual Lake Wallace Fall Fest on Oct. 3 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. This marks the second year this festival has taken place, riding on the overwhelming success of last year's event. The event takes place at the Lake Wallace Sensory Trail and utilizes the trails for three events designed for participants of all ages and abilities.

A 5K race will begin at 10 a.m., with a 1K race following at 11 a.m. and ending with a Roll & Stroll at 11:15 a.m. A plethora of live music, food vendors, community organizations, family programs, craft and retail vendors will offer an assortment of activities for all general interests. There were also be ample oppor-

Please see **FALL FEST**, page 3

Select Board discusses future of Tadgell building

By Ben Hernandez
Staff Writer

BELCHERTOWN — The town has been awarded a \$1 million grant through to redevelop the Dr. Henry A. Tadgell building, which sparked conversation between board members during their Sept. 8 Select Board meeting.

The funding was awarded through a new state initiative driven by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environment



TURLEY PHOTO BY BEN HERNANDEZ

The front of the Tadgell Nursery School.

Please see **TAGDELL**, page 4

Speeding concerns at intersection raised

By Ben Hernandez
Staff Writer

GRANBY — The Granby Select Board heard traffic safety concerns from the public regarding the intersection of Taylor Street and Carver Street. The concerns, posed by Granby resident Daisy Pennell, revolved around frequent stop sign violations, chronic speeding and severe accidents around the region.

"It's been ongoing for years with people not stopping, running right through the stop sign," Granby Select Board Clerk Jeffrey Lawson said as he introduced Pennell

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TURLEY PHOTO BY BEN HERNANDEZ

Residents are concerned about the speeding and running stop signs at the intersection.



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Giant tag sale a success, thankful to the community

BELCHERTOWN—After much anticipation and planning, the 2026 St. Francis of Assisi Giant Tag Sale is now in the history books and was enormously successful; data shows that the 2026 net exceeded all previous sales.

These fund-raising proceeds will contribute to the “Living Our Faith Building Our Future” Capital Campaign for the New Parish Center to be in the Jabish Street complex. The campaign was launched in the spring with a three-year pledge drive.

The new Parish Center has been designed to support existing needs with room for future growth of the parish community and will replace the current buildings on Park Street. The building will include three distinct areas for Administration, Faith & Fellowship, and Hospitality with Service & Outreach.

The tag sale proceeds are earmarked for this financial drive.

A special thank you to all who stopped by and shopped to make this year’s effort so successful. The weather was in favor of a terrific outdoor event as well.

This traditional, much anticipated activity culminates during a one day, six-hour sale, but the multi-level foundation for success is set well before. This sale roots itself in a deep sense of community among the parishioners of Saint Francis and is framed upon a base of pure volunteerism; many new volunteers were welcomed this year. Ongoing changes enable the annual event to stay on track as planned and



SUBMITTED PHOTO

contribute to its success.

The 2026 Leadership Team consisted of both long-term outgoing leaders and future leaders of the 2027 sale.

The 2026 Tag Sale Committee appreciates the timely donations from the community. These individuals gave so many treasures and quality merchandise - thank you!

Appreciation is a hallmark of Saint Francis parish. In preparation for the sale, a committed army of volunteers, including Pastor Father David Darcy sorted, cleaned, tested, priced, packaged, and loaded items during the 10-day collection period.

The Friday before the sale, for over eight hours, a battalion of volunteers carted the boxed items from the Parish Center and set up the designated departments on the common and in the Parish Center. The dedicated volunteer security team manned the town common overnight.

On Saturday at 8 a.m. sharp, Father David opened the sale with an affirm-

ing prayer. During the sale, a volunteer legion of salesclerks, cashiers, and counters worked as though the town common was truly a department store. Parishioners manned the Food Tent to provide nourishment to the volunteers and an affordable lunch to attendees.

At the 2 p.m. conclusion of the sale, a division of clean-up volunteers made haste to restore the area to its pre-sale glory. By 5 p.m. the tag sale area was once again a lush, green, park-like setting.

This annual parish fund raiser would not be possible without the historical foundation that was planted over 30 years ago when the late Claire Oberly started to use a card table in the Pine Room to hold a tag sale fundraiser to add to the building fund for the proposed church, now on Jabish Street.

The strong foundation has grown and been refined through a series of committed leaders. This year, with deep gratitude from the parish, the 2026 committed Leadership Team

brought this Tag Sale to the finish line.

The group is very conscious of the refuse and unsold goods that accumulate. Since the contract for the town common use and the insurance coverage is limited to one day, the team was pleased with the pre-planning efforts to find new homes for everything not sold.

Multiple contacted organizations agreed to retrieve/accept unsold items. Hartsprings Foundation, Inc and agencies such Goodwill, Salvation Army, Amherst Hospice Shop, Ware and Amherst Senior Centers, The Meeting House in Ware, Randall’s Farm and Greenhouse, Second Chance Animal Services Adoption Center in East Brookfield, and It Takes a Village in Huntington, MA gathered the unsold items. As a result, the dumpster was filled primarily with leftover cardboard boxes, trash, and unsellable items.

The 2026 St. Francis Giant Tag Sale Committee is grateful to everyone who played an active role in this annual events success, starting with the cleaning of the closets in anticipation of donating.

A special thank you to McCarthy’s Pub, The Hampshire County Sheriff’s Department, The Sullivan Companies, Randall’s Farm and Turley Publications.

In addition, the assistance provided by the Belchertown Select-board Office, PD and DPW was above board. We look forward to another successful Tag Sale in August 2027.



TURLEY PHOTO BY PAULA QUIMETTE

Belchertown pumpkin earns 3rd place at fair

Michael Vinsh of Belchertown took third place in the giant pumpkin contest at the Spencer Fair over Labor Day weekend, with his pumpkin weighing in at 328.8 pounds.

Crafters wanted for St. Nicholas Craft Fair

LUDLOW – Crafters are wanted for the Rosary Sodality’s St. Nicholas Craft Fair and Raffle to be held on Saturday, Nov. 14, at Christ the King Church, located at 41 Warsaw Avenue, from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. The cost is a non-refund-

able \$40 fee for an eight-foot table, which will be provided by the church.

To reserve a table or for more information contact Debbie Martell at 413-547-8739 or Lorraine Bernier at 413-519-7658.

Light refreshments will be available during the fair.

FALL FEST from page 1

tunities to explore the Lake Wallace trails independent of the races as well.

“Accessibility is central to the vision for Lake Wallace,” Cultural District Manager April Jasak-Bangs said. “The Lake Wallace Sensory Trail was created to provide people of all ages and abilities the opportunity to experience nature, recreation and community in the same space.”

The Fall Fest champions this vision by creating a fun and welcoming opportunity to introduce people to the trails. The trails feature tactile guide cables, signage equipped with Braille, open viewing platforms along the paths and other means to make the trails accessible for a wider audience. The festival grants opportunities for people to get involved in local nature, whether it’s as a runner, walker or a general attendee.

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

Event proceeds will go

towards supporting improvements at Lake Wallace through the Lake Wallace Gift Account. Individual donations, race registrations, sponsorships and raffle ticket sales at last year’s event raised more than \$6,500. The raised funds supported gravel replacement in worn-out areas of the accessible trail, installed an information kiosk at the trail-head, added branded signage to guide travelers through the trails and installed additional guide rails and posts along a new section of the trail near Foley Field.

“These may seem like small improvements, but they make a meaningful difference in how people experience and navigate Lake Wallace,” Jasak-Bangs said.

Fall Fest organizers aim to raise \$10,000 this year to continue accessible trail improvements and to add recreation amenities, additional signage and to fund general maintenance. This year, the Amherst Area Chamber of Commerce signed on as a key event sponsor, who donated \$1,000 towards the initiative.

Direct donations may be made online at www.runreg.com/lwff or on the Belchertown Recreation Website. Cash or checks



SUBMITTED PHOTO

A dog makes an unlikely steed.

may also be sent to the Belchertown Recreation Department at the following address:

**Town of Belchertown
c/o Belchertown Recreation Department
66 State Street, Building #1
Belchertown, MA 01007**

Note: Lake Wallace Fall Fest Donation

Donations may also be handed off in person on the day of the event as well. Race registrations include a \$15 donation, with Roll & Stroll registration including a \$20 donation. All donations are sent directly to the Lake Wallace Gift Account. Registration closes on Sept. 17 for both the 1K and 5K race. Registrations after September 17 will be made available as donation-only registrations and will not include an event T-shirt or raffle ticket. The Roll & Stroll event doesn’t require advance registration.

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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 pro-

grams 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. Local BCC members are 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.



URLEY PHOTOS BY BEN HERNANDEZ

The town recently was awarded a grant for redevelopment.

25 YEARS from page 1

Clerk Jon Ritter, a veteran, state Rep. Aaron Saunders, and state Sen. Jake Oliveira stood at the front of the gathering.

Firefighter William Ingram rang the memorial bell. The ringing of the bell is among the oldest traditions in the fire service. It once signaled the beginning of a call and, when the work was done, the return home. For a firefighter who does not return, the bell is struck five times in four sets — the Four Fives, a signal dating to the era of the telegraph alarm. It is the last alarm, and it tells the department that the firefighter's duty is complete.

Chief Ingram told those gathered that even a quarter of a century on, the memories of that day are a reminder of how deeply people are connected to one another, and urged residents to choose kindness, unity, and compassion.

Williams spoke about the passage of time and about the work the department does the rest of the year.

"Not only for today, but for the ordinary Tuesdays," Williams said, addressing the department. "For the two o'clock calls nobody hears about, the ones that end well because you were there."

Williams also noted that the toll of that day has not closed. Firefighters who worked in the dust and smoke at the World Trade Center site have continued to sicken and die in the years since, and more have now died of those illnesses than were killed in the collapse. New York added 36 names to its firefighters' memorial earlier this month.

State Rep. Aaron Saunders (D-Belchertown) said it was



Firefighter Kevin Girard, Fire Chief John Ingram, Town Manager Steve Williams, State Rep. Aaron Saunders, State Sen. Jake Oliveira, and Select Board Clerk Jon Ritter.



Laura Hicks (at podium), Firefighter Kevin Girard (foreground), Fire Chief John Ingram, Town Manager Steve Williams, State Rep. Aaron Saunders, State Sen. Jake Oliveira, and Select Board Clerk Jon Ritter.

hard to believe 25 years had passed, and spoke about the importance of communities holding space to remember the day and those who died. He noted that Belchertown observes the anniversary not

only on milestone years but year in and year out. "'We shall never forget' is not a catch phrase. It is an ethos," Saunders said. Saunders said the memory of how people treated one another in the days that fol-

lowed — more kind, more caring — is as strong a memory as the attacks themselves. "We were able to show the best of who we are," he said. "Who we can still be."

State Sen. Jake Oliveira (D-Ludlow), whose Hampden, Hampshire and Worcester District includes Belchertown, spoke about the roughly 3,000 lives lost that day and the tens of thousands lost since to the effects of the dust, chemicals, and debris.

"Even though that day saw some of the worst that humankind can offer through acts of terror, some of the best of humanity came out of that," Oliveira said. "Acts of courage, acts of kindness, the acts of understanding, the acts of heroism."

He said the day should be an occasion to "take stock in the fact that people can come together, people can find that humanity to help out their fellow man, to understand that when you see a problem, when you see an issue, when you see somebody suffering or in pain, or you see a burning building — that you should do everything you possibly can to help out that person."



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The Taylor Street and Carver Street intersection.



The Carver St. side of the intersection.

SPEEDING from page 1

to the Board. “She runs a business there right on the corner, a farm, and it’s definitely an issue.”

“I appreciate the time you’re taking to hear my concerns,” Pennell said as she took the seat designated for the public hearing. “I’ve lived on that corner my entire life. My family’s been there for 200 years.”

Pennell stated there used to be a tree in the corner center, as well as an island, which has disappeared over time. She explained when the intersection got the three-way stop as requested by residents about 30 years ago, which was granted after a “very severe accident” caused a car to end up on a neighbor’s lawn flipped on its roof.

“It’s been a long time since anybody’s hit my fence,” Pennell said. “But when it comes to my neighbor Peter, it’s getting to the point where it’s not if he gets killed working on his yard, it’s when he’s going to get killed.”

She explained the roadway was dangerous due to the volume of cars treating the area “like a race track,” with the corner being a frequent place where cars end up due to missing the turn. The neighbor, according to Pennell’s account, set up



The intersection is the subject of issues with speeding.

boulders to curb wayward drivers from ending up on his lawn, however the installation came with new additional problems.

“One night, somebody driving a Suburban truck hit one of the boulders, drove the boulder halfway down the side of his house and continued past the boulder into his backyard between his grandchildren’s swing set and his garden,” Pennell said.

According to her report, local services had to tow the truck off the premises from the “opposite side of his house” due to the sheer amount of distance traveled

during the crash. Additional crashes reported included an SUV which ended up “literally nose-up against one of the trees vertically” on Pennell’s mother’s yard.

The most recent accident happened six months ago, when an abandoned truck drove straight into a set of trees. According to her report, the person driving the vehicle abandoned it during the crash, had somebody pick them up and drove off without calling in the accident.

“When I was working patrol, you could literally sit there and it’s like shooting fish in a barrel,” Lawson

said to supplement Pernell’s claims and called it a “perfect storm of bad intersections.”

A resident from the audience floated the idea of installing speed bumps in the area and stated some types of speed bumps were “very aggressive” and could work well to curb the chronic speeding issues within the region. Lawson agreed it was a measure worth investigating, but advised the idea should be mentioned at the next Select Board meeting, which will be taking place on Sept. 21.

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OPINION



your health

By Teri (Dreher) Frykenberg, RN
Guest Column

New flu vaccine comes with a dose of uncertainty

The 2025-26 flu season was a humdinger. About 31 million flu-related illnesses and 24,000 deaths were reported – from a disease that can be mostly prevented or at least mitigated with an annual flu shot.

This year’s flu season, however, brings with it a new flu vaccine that works differently from the traditional ones. It holds promise, but I don’t think you should rush out and find it just yet.

Earlier this month, the FDA approved mFLUSIVA, an mRNA flu vaccine from Moderna, which is based in Cambridge. It was mRNA technology that allowed the creation of COVID-19 vaccines so quickly during the pandemic and, even though controversy and skepticism persist, the vaccines had a role in ending the pandemic and getting us back to our usual lives.

The flu vaccine created through mRNA (or “messenger RNA”) doesn’t have to be incubated in chicken eggs like traditional vaccines. The encoded genetic information instructs the body to produce a fragment of a virus that then sets off a stronger immune response that was 27% more effective than regular flu shots, according to the FDA.

The formula can be adjusted to “rapidly emerging new flu strains, a capacity we have not had before,” Georges C. Benjamin, executive director of the American Public Health Association, told the New York Times. It was approved for adults over the age of 50, especially those with underlying health conditions.

The vaccine is being rolled out this fall, but there are a few caveats.

One is side effects. The stronger immune response may mean that you experience more in the way of fever, injection-site pain and headache than with the traditional vaccine. That’s to be expected; however, some people may wish to avoid those side effects.

Another is availability. Moderna says mFLUSIVA will be available “in a few weeks” at “select retailers”

this fall, but we don’t know what that means yet for your local pharmacy.

There’s also a question of ongoing testing. The FDA granted accelerated approval in time for the coming flu season based on a Phase III clinical trial with more than 20,000 participants. This allows Moderna to market and distribute mFLUSIVA, but final approval depends on the outcome of a Phase IV clinical trial to verify its benefits.

Who will pay for the new vaccine? It might be you.

Medicare, Medicare Advantage and private insurers typically won’t cover a vaccine until it’s approved by a CDC committee known as ACIP, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices. The committee hasn’t met for over a year after a judge voided appointments made by Robert F. Kennedy Jr., secretary of Health and Human Services. A new CDC director was only recently confirmed by the Senate. Stay tuned.

The takeaway is clear: Do not assume mFLUSIVA will be covered at zero cost. Contact your health insurance provider or Medicare plan directly to verify whether you’ll have to pay out-of-pocket.

And don’t wait to see if you can get the mRNA vaccine. Protect yourself and your family by getting regular flu shots as early in the season as you can. Remember that it takes about two weeks for your body to develop enough antibodies to fight off the flu.

Flu season is inevitable. Getting the flu doesn’t have to be.

Teri (Dreher) Frykenberg, a Monson resident, is a registered nurse and board-certified patient advocate. She is the author of several books on advocacy and founder of Nurse Advocate Entrepreneur, which equips medical professionals with the knowledge and skills to start their own advocacy businesses. Contact her at Teri@NurseAdvocateEntrepreneur.com.



A fall blooming vine worthy of merit

On my drive home from work this morning, I happened to notice the flowers of a familiar vine climbing up a lamp-post.

It brought me right back to my old house and landscape. It is easy to miss the simplicity of that time in my life and wonder the age-old question of “Where did time go?”

When we moved some years back we left behind numerous plants (the obvious outcome when you sell your house with two feet of snow on the ground). One of my very favorites was the sweet autumn clematis.

Each year, right about now, the vine would explode into clouds of white blossoms. And because the vine grew up a trellis on the gable end of my house, it made a beautiful, tall backdrop for the annuals and perennials still in flower.

I hadn’t really thought about this plant recently, until my drive earlier today. The white blossoms were abundant and beautiful.

Let’s take this opportunity to learn more about a fall plant that is used not nearly enough.

Clematis ternifolia (aka paniculata) is a fast-growing vine that if left to its own devices, can cover several yards in a single season. It does not climb by use of tendrils, rather it has long leaf petioles that bend around neighboring objects for support.

Sturdy trellises are in order here; another option

would be to let it sprawl over a fence or large rock.

stay cool but where top growth receives ample sunshine. You can accomplish this situation by providing a thick layer of mulch at the base of the vine.

Autumn clematis will tolerate all but the worst of soils and is hardy in zones 4-10.

Panicles of one inch flowers delight the eye and the nose for about six weeks beginning in late summer. Some liken the sweet fragrance to vanilla; others call it the smell of “spring-time.”

After blooms have passed, silvery seed heads add another short season of interest to the garden before the leaves fall.

Admittedly, a brown vine is not the most attractive thing to look at during the winter months, but it is a small price to pay for the abundance of flowers you get at a time of year when most other plants are winding down.

I enjoy reminiscing, but I can’t think about it for very long or I’ll miss what is right in front of me; there is plenty blooming here, too.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 34 years she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to pouimette@turley.com with “Gardening Question” in the subject line.



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

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

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Must I enroll in Medicare at age 65?



SOCIAL SECURITY Matters

By Russell Gloor

Dear Rusty:

I will be turning 65 next month, I am currently retired and I am not on Social Security.

My question is; Is there anything I have to do, if I don't want Medicare? I am on my wife's employer plan and she works for the Postal Service as a Rural Carrier.

She doesn't plan on retiring for another eight years. Also, I would like to wait

till my Full Retirement Age before I draw Social Security at 67. Do I have to draw Medicare at that point?

Signed: Retired but Curious

Dear Retired but Curious:

As long as you are covered by a “creditable” healthcare plan such as that from your wife’s US Postal Service employer, you can defer enrolling in Medicare until

your Postal Service Health Benefit coverage from your wife’s employer ends.

When that happens, you and your wife will enter a Medicare “Special Enrollment Period” during which you can enroll in Medicare without incurring a Late Enrollment Penalty. Thus, in your specific circumstances, you don’t need to do anything about enrolling in Medicare when you turn 65.

That is still true, regardless of when you claim your Social Security benefits. If you claim Social Security at age 67 and before your wife retires from the USPS, you will be required to take Medicare Part A coverage for

inpatient hospitalization services, but Medicare Part A is premium-free for those also eligible for Social Security.

However, enrollment in Medicare Part B (coverage for outpatient healthcare services) is always optional because there is a premium associated with it and you can continue to defer enrollment in Medicare Part B as long as you have “creditable” healthcare coverage from your wife’s employer even while you are collecting Social Security.

When you apply for Social Security, you can inform SS that you are declining Medicare Part B because you are still covered by your wife’s USPS employer healthcare plan.

Then, when your wife retires and you lose your USPS healthcare coverage,

you can enroll in Medicare Part B at that time without a late enrollment penalty.

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



The Church of Christ Congregational is represented.



Ethel's Emporium shows off various products.



Hand crafted candles available for purchase.

Dino Fest a roaring good time

By Ben Hernandez
Staff Writer

GRANBY – The beloved annual festival Dino Fest returned on Sept. 12. The Saturday filled one acre of the Church of Christ Congregational’s lawn with a showcase of local artists, carnival games, municipal representation booths, craft vendors and grilled foods. The family-friendly day of fun was held in honor of the late event organizer Dennis Doucette’s son, Joey A. Barnoski, who coined the festival’s name.

Festival highlights included an inflatable slide for child attendees, an archery booth sponsored by the Boy Scouts of America, a diorama of the town on full display, a myriad of talented local artists who featured an assortment of talents from traditional paintings to crochet work to woodworking, a smattering of home-made baked goods for purchase, a face painting booth and commemorative memorabilia shops.

The fan-favorite Dino Dash and Dance returned to campus. With provided cardboard, duct tape and additional craft supplies, participants created their own dinosaur costumes and raced across the 100 foot track to the adulating cheers of the crowd. The race was followed by the Dino Dance competition, where costumed competitors danced for the audience’s delight.

The traditional pie baking and pie eating contest also returned. Participants chowed down on a number of different provided pies while a rapt crowd kept energy high. As the contest wound down, the participants gathered near the tables to take

Superintendent David Desrosiers. Musical support was set up near the festival’s smoking grills churning out hot dogs, hamburgers and other classic barbecue fare for hungry paying attendees.

Grand Pohbah and event organizer Dennis Doucette donned his Fred Flintstone attire and mingled with the crowd. Riding on his trusty golf cart steed, Doucette was present to take photos and keep energies high as the day proceeded. With all the delightful sights, smells and sounds dotting the landscape, it’s safe to say the Granby tradition remains a roaring good time within the region.



LEFT: A cat sack toss game for the kids.

Festival mascot Zippy posing with pie eating contest participants.



The Dino Fest sign emblazoned with festival slogan “Hugs and Smiles, Rawr!”

their picture with Dino Fest mascot Zippy.

Live music was provided by stand-in audio engineer and Highway Department



The Cultural Council helps to put on many fun community events.



Dino Fest T-shirts were available.



Caroline Crochet Cuddlies was among the vendors.



The dinosaur costume making station.



Visitors to the DinoFest could have their faces painted.



Cut-outs were available to have your photo taken.

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Belchertown Conservation Commission 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”

POLICY from page 1

Donations, savings and a separate moving plan at West Street

Aponte devoted the bulk of his report to the West Street building, where he said most of the recent activity had occurred within the last few days.

The equipment shelters behind the building, a tent-like structure used by the maintenance department to store equipment, had to be relocated after the state Department of Environmental Protection objected to its location.

The contractor determined the frame could be moved intact rather than dismantled bolt by bolt and stripped the tarp off it the day of the meeting, aided by calm weather.

The remaining question was clearance: crews planned to verify the next day that the structure would pass beneath the utility wires on West Street. If it fit, Aponte said, the shelter would be in place within roughly 24 hours.

Resident Bill Johnson donated a scissor lift for the job free of charge, eliminating the need to rent booms and lifts the building committee had budgeted for. Highway Superintendent David

Desrosiers reported the lift worked “like a champion.”

Aponte revised the figure to closer to \$40,000.

Jim Trompke is donating office furniture for the West Street offices, material Aponte described as very nice and worth thousands of dollars, at no cost to the town. The furniture is currently disassembled, and Trompke plans to build out several model offices so officials can view it fully assembled. His crew has offered to train the maintenance staff on assembling each set.

On technology, Aponte said the IT equipment quote came in essentially on budget and that he expected to award it to a vendor as soon as the following day, adding that his own IT background gave him confidence in the numbers.

The town is also finalizing internet service into the building, and one vendor’s quote was strong enough that Aponte is now weighing using the same vendor for all municipal buildings.

Comcast submitted a competing quote due for review the next morning. The outcome, he said, could produce significant savings against the budgeted amount.

Separately, PBPC and ener-

gy consultant NV5 completed a building walkthrough with their engineer, joined by Aponte, Maintenance Supervisor Jeremy Carrier and representatives from the school department.

The team assessed the junior/senior high school, the old library that houses Carrier’s department, the new library and the public safety complex.

Aponte said the engineer did “some head shaking in all of the buildings.” The completed report identifies several potential energy-saving projects, and the consultants will help identify grants to fund them.

Aponte also told the board he has concluded that renovating West Street and moving departments into it are two separate undertakings.

He will assemble a group of department heads for regular “move project meetings” to establish timelines running in parallel with construction so the town is not a week from receiving its certificate of occupancy and still deciding how to execute the move.

Granby library September Happenings

- Book Sale**
Thru Sept. 30

Stop into the Library during regular open hours to browse our expansive book sale all month long.
- 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.
- Knitting Group**
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Brogan Bottari starts a run.

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BELCHERTOWN – Last Friday night, Belchertown High School football was back on its grass field, and hosted Quaboag Regional in an independent matchup in the season opener for both teams. The Orioles scored early and often and scored a 38-0 shutout win over the Cougars. Coming up, the Orioles will travel to Ware while Quaboag will have its home opener against Quabbin. Both games are scheduled for 7 p.m.



Coleman Longley sends a pass away.



Miles Sheldon goes for the sack.



Killian Olszewski gets ready to send a kick away.



Kina Roy guides the ball into the offensive end.



Gianna Zenon tries to keep the ball away from an opponent.

Offense hot in first two wins for Orioles

BELCHERTOWN – The Belchertown High School field hockey team has won its first two games of the season, beating Amherst Regional 6-0, then going to Southwick and scoring a 6-2 win last Friday afternoon. In the win over Southwick, Jocelyn McMahon had four goals for the Orioles. Lila Roy had eight saves in the win. The Orioles host South Hadley on Friday, Sept. 18 at 4 p.m.



Kian Roy heads up the left side of the field.



Samantha Letseizen receives a pass and heads up the field.



Julia Rainaud clashes with an opponent for the ball.



Dory Keefe lifts a hit away.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELL
Andrew Grabherr sends a pass away.



Brandon Carillon takes a corner kick.

MONSON – Last Tuesday afternoon, the Granby High School boys soccer scored a 2-1 win over Monson at Granite Valley School. The Rams got goals from Conor Callery and Gabe Helbock while Gage Carter and Jacob Weglarz made a combined six saves for the win.



Sam Moure settles the ball.

Logan Carmody advances across midfield.

SPORTS

Pioneers win big over Ludlow in opener

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW—Aside from committing a couple of penalties, everything went very smoothly for the Pathfinder Tech football team in their season opening game against the Ludlow Lions.

Junior quarterback Grayson Griswold completed three touchdown passes and scored a rushing touchdown, as the Pioneers cruised to a 43-0 victory before a large crowd at the Ludlow Sports Complex, last Friday night.

“This is a really nice win for us, but it’s only the first step of an 11-game season,” said Pathfinder Tech head coach Bill Darling. “We came out very focused at the start of tonight’s game.”

It was the first time that the two teams had squared off on the gridiron since the 2017 regular season.

The Lions had won the last three games of the series by outscoring the Pioneers, 80-12.

The last time that Pathfinder Tech celebrated a victory in the series was a 27-0 shutout in 2012.

The Pioneers also hadn’t won their first game of the regular season since posting a 33-6 home victory against cross-town rival Palmer on

September 9, 2023.

A year ago, the Pioneers began the regular season with a 0-4 record before getting into the win column following a 28-8 home win against Smith Vocational on the first Friday of October.

“We got off to a slow start last year because we had a couple of new assistant coaches and a few new players. It just took us a while to put the pieces together,” Darling said. “I thought we executed very well in this year’s season opener.”

The Lions, who only have four seniors listed on this year’s varsity roster, finished with a 3-9 overall record a year ago.

“We just didn’t execute very well tonight,” said Ludlow head coach Ray Saloio. “We just made too many mistakes. You can’t afford to fall behind early in the game.”

After the Pioneers forced the Lions to punt on the opening drive, it didn’t take the visitors from Palmer very long to score the first of their six touchdowns.

Griswold, who’s the Pioneers second-year starting QB, capped off the seven



Caleb Crum sends a kick through the uprights.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

is led by first-year starting QB Connor Sylvestre, finally picked up a first down with the help of a personal foul penalty during the next series. They were eventually forced to punt.

The Pioneers held a commanding 23-0 halftime lead following a 28-yard Crum field goal on the final play of the first half.

Pathfinder Tech junior Cassian Kowalik took over the spotlight during the third quarter with a pair of rushing touchdowns.

Kowalik’s first rushing TD came on a five yard dash into the end zone, which increased Pathfinder’s lead to 29-0 with 9:42 left in the third quarter. The extra point attempt was blocked by senior Giovanni Perez.

Then following a fumble recovery by senior Peyton Kularski, Kowalik carried the ball four times, which included a 12-yard run into the endzone with 3:37 remaining in the third quarter.

Following another punt by Ludlow, the home team got the ball back when sophomore Mason Bartolucci intercepted a pass at the 34 yard line on the final play of the third quarter.

It was the only time that Ludlow was able to move the ball into Pathfinder territory.

Because the Pioneers were leading by more than 30 points at that point, the entire fourth quarter was running time.

Griswold capped off the scoring with an 8-yard touchdown run on the final play of the game.

While the Pioneers will be looking to improve to 2-0 against Commerce in the home opener on Friday night at historic Legion Field in Palmer, the Lions will be looking to get into the win column when they play at Smith Vocational on Thursday night.

The Lions offense, which

Patnode grabs Modifieds win Sept. 5

WINCHESTER, NH - Bouncing back from injury, rebounding from a wreck that destroyed his primary car, back in the championship form that has defined his more than three decades of action on the high banks of Monadnock Speedway, Todd Patnode won the Modified main event Saturday on Sept. 5 at New England’s fastest quarter-mile oval.

It’s been a long time since Patnode entered the month of September still winless on the year but now he is back in form. Setting fast time in practice - 12.135 seconds - and again in time trials - 12.319 this time - he led the last dozen laps of the night’s main event to park his Swanze Oil open-wheeler in victory lane.

Limited Late Model star JD Stockwell, locked in a points battle with Robert Hagar, held off his championship rival to score his ninth win of the summer, and Pure Stock ace Michael Yeaton, who got a late start on the season so won’t figure in his division’s title chase, won for his sixth time.

Matt Robinson became the Pro V8 Sportsman’s first three-time winner of the 2026 campaign Saturday, and Young Gun Dylan Stati continued to put up numbers unseen here since four-holer star Gordon Farnum went wild on the high banks half a decade ago.

Rookie Kyle Kenny sat on the pole as the All States Material Group 604 Modifieds began their 40-lap main event. Kimmy Rivet was his row-one dancing partner.

Kenny led the first two laps, then giving way to Rivet, who set a fast pace through two restarts and ten laps before dropping out of the lead on lap 13. Tyler Leary, who’d surrendered the points lead on his wedding day a week earlier, then took over, with Andrew Brousseau glued to his bumper and the potent duo of Eddie Gomarlo

Please see **RACE**, page 13



Grayson Griswold takes a high snap.



Jimmy Sem makes an easy reception.

play drive by completing a 28-yard touchdown pass on a fourth down play to sophomore

Jimmy Sem with 5:58 remaining in the first quarter.

Junior Caleb Crum made the extra point attempt.

Less than two minutes later, the Pioneers took a 14-0 lead when Griswold connected with junior Mason Baer for a 39-yard TD completion.

On the first play of the second quarter, Griswold hooked up with Sem once again for a 40-yard touchdown pass.

“I worked a lot with my receivers during the offseason, and we’ve built a very good chemistry. It was very important for us to take an early lead,” Griswold said. “It feels very good to win our first game of the season. We really want to have a winning season.”

The extra point attempt sailed wide right.

The Lions offense, which

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Orioles outlasted by Ludlow

Kayla Cavanaugh sends a bump toward the net.

Cassidy MacLean socks a spike over the net.

Zoeey Hale makes a bump.

LUDLOW - Last Wednesday, Belchertown girls volleyball lost to Ludlow 3-2. The Orioles were able to pick up the win in the first two sets, but Ludlow came all the way back, winning sets 3 and 4 both by scores of 25-23. Then Ludlow scored a 15-9 in the fifth set. Cassidy MacLean led the Orioles with 15 kills while Olivia Skort had 25 assists. Analise Reed had five aces. Belchertown is 0-2 and next faces Putnam on the road on Friday, Sept. 18 at 5:15 p.m.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY
WWW.SWEETDOGPHTOS.COM

PUBLIC SAFETY

Belchertown Police Logs

Editor's note: The following are brief explanations of select entries in the Belchertown Police log and arrests for the weeks of Sept. 4, through Sept. 10. 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, Sept. 4

1:15 p.m. – Dawson Ridge McCullough, 18, of 11 Old Pelham Road, was arrested on charges of arson of dwelling/house, three counts of vandalize and destruction of property and shoplifting.

An officer took a report of damage to a bathroom from a member of the Parks and Recreation Department. The bathrooms near the basketball and pickleball courts were damaged by fire. The people involved in the incident were identified. They said they set the fire, but it wasn't supposed to be that big. They had a large amount of snack food with them in a shopping cart. A large heating vent was kicked in and damaged as well. A person was placed into custody and a juvenile was with them as well. A parent was called for the juvenile. The person was transported to a regional lock up. The School Resource Officer was made aware of the incident.

A juvenile was issued a summons for three counts of vandalization and destruction and shoplifting.

Sunday, Sept. 6
11:15 a.m. – A 54-year-old Mendon woman was issued a summons for operating with a suspended license, revoked registration, operating an uninsured motor vehicle and unregistered motor vehicle.

An officer doing stationary radar ran an inquiry to vehicle which showed a revoked registration. It was revoked for insurance. The person told the officer they were unaware the vehicle was not insured. A tow company was called and they requested an uber. The person was given a criminal application in hand.

1:04 p.m. – An 18-year-old Belchertown male was issued a summons for uninsured motor vehicle, unregistered motor vehicle and a number plate violation to conceal an identity. An officer to responded to Federal Street for a report of an erratic driver. The caller said a black

pickup truck with a dirtbike swerved in an unsafe manner and they thought person was drinking something and they didn't know what it was. The caller said the truck was on South Main Street near the library. They ended up on Mill Valley Road located and then conducted a stop. Op said the truck braced suddenly then breaks weren't great so that's why they swerved. The plates came back to a different vehicle and the title with the person was from Vermont. State police from Vermont were contacted and it matched the title shown it was determined the license were attached illegally. Towed and criminal complaint was issued.

Wednesday, Sept. 9
1:42 p.m. – A person was arrested on charges of assault and battery on family/household member.

ACCIDENTS/INCIDENTS
Saturday, Sept. 5

1:37 p.m. – An officer responded for a well-being check for a report of a young child found on the front porch alone. The child was crying and didn't know where they lived. They were able to get information to the officers. The child left the house without their parents knowing. The child was returned home and a report was filed with the Department of Children and Families.

Sunday, Sept. 6
5:36 p.m. – An officer and Belchertown Fire paramedics responded to North Main Street for a report of a person on the ground in the roadway, they subsequently got up and was walking back to the residence. They were identified. They were checked on and determined to be okay.

Monday, Sept. 7
11:06 a.m. – An officer responded to a North Main Street residence to speak with a person about child custody issues.

1:31 p.m. – An officer took a report of a hacked tablet. The person couldn't access any programs or apps. The person couldn't log into their account. The person reported seeing a vehicle outside of their residence and thought it was a hacker. The person was advised if they saw the vehicle to contact the department.

2:20 p.m. – An officer dispatched to speak with a person about gas that was stolen from vehicles at a construction site. There was a camera that had footage of the incident. The matter was documented.

4:12 p.m. – An officer took a report of suspicious

activity. A resident said they weren't home but had footage of a van in their driveway outside smoking. They contacted the person and there were two other occupants. The officer responded to the residence and spoke with the person outside of the van. They said the reason they pulled into the driveway was because they were having issues with the van door not shutting properly. Then upon running the plate, it came back as revoked for insurance. The officer seized the plate. The officer provided the person with a ride to their home in town. Another person was going to wait for AAA to tow the vehicle.

7:05 p.m. – An officer took a report of a juvenile in a Snapchat group with people. The juvenile got a photo of a firearm and perceived it as a threat. They separated from the group. The matter was documented and the School Resource Officer was advised. No other information about the other people.

10:45 p.m. – An officer and Belchertown Fire paramedics responded to a report of a juvenile having a mental health crisis. The person was transported.

Tuesday, Sept. 8
6:28 a.m. – An officer took a report of a person laying down on North Main Street. They walked home.

8:35 a.m. – A registration plate was left outside of the station's front door. An officer conducted a query into the plate and found the person lived in Palmer. Palmer Police were contacted for a phone number. It wasn't in service anymore and officers were unable to contact the owner. The plate was placed into property.

11:28 a.m. – An officer took a report of flowers taken from the McPhearson Garden.

11:56 a.m. – An officer was given property found at a George Hannum Road business. They were personal items. There was a phone number found, but the person was a Granby resident. The officer went to the residence to make the person aware. It was entered into property.

3:14 p.m. – An officer responded to the intersection of State Street and Turkey Hill Road for a report of a hazard in the roadway. There was a fire extinguisher in the road. It was dropped off at the Belchertown Fire station.

6:47 p.m. – An officer responded to a domestic disturbance.

Wednesday, Sept. 9
12:47 p.m. – An officer responded to an accident on Daniel Shay's Highway. A motorcycle going south on

Fatal motorcycle crash under investigation in Granby

GRANBY — On Thursday, Sept. 10 at approximately 11:30 p.m., first responders were dispatched to the area of 201 West State Street (Route 202) in Granby following a report of a motor vehicle crash involving a motorcycle.

A preliminary investigation indicates that a tractor-trailer was traveling west on Route 202 when a motorcycle traveling east entered the westbound

lane, resulting in a collision between the two vehicles.

The operator of the motorcycle, William Robinson, 37, of Belchertown, was pronounced deceased at the scene. The Office of the Chief Medical Examiner will determine the cause and manner of death. The operator of the tractor-trailer remained on scene and cooperated with police. No charges have been filed.

The crash remains under investigation by the Massachusetts State Police Detective Unit assigned to the Northwestern District Attorney's Office, the Massachusetts State Police Collision Analysis and Reconstruction Section, the Massachusetts State Police Crime Scene Services Section, the Massachusetts State Police Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Section and the Granby Police Department.

Daniel Shay's Highway tried to turn right onto Allen Road. The motorcycle overshot the turn then went into the grass. There was minor damage to the left side of the motorcycle. The operator was transported to the hospital. The bike was towed.

2:53 p.m. – An officer responded to an accident on Chauncey Walker Road. A property owner backed into a construction vehicle. No tows were needed and no injuries were reported.

4:31 p.m. – An officer responded to an accident on Bardwell Street at River Street for a crash. A vehicle went off the left side of the road, up onto an embankment, struck a sign and a pole before coming to a rest in the road. The person was able to move the vehicle to the side of the road. No tows were needed and no injuries were reported.

6:41 p.m. – An officer responded to a North Main Street business for a report of fraud. Emails from employees were hacked and sent to people they corresponded with. The extent of the email fraud was unknown. The incident was documented.

Thursday, Sept. 10
8:52 a.m. – Someone found illegal items they wanted to have destroyed.

9:11 a.m. – two fraudulent charges on their checking account. provided statements from the bank and it appeared to be a stolen identity. The matter was documented.

4:16 p.m. – An officer took a report of a vehicle theft. The person reported their fiancé took their vehicle. It was not located where it was supposed to be. The officer tried to call them back. There is no other information at this time.

Granby Police Logs

Editor's Note: The Granby Police Department responded to 130 calls for the week of Sept. 4, through Sept. 10. Those arrested are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law. The Granby Police Department provides all information.

Friday, Sept. 4
9:11 a.m. – An incident reported a theft. An accident report was completed and it is under investigation.

Saturday, Sept. 5
7:18 p.m. – A resident reported that a black SUV struck a utility pole and fled the scene towards Belchertown. Belchertown Police was advised to look out for the vehicle. Officers arrived and confirmed the pole was damaged. The involved vehicle was not located.

Monday, Sept. 7
9:20 p.m. – While on patrol an officer observed a vehicle traveling at a high rate of speed. Radar confirmed that the vehicle was traveling at 51MPH in posted 30MPH zone. The vehicle was stopped and the operator was issued a civil citation for speeding.

Tuesday, Sept. 8
7:03 a.m. – Several callers reported a two-car accident. Granby Police, Granby Fire, South Hadley Police, and South Fire D2 responded. There were no substantial

injuries reported.

Thursday, Sept. 10
12:38 p.m. – While on patrol an officer observed a vehicle traveling at a high rate of speed. Radar confirmed that the vehicle was traveling at 54MPH in posted 35MPH zone. The vehicle was stopped and the operator was issued a civil citation for speeding.

12:59 p.m. – A motorist reported driving off the road to miss an Amazon truck and striking a rock wall. Granby Police and Fire responded. There were no injuries.

5:06 p.m. – While monitoring traffic at this intersection, an officer observed a vehicle fail to stop for the stop sign. The vehicle was stopped and it was discovered that the operator had a suspended MA driver's license. The operator was issued a criminal citation for the stop sign violation and operating a vehicle with a suspended license.

6:42 p.m. – While monitoring traffic, an officer performed a random plate query. It was discovered that the vehicle had not been inspected since February of 2026. The vehicle was stopped and the operator was issued a civil citation for failure to inspect.

11:02 p.m. – Several callers reported a serious accident involving a tractor trailer and a motorcycle. Granby Police and Fire responded. The accident is being investigated by the Northwestern District Attorney's Office, the Massachusetts State Police and the Granby Police.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

Belchertown Conservation Commission LEGAL NOTICE

Pursuant to the authority of the Wetlands Protection Act (M.G.L. Ch. 131, Sec. 40, its Regulations (310 CMR 10.00) and the Belchertown Wetlands Protection Bylaw (Chapter 139), the Belchertown Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on **Monday, September 28, 2026 at 7:00 PM in the Town Hall Auditorium, located at 2 Jabish Street in Belchertown, MA 01007**, to review a **Request for Determination of Applicability** submitted by **Steve Aldrich, PAH Properties, LLC** for work proposed at **280 Ware Road (Map 245 – Lot 61) in Belchertown**. Activities are limited to **replacing an existing failed septic system** located in lawn more than 50-ft from Bordering Vegetated Wetlands below groundwater elevation with a **new septic tank, distribution box and leach bed** to be located more than 100-ft from BVW in previously disturbed areas. Anyone interested in this matter should appear at the time and place designated.

09/17/2026

SALE OF MOTOR VEHICLE

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

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Merrimack, NH 03054

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LKO: Tyanna Beth Yaman
62 Cady St.
Ludlow, MA 01056

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09/03, 09/10, 09/17/2026

OFFICE OF THE SELECT BOARD BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS TOWN OF BELCHERTOWN

Notice is hereby given under Chapter 148, Section 13 of the General Laws that Principle Property Management has applied for a license to install one (1) 5,500-gallon gasoline tank and one (1) 1,500 gallon diesel

tank for the storage of inflammable fluids/gases at 401 Mill Valley Road, Belchertown, MA 01007.

A public hearing relative to the above referenced application will be held on **Monday, October 5, 2026 at 6:35 p.m.** in the Select Board’s Meeting Room on the first floor of Lawrence Memorial Hall, 2 Jabish Street, Belchertown, Massachusetts.

BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS
Whitney Jorns Kuhnlenz, Chair
Nicole Miner
Jonathan Ritter
Jennifer D. Turner
Lesa Lessard Pearson

09/17, 09/24/2026

Belchertown Conservation Commission LEGAL NOTICE

Pursuant to the authority of the Wetlands Protection Act (M.G.L. Ch. 131, Sec. 40, its Regulations (310 CMR 10.00) and the Belchertown Wetlands Protection Bylaw (Chapter 139), the Belchertown Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on **Monday, September 28, 2026 at 7:00 PM in the Town Hall Auditorium, located at 2 Jabish Street in Belchertown, MA 01007** to review an after-the-fact **Notice of Intent** permit application submitted by **James Williams** for a **completed single-family home construction including well, septic, driveway, rain garden, swale, and associated grading** within 100-ft to a Bordering Vegetated Wetland. at **212 West Street (Map 275-Lot 19.03) in Belchertown**. Anyone interested in this matter should appear at the time and place designated.

09/17/2026

LEGAL NOTICE OFFICE OF THE SELECT BOARD BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS TOWN OF BELCHERTOWN

Notice is hereby given under Chapter 138 of the General Laws that Victoria Mexican Kitchen & Bar, Inc. has applied for a transfer of the Section 12 Restaurant All Alcohol license currently held by Masa Mexicano, LLC., 9 North Main Street, Belchertown, MA 01007. Manager of record to be Adrian Brambila.

A public hearing relative to the above referenced application will be held on **Monday, September 28, 2026 at 6:35 p.m.** in the Select Board’s Meeting Room on the first floor of Lawrence Memorial Hall, 2 Jabish Street, Belchertown, Massachusetts.

BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS Whitney Jorns Kuhnlenz, Chair Nicole Miner Jonathan Ritter Jennifer D. Turner Lesa Lessard Pearson

09/17/2026

Belchertown Conservation Commission LEGAL NOTICE

Pursuant to the authority of the Wetlands Protection Act (M.G.L. Ch. 131, Sec. 40, its Regulations (310 CMR 10.00) and the Belchertown Wetlands Protection Bylaw (Chapter 139), the Belchertown Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on **Monday, September 28, 2026 at 7:00 PM in the Town Hall Auditorium, located at 2 Jabish Street in Belchertown, MA 01007**, to review a Request for **Determination of Applicability** submitted by **Jacob Humiston** for work proposed at **Boardman Street (Map 242-35.01) in Belchertown**. Activities are limited to **new residential construction of a single-family home with lawn, septic, well, and driveway**. All work is proposed outside the 100-ft Buffer Zone to Bordering Vegetated Wetlands. Anyone interested in this matter should appear at the time and place designated.

09/17/2026

Belchertown Conservation Commission LEGAL NOTICE

Pursuant to the authority of the Wetlands Protection Act (M.G.L. Ch. 131, Sec. 40, its Regulations (310 CMR 10.00) and the Belchertown Wetlands Protection Bylaw (Chapter 139), the Belchertown Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on **Monday, September 28, 2026 at 7:00 PM in the Town Hall Auditorium, located at 2 Jabish Street in Belchertown, MA 01007**, to review a **Request for Determination of Applicability** submitted by **Al-yssa Maggi** for work proposed at **Woodland Lane (Map 268-Lot 25.18) in Belchertown**. Activities are limited to **new residential construction of a single-family home with lawn, septic, well, driveway, and rain garden outside the 100-ft Buffer Zone to Bordering Vegetated Wetlands and tree clearing within the Buffer Zone to BVW**. Anyone interested in this matter should appear at the time and place designated.

09/17/2026

Belchertown Conservation Commission LEGAL NOTICE

Pursuant to the authority of the Wetlands Protection Act (M.G.L. Ch. 131, Sec. 40, its Regulations (310 CMR 10.00) and the Belchertown Wetlands Protection Bylaw (Chapter 139), the Belchertown Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on **Monday, September 28, 2026 at 7:00 PM in the Town Hall Auditorium, located at 2 Jabish Street in Belchertown, MA 01007** to review a Notice of Intent permit application submitted by **Kestrel Land Trust** to **improve access to the Upper Gulf Forest and Hop Brook Reservation conservation areas, stabilize areas of erosion, and repair drainage patterns** via removing, rerouting, reinforcing, and/or regrading portions of the trail. Work also consists of **improving biodiversity of permanently disturbed Bordering Vegetated Wetlands**. Work is to be **located on the South Gulf Road Trail (Gulf Road and South Gulf Road/Map 206-Lot 19.13 and Map 215-Lot 36) in Belchertown**. Anyone interested in this matter should appear at the time and place designated.

09/17/2026

RACE from page 10

and Todd Patnode close behind.

Patnode stormed into third on lap 19, second on lap 25, and then to the top spot three laps later. Once in front, he would not be denied. Leary finished two lengths back in second, and Brousseau was third. A late-race charge brought Ben Byrne up to fourth, and Ty LeClerc raced home fifth.

Erik Smith was the early leader in the Twin State Truck Services Limited Late Model feature, but the Hagar-Stockwell Express was coming fast. Hagar took charge on lap four, with Stockwell up to second the next time around.

The two raced nose-to-tail the next dozen laps until Stockwell lowlined to the front and held strong to win his ninth race of the season. With Hagar a close second, steady Hillary Renaud was third on the night, Smith raced home fourth, and Chris Lindquist rebounded from a trip to the pits for fifth.

Firing from row two, Michael Yeaton exploded into the lead on lap two of the Brattleboro Towing and Recovery Pure Stock feature and never looked back en route to his division-high sixth win of the season. Kyle Begos kept Yeaton in sight for most of the race but could never reel him in.

Hatfield, MA rookie Maya Bell ran strong all night to score her first career top three finish. Points leader Jimmy Zellman was fourth, and Markus O’Neil finished fifth. Rookie star Josh Brigham, victorious a week earlier, was driven into the backstretch wall on the final lap while running fourth, his car heavily damaged and his championship hopes taking a point hit.

Hot shoe Matt Robinson took the lead on lap ten of the Beck’s Automotive Pro V8 Sportsman feature and never looked back en route to his division-high third win of the summer. Aaron Thompson came from the back to the front twice to finish second and stay atop the points parade.

Previous winner Chris Kingsley stayed in the hunt all night to race home third. Chris Emerson finished fourth, and Mikey Wolinger was fifth.

Pre-teen Dylan Stati continued his mastery of the Doug’s Auto Young Guns Saturday, leading all the way as he stayed perfect on the summer with his 13th win in as many tries. Eli Elliott, in his second career race, was second, Maeve Barry earned the third-place hardware, and newcomer Colton Pond was fourth.



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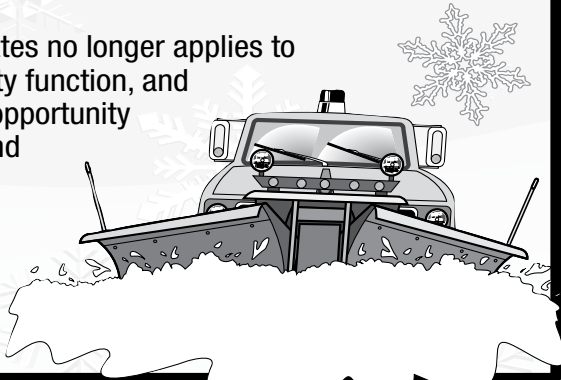
SNOWPLOW CONTRACTORS WANTED:

The Town of South Hadley, through its Department of Public Works and Chief Procurement officer (CPO), is seeking applications from plowing and heavy equipment contractors for plowing snow, snow removal, and/or sanding/salting/de-icing for the Department of Public Works for this coming winter. An application form and a copy of the “Snow Plowing Contractual Agreement” for the 2026-2027 winter season may be picked up at the department of Public Works office at 10 Industrial Drive, South Hadley, MA between the hours of 8:30 AM and 3:30 PM, Monday through Thursday.

Submissions will be received at the Department of Public Works up to the **deadline on Friday, October 2, 2026 at 11:00 AM**, when they will then be publicly opened and read at that place and time.

Note the requirement for payment of prevailing wage rates no longer applies to snow and ice removal operations, as it is considered a safety function, and is therefore exempt. The Town of South Hadley is an equal opportunity employer. Minority business enterprises that are certified and qualified are encouraged to submit applications.

The Town reserves the right to accept or reject any and all proposals, as in the Town’s judgement, the best interest of the Town of South Hadley would be served by so doing, all in accordance with the applicable General Laws.



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The Sentinel

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