

State Representative
Patricia Duffy poured wine
for the attendees.

A Rotary Club poster show-
casing upcoming events and
promoting a call to service.



Annual Rotary CELEBRITY BARTENDING NIGHT *creates community buzz*

By Ben Hernandez
Staff Writer

GRANBY – The Granby Wine Haus and Vineyard at Jameson Farm served as venue for the annual Granby Rotary Celebrity Bartending Night. Organized by the

Holyoke Rotary Club, the event united Granby, South Hadley and Holyoke charters for an evening of networking, wine tasting and community spirit.

“I thought getting celebrity bartenders and trying to get someone from each of

the towns would help foster growth in our club throughout the three communities,” said Rotarian Barbara Barron. “We wanted something that was going to raise some money but also raise awareness for our club, as well as just have us meet new

people and have fun.”

Sept. 30 marked the third year for the event, which attracted business professionals and prominent figures within the three towns. Noteworthy attendees included

Please see **ROTARY**, page 4

SB allocates state aid for radios, boiler, field work

By Melina Bourdeau
Correspondent

BELCHERTOWN – The Selectboard voted to direct unexpected state aid to police radios, a Jabish Brook boiler, athletic-field work and a townwide compensation study, while sending roughly \$189,000 to stabilization after debate over competing capital needs.

After multiple weeks of discussion about how to allocate additional state aid the town received after the town’s budget season, the Selectboard set aside \$34,194.66 for police radios, \$25,000 for the boiler, \$50,000 for athletic-field water-tank footings and \$42,000 for a compensation and classification study.

School representatives also raised a projected traffic-project cost increase and possible phone-system upgrades, but neither request received an allocation from the surplus.

Town Manager Steve Williams said the state provided more aid than the town had estimated after the fiscal year began.

Selectboard member Nicole Miner emphasized that the money was not an operating-budget coverage or revenue from an override. Williams described it as an unusual amount compared

with past years, when extra state aid was generally far lower.

“This is unprecedented,” Williams said of the additional aid, adding that the board had been weighing how to use it responsibly. Members considered spending it on projects, placing some in stabilization reserves or leaving it to become free cash in the following year.

Superintendent Brian Cameron presented school needs before the board began allocating the money. He said Jabish Brook’s boiler burner had required repeated maintenance and that a contractor recommended replacing it, at an estimated cost of \$25,000. The board later approved that amount.

Cameron also described a traffic project at Jabish Brook.

The school district had received \$200,000 at town meeting, while the project estimate was about \$350,000. At first, the discussion left unclear whether the additional \$150,000 was needed to pay for a completed study. Cameron later clarified that the study had already been paid for and that the larger estimate was for the project that

Please see **STATE AID**, page 3

Fall nor’easter does not spoil 167th Belchertown Fair

By Ben Hernandez
Staff Writer

BELCHERTOWN – The annual Belchertown Fair began on September 25 and closed its doors on September 27th. For three days, the Town Common was host to a slew of impressive Fanelli Amusements provided midway rides, small business vendors, food carts, carnival games and craft exhibitions. The yearly tradition showcased a plethora of time-honored competitions and carried this year’s theme of “Stars, Stripes and Fair Nights.”

“I have four teenagers that we’ve been bringing to the fair since we’ve lived here,” said Barton Beeswax owner and Belchertown resident Melissa Hibler. “It’s different being a vendor because I can watch all the kids. They give me their backpacks and go on the rides. It’s just fun to see everything.”

The fair remained popular in spite of a Nor’easter taking place over the weekend. Residents braved strong winds and unpredictable rainfall to attend the massive campus. Excited children and families populated



TURLEY PHOTOS BY BEN HERNANDEZ
The traditional horse pull competition.



The exterior advertising a Saturday only taco salad booth inside the Belchertown church.

the landscape as the familiar sights and smells of a carnival day filled the air.

“The weather this year is unfortunate, but the whole town looks forward to it. They talk about it in the schools,” Hibler said.

Despite the overcast skies and inclement weather, the annual parade took place on Sept. 26, which began on South Main Street and traveled along the Town Common on Main Street. The parade showcased the Belchertown High School Marching Band as they kicked off the day’s festivities with rousing renditions of both modern and classic American tunes.

Please see **FAIR**, page 8



Submitted photo
The Belchertown Planning Board discusses data centers.

Planning Board discusses town data center policy

By Ben Hernandez
Staff Writer

BELCHERTOWN – The topic of data centers arose during the Belchertown Planning Board meeting on Sept. 21. Questions centered around defining what a data center meant, determining what the town’s stance was on data centers and the moratoriums implemented on them by surrounding towns.

“I asked to have the data center policy discussion put on the agenda because every day I pick up the paper, I see another community talking about a moratorium, about bylaws,” a speaker said.

Planning Board Chair Dan Beaudette began the

I asked to have the data center policy discussion put on the agenda because every day I pick up the paper, I see another community talking about a moratorium, about bylaws.”

conversation by mentioning how the House of Representatives have been sending out communications regarding the subject and how other communities have talked about implementing moratoriums and setting up bylaws. The speaker asked Town Planner Doug Albertson for a status update on town policy governing the subject.

“How would our zoning laws treat that? I mean, at

first we would say ‘oh, you can’t put an industrial use any place except an industrial zone,’” Albertson said.

Albertson admitted there wouldn’t be many places to set up one in town, as the number of industrial zones within Belchertown’s borders were limited. He also acknowledged the possibility a data center company would argue they were

Please see **POLICY**, page 5



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■ COMMUNITY

Belchertown awarded nearly \$2.3 million in state grants

BELCHERTOWN — The Town of Belchertown has been awarded nearly \$2.3 million in state grants from the Healey-Driscoll Administration. The five awards will complete the directional and identification signs in the town’s wayfinding program, finish the Sportshaven project, fund planning for the Belchertown Cultural District, support water and sewer work at 6-8 Berkshire Avenue, and strengthen road safety efforts by the Belchertown Police Department.

“On behalf of the Select Board and the residents of Belchertown, I want to extend our sincere thanks to Governor Healey, Lieutenant Governor Driscoll, Senator Jake Oliveira, and Representative Aaron Saunders for their continued partnership and investment in our community,” said Town Manager Steve Williams. “These grants will make a real difference, not only for the people who call Belchertown home today, but for the visitors who come to enjoy our town, the families considering making it their home, and the businesses looking for a place to put down roots. Support like this helps us build a stronger, more welcoming Belchertown, and we’re grateful to have partners at the state level who share that vision.”

Wayfinding Implementation: \$95,000
A \$95,000 Massachusetts Downtown Initiative (MDI) Capital Implementation Grant from the Executive Office of Economic Development will fund the final round of directional and identification signs in

Belchertown’s wayfinding program. This round adds thirty-two signs: eighteen vehicular directional signs, two pedestrian directional signs, and twelve identification signs. That brings the townwide total to forty-nine signs that guide residents and visitors to the town center, village destinations, and community landmarks.

The sign system was designed by Stantec and has been built out in phases without the use of tax dollars beyond in-kind design and installation work by town staff. The first three signs, two pedestrian directional signs and one identification sign, were funded by the Massachusetts Office of Travel and Tourism, and a second round was funded through an American Rescue Plan Act economic development allocation. This MDI Capital award funds the third and final round of directional and identification signs.

MDI Capital Implementation Grants support public improvements that enhance walkability, accessibility, and quality of place while encouraging pedestrian activity and supporting local businesses.

Cultural District Plan: \$50,000
A \$50,000 MDI Capital Planning Grant from the Executive Office of Economic Development will support the next steps for the Belchertown Cultural District, providing the capacity needed to carry this work into 2027. More details about the Cultural District application process will be shared as the work moves forward.

MDI Capital Planning Grants fund professional services that strengthen local

Project	State program	Amount
Wayfinding Implementation	Massachusetts Downtown Initiative Capital Grant Program (Implementation)	\$95,000
Cultural District Plan	Massachusetts Downtown Initiative Capital Grant Program (Planning)	\$50,000
6-8 Berkshire Avenue Water/Sewer	Rural Development Fund	\$240,000
Sportshaven Water and Sewer	HousingWorks Infrastructure Program	\$1,865,500
Police Department road safety	Municipal Road Safety Grant Program	Nearly \$35,000
Total		Nearly \$2.3 million

business districts, improve quality of place, and position communities for future investment.

6-8 Berkshire Avenue Water/Sewer: \$240,000
A \$240,000 award from the Rural Development Fund, administered by the Executive Office of Economic Development’s Office of Rural Affairs, will bring new water and sewer service to 6-8 Berkshire Avenue in the Carriage Grove area. The grant funds nearly six hundred feet of new water main, including valves, service connections to both buildings, and surface restoration. The Belchertown Department of Public Works will install more than five hundred feet of new sanitary sewer line as the Town’s in-kind match, contributing municipal labor, heavy equipment, and materials to make the most of the state’s investment. Those resources are secured and ready once the grant is under contract.

At 6 Berkshire Avenue, the project replaces aging water and sewer lines, preparing the building for future

mixed-use redevelopment. The building at 8 Berkshire Avenue currently has no water or sewer service. This grant brings both to the site, making the building more marketable for future investment.

Sportshaven Water and Sewer: \$1,865,500
A \$1,865,500 award from the HousingWorks Infrastructure Program, administered by the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities, will continue water and sewer improvements at Sportshaven Mobile Home Park on Mill Valley Road. Residents of the park’s thirty-nine homes have long relied on individual septic systems, some of which failed, and a water system that could not reliably deliver safe drinking water. The Sportshaven Tenants Association has worked alongside the Town for several years to fix both. Earlier state grants and local Community Preservation Act funds paid for a new well, water storage tank, and water system.

This award continues that work, including replacing the park’s failing septic systems with a park-wide wastewater system. In May 2026, Annual Town Meeting voters approved an additional \$250,000 in Community Preservation funds, which will also allow the Town to count the park’s homes toward its affordable housing stock.

“I’m thrilled to hear about this grant to continue the work at Sportshaven,” said Melissa Shelton, President of the Sportshaven Tenants Association. “I’m grateful to our state and local leaders, especially Town Manager Steve Williams, for helping see this project through. This funding makes all the difference, not only for the residents of Sportshaven, but for the whole community. This news is so exciting, I could cry.”

Police Department Road Safety: Nearly \$35,000
The Belchertown Police Department has been awarded nearly \$35,000 through the Municipal Road Safety Grant Program, administered

by the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security’s Office of Grants and Research, to support traffic safety in Belchertown.

Nearly \$7,800 will purchase two mobile speed display boards to deter speeding in targeted neighborhoods. More than \$27,000 will fund officer overtime for enforcement focused on speeding, distracted driving, seat belt use, and impaired driving.

“We are grateful for this funding, which allows us to increase our presence on Belchertown’s roads and respond to the speeding concerns we hear from residents,” said Police Chief Kevin Pacunas. “The speed display boards and dedicated enforcement patrols are part of our ongoing commitment to keeping our community safe. We thank the Healey-Driscoll Administration and our legislative partners for their continued support.”

For more information about these projects, visit www.belchertown.org or contact Dawn Cote, Grants Coordinator at dcote@belchertown.org.

About Belchertown
Belchertown, Massachusetts, is a welcoming community of about 15,500 residents that blends small-town character with room to grow. Set at the crossroads of Hampshire, Hampden, Franklin, and Worcester counties, Belchertown is part of both the Pioneer Valley and the Quabbin Region. Its working farms, forests, and trails sit alongside easy access to the area’s colleges and cultural life. The town is just 90 minutes from Boston and an hour from Hartford, Connecticut.

STATE AID from page 1

followed. The board did not allocate surplus funds for it.

The athletic-field water-storage tank project had received \$254,000 from the Community Preservation Committee, Cameron said. Additional engineering and concrete-footing work had emerged, with the footing and pad cost estimated at about \$100,000. The final cost was still unknown, and Cameron said the district had already spent about \$50,000 of its own money on unexpected field expenses.

“I would at least ask for \$50,000 to replace what we paid,” Cameron said, noting that the district was still waiting for more precise project figures. The board ultimately approved \$50,000 for the field work.

The fourth school concern was the planned end of traditional copper phone service from Verizon, which could affect elevators, fire alarms and security systems. Cameron estimated that replacing or upgrading the affected connections could cost between \$20,000 and \$40,000. He said the district was researching alternatives, including cellular and satellite-based systems, and was seeking more information about when the change

would take effect. The board did not allocate funds for the phone systems.

The board also considered requests from town departments, including \$34,194.66 for police radios and \$42,000 for a compensation and classification study. Williams said the town’s study would review 72 non-union job titles, including job descriptions and comparisons with other communities. He said the review was overdue and could help the town plan for future retirements and recruitment.

Members disagreed over how much of the surplus should go to immediate needs versus reserves. Turner said she was wary of committing the unexpected revenue to newly presented costs.

“I feel like we just won the lottery and we’re going to spend it all, and I don’t like that,” she said. She supported addressing urgent needs while putting money into stabilization for future expenses.

Williams identified police radios and the Jabish Brook boiler as immediate priorities. The board approved a motion to allocate \$34,194.66 for the radios and \$25,000 for the boiler. Jorns-Kuhnlenz said both sounded like “emergencies and a proper use for capital

improvement right now.”

The board then debated a proposed allocation for the field work and the compensation study. Miner questioned the optics of using public funds for a study that might not produce visible benefits for residents.

Williams responded that the town needed to update descriptions to reflect changes in municipal work.

“We have just so many problems with our job descriptions, and we really need to dig into that and get them straightened out,” he said.

After amending the proposal to reduce the field allocation from \$100,000 to

\$50,000, the board approved \$50,000 for the water-tank footings, \$42,000 for the study and the remainder for stabilization. The discussion put the amount moving to stabilization at roughly \$189,000, though members worked through differing calculations during the meeting.

The allocations leave the traffic project and phone-system upgrades among the school district’s outstanding concerns. Cameron said the schools would continue to seek more precise costs for the field project and clarify the traffic estimate with the facilities team.

Election letters must be received by Oct. 16

The Sentinel welcomes readers to participate in this year’s state election by writing letters to the editor for publication.

Letters of up to 250 words from local residents endorsing candidates on the ballot or discussing campaign issues should be sent to the The Sentinel by email to sentinel@turley.com or care of: Turley Publications, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069, faxed to 413-289-1977 by

12 noon on Friday, Oct. 16 to be published in the Wednesday, Oct. 21 edition. No endorsement letters will be printed in the last edition before the election.

Letter writers need to provide their name and the town they reside in.

Please include a daytime telephone number (for verification purposes only) when submitting your letter. Your phone number will not be printed.



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COMMUNITY

Belchertown celebrates Red Ribbon Week with school, community events

BELCHERTOWN — Belchertown Overcoming Adversity Together (BOAT), in partnership with Belchertown Public Schools, the Belchertown Recreation Department, and local businesses, is celebrating National Red Ribbon Week from October 23–31, 2026. This year’s activities will bring together students, families, businesses, and community members to promote substance use prevention, healthy choices, and mental health awareness.

The 2026 national Red Ribbon Week theme, “Make a Difference, Be a Hero, Stay Drug Free,” encourages individuals and communities to take an active role in supporting young people and building a healthier future.

Belchertown Public Schools will celebrate Red Ribbon Week during the week of Oct. 26 to 30, with a weeklong Spirit Week featuring activities and daily themes designed to engage students of all ages and encourage positive choices. A district-wide Wear Red Day on Wednesday, October 28, will invite students, faculty, and staff to wear red in support of substance use prevention.

This year, BOAT is expanding its Red Ribbon Week efforts into the community by inviting local businesses to participate. Businesses throughout Belchertown are encouraged to display a red ribbon in their windows or at their establishments as a visible symbol of their commitment to substance use prevention and the health and well-being of local youth. Community members are also encouraged to display a ribbon at their homes or workplaces.

Businesses and community members interested in displaying a red ribbon can contact Kris Hoag, BOAT Co-Chair and Drug-Free Communities Program Director, at khoag@belchertownps.org to obtain one.

In addition to school activities and business participation, several community events will take place in October and November to promote prevention, mental health awareness, and community engagement.

Drug and Vape Take Back Day – October 24

BOAT will host a Drug and Vape Take Back Day on Saturday, Oct. 24, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Belchertown Common Parking Lot. Community members are encouraged to bring unwanted or unused medications and vaping products for safe disposal. Proper disposal helps prevent accidental ingestion, misuse, and access to potentially harmful substances while promoting a safer community. Free Medication Lockboxes and Narcan will be available.

Helping Hands participates in Out of the Darkness Walk – October 24

Members of Helping Hands, BOAT’s student-led substance use prevention and mental health group at Belchertown High School, will participate in the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention’s Out of the Darkness Walk in Agawam on Saturday, Oct. 24.

The students’ participation highlights the important connection between mental health, suicide prevention, and substance use prevention. Their involvement demonstrates the commitment of Belchertown’s youth to raising awareness, reducing stigma, and supporting individuals and families affected by mental health challenges.

Heroes on the Hardwood: Harlem Triksterz vs. Belchertown Dream Team – November 4

The Red Ribbon Week celebration will continue into November with Heroes on the Hardwood, a family-friendly basketball event featuring the Harlem Triksterz versus the Belchertown Dream Team on Wednesday, Nov. 4, at 6:30 p.m. at Belchertown High School, located at 142 Springfield Road.

Presented in partnership with the Belchertown Recreation Department, this exciting event will bring professional basketball entertainment, community spirit, and substance use prevention together for an evening of family fun. The event will feature the Harlem Triksterz, including Kevin “Showboat” Jackson, taking on the Belchertown Dream Team.

Families can enjoy an entertaining evening while supporting BOAT’s efforts to promote healthy choices and positive activities for local youth.

Event and ticket information:

Date: Wednesday, November 4, 2026

VIP early access and photos: 5:30 p.m.

Game time: 6:30 p.m.

Location: Belchertown High School, 142 Springfield Road, Belchertown, MA

Family presale tickets: \$10

Family VIP presale tickets: \$15

Game-day tickets: \$15 per family

VIP tickets include early access to visit the players. Families interested in attending must register through the Belchertown Recreation Department’s website portal at <https://belchertownma.myrec.com/info/default.aspx>. Tickets must be picked up at the Recreation Department.

For registration and additional information, contact Kyle Thibeault, Belchertown Recreation Director, at (413) 323-0419 or kthibeault@belchertown.org. Additional information is also available at www.harlemtriksterz.com.

A Community-Wide Commitment to Prevention

Red Ribbon Week serves as an important reminder that substance use prevention is a shared responsibility. Through school activities, community events, youth leadership, and partnerships with local businesses, Belchertown continues to demonstrate its commitment to creating a supportive and healthy environment for young people.

“Red Ribbon Week is an opportunity for our entire community to come together and show our young people that we support them in making healthy choices,” said Kris Hoag, BOAT Co-Chair and Drug-Free Communities Program Director. “From our schools and local businesses displaying red ribbons to our youth participating in prevention and mental health initiatives, every effort makes a difference. We encourage everyone to get involved and help us make prevention a community-wide priority.”

Community members and local businesses are encouraged to participate by displaying a red ribbon, wearing red on October 28, attending the Harlem Triksterz basketball event, and supporting the prevention efforts of BOAT and its youth leaders.

For more information about Red Ribbon Week activities or to obtain a red ribbon for your business or home, please contact:

Kris Hoag, Drug-Free Communities Program Director Co-Chair, Belchertown Overcoming Adversity Together (BOAT) Email: khoag@belchertownps.org, Phone: (413) 323-0423, Ext. 115

About BOAT

Belchertown Overcoming Adversity Together (BOAT) recognizes that substance use disorder and mental health conditions are public health issues. BOAT supports and implements a proactive approach through preventative education, harm reduction strategies, reducing stigma, and ease of access to treatment. Through community partnerships, youth engagement, and prevention initiatives, BOAT works to build a healthier and stronger Belchertown.

ROTARY from page 1

ed State Representative Pat Duffy and Rotary Club District Governor Christine Burns.

“We’re always trying to expand into the other communities and get more people from South Hadley and Granby into our club,” Barron said. “Our motto is service above self and so we’re always trying to find people who love to give back to their community and spread goodwill and friendship.”

The venue offered a wide assortment of different wines on tap and a raffle to supplement the spirited conversations, which spilled from the cozy indoor venue to a spacious outdoor area behind the building. A Thai food truck was also present, which could be enjoyed on provided outdoor seating.

“They just do all these good works,” said State Representative Patricia Duffy about the Holyoke Rotary club as she took a break from the wine pouring to enjoy a plate of pad Thai outside. “They just really bring good vibes to the community.”

Duffy described the club as a “bunch of people interested in other people” eager to provide positive impact to the region. A longtime supporter of the Rotary, Duffy stated the club was a great way to remain engaged and to maintain a service-minded outlook.

“I’ve been their luncheon speaker in the past,” Duffy

er seeking friendship and opportunities for community service.

“Paul Harris is long gone,” Christine Burns said as she illustrated the Rotary Club’s origins. “He started a Rotary in 1915 and he started it specifically because he was new to Chicago.”

She stated the club began with Harris inviting a few people to his office for lunch, where they discussed how to use their wealth to help the city. The members called their organization the Rotary as a result of how they rotated their meetings between their respective offices. Burns stated the secular orga-

nization focuses on charitable causes both local and global, including a worldwide organizational effort to eliminate polio.

“There are clubs all over the world,” Burns said. “One Rotarian in the Philippines said ‘we could eradicate polio from the Philippines.’ He went to Rotary International and said ‘this is what our district wants to do’ and Rotary International said ‘you know what? We could do that on the planet Earth. We can work towards that and we can involve all our Rotarians around the globe.’ So, it became a worldwide project.”

Rotarian Rosanna Lopez stated she joined the orga-

nization due to her drive to give back to the community. A new member, Lopez has only been a member for six months but mentioned the club has already been a positive influence on her life. Certified as a notary, Lopez is an entrepreneur who helps immigrants file paperwork, fill out their taxes and secure housing. She mentioned Bartending Night was a great way to find new business associates to add to her “Rolodex” of contacts.

“I just would like to know and network with as many people as I can,” Lopez said. “They may not be able to service me but I could be able to connect them to somebody else.”





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Belchertown honors winners of Red, White and Belchertown essay contest

Three student writers recognized for reflections on America's 250th birthday

BELCHERTOWN—The Town of Belchertown and the US250 Task Force are proud to announce the three winners of the Red, White and Belchertown Essay Contest, held in honor of the nation's 250th birthday. The winners were recognized on September 24 at Red, White & Belchertown, the town's community celebration of the Semiquincentennial, where each student read from their entry before a hometown audience.

The contest was open to all students living in Belchertown and was judged in three grade divisions, each with its own writing prompt. Students were asked to reflect on what America means to them, the people who have shaped their lives, and the challenges and opportunities facing the country today. Each winner received a certificate and will receive a \$250 savings bond.

Kindergarten through Grade 3: Ayomiposi Filani
Ayomiposi Filani wrote a birthday letter to the United States, expressing gratitude for his community, his school, and the many opportunities he has been given. In his letter, he shared his hope to become an inventor and to be kind so that his community becomes an even better place. Ayomiposi read his entire letter aloud at the celebration.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Grades 4-8: Zada Maurer
Zada Maurer's essay, "The Man Who Couldn't Make Spanish Rice," profiles her grandfather, Juris Zagarins. As an infant, he fled Latvia with his family at the end of World War II, spent his early childhood in a refugee camp in Germany, and arrived in the United States at age six speaking little English. He went on to study at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, teach with the Peace Corps in Afghanistan, and later return to MIT to teach engineering. Zada's essay is a warm and personal tribute to a family member whose life continues to inspire her.

Grades 9-12: Ella Ricker
Ella Ricker's essay examines political division in the United States. Drawing on

George Washington's 1796 farewell address, she argues that Americans do not need to eliminate disagreement, but rather change how they approach it. Her essay proposes practical solutions, including teaching students to debate using facts rather than personal attacks, evaluating each issue on its own merits, and encouraging elected officials to work across party lines. The Town extends its sincere thanks to every student who submitted an entry. Each essay was read with care, and together they offered a meaningful picture of what it means to grow up in Belchertown and in America. Selecting just three winners was a difficult task. The Town also thanks the families, teachers, and neighbors who encouraged these young

writers, and the US250 Task Force for organizing the contest.

All three winning entries may be read on the Town of Belchertown website at www.belchertown.org/m/NewsFlash/home/detail/194.

About the US250 Task Force

The US250 Task Force is made up of community partners, town employees, Select Board members, committee members, and nonprofit organizations working together to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the United States in Belchertown. The Task Force organized Red, White & Belchertown, held September 24, 2026, in conjunction with the Belchertown Fair and the Recreation Department's community fireworks.

POLICY from page 1

exempt from this restriction "because they always do," but also acknowledged there wasn't an currently an official stance on the topic.

"It's something that we need to confront," Albertson said. "I mean, almost 30 years ago we put adult entertainment in the zoning bylaw, even though it's never been an issue in town, figuring 'well, we better head it off,' and it's worked. We've put it in the zoning and nobody's ever showed up."

Albertson agreed it was time to address the subject, which opened the floor for further conversation. He also mentioned the governor imposed a temporary moratorium on data centers, which sparked further discussion on what the moratorium meant for the town. Speaker 1 asked if data centers required a permit to begin construction and, should the need arise for one, if the state or the town were the ones to issue it.

"They're so huge, there's so much water, they might need to go through the Department of



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Town Planner Doug Albertson talks during a recent meeting.

Environmental Protection," Albertson said. "I really don't know."

Beaudette questioned if the statement implied such projects were in conflict of the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act, which requires state agencies to study potential environmental effects of proposed projects. The policy

demands approved projects to avoid or minimize damage to the environment. Albertson confirmed he was "sure" it would be the case.

"A MEPA, yeah, with the energy use if nothing else," Albertson said as he posed a question to the Planning Board. "First we need to understand, what is the definition of a data center?"

The follow up conversation centered around the definition of a data center. The governor's mandate defines a data center as one which exceeds power consumption demands greater than 25 megawatts, a figure Community Preservation Committee Representative Michael Hofler described as "a lot of power."

"I think for our purposes, for our town, we need to just come up with a quick definition, but have one that is much, much lower in peak power demand," Hofler said, who floated the idea of re-classifying the power threshold to be more than one megawatt worth of power. He illustrated the amount would be equivalent to "500 or 1000 homes' worth of power."

Due to definition vagueness, the Planning Board agreed to feature the question as a main talking point for next meeting.

"We'll put it on the agenda again and we'll further discuss it a little bit more and just see where we're going on this," Beaudette said.

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OPINION

SOCIAL SECURITY Matters

By Russell Gloor

When will Congress repay Social Security money taken years ago?

Dear Rusty:

I seem to remember that Congress borrowed a total of 4 trillion dollars from SS back in the 1980s and 1990s. When will this be repaid with interest?

Signed: Concerned Senior

Dear Concerned Senior:

I'm afraid your recollection is not correct – no politicians (Congress or Presidents) have ever taken money from the Social Security Trust Funds – not in the 1980s, nor 1990s, not ever.

Congress and Presidents are prevented by law from using Social Security money for any purpose other than paying SS benefits to beneficiaries and for paying the operating costs of administering the program.

Some significant changes to the Social Security program were, indeed, made in the years you mention, but those changes essentially saved Social Security from defaulting on monthly SS payment obligations.

In 1983, Congress and President Reagan enacted some income tax on received SS benefits for those with higher incomes and which added to Social Security's revenue, thus avoiding a benefit cut.

Then in 1993, Congress and President Clinton expanded that legislation to increase the taxation of received Social Security benefits to provide additional SS revenue.

What you may be remembering is the political rhetoric from those days, which opined that Congress had stolen, squandered or borrowed (and should repay) Social Security money used for other purposes.

And that rhetoric originated because of the way received SS revenue from payroll FICA tax is invested.

Social Security revenue, when received, is immediately invested in special-issue government bonds, which pay interest (just like normal government "T-bills").

The difference is that these SS bonds are redeemable, with interest, upon demand and as needed by SSA to pay monthly benefits. This means that SS gets additional interest income from these investments accounting for about \$69 billion in extra SS income in 2025.

Some folks, however, feel that because the U.S. Treasury gets the actual cash received for those SS investments, that the money is used by the Treasury for other purposes. Which is, of course, true – just as the government uses all income received from all revenue sources to pay for government programs.

So, rather than viewing those SS bonds as investments, some view them as "money borrowed" and sometimes call the bonds "worthless IOUs." This,

of course, is not at all the case, because every dollar invested in those special issue government bonds has been (and still is) used only for valid Social Security purposes and results in extra SS revenue from interest.

Nevertheless, those accusations were prevalent in the 1980s and 1990s when the changes to tax SS benefits were enacted. Indeed, we still regularly hear and refute similar rhetoric these days in our capacity as Social Security Advisors.

We've written many articles on this topic, all of which are available at the AMAC Foundation's two main websites at www.amacfoundation.org, and www.SocialSecurityReport.org.

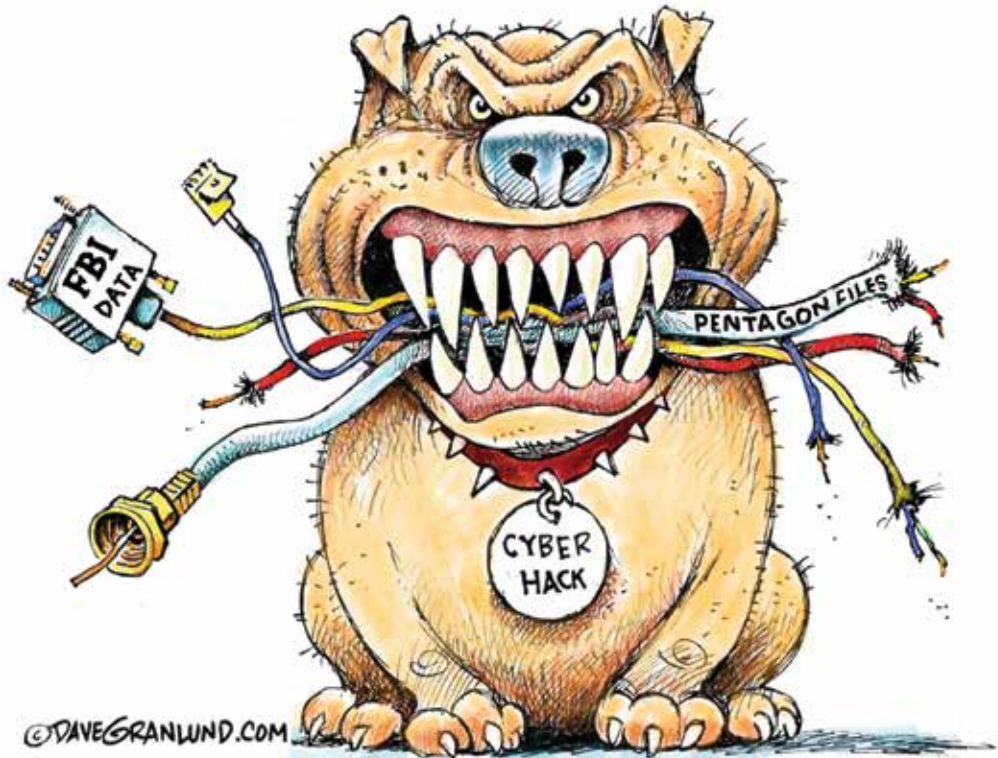
To answer your specific question "when will this (money) be repaid with interest?" The answer is - there is nothing to repay. All monies ever received for Social Security purposes have been invested in special interest-bearing government bonds, which are redeemed (with interest paid) weekly as needed to pay Social Security benefits to those who have earned and are entitled to them.

These bonds are secured by the "full faith and credit of the U.S. government," a financial designation which is globally considered to be "exceptionally low risk."

FYI, the SS Trust Fund reserves held about \$2.5 trillion in investments as of the end of 2025, down from about \$2.9 trillion in 2020. The Trust Fund total is now being regularly depleted because incoming SS revenue has not been sufficient to pay 100% of SS benefit obligations since 2021, so Trust Fund reserves are now being used to pay full benefits.

And therein lies the crux of the Social Security solvency issue, which is why the program so urgently needs Congressional reform before the SS reserves in the Trust Funds run dry in 2032, after which everyone would see a cut in their monthly SS benefits. Congress must enact SS reform now.

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.



Friends with more questions

The threat of night time temperatures in the 30s sure have us gardeners on the move.

I had a few questions from friends this week that pertained to the change in seasons. Read on; maybe you can relate!

One of my friends asked if she should harvest all of her unripe peppers, and if they would continue to ripen indoors.

Peppers will only continue to fully ripen (i.e. change from green to their ripe color) if they are showing a hint of their ripe color. They definitely won't be as sweet as if they ripened on the vine, and they will lose a little of their mass as they sit, but they would still be a great addition to a stir fry or sauce.

I generally harvest all of my unripe peppers and keep them one layer deep in my cool mudroom, using or discarding as I go.

Another question came in about the use of Neem as an insecticide. My friend put her houseplants outdoors for the summer months and is concerned about bringing hitch-hikers inside where plants will be in close quarters.

We always spray tender plants such as Rosemary or Bay with Safer's Soap or a Sun oil before returning them to the greenhouse for the winter.

Neem works a bit differently but like the others is also a less toxic approach. Neem oil comes from the Neem tree (Azadirachta indi-

ca), which grows naturally in India and Southeast Asia.

was gifted would never, ever bloom. Well, I kept watch over the neighbor's, checking in on its progress.

About two weeks ago I informed her that flowers were on the way. She finally sent me a picture of her plant and it was following suit.

First buds and then flowers! Yay!

The plant in question is The Nippon Daisy, better known as the Montauk Daisy (Nipponanthemum nipponicum). When most flowers are calling it quits, this late season perennial is just getting started.

The plant is shrub-like, so it blends in well in the landscape with bushes or other specimen perennials, growing 1.5-3 feet tall and 3-5 feet wide. It looks like a regular white daisy, only more robust.

Enjoy them now through the first heavy frost. Plant in full sun; cut back a bit in the spring to keep them growing upright. It is both deer and rabbit resistant.

I hope that you enjoy these timely, friendly questions.

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.



eBird reported recent sightings of common nighthawks at the Rutland Prison Camps in Rutland and in Worcester.

The common nighthawk is a medium sized (8.7 to 9.8 inches long) nocturnal bird of the nightjar family found in both the Americas. It is typically dark colored: gray, black or brown with intricate patterns providing camouflage and making them difficult to spot during daytime.

They are mostly observed in flight. The slender body, long wings (wing span 20 to 24 inches) and white wing patches on the wings make them easy to identify.

Although they have a small beak, their mouth is large. They have noticeable barring on their sides and abdomen and short legs.

Its life span is about four to five years. The males of this species may roost together,

but the bird is primarily solitary.

The common nighthawk is the only nighthawk occurring over the majority of northern North America. During migration common nighthawks may travel 1,600 to 4,200 miles, one of North America's longer migrations.

They migrate by day or night in loose flocks, frequently numbering in the thousands. An aerial insectivore, the migrants will feed en route and congregate in marshes, rivers and lakeshores.

The best time to see them during migration is in late afternoon into the evening.

During flight, their vocalization is a nasal "peent" or "beernt." Peak vocalizations are reported 30 to 45 minutes

after sunset. The male makes a croaking "auk auk auk" in the presence of a female during courtship.

Night time feeding is rare. The most common insects in their diets are butterflies and moths. They actively avoid eating flies.

Artificial light sources such as parking lots attracts them in an effort to forage for insects enticed by the light. They even fly extremely low over the surface of water to drink.

Nighthawks preferred breeding and nesting habitat is forested regions with rocky

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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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The Sentinel is published every Thursday by Turley Publications, Inc., 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069. Telephone (413) 283-8393, Fax (413) 289-1977.



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Please see BACKYARD, page 8

Class of 2028 serves at the Fair

Belchertown High School Class of 2028 members persevered through all three days of fair weekend. They ran their booth and began a drive-by, raising money for their class while having fun serving hotdogs, snacks, and themed drinks.

SUBMITTED PHOTOS



BHS Band and Tri-M Honor Society members fundraise together



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

The Belchertown High School Band and Tri-M Honors Society members dedicate their weekend to raising money, selling baked goods, and making baked potatoes for fair attendees. They dressed in a potato costume, ran a raffle, held the booth down in high winds, worked together, and had a blast.

Immaculate Heart of Mary Craft fair Oct. 12

GRANBY—Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Granby, Mass. is having a Craft Fair on Monday, Oct. 12 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. In addition to over 50 vendors, there will be basket raffles, a Lottery Tree Raffle, as well as breakfast

& lunch available. Stop in, say hello & support small local businesses, and get some Christmas shopping done. Immaculate Heart of Mary is located at 256 State St. in Granby, Mass.

Granby Free Public Library's new afternoon book club

GRANBY—Join us for a friendly, relaxed, afternoon book club at the Granby Free Public Library. The group will meet monthly, every third Tuesday of the month at 2 p.m. to discuss various genres of fiction. Group members will vote on titles they would like to read in advance. Upcoming books are made available at the library in multiple formats - regular print, large print and audiobook. For the Oct. 20 meeting, the book choice is "The Briar Club" by Kate Quinn, stop by the library for a copy. Afternoon book groups combine the joy of reading with the benefits of conversation, community, and personal enrichment, making them a rewarding way to spend time and connect with others. The Granby Free Public Library is located at 297 E State St., Granby, MA 01033. Visit www.granbylibrary.org for more information.



Students enjoy Homecoming



On Sept. 18 Belchertown High School hosted a homecoming dance. Photographers Morgan Sambor and Myra Ablicki captured the night full of dancing, music, and memories!"

SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Learn to pastel paint at the library

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

GRANBY – The Granby Free Public Library welcomed Gregory Maichack for a workshop to teach adults and teens how to pastel paint.

This workshop was designed for artists of all skill levels, from beginners to advanced participants.

The Oct. 3 program was supported by funds from the Granby Cultural Council, a local agency supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

Maichack of West Springfield, has been an artist for over two decades and has been teaching art classes for about the same amount of time. Whenever he teaches, Maichack gets around 20-30 students per class.

He loves working with pastels but has also created artwork using oil paints and watercolor.

When asked about why he prefers pastels, he said the use of pastels gives artists the ability to smudge and layer their color.

“I had to go back to pastels,” Maichack said.



TURLEY PHOTO BY RYAN DRAGO

Artist Gregory Maichack taught a program called Vincent Van Gogh's Iris: Learn to Pastel Paint at the Granby Free Public Library.

Maichack's pastel work was at Saturday's program was inspired by the work of Vincent Van Gogh.

Maichack said he learned a lot about the history of Van Gogh's work, and that he was an artist that used complimentary colors such as blue and orange.

Maichack's students worked on a pastel portrait of a flower. He provided sam-

ples of some portraits done in pastels with some done during various stages.

His students at the library were using pastel pencils and soft pastels.

The first step was to trace a flower with a white pencil. After tracing, participants applied the colors of blue and orange.

Maichack provided the tools and pastels for his stu-

dents and gave helpful tips throughout the workshop.

Upcoming library event

The Granby Free Public Library, 297 East St., will be hosting the presentation of the Trial of Lizzie Borden: Whacks and Hacks, on Thursday, Oct. 15 at 5:30 p.m.

For more information and to register, visit granbylibrary.org.

St. Nicholas Craft Fair to take place Nov. 14

LUDDLLOW—Christ the King Rosary Sodality's St. Nicholas Craft Fair will be held Saturday, Nov. 14 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Christ the King Parish Center located at 41 Warsaw Avenue in Ludlow.

They will be hosting talented vendors along with a 50-50 Raffle and various gift raffles.

A light luncheon, drinks and desserts available for sale. All are welcome to join the festivities.

October happenings at the Granby Free Public Library

The Trial of Lizzie Borden

Thursday, Oct. 15 at 5:30 p.m.

Join Honorable Dennis J. Curran, Justice, Massachusetts Superior Court (Ret.) to discuss the famous case of Lizzie Borden! Space is limited – Sign-up!

Knitting Group

Every Wednesday afternoon at 2 p.m.

Bring your latest project and join us for conversation, tips and tricks.

Halloween Family Book Bingo

Thursday, Oct. 22 at 6

p.m.

All ages are welcome! Come play bingo to win free books and enjoy some spooky treats.

Sourdough Starter Workshop with Sourdough Brandon

Thursday, Oct. 29 at 6 p.m.

Space is limited – Sign-Up!

Friends of the Granby Library Meeting

Thursday, Oct. 22 at 4:30 p.m.

Visit our website for more information and to sign up for our programs! www.granbylibrary.org



ABOVE: Lively church parishioners showing off their taco salad talents.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY BEN HERNANDEZ

LEFT: Award-winning rabbits.

FAIR from page 1

The Belchertown Fair roots as an agricultural gathering were on full display with a wide assortment of animals presented in the pulling ring. Horse pulls featured equines both large and small as they competed for cash prizes, which centered around horse teams battling to determine who could pull the heaviest weight.

The 4-H Town Council, whose eponymous H's stand for "Head, Hearts, Hands and Health," was instrumental to the traditional events coordinated over the weekend. With their massive tent located in the fairgrounds center, the organization hosted animal husbandry based competitions, such as the popular Rabbit and Cavy show, a petting zoo and sold food under their massive tent. Volunteer leader Erin Thibault called the fair a representation of "hometown community spirit" which promoted a "family-friendly atmosphere."

"It's been a positive experience," Thibault said. "We get to help out the community, we get to help out the fair committee. We help set up tents, we promote the fair and the children that are in 4-H get to not only show off their exhibits, but they get to share their knowledge."

The Exhibit Hall near the Belchertown United Church of Christ offered a wide assortment of craft treasures and fierce competition. Participants demonstrated their skills to bring home the coveted People's Choice ribbons, while the church itself was host to a Saturday exclusive taco salad booth run by church parishioners.

The Adult People's Choice winner was Sharon Kahl-Oey, whose crocheted white and red-trimmed dress wowed attendees, with Helen Bierly taking home the Youth People's Choice award with an impressive ferret sculpture. Shannon Byrnes earned the Glenn Butler Award for their basket of home grown vegetables.

In spite of uncertain



The Ferris wheel overlooks the fair.



Attendees make their way through the campus ground filled with a selection of classic midway rides.



Surrounded by goats.

cloudy skies and heavy winds, the Belchertown Fair remained a beloved and well-attended event. With a long history dating back to

the 1800s, the fair is poised to stay a town tradition for many years to come.

"I look forward to it every year," Hibler said.

BACKYARD from page 6

outcrops, clearings, burned areas or spots with small patches of sand gravel.

The female lays six to seven eggs on a bare rock, gravel or even in lichens. Both male and female feed the young are by regurgitation usually before sunrise and after sunset. The male also feeds the female during nesting.

Sandhill crane

After writing about sand-

hill cranes, in the most recent bird column, I saw a sandhill crane in a field in Hardwick near the New Braintree line by the Ware River.

On my return, I saw a crane in a different location of the same field. I was not sure it was the same one or a different one.

Flocking Canada geese

In my travels, I saw several flocks of Canada geese. There was a small flock in New Braintree and a larger flock in a harvested corn

field in Spencer. The large flock were migrating south for the winter. I'm not sure if the smaller group summered here or not.

Wild turkeys

Wild turkeys are a familiar sight. This week I saw a hen turkey with her slightly smaller poults on a lawn in Barre. Last week I saw a small flock of Tom turkeys.

People may report a bird sighting by emailing edowner@turley.com or calling or texting 774-262-5882.



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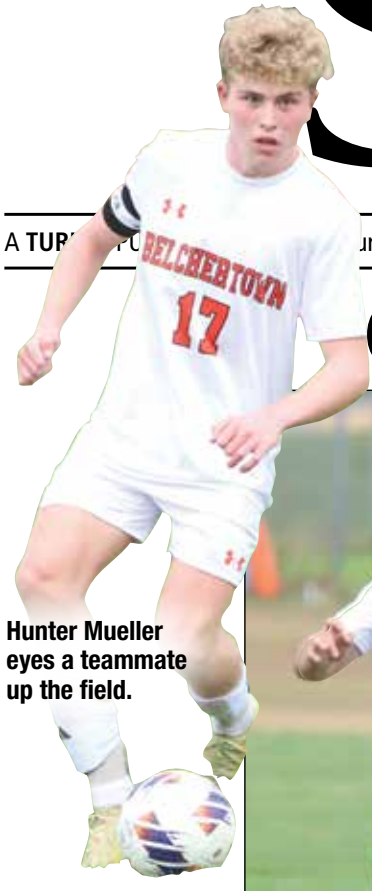
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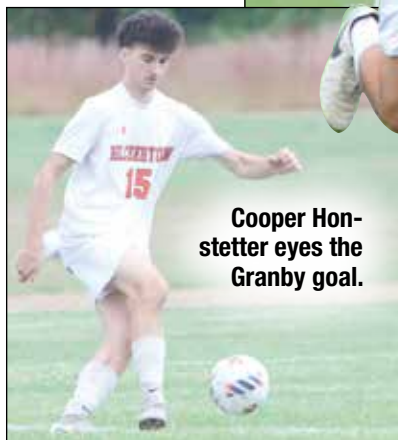
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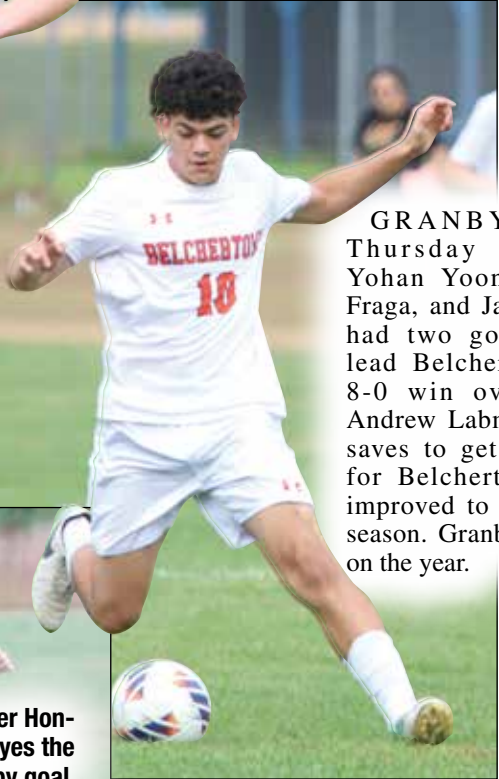
Hunter Mueller eyes a teammate up the field.



Cooper Honstetter eyes the Granby goal.



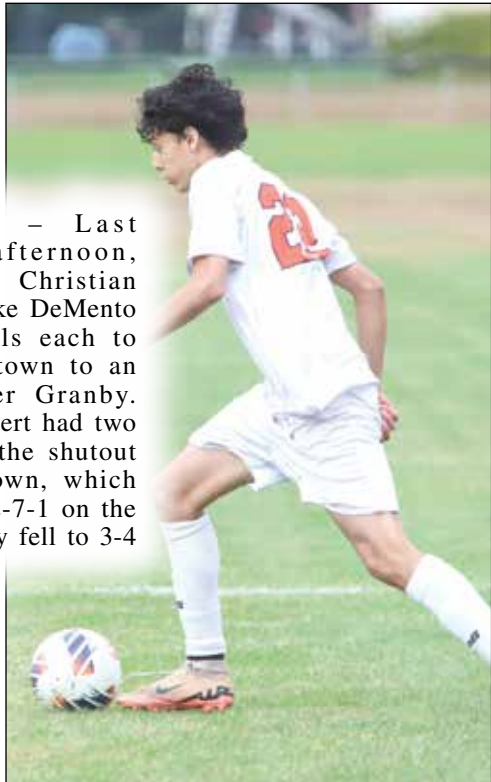
Niko Piasno nears midfield.



Matthew Almeida chases down a loose ball



Brandon Carillon pops the ball up.



Dennis Bonilla Alvarado heads up the field.



Jake DeMento takes possession of the ball and heads upfield.



Gabriel Helbok tries to settle the ball.



Gaje Carter gets ready to make a quick pass.



Christopher Gregorio starts a run up the field.



Andrew Grabher looks to clear the ball on defense.

Orioles take down rival Rams

GRANBY – Last Thursday afternoon, Yohan Yoon, Christian Fraga, and Jake DeMento had two goals each to lead Belchertown to an 8-0 win over Granby. Andrew Labmert had two saves to get the shutout for Belchertown, which improved to 2-7-1 on the season. Granby fell to 3-4 on the year.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

Conor Gallery makes a run for the Belchertown goal.



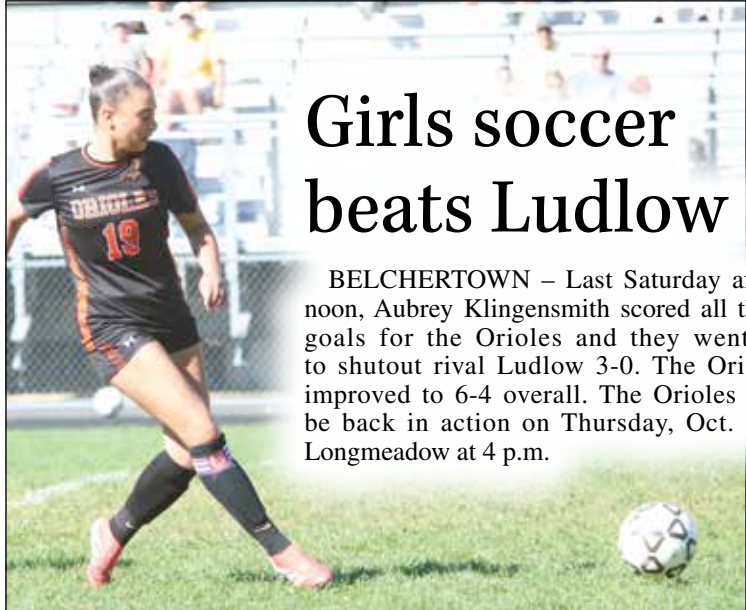
Adelina Gualberto makes a play on defense and heads up the field.



Aubrey Klingensmith is pursued by an opponent.



Gabriella Slovack fights to take over possession.



Isabella Vozzella send a pass through



Avery Cooper swoops in to steal the ball.

Girls soccer beats Ludlow

BELCHERTOWN – Last Saturday afternoon, Aubrey Klingensmith scored all three goals for the Orioles and they went on to shutout rival Ludlow 3-0. The Orioles improved to 6-4 overall. The Orioles will be back in action on Thursday, Oct. 8 at Longmeadow at 4 p.m.

Granby girls battle to draw with South Hadley

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

GRANBY—It's not often that relatives get the opportunity to coach against each other at the varsity level.

Stephen and Bob Weaver found themselves in that unique situation last Saturday morning. Stephen Weaver is just beginning his varsity coaching journey as a first-year assistant coach for the South Hadley girls' soccer team. His uncle, Bob, has been a fixture on the sidelines as Granby High School's longtime girls' soccer coach.

Both programs are accustomed to competing at a high level, so it was fitting that their first meeting since 2020 ended in a 1-1 draw on the grass soccer field at Granby High School.

"Soccer has been a big part of my family for many years starting with my grandfather (George)," said Stephen Weaver following the non-league match. "This was the first time that I coached against my uncle at any level, so it was very special day for us. I knew going in that it was going to be a hard fought battle."

The Weaver's normally talk about the other Western Mass. high school soccer

teams, but never about their own teams.

"We always talk about the other soccer teams," Bob Weaver said. "I really enjoyed coaching against Stephen for the first time in today's game. He's an outstanding coach and he knows the game very well. It would've been nice if my father was still alive to watch the game because he loved the sport of soccer."

George Weaver, who passed away in 2016, was a founding member of Aldenville Junior Athletic Club. He coached AJAC soccer teams for many years.

Last Saturday's match was added to the schedule late in the summer.

"One of our non-league opponents decided to back out at the last minute," Bob Weaver said. "South Hadley was also looking for an opponent and they called us. I'm very glad that it was played here because soccer is a little bit different game on a turf field. This was a very challenging game for us."

Both of Stephen Weaver's daughters are members of the Lady Tigers varsity soccer team.

Please see **GRANBY**, page 10



Owen Marion goes for a header.



William Wright defends against an opposing player.



Brody Wetnicka looks to settle the ball and turn play around.



Gianni Holland tries to play the loose ball.



Pioneers fall at home, but rebound with pair of wins

PALMER – Last week, Pathfinder boys soccer had a 5-1 loss at home against Southwick Regional, but rebounded to defeat Smith Vocational 2-1 and then Monson 2-0 last Friday night to improve to 7-2-1 overall on the season. The Pioneers were then off for six days before returning action on Thursday, Oct. 8 against the High School of Commerce at 4 p.m.

LEFT: Owen Pear sends a free kick up the field.



Elijah Hodge punts the ball away.

GRANBY from page 9

Mikayla Weaver is a senior tri-captain, but she didn't play against Granby because of a minor injury.

Adalyn Weaver is one of the four freshmen listed on the varsity roster.

"Before I applied for this coaching position, the first thing that I did was make sure it was okay with my daughters," said Stephen Weaver, who previously coached soccer at the youth level. "I didn't want to have a negative experience on their high school careers."

The Lady Tigers first-year varsity coach is Molly Foley, who also coached soccer at Chicopee Comp and Holyoke High School.

"We played against Molly's team's when she was coaching at both Comp and Holyoke," Bob Weaver said. "I've known her for a very long time and she's also a very good soccer coach."

It was the Lady Tigers fourth tie of the regular season.

"We really needed to win today's game, but I'm proud of the way my players battled back late in the game," Foley said. "We now have as many ties as we do wins."

South Hadley (4-1-4), who are the defending Western Mass. Class B champions, also tied Northampton (0-0), West Springfield (1-1), and Ludlow (2-2). They also suffered a 2-0 home loss to

Ludlow in the season opener.

The Lady Tigers were ranked 12th in the MIAA Division 4 power rankings, which was released on October 2. They had won five of the previous six meetings against Granby.

Both teams were members of the Central Division in 2019 and the second meeting of that season ended in a 2-2 tie.

The last time that the Lady Rams (5-0-3) celebrated a victory over the Lady Tigers was ten years ago. The final score of that match was 2-1.

The Lady Rams entered this week's action as the top ranked team in the Division 5 power rankings.

"The players never really

talk about the power rankings," Bob Weaver said. "Being number one at this point of the season doesn't mean very much."

During last Saturday's match, the Lady Tigers had a total of eight corner kicks with six of them coming before halftime.

"They're a very dangerous team on corner kicks," Bob Weaver said. "They attack the ball very well and we didn't want to give them that many corner kicks. We were lucky they didn't score any goals."

On several of South Hadley's corner kicks in the first half, senior Cara Dean had good scoring chances, but the ball didn't go into the

net past Granby senior goalie Meredith Bartosz (11 saves)

The Lady Tigers' other shots on goal during the opening half were by junior Grace Sherman, junior Hannah Haessert, junior Kelcey Zraunig, and sophomore Violet Carillon.

The momentum switched sides late in the first half.

South Hadley junior keeper Olivia Athas (6 saves) made saves on shot attempts by junior McKenna Cudworth, senior McKenna Zumbruski, freshman Margo Healy, and sophomore Marcela Tapia.

The match was still scoreless nine minutes into the second half.

That's when Granby senior Kalli White scored a break-

away goal, which was assisted by Healy, giving the home team a 1-0 advantage.

South Hadley managed to score the tying goal in the 73rd minute when freshman Jenna Sabourin, who's a starting defender, put a low shot into the back of the net, which was assisted by junior Quinn Simone.

It was Sabourin's second goal in a span of three days. She scored her first varsity goal in a 5-0 home win against Agawam.

"Jenna is able to play several different positions," Foley said. "It was her second goal of the week."

Granby couldn't retake the lead and the contest ended in a tie.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

In it together. . .

Belchertown High School's student council worked together to run a parking lot Friday and Saturday of fair weekend.

15th Annual BUCC Quilt Show & Sale set for Oct. 30 thru Nov. 1

BELCHERTOWN—Quilts will be decorating the Belchertown United Church of Christ (Congregational) located at 18 Park St. in Belchertown. Featured this year will be Red & Cheddar quilts. Many antique and new quilts to view and to buy.

The Sewing Tag Sale, featuring fabric, yarn, any kind of needlework & tools, runs through the days of the show and on into the following week.

\$5 entry fee for Show hours Oct. 30, 31 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Nov. 1 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Sewing Tag Sale Nov. from 2 - 7 p.m. hours are noon - 6 p.m. with no entry fee.

A handicapped lift is available in the parking lot side door of the church.

Questions? Email Jane at ahc60@hotmail.com.

BFD to host open house during fire prevention week

Residents invited to see equipment demonstrations, meet department members on Saturday, Oct. 10

BELCHERTOWN—The Belchertown Fire Department will host its annual Open House on Saturday, Oct. 10, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the fire station, 10 North Main Street. The event is free and open to residents of all ages.

Visitors will be able to see demonstrations of department equipment, meet mem-

bers of the Belchertown Fire Department, and enjoy refreshments.

The Open House falls on the final day of Fire Prevention Week, observed nationally October 4 through 10. This year's theme from the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), "Charge into Fire Safety: Safe Charging Is a Superpower," focuses on the everyday charging habits that help prevent lithium-ion battery fires in phones, laptops, power tools, e-bikes, and scooters.

"Our Open House is one of our favorite days of the year, and holding it during Fire Prevention Week makes it a great chance to talk with

residents about keeping their homes safe," said Fire Chief John Ingram. "Many of us charge phones, laptops, and e-bikes every day without thinking twice. We hope families will come see the trucks, meet our firefighters, and leave with a few simple habits that can make a real difference."

Fire Prevention Week is the longest-running public health observance in the United States. It is held each year during the week of October 9, the anniversary of the Great Chicago Fire of 1871.

For more information, contact the Belchertown Fire Department.

Friends of CML to hold annual meeting Oct. 15

BELCHERTOWN—Renovations in the Clapp Memorial Library base-ment are moving right along as are the Friends plans for Book Sales in 2027.

Now is your chance to get in on the action and be a part of future Book Sales.

The Friends will hold their Annual Meeting on Thursday, Oct. 15 at 7 p.m. on the main floor

of the library. They will elect several Board officers including President, Vice President, Treasurer, Recording Secretary, and Membership Secretary (each for a 2-year term) plus up to 3 at large board members (1-year terms).

Position descriptions can be found at friendsoclapp-library.org.

All are welcome to attend and be heard.

United Church to hold take-out turkey dinner

WARE – The United Church of Ware, 49 Church St., will hold a take-out turkey dinner on Monday, Oct. 19 starting at 4:30 p.m. until food runs out.

Drive up to the Church Street side of the church and a runner will take your food order and bring it to your car. The cost is \$15 per meal and includes turkey with all the fixings. For more information, people may call the church at 413-967-9981.

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, October 19, 2026 at 7:00 PM in the Town Hall Auditorium, located at 2 Jabish Street in Belchertown, MA 01007** to review a **Request for Determination of Applicability** permit application submitted by Christopher Doucette of Culpeper Wood Preservers for the **installation of a pond leveler pipe system near 255 Springfield Road (Assessor's Map 255-126) in Belchertown.** Work is proposed to occur within the 100-foot Buffer Zone to Bordering Vegetated Wetlands. Anyone interested in this matter should appear at the time and place designated.

10/08/2026

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, October 19, 2026 at 7:00 PM in the Town Hall Auditorium, located at 2 Jabish Street in Belchertown, MA 01007** to review a **Request for Determination of Applicability** permit application submitted by John Mazza for **tree removal at 316 North Washington Street (Assessor's Map 256-3.02) in Belchertown.** Work is proposed to occur within the 100-foot Buffer Zone to Bordering Vegetated Wetlands. Anyone interested in this matter should appear at the time and place designated.

10/08/2026

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Audrey G. Walker and George N. Galusha, Jr. and Beverly S. Galusha, said mortgage being dated January 13, 2014, and recorded in the Hampshire County Registry of Deeds in Book 11568, Page 80, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing, the same will be sold at Public Auction at **11:00 A.M. on Thursday, November 5, 2026**, upon the premises described in said mortgage, namely 6 South Street, Granby, Hampshire County, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:

The land in Granby, Hampshire County, Massachusetts, described as follows:

A certain lot of land known and

designated as Lot #13 (thirteen) as shown on a plan entitled "Plan of Land in the Town of Granby, Massachusetts", Hampshire County, prepared for George N. Galusha, Jr. and Beverly S. Galusha, drawn by Durkee, White, Towne and Chapdelaine, dated May 5, 2013, said plan being recorded in the Hampshire County Registry of Deeds in Book of Plans 229, Page 99.

Being the same premises conveyed to Audrey G. Walker by deed of George N. Galusha, Jr. a/k/a George Galusha a/k/a George N. Galusha and Beverly S. Galusha a/k/a Beverly Galusha, dated November 12, 2013 and recorded in said Registry in Book 11521, Page 35.

Said premises will be sold subject to and/or with the benefit of any and all rights, rights of way, restrictions, easements, improvements, covenants, outstanding tax title, municipal or other public taxes, assessments, liens or claims in the nature of liens, rights of parties in possession, and existing encumbrances of record created prior to the mortgage, if any there be, whether or not reference to such restrictions, easements, improvements, liens or encumbrances is made in the Deed.

No representations, express or implied, are made with respect to any matter concerning the premises which will be sold "as is".

The successful high bidder will be responsible for paying the Massachusetts State Documentary Tax Stamps, all closing costs and all recording fees.

TERMS OF SALE: The highest bidder in the sale shall be required to deposit cash, bank treasurer's check or certified check in the amount of **FIFTEEN THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$15,000.00)** at the time and the place of the sale of the premises to qualify as a bidder (the present holder of the mortgage is exempt from this requirement) to be held by the Mortgagee. The successful bidder will also be required to deposit an additional sum equal to ten percent (10%) of the amount bid less the \$15,000.00 deposit (but not less than \$15,000) with the Mortgagee's auctioneer, Aaron Posnik & Co., Inc., 31 Capital Drive, West Springfield, Massachusetts 01089 or the Mortgagees attorney as may be directed within five (5) days of the date of the sale to be held by the Mortgagee, and the balance of the

purchase price shall be paid in cash, certified or bank treasurer's check at the closing which shall occur within thirty (30) days after the date of foreclosure sale, time being of the essence, unless the Mortgagee agrees otherwise. The successful bidder at the sale will also be required to pay a buyer's premium of 5% and shall sign a Memorandum of Additional Terms of Sale containing the above terms at the auction sale.

In the event that the successful bidder at the public auction shall default in purchasing the within described property according to the terms of this Notice of Mortgagee's Sale and/or the terms of the Memorandum of Sale executed at the public auction, the Mortgagee reserves the right, at its election, to sell the property to the second highest bidder at the public auction provided that Mortgagee, in its discretion, may require (1) said second highest bidder to deposit the amount of the required deposit as set forth herein within three (3) business days after written notice to the second highest bidder of the default of the previous highest bidder, (2) the second highest bidder to execute a Memorandum of Sale, and (3) the closing to occur within twenty (20) days of said written notice, time being of the essence unless the Mortgagee agrees otherwise. The Mortgagee reserves the right to sell any parcel or any portion thereof separately, or in any order that Mortgagee may choose and/or to postpone this sale to a later time or date by public proclamation at the time and date appointed for the sale and to further postpone any adjourned sale date by public proclamation at the time and date appointed for the adjourned sale date.

Other terms, if any, to be announced at the time and place of the sale.

The description for the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication.

Florence Bank
f/k/a Florence Savings Bank
Present Holder of said Mortgage
By: /s/ Francis R. Mirkin
Francis R. Mirkin, Its Attorney
BACON WILSON, P.C.
33 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
413-781-0560
10/08, 10/15, 10/22/2026

OBITUARY

Jeanne M. Boulais

BELCHERTOWN—Jeanne M. Boulais, 77, passed away on Sept. 26, 2026, at Christophers Heights. She was born in Lee, Massachusetts, on July 7, 1949, to the late Fernand "Andy" A. and Caroline J. (Auld) Coderre.



Jeanne was raised in Lee, MA and after graduating from high school, she followed her mother's footsteps attending Framingham State University, where she earned her bachelor's degree in Home Economics. Jeanne began her teaching career at Chicopee Comprehensive High School, where she taught from 1972 to 1976 and ultimately where she met her husband, Ray. She had lived in Chicopee and Holyoke prior to relocating to Belchertown in 1980.

After her teaching career, Jeanne worked as an insurance agent for Bell & Hudson Insurance, from which she eventually retired.

Jeanne had a creative spirit and a love for mak-

ing things beautiful. She was a wonderful cook and enjoyed sewing, crafting, and selling her crafts at local craft fairs.

Besides her parents, Jeanne was predeceased by her beloved husband, Raymond Charles Boulais (2003); and her daughter, Adrienne M. Boulais (2020).

She leaves behind her daughter, Christine J. Boulais of Chicopee, who wishes to thank the staff of Christopher Heights for taking care of Jeanne in her final years.

Calling hours will be held on Thursday, Oct. 8 from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. at Beers & Story Belchertown Funeral Home. A funeral service will be held on Friday at 10:00 a.m. at the funeral home. Burial will immediately follow at South Cemetery in Belchertown.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society in Jeanne's memory.

DEATH NOTICES

Michael F. Dashnaw
Died March 23, 2026
Services were held at St. Barnabas Anglican Church, Belchertown

Jeanne M. Boulais
Died Sept. 26, 2026
Services Oct. 8, 2026
Beers & Story 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.

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- 1 Email all notices to notices@turley.com
- 2 Access archives and digital tear sheets by newspaper title.
- 3 Find a quick link to the state of Massachusetts' public notice web site to search all notices in Massachusetts newspapers.

Public notice deadlines are Friday at 3 p.m.

visit www.publicnotices.turley.com

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.

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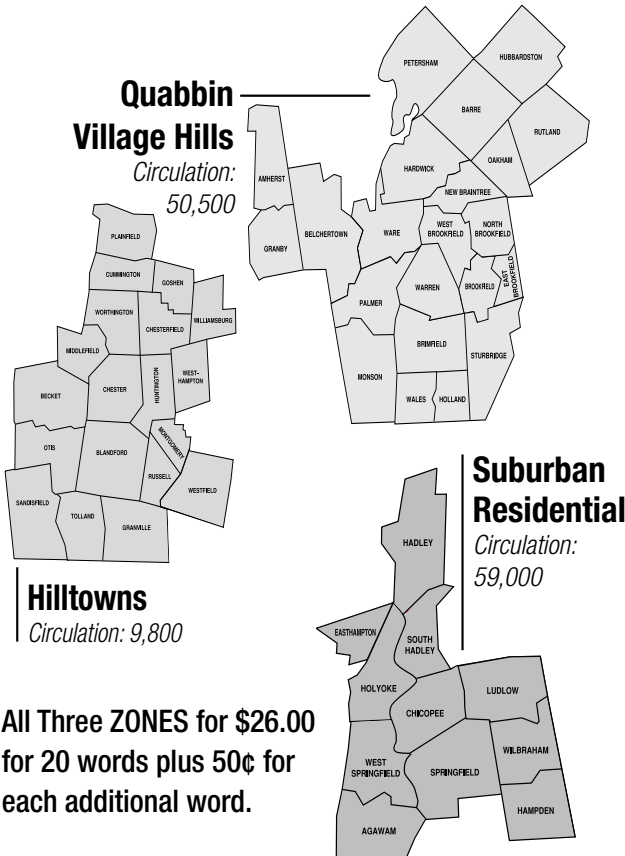
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■ PUBLIC SAFETY

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 Sept. 19, through Oct. 1. The information was provided by a member of the police department based on the review of the detailed log summary. This feature is designed to provide context and explanation to some of the calls police respond to every day.

ARRESTS/SUMMONS

Saturday, Sept. 19
A 42-year-old Ware man was issued a summons on charges of operating after a subsequent offense and operating without license. An officer responded to Franklin Street following a report of a motorcycle crash. The operator injured their foot in the crash. An off-duty police officer resided on the street was able to render assistance. An off-duty state trooper was in the area as well. The operator said they took a corner but hit the curb, losing their balance and ultimately crashing. The officer found the person's license was suspended and they didn't have a motorcycle license. The person was transported to the hospital. A criminal complaint was mailed to the person.

Wednesday, Sept. 23
12:47 p.m. – Caitlin Barbara McGuire, 32, of 42 South Liberty Street, Belchertown, was arrested on a warrant. An officer was made aware by a probation officer for a default warrant on the suspect. The person was placed into custody and transported to court.

Friday, Sept. 25
11:5 1p.m. – A 22-year-old Three Rivers man was issued a summons on charges of leaving the scene of property damage/accident and negligent operation of a motor vehicle. An officer responded to Railroad Street for a report of a damaged vehicle that fled towards Three Rivers. The officer spoke with nearby residents who had property damage. The vehicle went across their grass and struck a rock wall. The residents saw a truck behind the building was the vehicle matching the description. Officers requested Palmer Police respond as well. The woman said the vehicle belonged to their child, and it was registered to him. The person then came to the door. They admitted they were driving at the time of the accident, and the operation was at an unsafe speed.

Sunday, Sept. 27
10:02 a.m. – A 22-year-old Southbridge male for speeding, registration not in possession, operation with suspended license and no inspection sticker. An officer monitor traffic on bay saw vehicle speeding estimated 50 mph radar displayed 49 in a 35-mph zone. It was stopped. An inquiry showed the vehicle had an active registration and a suspended license. dispatch confirmed and it had no inspection sticker on the vehicle wasn't aware of the situation. A criminal complaint was issued a friend drove the vehicle.

Tuesday, Sept. 29
5:39 p.m. – A 48-year-old Granby male was issued a summons on charges of speeding, reckless operation of a motor vehicle, failure to stop for police and failure to keep right of an obstructed view/hill. An officer on patrol was advised a motor vehicle on Route 202 going into Granby and possibly toward Belchertown person who was wanted for assault of two people in South Hadley. The officer was advised the operator struck a motorcyclist in Granby. More information was provided about the identity of the operator. Granby Police were going to try to find the owner of the vehicle. Granby Police reported an officer was almost struck by the suspect then who was going toward

Stebbins Street. The officer located the vehicle on George Hannum Road. They were able to see the operator pass a vehicle on a very narrow road with a curve. There was a hidden curve sign before it. The vehicle went around the corner, and the officer lost sight of it. The officer later found the same truck on Carriage Drive and then the vehicle took a left on State Street. The vehicle was speeding and there were concerns about people who were out walking on Cottage Drive. The vehicle was abandoned and the operator ran into the woods in Ware. The person was later located and the vehicle was towed. An immediate threat was filed on the person's license.

ACCIDENTS/INCIDENTS

Friday, Sept. 18
7:02 p.m. – An officer spoke to a resident about an excavator that was taken onto their property that caused damage. The person wanted it documented.

Saturday, Sept. 19
10:30 a.m. – An officer spoke with a resident about fraud claims. The person was contacted by a scammer portraying the person's bank and went over transactions with the person. The person also gave personal information to the caller. There was no loss on their accounts. They made a notification to their credit card company.
4 p.m. – An officer responded with Belchertown Fire paramedics to a Federal Street residence to complete a well-being check on the person. They were transported to the hospital.

Sunday, Sept. 20
12:16 p.m. – An officer to responded to Depot Street for a report of found property.

1:11 p.m. – An officer dispatched to a residence for a report of two people arguing. One of the two people was having a mental health crisis and walked away from the property. Belchertown Fire department also responded, and it was determined to be a verbal dispute. They were evaluated. The officer said it was only a verbal argument, and nothing physical occurred. A person was transported to the hospital.
5:13 p.m. – An officer and Belchertown Fire Department responded to a residence for a report of juvenile who took large amount of prescription medications to self-harm. They were transported to the hospital.

Monday, Sept. 21
12:29 p.m. – An officer responded to a George Hannum Road parking lot for a report of a vehicle that struck a tree. A pickup truck parked between two handicapper spots struck a tree. A person reported the driver shouldn't be driving anymore. A witness saw the truck leave the paved parking lot, go up and over an island and into a tree. The operator told

the officer they didn't know how it happened. An immediate threat was filed on the person's license.

6:14 p.m. – An officer pulled into the lot behind the Belchertown Day School and witnessed juveniles running into the woods near the trailers and carnival rides. The officer believed the teens were trespassing on the former Belchertown State School property to vandalize the equipment and rides. Later, the officer saw six to eight juveniles in a parking lot. There was a dark colored SUV the officer saw and spoke to the operator. They said they were picking up their son. The person said they had no idea what happened. The children said they didn't do anything but sit on the carnival rides. They were identified and released to their parents/guardians.
8:40 p.m. – An officer responded to a North Main Street residence concerning about a neighbor dispute. One resident had a sensor light and cameras facing the other resident's direction. It was reported the light and camera kept the resident up at night. The matter was documented. Each resident was told how to get harassment order.

Wednesday, Sept. 23
1:53 p.m. – An officer took a report that a storage unit was broken into sometime over the winter. There were missing stolen and damage items. The person was going to get an itemized list of the stolen goods. The matter is under investigation.

Thursday, Sept. 24
9:18 a.m. – An officer took a debit card in the lobby. The card belonged to a Ware resident that didn't have a current phone number. The officer was told the person spoke with their bank already and got a new card. The card was entered into property to be destroyed.

10:40 a.m. – An officer took a report of a person who got into an argument with the father of one of their children. The argument occurred over the phone. They did not wish to speak with an officer any further.
12:51 p.m. – An officer got Jeep car keys someone dropped off. They were entered into property.
1:40 p.m. – An officer responded to a North Main Street residence for a verbal dispute between neighbors. The other person left the scene.
4:57 p.m. – An officer took a report of fraud. The person said they got an alert that purchases were made at various locations in the eastern part of the Commonwealth. They were already in contact with their bank and filed a fraud report. The matter was documented.
9:07 p.m. – An officer working the fireworks detail was given a phone by a group of juveniles. Then later the owner came to the station to retrieve it.

9:12 p.m. – An officer to respond a North Main Street residence for a report of neighbor issues. They were cleaning out a residence and left a box in the common hallway. A neighbor yelled at them, took the box and put it on their car.

Friday, Sept. 25
2:08 p.m. – A person attending the fair reported their vehicle was backed into by another vehicle causing damage to it. The offending person left and was traveling North Main Street around the common. The person said their vehicle was parked at the time of the accident.
3:49 p.m. – An officer responded to State Street for an accident. A vehicle going eastbound on State Street off the road to right, striking and dislodging a sign. The vehicle went back into the roadway before going off the road into a swampy area. The vehicle was towed from the scene. No injuries were reported.
4:41 p.m. – An officer working the fair detail found a van parked in a no parking area. A tow company was contacted to remove the vehicle.
9:17 p.m. – An officer took a report of vandalism/property damage. An officer responded to Maple Street around Howard Street for a report of damage to the rear of a vehicle. It appeared someone tried to break the rear window. There was damage to rear passenger window. The person said they parked around 7:15 p.m.

10:21 p.m. – An officer responded to Belchertown High School for a report of juveniles on the roof of the school. The School Resource Officer got the call and upon their arrival saw three juveniles were on bicycles. The juveniles were seen on the roof and instructed to come down. The principal was contacted. The juvenile said they climbed onto the roof to see the stars, and they understood it was not a good idea. The guardians were notified and the School Resource Officer would handle future action.
10:21 p.m. – An officer took a report of vandalism and property damage. The officer responded to a residence for a report of a vandalized motor vehicle. There was profanity keyed into the car. The matter is under investigation.

Saturday, Sept. 26
8:54 a.m. – An officer responded to assist Belchertown Fire paramedics.
12:59 p.m. – An officer took a report of a past road rage incident where firearm was possibly brandished. The operator said they were going north on North Washington Street when the person in front of them began to break check them and was driving slowly. The person then passed the vehicle which had turned on lights on top of the vehicle in the area of the underpass. As they were passing, the operator said they thought the person in the other vehicle brandished a firearm. They

gave the person a thumbs up then put up their phone to call police. A be on the lookout warning was put out for the other vehicle. Warren Police were contacted after it was found that the registration came back to a Warren resident. The officer got the other operator's contact information and spoke with them. They said the vehicle behind them was tailgating them and driving aggressively. They were holding their phone at the time of the incident, not a gun.
2:39 p.m. – An officer took a report of a fight on Main Street. There was a man on the ground who had multiple cuts and was bleeding. The other person had a red and swollen face. Belchertown Fire paramedics were contacted but both people refused to get checked out. They said they were friends.
3:28 p.m. – Officers and Belchertown Fire Department responded to Federal Street for a motor vehicle that struck a fence and the operator left the scene in an unknown vehicle. People reported they saw the vehicle in the lane, but the person left in another vehicle. The person was identified. They lost the tire on the truck which went rolling and then struck a fence that was in a front yard. They told the officer a friend lived nearby and would help them fix the fence. No charges were pressed.

Sunday, Sept. 27
3:39 a.m. – An officer took a report of an abandoned vehicle on Chauncey Walker Road left on side of the road. There was no registration plate or VIN. The boat registration sticker it was defaced. There was a hull ID number. Further investigation revealed that one sticker was from 2004 from Rhode Island. The officer located an expired saltwater fishing license belonging to someone in Rhode Island. Environmental Police in Massachusetts and Rhode Island were also contacted. During the day shift, an officer contacted a person in Maine who a possible owner. The boat has not been claimed.

2:09 p.m. – An officer responded to a residence for a report of an aggressive person who punched someone there. Belchertown Fire paramedics were contacted.

Monday, Sept. 28
6:57 a.m. – An officer responded to multiple calls reporting a pickup truck struck a pole. A vehicle going east on South Street tried to turn right and lost control. The vehicle went off the right side of the road then to gain control, went left and into a pole. The pole split in half and fell on the vehicle. The person was able to exit without injury. The vehicle was towed from the scene.

Tuesday, Sept. 29
7:32 a.m. – A report of a juvenile slapped another juvenile in the face while at a State Street business. It was forwarded to the School

Resource Officer.
8:58 a.m. – A person who lost a bank card came to station to get it.
12:19 p.m. – An officer took a report of two fraud charges on their checking account. One of them was in Belchertown and the other was in Chicopee. Then they called back and got their credit card statement. They didn't know the account or the bill and didn't apply for it. There was a credit account open in their name without their consent.
1:23 p.m. – An officer took a report of surveyor that caused damage to a person's shrubs.

Wednesday, Sept. 30
7:54 a.m. – An officer responded to assist Belchertown Fire paramedics.
8:08 a.m. – An officer responded to a two-vehicle crash on Franklin Street. Two vehicles going north crashed after the vehicle in front slowed to turn into a driveway. The operator of the second vehicle was distracted and struck the first. One vehicle was able to park in the driveway, and the other was towed from the scene. No injuries were reported.
9:55 a.m. – A person reported a past assault and battery in the school. The victim wished to speak with the School Resource Officer about their options.
3:12 p.m. – An officer responded to a report of damage to a vehicle in the old town hall parking lot. A vehicle parked in a parking lot was struck by an unknown object. There was a baseball sized dent in the vehicle. There are no suspects at this time.
5:06 p.m. – An officer took a report of a neighbor violated a harassment prevention order. The officer spoke with the other person. The incident was documented. Security footage was provided.
5:51 p.m. – An officer responded to a domestic event involving a parent and child.

Thursday, Oct. 1
7 a.m. – An officer responded to a vehicle crash on Maple Street. A vehicle going eastbound on Main Street and Jabish Street was struck in the intersection by a second vehicle. Both vehicles were towed and no injuries were reported.
2:47 p.m. – An officer responded to South Liberty Street for a report of a roof contractor who fell off a roof with 40-foot drop. Belchertown Fire Department was contacted. The person was transported to the hospital via helicopter.
5 p.m. – An officer responded to North Main Street for a possible harassment order violation.
6:38 p.m. – An officer took a report of a noise complaint from an Everett Ave residence. There was a person banging on their ceiling directly above other residents. They were advised how to get harassment prevention orders.

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