

Lake Wallace *hosts very first and successful Fall Fest*

By Emily-Rose Pappas
Staff Writer
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BELCHERTOWN — Lake Wallace is a beloved spot to not just residents of Belchertown, but also Springfield, Holyoke, Wilbraham, Granby, Palmer, and beyond.

The Lake is fitted with beautiful scenery and several trails and a new Sensory Trail that is accessible to all who would like to experience it. The stunning scenery was made to be admired, and the people do, whether it's to attend a Critter Sampling event, or just to spend some time admiring the nature for a pleasant solo walk.

Over the weekend, the Friends of Lake Wallace put together, for the first time, a special Fall Fest to celebrate the beauty of the Lake and the community as a whole.



Marley Winship with her handmade body care items, photos that won the Lake Wallace photo contest, and her blue ribbon from the Fair.

Please see **FALL FEST**, page 8

Pathfinder unveils expansion plan

By Abigail McCoy
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PALMER—Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical High School is preparing for what local

“I believe in the power of career technical education. The demand is through the roof, and we need more capacity. This expansion will allow us to deliver that without raising local taxes.”

— SUPT. ERIC DUDA

leaders are calling the most significant expansion in the school's history; one that could add up to 150 new seats, create multiple new programs, and help close the skills gap across Western Massachusetts.

During an announcement held at the school's

restaurant on Friday, Oct. 3, Superintendent Eric Duda and his administrative team outlined plans to acquire and repurpose the Cold Spring School in Belchertown, which is scheduled to close in 2026. The move would allow Pathfinder to increase capacity, launch new programs, and ensure that students from all nine member towns have access to career and technical education.

“This is personal,” said Duda, a Pathfinder graduate who has served as teacher, principal, and now superintendent in his 19 years at the school. “I believe in

Please see **PATHFINDER**, page 11

Belchertown seeks fiscal stability in STM warrant

By Melina Bourdeau
Correspondent

BELCHERTOWN — The Selectboard finalized warrant articles for the upcoming Oct. 27 Special Town Meeting, focusing on budget adjustments and administrative housekeeping that aim to address the town's recent

financial challenges.

Town Administrator Steve Williams presented six primary warrant articles during Monday's Selectboard meeting, with a central focus on mitigating a significant health insurance deficit that has strained municipal finances.

The first four articles address financial manage-

ment and transfers between municipal accounts. Williams detailed budget reductions totaling \$68,100 for town departments and \$244,348.80 for schools.

“We're spreading the reductions so we wouldn't impact anyone significantly,” Williams said.

Specific departmental

reductions include:

- Police Department: \$7,300 in wages and \$70,000 in expenses
- Belchertown High School pool expenses: \$8,650
- DPW: \$5,000 in hired services and tree removal
- Fire Department: \$18,150 in wages
- Lakes expense budget:

\$9,000

- Library expenses: \$1,500
- Senior center wages: \$1,500

The town will also draw from multiple financial sources to address the health insurance shortfall, including:

- \$100,000 from the over-lay account
- \$110,000 from general

insurance accounts

- \$325,028 from the Stabilization Fund
- \$50,000 from the reserve fund

An additional article seeks to transfer a 2.2-acre parcel of land to municipal ownership. Williams noted this

Please see **STM**, page 3

Local brings a love for yoga to the community- with puppies

By Emily-Rose Pappas
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BELCHERTOWN — Yoga is a grounding exercise that helps people to not only find peace through its various movements and steps, but also enjoyment.

Brent Walton, known affectionately as the High Five Guy, has always had a love for fitness, and did CrossFit in 2013.

“I loved it but it was tough on my body so I was looking for something to counteract that so I thought Yoga would do the trick,” said Walton.

He began yoga classes in October of 2013, and went to a class in December of that year where the instructor asked, “What is your 10-year plan? What are you doing today to make that a reality?” And those questions are what spurred him on to take on an instructor's role himself.

“I always wanted to be a fitness instructor, but I never took action so it really resonated with me,” said Walton.

He went on to take a yoga teacher training course at



Brent Walton with 12-month-old little Sonic and Zelda.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

the University of Utah, and took another training at Salt Lake Power Yoga in 2016, as well as a meditation

teacher training in India in 2018 where he met his

Please see **YOGA**, page 7



The Silver Rays swim team at the pool.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

Swim team ready for new season

By Emily-Rose Pappas
Staff Writer
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BELCHERTOWN — The summer may be over, but swimming isn't. For the Silver Rays Swim Team, it's the core of everything they do and love to do.

“I love that we are engaging a demographic in town that is hungry to reclaim their health. I love that swimming provides lifelong health management and provides purpose and goal

setting for all people,” said Coach Geoff Gould.

The swim team meets on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 6:15 to 7:15 a.m. with Sunday practices at 5:30 p.m., so that the week ends on Sunday, and mornings begin with swimming and exercise.

“I am so thrilled that we have been able to create a safe, fun, and challenging environment for swimmers of every skill level in our pool at CHCS,” said Gould. “We have people

learning strokes for the first time, swimming next to Iron Man Athletes and National swim champions. They are all Silver Rays, and they are all fully supported by a pool of like-minded community members. I love that we're the best-kept secret in Belchertown.”

Coach Gould also works as the music teacher at Swift River Elementary, and has spent his life adventuring towards new heights,

Please see **SWIM TEAM**, page 5

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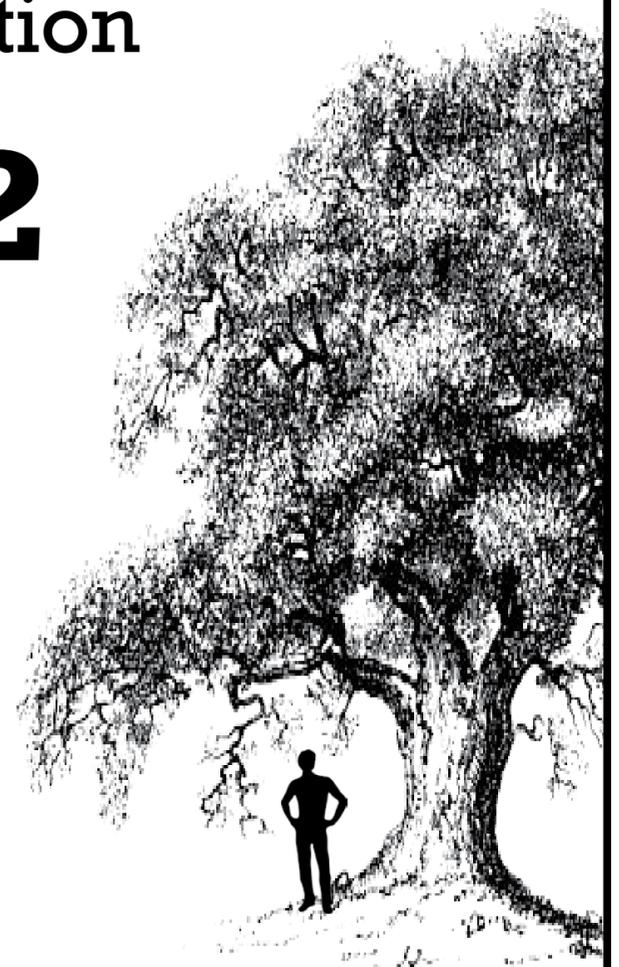
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COMMUNITY

Building Up Belchertown 2025 Cohort celebration

October 9 from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. at Arcpoint Brewing Co.

BELCHERTOWN – The Town of Belchertown and Amherst Area Chamber of Commerce are pleased to announce the Building Up Belchertown 2025 Cohort members and celebration event. Together, we have forged a partnership to support local small businesses through the Building Up Belchertown 2025 Cohort businesses receive one year of Chamber membership at no cost-jointly underwritten by the Town of Belchertown and Amherst Area Chamber-gaining access to valuable resources, networking events, and promotional opportunities.

We are pleased to announce the Building Up Belchertown 2025 Cohort Members and celebrate the cohort and growing Chamber membership among Belchertown businesses. Please join us in congratulating the Building Up Belchertown 2025 Cohort at our upcoming celebration on Thursday, October 9, from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. at Arcpoint Brewing Co., 30 Front Street, Belchertown, MA. A full description of each of the 10 new Belchertown members follows.

Arcpoint Brewing Co. is a veteran-owned micro-

brewery and taproom where drinks are brewed with tenacity and poured with purpose.

Belchertown Veterinary Hospital is a full-service hospital that performs wellness visits, same-day sick pet appointments, surgeries, and more for cats, dogs, and all exotic animals.

Clay Mates is a paint-your-own pottery and ceramics studio where both kids and adults can explore the shelves, select projects to paint, and unleash their creativity to design a unique masterpiece.

Cold Spring Investments serves families and businesses as their fiduciary long-term planner, providing a comprehensive approach to wealth planning, risk management, tax efficiency, and estate planning.

Devon Lane Farm Supply offers 60 years of experience in the farm and outdoor equipment industry and carries a full offering of equipment from brands that customers trust.

Freetide Creative helps business owners grow and elevate their branding through social media management, content creation, and photography.

Grace Aesthetics and Wellness is committed to fostering a sense of well-being and rejuvenation by providing cutting-edge aes-



SUBMITTED PHOTO

thetic treatments and nurturing wellness services that enhance both inner and outer beauty.

Innovate Culture Lab, LLC helps create workplace cultures that are inspiring, aligned, and built to last through culture design, communications strategy, and change management expertise.

Shattuck's Sugarhouse is a small family-operated sugarhouse located in a quiet wooded area next to Jabish Brook, offering maple products year-round, including maple syrup, maple cream, and maple candy.

Soundscape Merchandise is a family-owned and operated print shop that provides screen printing and embroidery services, as well

as promotional products, to a wide range of clientele both locally and across the country.

Building Up Belchertown 2025 members get strong support for their small businesses and access to marketing opportunities through the Amherst Area Chamber of Commerce. These programs help grow the local economy, build connections between business owners, and make Belchertown's business community stronger. In 2021, the town created the Belchertown Local Rapid Recovery Plan to focus on growing the economy using local strengths. One key idea in the plan was to use federal recovery money to help small businesses join groups like the Amherst Area Chamber.

"The Town of Belchertown is leaning into the relationships between resi-

dents to build a network of small businesses that can both receive Amherst Area Chamber member benefits and also collectively represent Belchertown within the Chamber, a regional body," shared Steve Williams, Town Manager. "Our partnership with the Amherst Area Chamber embodies our strategy for expanding local resources and visibility through modest investments in high-impact support programs to serve local businesses in coordination with like-minded entities. We aim to grow these offerings and our partnership with the Chamber, proven through on-going joint activities towards sustainable economic growth and development." The Amherst Area Chamber has been an important partner to the Town of Belchertown in realizing economic development goals, both through the Building Up Belchertown program and other small business engagement programs.

"The Building Up Belchertown program shows the power of partnership in action," said Jacob Robinson, Executive Director of the Amherst Area Chamber of Commerce. "By working together with the Town of Belchertown to introduce ten new local businesses to the Chamber, we're strengthening local connections while also supporting economic growth and long-term vitality in Belchertown."

In 2023, the Amherst Area Chamber of Commerce and

the Town of Belchertown teamed up to help local businesses. Our goals were to give more attention to current and new Belchertown businesses, help local business owners connect with each other and others in the area, and offer more support to help businesses grow and attract new ones to town.

By the end of 2024, the Chamber and the Town made this partnership official. We've expanded from simply promoting events to launching a local business networking event and starting the Building Up Belchertown membership program.

Today, the Town and Chamber continue to support each other on economic projects, like creating a local brand, improving signs around town (wayfinding), and promoting tourism. Together, we can ensure a thriving Belchertown that is sustainable and supportive to small businesses.

About Amherst Area Chamber of Commerce

The mission of the Amherst Area Chamber of Commerce is to create, maintain and promote a vital, thriving business climate throughout the Amherst area and to initiate and support the civic, educational, recreational and economic well-being of the Amherst Area. Serving the towns of Amherst, Belchertown, Hadley, Leverett, Pelham, Shutesbury, and Sunderland.

STM from page 1

property has been oddly parceled out and not previously transferred, potentially impacting grant opportunities for local organizations like the Little League.

"We want to get this property transferred so they can apply for grants," Williams said.

Another warrant article aims to clarify town bylaws regarding the town manager's appointment authority, specifically for the finance committee. The proposed change would allow finance committee members to serve on other committees, addressing volunteer recruitment challenges.

"We struggle to get volunteers," Williams said.

A significant proposed bylaw to establish a Housing Trust was ultimately removed from the warrant after extensive board discussion. Selectboard members expressed concerns about

potential administrative burdens and lack of clear implementation details.

Board member Nicole Miner articulated reservations about the sudden appearance of the Housing Trust article.

"I just feel like it just magically appeared right at the 11th hour of a special town meeting," she said.

Selectboard Chair Lesa Lessard Pearson, who had been instrumental in developing the Housing Trust concept, agreed to postpone the article. The proposal originated from a year-long process with Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, targeting vulnerable populations' housing needs through the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness grant program.

Lessard Pearson said the bylaw would establish a Housing Trust to address problems with people who own property and have a connection between the climate and people's living sit-

uations.

"The bylaw would set up the structure for the entity... It includes things like how many members...the powers of the Board of Trustees," Lessard Pearson said. "It gives it structure without defining what the actual work would be."

She said the funding is coming from grant money and trustee members would be volunteers. She said once the bylaw passes, the town can apply for up to \$3 million.

Selectboard member Jonathan Ritter expressed significant reservations about adding responsibilities to town employees.

"We keep giving him more work, more work," Ritter said, worried about the potential burden on Williams.

Williams replied and said if the bylaw got moving that it would be a priority to him. He "didn't want (his) workload to be the showstopper

on this."

The board unanimously decided to delay the Housing Trust bylaw until a future town meeting, with members requesting more comprehensive information and community education about the proposal.

Lessard Pearson said the bylaw would be proposed again in the spring.

The final warrant article, submitted by the fire department, seeks to strengthen safety reporting requirements, though specific details were not extensively discussed during the meeting.

Williams emphasized the collaborative approach to addressing the financial challenges, particularly the health insurance deficit.

"We haven't just sat back," Williams said. "We're covering all of our bases and monitoring the situation very carefully."

Library Fall Book Sale Oct. 13-18

BELCHERTOWN – The Friends of Clapp Memorial Library in Belchertown are having their Fall Book Sale October 13-18, 2025. With over 40,000 books for sale, hundreds of puzzles, thousands of CDs, DVDs, LPs, and more, this will be their biggest sale yet. Most hardcover books are \$2 each, and the softcover books are \$1 each. Puzzles, CDs, and LPs are \$1 each. We also offer special editions and like-new books, which are priced accordingly. Our books are sorted in various categories, including animal/nature/gardening, art/music, biography, cookbooks, fashion, fiction, health & medical, history, how-to, non-fiction, poetry/plays/classics, religion, and philosophy.

We also have several hundred children's books, some as low as \$0.50 each.

Hours are as follows:
Members Only: Monday, October 13, from 4 to 8 p.m. - Memberships can be purchased at the door on Monday night.

Tuesday, October 14 to Friday, October 17, from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Friday Only - 25% off for seniors (60+)**

Saturday, October 18, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. 50% off for everyone**

**Note: There are some rare and collectible books that will not be discounted on Friday or Saturday.

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Belchertown Select Board announces board/committee vacancies

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

All vacancies are posted until filled.

The Town wishes to fill the following vacancies:

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

Belchertown Buildings & Grounds Committee: The Town wishes to fill one (1) full real estate member seat and one (1) associate member seat on the Belchertown Buildings and Grounds Committee. The committee will advise the Town and the Select Board on funding opportunities for maintaining and developing Town buildings that fit the guidelines of repurpose and/or renovation to benefit the local economy and population as well as advising on historical and

cultural development opportunities. Expertise with real estate/architecture, grant writing, or historical experience to strengthen the skill set of the committee is highly preferred.

Belchertown Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Task Force: The Town of Belchertown is looking to fill a vacancy on the Belchertown Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Task Force. The focus of the Task Force is to develop a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Statement for the Select Board to review and to consider adopting, to seek out opportunities to acknowledge and/or celebrate the diversity within our own community and to welcome the whole to community to join in, and to offer suggestions on how the town addresses specific or potential acts of violence, including hate speech, should such acts arise in our community, region or state. Efforts should be made to include voices from the community or communities that are directly affected. Partnership opportunities with surrounding towns to strengthen regional or state efforts might also be explored. This is a seven-member committee to include: A representative from law enforcement, a representative from Town Hall, and five community members representing diversity in one or more of the following areas: racial and ethnic backgrounds, social positions with respect to gender identity and sexual orientation, social positions with respect to disability, and age groups and prior vocational experiences. All are encouraged to apply.

Board of Assessors: The Town of Belchertown is looking to fill a vacancy on the Board of Assessors. This recently vacated position will be appointed in accordance with the provisions outlined in MGL Chapter 41, Section 11, by a joint appointment of the Board of Assessors and Select Board. The appointed individual will fill the seat's remaining term and shall perform the duties of the office until the next annual election in May 2026. The applicant must be a registered voter in the Town of Belchertown.

In accordance with MCL Chapter 59, Section 21, the Assessors shall assess all taxes duly certified to them and perform all necessary duties as defined in MGL Chapter 59. Some of the duties include the classification and valuation of all real and personal property, along with setting the tax rate each fiscal year.

For further information, contact Jay Whelihan, Director of Assessments, at 323-0413, jwhelihan@belchertown.org, or Steve Williams, Town Manager, at 323-0403.

Capital Improvement Planning Committee: Belchertown is seeking two (2) residents with demonstrated knowledge of construction, facility maintenance, fleet management, architecture, engineering, or a related field to fill a full member seat.

Communications Committee: The Communications Committee is seeking a new full member to help shape how our town shares information and connects with the community. This committee works closely with the

Communications Manager, BCTV Director, IT Director, and Town Manager to support clear, effective, and inclusive communication across all departments. Whether it's advising on public messaging, supporting digital outreach, or helping shape the future of how the town communicates, your voice matters here. We're looking for individuals with experience in communications, social media, and or digital strategy. We're especially interested in those with a background or working knowledge in artificial intelligence, as your expertise could help us explore and guide the responsible use of AI in local government.

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

Historic District By-Law Commission: The Town wishes to fill a member Real Estate seat on the Historic District By-Law Commission. The Commission has regulatory control over new construction, reconstruction, alterations, movements, and demolition of all exterior architectural features of buildings and structures with-

in the Historic District which are visible from any public street, public way, or public park.

Pioneer Valley Transit Authority Advisory Board: The Town is seeking an individual to represent and serve as a Liaison to the Town of Belchertown on the PVTA Advisory Board. Interested individuals should have the time and desire to attend respective meetings in Springfield and periodically review the PVTA's services to the Town and its contiguous communities.

Quaboag Valley Business Assistance Corporation (QVBAC) / Quaboag Valley Community Development Corporation (QVDC) Board Member: The Town is seeking an individual to represent and serve as a Liaison to the Town of Belchertown on the QVBAC to bring the concerns of Belchertown's residents and small business community forward to ensure that the services provided by the QVBAC/QVDC are in line with the town's needs. The board member also helps disseminate information from the QVBAC board to Belchertown's residents and small business community, especially when there is a particular program or initiative they'd benefit from. While no business acumen is required, an interest in and or connections with Belchertown's small business community would be advantageous. Enthusiasm for Belchertown and the ability to determine and communicate the interests of its residents are the most important qualifications. For more information

about the Quaboag Valley Community Development Corporation and the Quaboag Valley Business Assistance Corporation, please visit www.qvdc.org.

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

Veterans' Services Advisory Board (VSAB): The Town is looking to fill two (2) vacancies on the VSAB. The Board works closely with the Town's Veterans' Agent on issues pertaining to veterans to include but not limited to Veterans Day and Memorial Day ceremonies, war memorials, veterans' graves or any other related areas of concern.

Zoning Board of Appeals: The Town wishes to fill one (1) opening for a full member seat and two (2) openings for associate member seats on the Zoning Board of Appeals. The ZBA is responsible for hearing and deciding on applications for Special Permits, Variances, and Appeals from decisions of the Zoning Enforcement Officer/Building Inspector.

Massachusetts continues to offer significant EV incentives as Federal incentives end

BELCHERTOWN – Many potential electric vehicle (EV) buyers may be aware that the federal tax credit of up to \$7,500 ended on September 30th, 2025. While this certainly reduces the discounts for some EVs for some buyers, it is important to remember that the State of Massachusetts still offers significant incentives

through their Massachusetts Offers Rebates for Electric Vehicles (MOR-EV) program. This program offers potential rebates between \$3,500 - \$6,000 on an EV, with rebates for used EVs as well as for new EVs. The rebate must be applied for within 90 days of purchasing or leasing the vehicle and the rebate check will be mailed out within 90 days

of the application being approved. With an ever-increasing variety of models, many with prices that are competitive with gas-powered cars, along with an increasing supply of used EVs, 2025 is a great year to consider shopping for an EV. For more information on the MOR-EV rebate program, visit mor-ev.org.

Tractor Safety Workshop announced at NESFI

The New England Small Farm Institute will host the workshop on Sat., October 25.

BELCHERTOWN – Jim Carrabba, Agricultural Safety Specialist with the Northeast Center for Occupational Health and Safety [NEC], will lead a program on tractor safety. Topics covered include tractor injury sta-

tistics, basic safe tractor operating principles, how to perform operator checks, safety features on new vs. old tractors, and safe operation of tractors on public roads. Participants will learn about Rollover Protective Structures [ROPS] and the ROPS Retrofit Rebate Program. Jim will also cover PowerTake-Off [PTO] safety and will demonstrate retrofit PTO shields offered by NEC. All welcome!

The training will cover the areas required for OSHA annual tractor safety under 1928.51 Appendix A and can meet that training requirement for your farm (applies to farms with more than 10 employees). Pre-registration is required, and you can contact Sara Weil at ino@dmallfarm.org, or by phone call at 413-323-4531. You can find more information at www.smallfarm.org. The workshop fee is \$30 per person.

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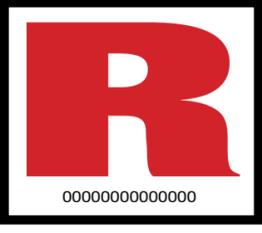
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Belchertown invites community input on future use of Tadgell School building

BELCHERTOWN— The Town of Belchertown is seeking public input on the future of the longtime vacant Tadgell School building, located at 7 Berkshire Avenue. A newly launched survey invites residents to share their ideas and preferences for how this space could best serve the community going forward.

Originally built around 1960 as part of the Belchertown State School property, the Tadgell building has served various educational and municipal uses over the decades. In recent years, it has remained largely unoccupied, and the structure is now facing increasing deterioration and functional obsolescence. The Town is now evaluating whether to re-use, renovate, or possibly divest the property.

“We want the future of Tadgell to reflect the community’s needs and hopes,” said Town Manager Steve

Williams. “This survey gives every resident a chance to help shape what the building becomes – such as a community space, municipal offices, mixed use, or something entirely new. Your voice matters in helping the Town determine the building’s future whether that be maintaining local control or selling of the property.”

The survey offers a range of possible uses for respondents to consider, including but not limited to:

- Senior housing
- Recreation programming (all ages)
- Town offices
- Commercial kitchen
- Meeting, event, or programming space
- Indoor market (e.g. winter farmers’ market)
- Mixed use or live/work space
- Makerspace, library extension, adult education
- Youth / community organization space (e.g. Boys &

Girls Club, YMCA)
• Other possibilities submitted by respondents

How to Participate

The survey is available on the Town’s website: www.belchertown.org/tadgell_survey

The deadline to submit responses is November 1, 2025.

All responses are anonymous and will be used by Town leadership, planners, and decision makers to inform next steps.

Why Your Feedback Matters

The Tadgell building represents a significant community asset and a rare opportunity. Its reuse could help support municipal operations, community programming, housing, or economic development. However, without input from residents, there is a risk of choosing a direction that doesn’t match local pri-

orities or needs.

Town staff and decision-makers will review and synthesize survey results, host follow-up forums if needed, and use the findings to guide feasibility studies, planning, and proposals. Future public hearings will provide further opportunities for community engagement.

“We are hoping for broad participation across the town — from longtime residents, newcomers, business owners, youth, and seniors,” added Williams. “The more voices we hear, the better we’ll be able to chart a future for Tadgell that aligns with Belchertown’s character and goals.”

For more information, to access the survey, or to request a paper copy, visit the Town’s official website or contact the Belchertown Communications Office at 413-323-0403.

SWIM TEAM from page 1

and some quite literally as he climbed Mt. Rainier in Washington, Mt. Whitney in California, as well as the Tour Du Mont Blanc in Europe, treks across Iceland, summits in the Rockies and recently completed an ascent and summit of Mt. Kilimanjaro in Tanzania this past July.

“My whole life, swimming has been the most complete full-body workout going. It’s low impact to no impact, and it engages the cardiovascular system and challenges the full set of muscles from head to toe,” said Gould. “It drives discipline and provides buckets of high-quality mental health for those who take part regularly. Our team builds community with like-minded people, and we are all seeing the results of our continued efforts!”

“I love being part of this group, learning and growing skills. I’m far from an expert swimmer, but I’ve already seen improvements and love going every day,” said Heidi Gutekenst.

Practices begin with a five-minute general warm-up and after the whistle is blown, the team works out for an hour, with cardio and training to then work into the goal of improving speed, technique, endurance, strength, and more. The prac-



How fast can you swim to the other side to train your endurance?

tice ends with a cool-down swim.

“Our top athletes are doing 2500+ yards at practice,” said Gould. “Most of our swimmers are able to complete between 1500 and 2000 yards each practice. Each workout is carefully written to engage you where you are.”

“Swimming is so beneficial to many people. It is a place to get a great aerobic workout without the pressure on joints you feel in running,” said Gutekenst. “We’re a group that cheers each other on and works on our own goals. It is a welcoming

place without high pressure.”

“You do not need to have any experience with interval-based swim training to be a Silver Ray,” said Gould. “You need to only want to find a better version of yourself in the pool... You need to beat your alarm clock in the morning and reclaim the health you’ve always wanted, doing a sport you can engage with until old age.” “Members inspire me by showing up. Everyone gives it their all and keeps going. These are a great group of folks who are enjoying the challenge and rewards of swimming,” said Gutekenst.”

“I am inspired by my team’s will to hold themselves accountable. I love to offer them choices on their training... I get fired up when a lane chooses to challenge themselves with a shorter interval or a longer distance swim,” said Gould. “The Silver Rays have attained a new level of confidence in the pool and seeing them break new ground in practice is proof of growth... proof that I have unstoppable, goal-setting athletes in my pool.”



Swimming down the lanes.

SUBMITTED PHOTOS



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NEWS & FEATURES

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

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

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OPINION

SOCIAL SECURITY

Matters

By Russell Gloor

When will my disability become my regular Social Security?

Dear Rusty:

I hope you can answer this question.

I'm currently receiving Social Security Disability benefits, and I will be turning 65 in February 2026. I'm confused as to how Social Security Disability transitions to regular Social Security, and when. I assume it's age 65, but maybe it's my retirement date?

Also, does the amount remain the same or will it change? I'm not working. I've been on SSDI for about 15 years. Thank you.

Signed: Disabled Senior

Dear Disabled Senior:

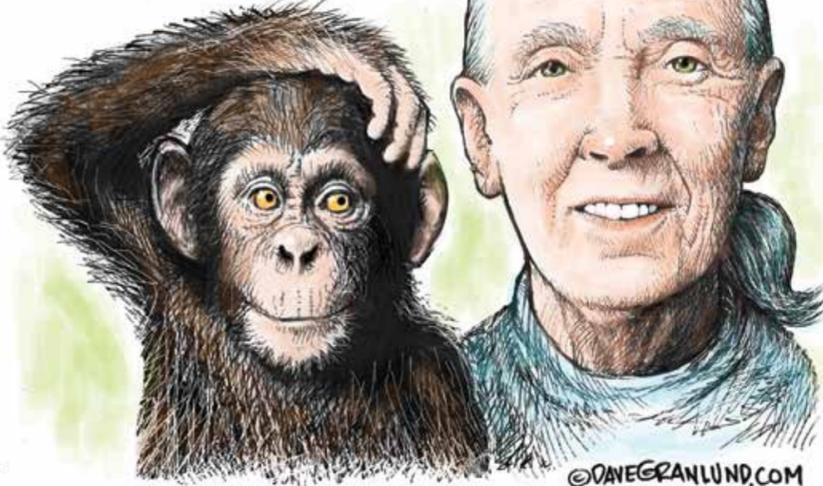
If you are collecting Social Security Disability Insurance benefits, those SSDI benefits will automatically convert to become your regular Social Security retirement benefit when you reach your SS Full Retirement Age, which, in your case, is age 67. For information, FRA today is somewhere between age 66 and 67, depending on your year of birth, and the full retirement age for everyone born in 1960 or later is age 67.

The change from SSDI to your regular Social Security benefit will be transparent to you because your monthly benefit amount will remain the same. SSDI benefits were originally awarded to you based upon your full

retirement age entitlement when you applied for SSDI, even though you hadn't yet reached your FRA when you went on SSDI. Thus, the monthly benefit amount will not change because it is based on your lifetime earnings record, from before you became disabled.

FYI, although age 65 was once Social Security's "retirement age," full retirement age for Social Security today is based on the year you were born. So, your SSDI benefit will automatically switch to become your regular Social Security retirement benefit as soon as you reach age 67. Essentially, the only thing that will change is the Social Security Trust Fund from which your benefits will be paid.

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

Jane Goodall
1934 - 2025

The Garden Lady answers a unique question on a unique plant

Sue, who gardens in Gilbertville called the Garden Lady with a question about Stinging Nettle. Apparently, she has it growing in numerous places on her four-acre property and wants to eradicate it.

"Roberta, are you familiar with this plant?" All I could say, was "Ah, yes," and then I began the story.

Not too long ago I was grabbing weeds by the handful, stuffing them into a bucket. Suddenly, out of the corner of my eye I saw the familiar saw-tooth shaped leaf and distinctive hairy stems within my clutches. As soon as my brain registered what I had just plucked, my hand started to sting...burn, really.

Yup, I was fooled again by stinging nettle. Ice helps a little, but usually the burn has to run its course.

Once you have identified stinging nettle, it won't be hard to miss. *Urtica dioica* and other members of the *Urticaceae* family have in common one particular trait: hairs on the undersides of their leaves as well as on their stems.

It is the hairs, that when brushed upon or grabbed, release formic acid into the skin causing a stinging, burning and a just plain painful reaction. Another giveaway to the plant's identity is its elongated, heart-shaped, saw-tooth-edged leaves that form opposite one another and then alternate back and forth up the stem.

From July through October, the plant sports greenish white flowers, upright at the top of the plant, but drooping from the leaf axils. If these three characteristics don't make it unique enough to spot, look for height and girth! Nettles can grow as tall as five feet, maybe more, and make large

colonies easily, thanks to a tangled web of underground runners that sprout new stems every few inches.

form to make hair grow. Grow? Maybe, but stand on end a definite!

All kidding aside, there are other benefits of nettles that go beyond folklore. Studies are being conducted for its use in treating prostate problems, asthma, allergies and arthritis.

Whether or not nettles are part of your apothecary chest, be sure to handle them with kid gloves!

Although the stinging and burning sensation may last for only a few minutes, it very well could last for hours!

That brings me back to Sue's question. There are multiple ways to try and eradicate the plant. You can suit up and hand pull or get the mower out and mow the area as you would the lawn. Repeated mowings during active growth will eventually kill it.

You can also take a soil test and make the necessary recommendations to improve the soil to a point that the grasses in your field will thrive and choke out the stinging nettle. Small areas can be covered in black plastic—again, you would do this when the plant is in active growth. Usually a month or more is necessary for this route to be successful.

Spot spraying with weed killers in another option but one that I only use as a very last resort. Good luck!

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 33 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.

Slapping below a man's navel was thought to improve his virility. If a paralyzed limb was slapped it was hoped feeling would be renewed.

There are other bizarre accounts of the application of this herb. I read one case of crushed leaves being packed into the nose to stop a nose-bleed. Ouch! Or used in juice

rather than drill into it like many other woodpeckers. They inhabit woodlands and forests from old stands of oak and hickory to young hardwoods and pines. They also appear at backyard feeders especially for suet.

They nest in a cavity excavated in dead wood. Males may begin cavity excavation with the female selecting one of the holes and completing it. The female lays two to six eggs. There most common call is a shrill rolling "kwirr" or "churr" given by both sexes. They also make a "cha cha cha" sound.

Helping birds

Another way to help birds

is to plant native trees, shrubs and plants in ones yard. Many provide a food source and others become a nesting site or shelter. Leaving a section of yard not mowed and letting it "run wild" also attracts birds, but provides food, nesting sites and shelter. Putting out bird feeders and water sources also bring birds to one's yard, but they also attract black bears and other unwanted visitors.

Blue jays

I heard blue jays squawking away on Sept. 30. I looked toward the noise and saw four blue jays flitting

Please see **BACKYARD**,

page 13

Turley Publications
Letters to the
Editor Policy

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

Turley Election
Policy

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

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

LETTER

A thank you to the community for enjoying brownies

To the editor,

Sending huge thank you's from the Brownie Sundae Booth group at Hope United Methodist Church. Thank you to the Belchertown Fair Committee for another year of a job very well done. Your work is over the top and keeps getting better. Thank you to the fairgoers who patronize our booth for their delicious Brownie Sundaes year after year. We'd also like to thank the

Band Boosters for their donation to the church.

It was a beautiful weekend to be outdoors and the common was buzzing with fun, food and frolic. God bless the Belchertown Fair as the town comes together each year for this wonderful celebration.

Come join us for Sunday Service at 10 a.m. Your pew is waiting for you.

Gretchen Martin
Belchertown

Red-bellied woodpecker

On Sept. 30, I saw two red-bellied woodpeckers fly from one tree to another.

Since I do not feed the birds suet or seeds until winter due to bears, I had not

noticed them before. The red-bellied woodpecker has a black and white barred back and a pale belly. Males have a red crown and nape and the females have just a red nape, but no crown.

These woodpeckers cling to tree bark and use their stiff tail feathers for support while they probe into the bark for insects. White is visible on their wings in flight. They are about nine inches long, the same size as the hairy woodpecker.

Like other woodpeckers, they have an undulating flight. They pick at the bark

in my
BACKYARD

By Ellenor Downer

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YOGA from page 1
wife, Claire.

After moving to Belchertown in 2022 from Salt Lake City, Walton began teaching yoga classes at the Recreation Center.

After a social media post beginning about the inspiration for puppy yoga, Walton reached out to the Rec Center and got it approved to host his classes and feature his own two adorable puppies, Zelda and Sonic.

“The puppy yoga classes will be a traditional, Vinyasa yoga class that has puppies present. Not much will change about the Yoga except that you might have a little puppy licking your toes or your ears or what not when you’re doing a yoga pose,” said Walton. “Or maybe it will just be watching them play together while you’re moving through your practice. Whatever it is, I’m pretty sure the puppies will make you smile more than normal.”

Walton shared his hope and desire to see people come in and learn more about yoga, and come to enjoy it as well, even if it’s puppies that bring them into the Rec Center to learn more.

“I love that yoga is a good compliment to anything you do. It doesn’t matter if you’re a runner, cyclist, weight lifter, or whatever,” said Walton. “Yoga will help you recover, gain more focus, and work a lot of muscles that might be neglected in other sports or activities.”

The style of yoga that Walton teaches, Vinyasa Yoga, has many different benefits including increased flexibility and strength, improved balance and coordination,



There's no better way to do yoga than with two little fluff balls helping you out.

enhanced cardiovascular health, reduced stress and anxiety, improved focus and concentration, weight management, and an improved overall physical and mental well-being.

It can also help with boosting energy levels, improve circulation, support detoxification, and enhance self-awareness, self-discipline, and social connection.

“My personal message is to spread joy always, hence the free high-fives. It’s also to live life now, and Yoga can help enhance your life by helping you be more present and physically, psychologically, and spiritually well,” said Walton.

There is a strong community of “yogis” that take part in the yoga lessons at the rec center here in town, and it’s



Little Zelda raising a paw of encouragement.

open to everyone, from people in their 20s to their 70s, and can be modified for all fitness levels.

“The community inspires me by giving me positive feedback and reciprocal energy with the high-fives that I give in town and the yoga classes that I teach,” said Walton. “People are willing to be playful both in class and out on the street with the high-fives that I also bring to the yoga class! I love it!”

“[I’m most looking forward to] seeing these smiles

on peoples faces while they’re doing yoga and interacting with or witnessing the puppies in action,” said Walton.

You can find more information about the classes on the Rec departments website, and stay tuned for these cute little fuzzballs to be ready for yoga with you.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS
Get ready to meet these furballs this fall.

BAC to host annual fundraising tag sale

BELCHERTOWN – Belchertown Animal Control will hold a fundraising Pet Supply and Gifts Tag Sale on Saturday and Sunday, October 11 and 12, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the shelter - 165 George Hannum Street.

There will be lots of Halloween outfits (\$2-\$5), carriers, beds (\$5-\$25, leashes, collars, harnesses (\$2), sweaters, food, treats, carriers, litter boxes, toys, gates, stairs, etc., and many

one-of-a-kind items. Some items are new, and some are gently used, but all will be priced to sell.

Tag sale items are items donated by community members and friends and not currently needed at the shelter. All money raised from these items benefits the ACO Gift Fund, which helps shelter and community pets with extra needs such as surgery or prescriptions.

SOAAR 5K & Recovery Rally to bring community together

BELCHERTOWN – Honest Beginnings is proud to announce the 9th Annual SOAAR 5K and Recovery Rally, taking place on Saturday, Oct. 11 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Belchertown. This family-friendly event will combine fitness, fun, and community resources to support recovery efforts and raise awareness around substance use and healing.

The SOAAR (Speaking Out About Addiction & Recovery) 5K invites runners and walkers of all levels to participate in a morning of movement and motivation. Following the race, the Recovery Rally will feature:

- Artisan vendors and local businesses
- Family and kids’ activities
- Community resources and recovery support organizations
- Food, speakers, and opportunities to connect with others
- Scarecrow Contest, BPD K-9 Demo, Corn hole tournament

“This event is about more than just a race—it’s about bringing the community together to celebrate

strength, resilience, and recovery,” said Jill Rossi, Chair of the 5K Committee and Board Member at Honest Beginnings. “We want families, friends, and neighbors to come out, enjoy the day, and stand alongside those impacted by addiction.”

The SOAAR 5K & Recovery Rally provides an opportunity to honor those in recovery, remember loved ones lost, and unite as a community in support of healthier futures. Proceeds will benefit Honest Beginnings’ mission to provide sober housing and recovery resources in Western Massachusetts. Learn more and register at www.honestbeginnings.org, or visit the event Facebook page.

About Honest Beginnings

Honest Beginnings is a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting individuals and families affected by substance use disorder. Through sober housing, community programs, and advocacy, Honest Beginnings works to create pathways to recovery and long-term success.

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Olive and Linus Shindler showing their handmade pearly bead creations.



Little Allison Bell with her special clay earrings.



Charlotte Cassidy providing a magical experience with her stunning handmade fairy wings and bubbles.

FALL FEST from page 1

“An amazingly broad representation of the community showed up, vendors, musicians, and community partners, spreading the word far beyond the folks who normally use the Trail,” said Louise Levy. “People love the idea of a Trail run, and lots of folks are willing to sweat through a Trail run if it means supporting Lake Wallace, which they love.”

The day featured an All-Abilities Roll and Stroll where people could run, jog, walk, or ride along the Sensory Trail of Lake Wallace, enjoying the scenery, and the gorgeous weather.

“The amazing diversity of people who participated in the All-abilities Roll & Stroll shows me that there is a large portion of the community who deeply believe that the Lake Wallace Sensory Trail should be stewarded as a Trail for people of all abilities,” said Levy.

The Friends of Lake Wallace are eagerly looking towards next year already, with a desire to bring in even more for the one-day celebration, including more volunteers for set-up and clean-up, and a call for volunteers to help maintain the Trail throughout the year so it can be enjoyed by all.

“Four more sections of the Trail were adopted, and at least 30 people approaching me asking how they can help,” said Levy of the support that was brought to the event for this special Trail.

Larry Spotted Crow Mann, came to give his story-telling and rhythm-capturing performance at the Fall Fest as we look at how to look towards the native people who walked these lands before us.

Talk Tree’s touch stood at the Start/Finish line, and several other local businesses and organizations in town came with their booths set up with information, alongside the Amherst/Belchertown Chamber of Commerce.

Several bands and musicians came out of all ages to provide performances, and the kids really took the stage with their own vendor booths, selling their crafts and items with pride.

The Belchertown High School Student Council set up an obstacle course for kids, Miss Charlotte dressed as a

TURLEY PHOTOS BY EMILY-ROSE PAPPAS

fairy to blow bubbles and play games with the kids, and so much more. The event was truly magical.

The Friends of Lake Wallace is a fully volunteer led effort to steward the Lake Wallace Sensory Trail, and includes two co-leaders, Trail Coordinators, and a Friends Communicator. The Friends are in need of more volunteers to come forward and take on various roles in the organization in order to help fulfill the main goals of the Friends.

“The main goals are to keep the Trail to its full 5 foot width and to get more people doing more activities to deepen their appreciation of the beauty of Western Massachusetts,” said Levy.

The Friends also work hard to coordinate volunteer teams to help with keeping the natural clutter off of the Trail, like fallen or growing plants or other debris from nature. They also look to always find ways to remind people to clean up after their dogs to help keep it clean for everyone on the Trail.

In total, there were 30 booths with the Belchertown Police and Fire Departments, craft vendors including the Youth Vendors, and there were 15 sponsors and donors in total who helped make this first Fall Fest a success.

There are several upcoming events to watch out for, including Critter Sampling on October 10 from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m., a New Trail Adopters Orientation on October 15 from 5:30 to 7 p.m., and so much more that can be found on their website or Facebook.



Alani Iannoli with her stunning pottery from Whisper Woods Pottery.



Ruby Stapert and Annabelle Tarnawa with their ceramic and clay pieces.



Meaghan Boucher spinning wool for her handcrafted items from Made by Meaghan B.



Emily Mileski and Ava Crandall with their unique and beautiful art pieces.



Members of the Belchertown Family Center, Beth Crosby, Natasha Martin, and Morgan McKee.



Officers Valerie Austin, Draine Colon-Rivera with Danny Gobriel at the BPD table.

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Orioles grab another win over Lions

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW— Just like in the first meeting of the regular season against Smith Division rival Ludlow, senior Timothy Haley scored a second half goal which helped the Belchertown Orioles sweep the season series.

Haley scored what turned out to be the only goal of the second half leading the Orioles to a 2-1 victory over the Lions at the Ludlow Sports Complex, last Thursday night.

"I just love playing soccer with all of my friends after not being able to play with them during the past couple of years," said Haley following the road win. "I'm very glad that I'm able to help them out."

Haley, who's a first-year member of the Orioles boys' varsity soccer team, had previously played soccer for a NEFC MLS Next Academy team. He wasn't allowed to play for his high school soccer team during that time.

Back on Sept. 8, Haley scored a goal with less than five minutes remaining in regulation, which gave the Orioles a 1-0 home win versus the Lions, who are a Division 1 team.

Belchertown, who's a Division 3 team, had a 6-3-2 overall record and a 4-2-1 league record, following last Thursday's road contest. It's also the first time that the

Orioles have swept the Route 21 rivalry series.

"This is a huge win for us. It should help our state power rankings," said Belchertown head coach Zach Siano. "It's also the first time that we've been able to sweep Ludlow, who has always been one of the best soccer programs in the state. It just shows how hard my guys have been working."

The Orioles also squeaked out a 1-0 win against the Lions in the first meeting of last season, but the second meeting ended in a 1-1 draw.

The Lions (3-5-2, 2-4-1) haven't celebrated a win in the series against Belchertown since posting a pair of 2-0 shutouts victories in 2023.

The Lions will probably need to win the rest of their regular season matches to qualify for this year's Division 1 state tournament.

"Our backs are against the wall now," said Ludlow head coach Greg Kolodziej. "We just need some results."

The home team had a couple of scoring chances during the first 15 minutes of the opening half.

A shot attempt by junior Jayden Premo deflected off the right post during the fifth minute.

A couple of minutes later, senior Michael Mariani lined a shot from about 25 yards out that sailed wide right. Another shot taken by senior Ethan Love went over the crossbar.



Jacob Gladu makes a play off his chest

"We did have a couple of chances to take an early lead," Kolodziej said. "We really needed to put a couple of shots into the net, especially against a very good team like Belchertown."

The match remained score-

less until the 26th minute.

That's when Haley received a pass from senior Chase Connor before blasting a shot into the upper left

Please see **ORIOLES**, page 10



TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

Timothy Haley tries to make a stop on the ball.



Jordan Kalish tries to avoid having the ball stolen.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

Abees Castillo-Clotter looks to get around a Holyoke defender.



Christian Riberio sends a pass up the field.

See more photos on Page 11.

Pioneers have no answer for Holyoke offense

HOLYOKE – Last Tuesday afternoon, Pathfinder boys soccer, which co-ops with Palmer High School, suffered a 5-0 loss at Holyoke High School. Holyoke, which improved to 8-5-1 and is

headed for the tournament, got two goals each from Xevier Davila and Ryan Kennedy. All of Holyoke's scoring came in the second half. Pathfinder fell to 3-6-1 on the season.



Sophia Rodrigues reaches out to get the bump.

Rams outlast Athol

GRANBY – Last Tuesday evening at home, Granby High School girls volleyball scored a big win over Athol High School 3-2. Granby trailed in the match 2-1 before winning the fourth set 25-16. The final set was wild, going to extra volleys with Granby finally winning 17-15 to take the match. Granby is now 10-2 and guaranteed a spot in the state tournament.



Audrey Pleisch bumps the ball back inbounds.



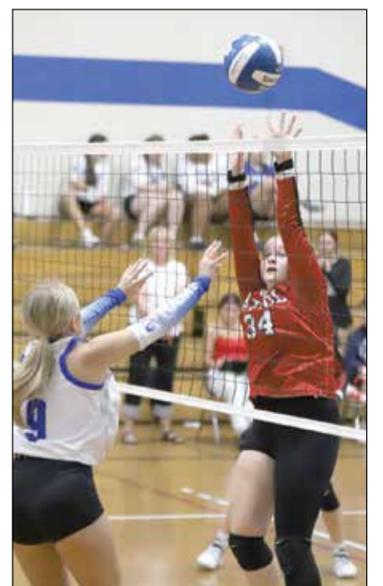
Lea Charest is focused as she gets the bump.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI
CJ Kibbie gets the set.



Gian Auselle send a spike away.



Lauren Barlow sends the ball back over the net.

SPORTS

Lions beat Orioles in five sets

BELCHERTOWN – Last Wednesday night, a tough matchup between Ludlow and Belchertown girls volleyball ended with the Lions scoring a 15-9 win in the fifth and deciding set for a 3-2 win. Ludlow improved to 5-8 while Belchertown fell to 2-9 on the season. Belchertown took the first set 25-21 with Ludlow coming back and taking two straight 25-19, and 25-12. Belchertown tied it 2-2 with a win in the fourth set 25-21 before the Lions took the finale.



Olivia Skora lives a back-wards hit in the air.



Libero Avigail Heroux makes the bump.



Abigail Almeida gets a hit over the net.



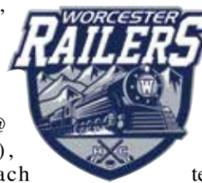
Klara Shaink gets a quick hit over the net.



Sofia Cofone serves for the Orioles.

Railers roster taking shape for new season

WORCESTER – The Worcester Railers Hockey Club (@RailersHC), proud ECHL (@ECHL) affiliate of the New York Islanders (@NYIslanders), and Head Coach & General Manager Nick Tuzzolino, announced today that goaltenders Henrik Tikkanen and Tristan Lennox were assigned to the Worcester Railers from the Bridgeport Islanders by the New York Islanders.



Tikkanen, 25, arrives in Worcester in second all-time in franchise history in wins (31), shutouts (4), minutes played (3794), and saves (1889), while being third in games played (65). The 6'9", 223 lb goaltender spent the 2024-25 season largely with the Bridgeport Islanders of the American Hockey League, playing in 30 games with a 4.12 goals against average and a .865 save percentage. All-time in the AHL, Tikkanen has a 14-24-6 record with a .332 GAA and a .890 SV%.

With Worcester, the Lohja, Finland native has a 3.02 GAA, a .908 SV%, and a 31-28-4 record across three seasons with the club. Tikkanen (31) is 13 wins behind Mitch Gillam (44) as of the start of the 2025-26 season for first all-time in team history. Tikkanen is the first goaltender in franchise history to play parts of four seasons with the Railers.

Lennox, 22, comes to Worcester for the first time since the 2023-24 season, where he appeared in 13 games for the club. Across his time with Worcester, the 6'4", 196 lb goaltender owned a 2.94 goals against average with a .909 save percentage and a 5-6-1 record. The former 93rd overall selection from the 3rd round of the 2021 NHL entry draft made his National Hockey League debut for the New York Islanders on Thursday, April 10th against the New York Rangers. He is the third ever Railer to debut in the NHL following time spent in Worcester.

Prior to professional hockey, the Ottawa, ON native played in 121 games for the Saginaw Spirit of the Ontario Hockey League. At the junior level, Lennox owned a 3.26 GAA, a .887 SV%, and a 59-45-7 record.

Worcester Regional Airport is the official airport of the Worcester Railers HC and presenting partner of all Railers transactions.

The Worcester Railers HC 2025-26 Opening Weekend at the DCU Center is Saturday, Oct. 18 and Sunday, Oct. 19 against the Maine Mariners and Adirondack Thunder. The 508 Club is now on sale for the 2025-26 season.

Owls suffer defeat to Anna Maria

WESTFIELD – Anna Maria QB Nikolay Boyce threw for 297 yards and five touchdowns to lead the AmCats to a 41-14 win over Westfield State University in a Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference football game at Alumni Field in Saturday afternoon.



Boyce's big day offset a 100-yard receiving game for Owls' senior WR Casey Tang, and 95 yards on the ground from first year FB Manny Mengata.

Anna Maria improves to 3-2 overall and 3-1 in the MASCAC, while Westfield is now 2-3 overall and 2-2 in the conference.

Westfield turned the ball over eight times on the afternoon, which led to three AMC TD's. Westfield jumped out to a 7-0 lead on its first possession of the game, capping a 3-play, 53-yard drive with an 8-yard touchdown run from Aidan Patterson.

Anna Maria stacked up a 35-7 lead by the half as Boyce tossed TD's of 13, 67, 38 and 30 yards around a 22-yard interception return for a touchdown from Mar-Zhon Brinson.

Westfield trimmed the lead to 35-14 on the Owls first drive of the second half, as QB Miles Foerster found Teng deep downfield for a 54-yard scoring strike.

Boyce tacked on a 3-yard pass to Tyler Garretson, for Garretson's second TD catch of the day, early in the fourth quarter to cap

the scoring. Boyce finished 18-30 for 297 yards with five TD's and two interceptions. He spread the ball around to five different receivers, four of whom had 60-plus yards, led by Jeremiah Cadet's 67 yards on a screen pass for a TD, and Garretson had six grabs for 64 yards. Cadet finished with nine carries for 61 yards on the ground as well.

Westfield's Foerster completed 6 of 19 passes for 130 yards, with one TD and five interceptions. Mengata carried 25 times for 95 yards, with Patterson adding seven carries for 58 yards. Teng led the Owls with three catches for an even 100 yards. Defensively, Westfield got a pair of interceptions from senior CB Zach Allen. Tafari Proctor led the Owls with eight tackles.

Brinson had a pair of interceptions for the AmCats, who were led by seven tackles from Charles DiMartino.

Anna Maria finished with 21 first downs t the Owls 20. Westfield was 7-11 in third down efficiency compared to 2-8 for the AmCats. Anna Maria outgained the Owls 396-349, while Westfield held a sight 31-29 advantage in time of possession.

Both teams will be idle next weekend before returning to action on Oct. 18.

ORIOLES from page 9

corner past junior goalkeeper Nick Dion giving his team a 1-0 lead.

"I just saw that the keeper was a little bit forward, so I put the ball into the upper corner," Haley said. "It was just an amazing feeling after scoring that goal."

Haley, who scored a team-high eight goals in the first ten matches of the season, had another scoring opportunity a little more than ten minutes later, but this time Dion was able to make the save.

With 34 seconds left in the first half, Ludlow tied the score when junior Mehmet Bayoglu put a shot into the back of the net past senior goalie Luke Dudek for his first varsity goal. Premo was credited with the assist.

"Mehmet is a first year varsity player and it was nice to see him score his first varsity goal at the end of the first half. He's a hard worker."

Dudek left the match with a left leg injury after colliding with a Ludlow player ten minutes into the second half. He was replaced in goal by sophomore Andrew Lambert.

Lambert, who saw some playing time in the Orioles 5-1 non-league home win over Granby on September 30, is also a hockey player.

During the winter, Lambert is a member of the Ludlow hockey team, which began a co-op with Belchertown a year ago. A couple of Ludlow soccer players, who also play hockey, are junior Evan Dias and senior Ethan Steigmeyer.

The Orioles soccer team retook the lead again during the 63rd minute of the second half when Connor sent the ball to Haley, who fired a low shot into the back of the net.



Nathan Marino tries to interrupt a pass.



Tyler Stahl is pressured as he tries to play the ball.



Henry Mueller looks to head the ball.

Haley, who hasn't made a college decision, grew up playing soccer with Connor.

"I've known Chase since I was four years old. He's always finding me the ball," Haley said. "I just love play-

ing on the same soccer team with him."

The Lions couldn't score the tying goal before the referee blew his whistle for the final time.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

SPORTS

PIONEERS SUFFER LOSS AT HOLYOKE



William Wright chases down a loose ball on defense.



Brody Wetnicka focuses on keeping possession.



Cayden Bousquet shuffles a pass to his left.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

RIGHT: Owen Pear advances the ball up the field

Thunderbirds score preseason win

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Thunderbirds picked up a 2-1 overtime victory on Sunday over the Providence Bruins inside the MassMutual Center to close their preseason slate.

The Bruins picked up the first goal of the afternoon on a power play with 1:08 remaining in the first, as Lynden McCallum lifted a one-timer over the right shoulder of Vadim Zherenko to give Providence the 1-0 lead at intermission. That came less than a minute after Hugh McGing was awarded a penalty shot, but could not get the puck past Simon Zajicek in the Bruins goal crease.

Springfield had an answer from one of their veterans at 3:53 of the second when Corey Schueneman lifted a point wrister through traffic and past Zajicek to tie the score. McGing had what appeared to be the go-ahead goal on a power play at 14:07 of the period, but after replay, the officials waved it off, saying that the T-Birds forward had directed the puck in with a kicking motion.

Zherenko's night was complete after 40 minutes

and 20 saves on 21 shots. Gage Alexander came on for the third period and overtime and stopped all nine shots he faced.

After neither team could break the ice in the third period, the T-Birds picked up the triumph in the extra frame as Nikita Alexandrov fed a saucer pass to McGing's blade at 3:32, and McGing got enough of it to beat Zajicek upstairs to finish the game.

The T-Birds now prepare themselves for the regular season slate, beginning with MGM Springfield Opening Night on Saturday, Oct. 11, at 6:05 p.m. against the Charlotte Checkers inside Thunderdome. The action starts with the Community Bank N.A. Block Party from 3 to 5 p.m. at the Plaza at MGM Springfield, featuring live music from Moonlight Saints. Fans are encouraged to arrive at the MassMutual Center early for pregame ceremonies, including full team introductions, which will begin promptly at 6 p.m. - all fans in attendance will receive a T-Birds 10th Anniversary Banner and a magnet schedule.

PATHFINDER from page 1

the power of career technical education. The demand is through the roof, and we need more capacity. This expansion will allow us to deliver that without raising local taxes."

Pathfinder has already secured over \$2 million in competitive Skills Capital Grant funding in recent years, used to rebuild the electrical program, upgrade horticulture equipment, renovate HVAC labs, and establish a plumbing program. Caitlin Phelps, part of the expansion planning team, credited the state legislature for its strong commitment to funding career and technical education.

"These initiatives have already had a huge impact on our regional workforce," Phelps said. "But this expansion could be the most significant opportunity in our school's history."

The Belchertown School Committee recently voted to close Cold Spring School by June 2026 due to shifting enrollment needs. Rather than see the building sit vacant, Pathfinder has proposed taking ownership on July 1, 2026, and opening its doors to students just two months later.

At roughly 30,000 square feet, the facility would initially house five existing technical programs moved from the Palmer campus, freeing space there for additional classrooms and expanded offerings. Pathfinder currently operates 15 programs; with the new facility, that number could grow to 20.

New programs under consideration include medical assisting, veterinary and animal science, engineering, public safety, and expanded early childhood education; fields that reflect urgent



The variety of handmade delights the Pathfinder student restaurant staff put together for this announcement.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY ABIGAIL MCCOY



Caitlin Phelps, Co-Op Coordinator and Grant Writer for Pathfinder Tech, delivers the opening speech before introducing Superintendent Duda.



Superintendent Eric Duda holding a laminated copy of the pamphlet asking for help with Pathfinder's original expansion decades ago.

workforce needs in the region. "This expansion will allow us to eliminate waiting lists and ensure that every student in our nine member towns has a seat," Duda said. "It also opens the door to non-resident students who want to train for high-demand jobs."

The plan has garnered strong support from state legislators, municipal leaders, and workforce development agencies. Pathfinder is seeking \$5 million, the maximum available, through the state's Career Technical Education

Capacity Expansion grant, part of a \$100 million funding package through the Healy-Driscoll administration. Applications are due Oct. 30, with awards expected in early 2026.

Senator Jake Oliveira, who represents both Palmer and Belchertown, called the project "a win-win."

"Anytime you take a school offline, there are tough questions about what happens next," Oliveira said. "Repurposing Cold Spring for career and technical education

is a tremendous opportunity. It not only preserves a taxpayer investment but also creates pathways in fields like early childhood education, where our communities face real shortages."

Representative Todd Smola echoed the importance of the expansion by saying, "Pathfinder has been a staple in the region for so many years. Expanding capacity, especially in rural areas, is huge. We need to get behind this grant application and make sure it gets across the finish line."

If funding is secured, Pathfinder expects to open the Cold Spring campus on August 26, 2026 with an initial 150 new seats. Over time, that number could rise to nearly 200, according to Duda.

"This is truly a win-win," Duda said. "We're not asking for more from local taxpayers. We're using grant funding and non-resident tuition to build something that will benefit our students, our towns, and our regional workforce for decades to come."

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OUR CLASSIFIEDS REACH 50 COMMUNITIES EVERY WEEK!

PUBLIC SAFETY

Granby Police Log

Editor's Note: The Granby Police Department responded to 134 calls for the week of Sept. 29 through Oct. 2. Those arrested are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law. The Granby Police Department provides all information.

Saturday, Sept. 27

5:28 p.m. – A motorist reported a minor two-car accident occurred in the parking lot. There were no injuries.

Thursday, Oct. 2

2:34 p.m. – Several callers reported a two-car accident. It was reported that a Vanpool school bus was involved. Granby Police and Fire responded. There were no injuries.

3:28 p.m. – A resident reported that a single vehicle drove off the road and struck a parked vehicle in a driveway. Granby Police and Fire responded. There were no injuries. The operator was issued a criminal citation for speed greater than reasonable and negligent operation of a motor vehicle.

5:17 p.m. – A resident came to the station to report a fraud incident.

BACKYARD from page 6

about among the trees. They were near a winter feeding spot. In winter, I put out shelled peanuts, which is a favorite of blue jays and tufted titmice to name a few. The first year I fed peanuts, I put out unshelled peanuts. They make a mess with the peanut husks, but I enjoyed watching them fly off with a whole peanut and opening it to get the peanuts inside.

Brimfield birds

A Brimfield birder, who emails regularly said, "In the yard most summer visitors have headed south but catbirds are still around and a couple of male towhees were seen last week. Also a male and female common yellowthroat visited the bird bath."

He said, "I filled the hummingbird feeders last week but haven't seen a hummingbird in several days and the feeders haven't been used much because they are still almost full."

He reported he had to take down my feeders because bear were visiting during the day. He had planted a couple dozen sun-

flowers in the yard and last week he cut the seed heads off and hung them in the garage to dry. He attached a few of the seed heads to the poles where he hangs his bird feeders. A pair of cardinals, at least three titmice and a black capped chickadee came for the seeds.

Trip to Norwottuck Rail Trail

The Brimfield resident in his email of Sept. 30 said, "Last Saturday a friend and I spent a couple of hours walking on the Norwottuck Rail Trail, Station Road in Amherst. It was a beautiful day to be out and about. We didn't see song birds but a few ducks, a couple of great blue herons, three green herons (good looks at one quite close) and one horned grebe. A pair of beaver were out enjoying the nice day and we got good looks at them. A few people walking the trail had never seen beavers before and were quite excited and asked lots of questions. Do they eat fish?"

Warren ponds

The Brimfield resident frequently visits ponds

in Warren. He saw a bald eagle one day and yesterday (Sept. 29) in addition to three great blue herons I saw a northern harrier and two male turkeys.

Trail camera

The Brimfield resident said in his email, "The trail camera near the bird bath captured a visit by a bear one night. Three days later a bear visited again and chewed open a pumpkin and ate the seeds and then went to one of the poles with sunflower seed heads and knocked the pole down. It didn't bother another pole with seed heads."

People may report a bird sighting or bird related experience by calling me at 413-967-3505, leaving a message at extension 100, emailing mybackyard88@aol.com or edowner@turley.com or mailing to Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005.

PUBLIC NOTICES

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampshire Probate and Family Court
15 Atwood Drive
Northampton, MA 01060
(413)586-8500
Docket No.
HS25P0613EA
Estate of:
Randy Ira Kleiner
Also known as:
Randy I. Kleiner
Date of Death: 04/12/2024
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION**

To all interested persons:

A Petition for Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Shaloma R Robinson of Granby, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Shaloma R Robinson of Granby, MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 10/29/2025**. This is **NOT** a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely writ-

ten appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

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

WITNESS, Hon. **Diana S. Velez Harris**, First Justice of this Court.

Date: September 29, 2025

Mark S Ames,
Register of Probate

10/09/2025

**Public Hearing
Legal Notice
Belchertown**

Zoning Board of Appeals

In accordance with the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 40A, Section 11 the Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing on **Wednesday, October 15, 2025, at 6:15 p.m.**

This hearing will be held in the Planning Board's meeting room of Lawrence Memorial Hall, 2 Jabish Street, Belchertown, MA on the application

from Kayla Busse dba Kayla & Co., Inc. appealing a Zoning Enforcement Officer's decision §145-68 A (1), stating applicant is in violation of the Town of Belchertown by-law § 145-24 A (5) Breeding, raising or keeping of animals on less than 40,000 square feet minimum, applicants lot is 12,529 square feet, located at 11 Sunny Crest Lane Map 271 Parcel 50 Zoning District AGA.

Any Person interested and wishing to be heard should appear at the time and place designated.

Jennifer Sharrow,
Chair Person,
Zoning Board of Appeals
10/02, 10/09/2025



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

Find it in the Classifieds



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24 Water St., Palmer • 80 Main St., Ware

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 and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

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

PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

- 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

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CLUES ACROSS

1. Comedic actor Rogen
5. Bits per inch
8. Tire pressure measurement
11. Angels great Mike
13. Own (Scottish)
14. Notable F1 racing team
15. Upper bract of grass
16. Tax collector
17. Electronic counter-measures
18. Informal loan clubs
20. Skeletal muscle
21. Popular fish type
22. Salts of acetic acid
25. Arriving early
30. Worded
31. Single Lens Reflex
32. Amphibians
33. Warm greeting

CLUES DOWN

1. Engine additive
2. Amounts of time
3. Fragrant brown balsam used in perfume
4. Color properties
5. One who hands over
6. Thieves of the sea
7. Put in
8. Nocturnal rodents
9. Pouches
10. Systems, doctrines, theories
12. Greek alphabet letter
14. Greek goddess of youth
19. Satisfy
23. Partly digested food
24. Dictator
25. Parts per thousand (abbr.)
26. The 17th letter of the Greek alphabet

CLUES ACROSS

38. Belonging to a thing
41. Segmented worm
43. Concerns
45. Audacious
47. Wings
49. Type of drug
50. Wind chill formula scientist Charles
55. Island close to the U.S.
56. "To the ___ degree"
57. Daniel ___, French composer
59. A way to march
60. Where golfers begin
61. Spiritual leader
62. Of she
63. Mental disorder concerning body odor (abbr.)
64. Tall, slender-leaved plant

CLUES DOWN

27. A major division of geological time
28. Angry
29. St. Francis of ___
34. Romanian monetary unit
35. Stale
36. Go quickly
37. Commercials
39. Canadian city
40. One who slices
41. Perform perfectly
42. Nest of pheasants
44. Tactile sensations
45. Sword
46. Climactic
47. Adrenocorticotrophin
48. Fisherman's tool
51. Swiss river
52. Plant that makes gum
53. A French abbot
54. One point east of northeast
58. Get free of

Send Us Your Community Dazzler Events

Turley Publications will print your holiday calendar events **FREE OF CHARGE** in our **Dazzler Supplement** which will be published **November 19, 2025**. Total circulation of 85,000 which reaches over 200,000 readers in the Pioneer Valley. **Event Should Be Non-Profit & Open to the Public**

FREE Calendar Listings Reaching over 200,000 Readers in the Pioneer Valley

Event Name _____

Date/Time _____

Location _____

Description _____

Cost _____

Contact name & phone number for more information _____

MAIL YOUR LISTING INFORMATION TO: Turley Publications, Attn: Jamie Joslyn, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069 or email* them to: jamie@turley.com *Be sure to indicate "Dazzler" in the subject line of your email.

Deadline for Calendar submissions is October 20.

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