



Cub Scouts host inaugural spaghetti dinner

Shown from left to right are Aslan, Alec, Ryan and Jack of Belchertown Cub Scouts Pack 507 working hard on the assembly line during the spaghetti dinner at St. Francis Parish Hall.

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

BELCHERTOWN – Cub Scouts Pack 507 hosted a spaghetti dinner at St. Francis Catholic Parish Center.

This was the first spaghetti dinner the pack has ever hosted and they want to make it an annual event in the community for years to come. The dinner took place on Oct. 17 and proceeds go to support Pack 507.

Please see **SCOUTS**, page 7



The spaghetti dinner offered a raffle with more than 20 prizes.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY RYAN DRAGO

SC keeps November early-release dates

By Melina Bourdeau
Correspondent

BELCHERTOWN – The School Committee voted unanimously to keep Nov. 9 and 10 early-release days for parent-teacher conferences, after residents and committee members questioned how the calendar change was approved and communicated to families without clear notice.

The decision followed a public debate over a late calendar change affecting Swift River and Chestnut Hill elementary schools.

Committee members acknowledged that the specific dates had not been formally voted on and discussed the short notice families received, possible childcare options and how to prevent similar confusion in future calendar revisions.

The calendar was approved the previous winter with parent-teacher conference dates listed as to be determined. During negotiations with teachers, two early-release days for conferences were included in the contract, which was ratified Aug. 31. But the specific November dates were not brought back

to the committee for a separate vote.

Chair Heidi Gutekenst said committee members had overlooked the issue when reviewing the contract.

“A mistake was made on the school committee when we approved the contracts,” she said. She added that she had not recognized the dates herself.

Superintendent Brian Cameron said he believed the committee had discussed the matter during the negotiations.

“I thought we had this conversation,” he said.

He said the dates were added to the calendar after the contract

was ratified, but the information was not prominently placed. He acknowledged the calendar should have identified the revision more clearly and said, “I think that’s another learning for me on my end.”

Cameron said 79% of kindergarten families and 50% of preschool families had signed up for conferences by the time of an Oct. 1 open house.

Swift River families received an email about the dates on Oct. 6, while

IN A PERFECT WORLD, WE WOULD HAVE GIVEN THIS NOTIFICATION BEGINNING SEPTEMBER.”

HEIDI GUTEKENST

Please see **EARLY RELEASE**, page 3

Planning Board discusses community, economic development

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
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BELCHERTOWN – The Planning Board had a discussion with Eric Weiss, the Community and Economic Development Planner.

Weiss attended the meeting on Oct. 13 to meet with the

Planning Board and he said he is there as a resource for the town and a resource to the boards.

Weiss wanted to put in some time to review the areas in Belchertown that have the potential for development and make sure the town is inviting; recognizing what is available and what can be offered to people and busi-

nesses.

Weiss mentioned hubs such as the Cultural District being an important piece of the town to recognize.

He said Belchertown is considered both a rural town and a suburban town.

“It has a character to it,” Weiss said.

Weiss said he is available for any questions the

board may have for him and he wants to go out to the town and learn about what the needs are and what residents and businesses see in the future. Part of the plan is to build off the input he gets from the town and find those community and economic development in areas of town that may need them.

Weiss previously worked

on the town’s Capital Planning Committee.

Single Signature Authority & CPC Representative for the Planning Board Michael Hofler asked Weiss if there was a specific direction or problem in an area in town that needs to be addressed from a zoning standpoint and if there are zoning areas that can keep and bring business-

es to Belchertown.

Weiss said the town is going to be working with the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission to create a zoning review.

Hofler brought up Pathfinder Tech to see if there is potential in them

Please see **PLANNING BOARD**, page 5

Belchertown links economic growth to cultural district and gather plans

By Melina Bourdeau
Correspondent

BELCHERTOWN – Officials outlined a strategy to grow local businesses while preserving the town’s rural character, as leaders advanced a cultural district application and discussed restarting Gather arts programming ahead of a 2027 deadline in Massachusetts.

Monday’s Selectboard meeting brought together economic development planning, a bid for state cultural designation and an arts initiative intended to support local makers. The town’s application is due

Feb. 8, 2027. Board members voiced support while emphasizing that decisions about Gather’s marketplace, space and finances still need work.

Eric Weiss, Belchertown’s Community and Economic Development Planner, described the town as a growing community of about 15,500 people with an annual budget of roughly \$70 million. The challenge, he said, is to encourage investment without losing the rural character residents value—and to broaden the town’s revenue sources.

“The Belchertown of old is not the Belchertown 10

years from now,” he said.

Weiss said new housing does not, by itself, provide enough tax revenue to meet the costs of growth. “You have to find other sources of revenue to make up that difference.”

He urged the town to consider what Belchertown could become over the next five to 15 years, rather than focusing only on immediate budget pressures.

His current efforts include compiling a business inventory, identifying available properties and developing a

Please see **ECONOMIC GROWTH**, page 7

Church holds annual craft fair early

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
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GRANBY – The annual Craft Fair at the Immaculate Heart of Mary Church featured over 50 vendors from all over the region.

What began as an indoor craft fair soon expanded to more space outdoors as vendors set up in the parking lot of the church. The craft fair is usually held every November and was moved a month earlier to Oct. 12.

Proceeds from the craft fair go to benefit the church.

Jeff Lussier is the president



TURLEY PHOTO BY RYAN DRAGO

Gracie, left, and her mother, Charlene, represented Gracie’s Creations.

Please see **CRAFT FAIR**, page 12



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■ COMMUNITY

Belchertown celebrates Red Ribbon Week with school and 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 October 26–30, 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, Oct. 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

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

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, October 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 individ-

uals 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, November 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

Ticket prices:

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.

Belchertown to hold STM on Nov. 9

Free transportation for older adults and free childcare available to help residents attend

BELCHERTOWN — The Town of Belchertown will hold a Special Town Meeting on Monday, Nov. 9, 2026, at 6:30 p.m. in the Belchertown High School Auditorium, 142 Springfield Road. Voter check-in begins at 5:45 p.m.

All registered voters in Belchertown are welcome to attend, speak, and vote on the articles. An article is one item on the meeting’s agenda that voters decide on, such as part of the town budget or a change to a town bylaw. Residents can check their voter registration status on the Secretary of the Commonwealth’s website.

Belchertown holds an open town meeting, which means voters themselves serve as the Town’s legislative body. Under Massachusetts law, open town meetings must be held in person. Voters check in at the door, and only those present in the room can speak on articles and cast votes. State law does not currently allow remote or hybrid participation in open town meetings. The meeting will be recorded so residents can watch it afterward, but residents cannot participate or vote through a recording.

The Town Manager’s

office is preparing an Enhanced Warrant Packet that includes the text of each article, a plain-language explanation, and how the relevant committees voted. The packet will be posted on the Town’s Town Meeting page at www.belchertown.org/750/Town-Meeting as soon as it is available. The page also offers resources to help residents prepare, including the Citizen’s Guide to Town Meeting, instructions for the electronic voting devices, and a parking map for the high school.

To help as many residents as possible attend, the Town is offering two free services.

The Belchertown Senior Center will provide free transportation to the Special Town Meeting for residents 60 and older. To reserve a spot, call Kim at 413-323-0420, extension 508, by Thursday, November 5.

The Belchertown Recreation Department will host the Little Voters Lounge, free childcare for children ages four to 12, so parents and caregivers can attend the meeting. Children will enjoy crafts, games, and a movie from 6:00 PM until the meeting ends. Children must be able to use the restroom independently, and families are asked to send a snack and a water bottle (no peanuts, please). Families can register online at belchertownma.myrec.com or call the Recreation Department at 413-323-0419 for more information.

Square Dance for exercise, health, social activities and mostly for fun

BELCHERTOWN—We all need to enjoy the creativity of mental and physical activity.

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Dance is for everyone, two left feet, singles, teens and families.

Moving to music is one

of the best ways to stay healthy with balance and coordination.

Join them on Sundays in Ludlow or Thursdays in Belchertown from 6 to 8 p.m.

Two free dances and \$6 per person after.

For locations, time and more information contact Gloria at 413-467-3352 or email ladicaller@gogtt.net. She is looking forward to meeting you.



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■ COMMUNITY

The Belchertown Lions Club partners with the Belchertown 4-H for Trunk-or-Treat 2026



TURLEY PHOTO SUBMITTED

Erin Thibault and Janet Theroux, the driving forces behind the Belchertown 4-H projects, thankfully accept this donation from Lion Mike Mathras of the Belchertown Lions Club to kick off Trunk-or-Treat 2026 on a fine note. Hundreds of costumed attendees put on a smile at the gate of this annual 4-H event when they learned the typical entry fee was waived as the result of this gift. The Lions Club appreciates this alliance with the 4-H in what has now become the Halloween Season for the Belchertown community.

EARLY RELEASE

from page 1

Chestnut Hill had listed them on its website calendar earlier in September. Some families, however, may not have understood that the dates meant students would be dismissed early.

The proposed early-release schedule applies to Swift River and Chestnut Hill, not Jabish Brook Middle School or Belchertown High School. Students are expected to leave at about 1 p.m., while teachers remain to hold conferences.

Members noted that some families had already begun making plans, while others said the short notice could make childcare difficult.

The committee considered moving the conferences to Dec. 14 and 15, canceling them or keeping the November dates.

Members also discussed a Christ Community Church offer to host children on Nov. 9 and 10. Some questioned whether the district should promote or host a

program run by an outside organization, with concerns about setting a precedent for other providers. The committee did not vote to promote the offer.

A resident suggested surveying families to understand how many were affected and what care they needed.

Gutekenst questioned whether a survey would help the committee choose between the dates, saying the decision would also have to consider students who might need timely conversations with teachers. Members raised concerns that delaying conferences could postpone important updates about students' progress.

Jacob Hulseberg said the decision should be guided by what would best serve students, even while acknowledging the mistake.

"I think that it's unfortunate, but I think it is in the best interest of the students who it's going to impact, so that we can give the heads up to kids, families as soon as possible," he said.

The motion to keep the November dates passed unanimously.

The discussion also turned to how calendar changes should be approved and communicated in the future.

Members suggested addressing the process in the district's ongoing policy rewrite, including whether calendar changes require committee approval and how families should be notified.

Cameron said the school committee should have been asked to formally approve the specific dates.

"This definitely should have come back," he said. Gutekenst said earlier notice would have been preferable, adding, "In a perfect world, we would have given this notification beginning September."

The committee's vote resolved the immediate scheduling question, but members said the approval and notification process still needs attention. The discussion did not result in a formal policy change at the meeting.

Community invited to contribute to cookbook

Residents can submit recipes, name the cookbook or design its cover to benefit the Aid to the Elderly and Disabled Taxation Fund

BELCHERTOWN — The Belchertown Taxation Aid Committee is putting together a community cookbook of local recipes and the stories behind them. Residents are invited to take part. All submissions are due by Friday, Nov. 13.

"One of my favorite things about Belchertown is how many creative people we have here, from our littlest kiddos to our seniors," said Angela Battle, Chair of the Taxation Aid Committee. "I wanted to bring the community together to contribute to something where everybody could have a say, and the end result would be something that would be useful and meaningful."

Belchertown residents can take part in three ways:

Submit a recipe. Every recipe submitted will be included in the cookbook. Breakfasts, appetizers, soups, dinners, side dishes, desserts and family favorites are all welcome. Contributors are encouraged to share the story behind their recipe, such as who taught them to make it, where it came from or why it matters to them. Recipes can be submitted at www.belchertown.org/recipesubmission.

Name the cookbook. The cookbook does not yet have a name. Residents of all ages can suggest one, and the winning name will appear on the finished cookbook. Entries can be submitted at www.belchertown.org/namethe-cookbook.

Design the cover. Residents can submit original artwork for the front and back covers in two age groups: youth (17 and under) and adult (18 and over). Entries must be uploaded as JPG or PNG files. Artwork created on paper or canvas can be photographed or scanned. Entries can be submitted at www.belchertown.org/design-the-cover.

town.org/cookbookart.

"I thought the idea of a cookbook would be perfect for that, especially going into the holidays when families are cooking and baking together," Angela said. "And incorporating the stories into the cookbook is a way of memorializing the community in a really sweet way."

Contest winners will be announced on Nov. 28 at Winter Light Night. Cookbooks will be available to order at the beginning of December, with delivery expected before Dec. 20.

Proceeds from the cookbook will benefit the Aid to the Elderly and Disabled Taxation Fund. The fund helps elderly and disabled residents with low income pay their property or motor vehicle excise taxes.

"The fact that it's a fundraiser that will support our seniors and disabled neighbors is just a bonus!" Angela said.

Questions about the cookbook can be sent to website@belchertown.org.

About the Taxation Aid Committee

The Taxation Aid Committee manages Belchertown's Aid to the Elderly and Disabled Taxation Fund. Voters created the fund by approving Article 13 at the Annual Town Meeting on May 31, 2025, which accepted Massachusetts General Law Chapter 60, Section 3D. The fund is supported by voluntary donations from Belchertown taxpayers, and all donations stay in Belchertown to help eligible residents. The committee includes the Chair of the Board of Assessors, the Treasurer/Collector and three residents appointed by the Town Manager. More information is available at www.belchertown.org/726/Taxation-Aid-Committee.

Ware Grange pumpkin carving Oct. 26

WARE—The Grange's Annual Pumpkin Carving will be held on Monday, Oct. 26, at 6 p.m. at the Grange Hall located at 297 Belchertown Road in Ware.

This is the final Kids' Corner workshop for this year. Families will enjoy the art of carving and decorating pumpkins, and kids will

learn about the life cycle of pumpkins, composting, and giving back to the soil.

We will also have a family-friendly Halloween story.

This event is free. Bring your own pumpkin and join the fun. Visit Ware Grange on Facebook or at ware-grange.org for more information.

Belchertown veterans collections Nov. 14

BELCHERTOWN—The St. Francis Church Respect Life Committee is sponsoring their second annual collection of items to support our Belchertown Veterans on Saturday Nov. 14 in front of the St. Francis Parish Center at 10 Park Street, between the hours of 9 a.m. and noon.

All items collected will be available to our Belchertown Veterans at our local Veterans Agency Office located at the Belchertown Senior Center.

The following items, as well as monetary donations would be greatly appreciated:

Food - tuna, peanut butter, spices, vegetable oil, sauces, canned soup, canned fruit (anything non-perishable for food shelves)

Hygiene items - shampoo, razors, shaving cream, individually wrapped toilet paper, Kleenex, feminine products, deodorant, bath soap, hand soap, toothpaste

Cleaning items - dish detergent, laundry detergent (smaller sizes)

Clothing - socks, gloves, hats, slipper socks

Pet food - small cans of cat and dog food

Thank you for your generous support of our veterans.

St. Nicholas Craft Fair to take place Nov. 14

LUDLOW—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.

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INSURED AND CERTIFIED

Towns launch shared Housing and Care Navigator to support recovery

WARE/BELCHERTOWN – The towns of Belchertown and Ware have partnered to launch a shared Housing and Care Navigator position to support individuals affected by opioid use disorder.

Funded through a combination of local opioid settlement funds and a Municipal Matching Grant from the Mosaic Opioid Recovery Partnership, the initiative reflects the towns' shared investment in recovery and housing stability. The position will be administered by the Western Massachusetts Training Consortium's Recovery Center of HOPE, and will expand access to housing and recovery support for residents in both communities.

The initiative was developed in response to community needs identified through surveys, listening sessions, and the ongoing work of each town's Opioid Settlement Fund Advisory Committee. Across the region, access to safe and stable housing emerged as a critical barrier to sustained recovery and overall well-being.

Guided by this feedback and the collaborative leadership of local partners, including Gail Gramarossa of Belchertown and Emily Kirby of Ware, the communities created the Housing and Care Navigator position to address these challenges.

The Housing and Care Navigator will work directly with residents to reduce barriers to housing stability and recovery. Support may include help building housing readiness, navigating public benefits, connecting with basic needs resources, obtaining vital documents, or accessing emergency rental assistance.

The navigator will also strengthen collaboration among local partners working at the intersection of housing instability, opioid use, and recovery.

The communities have



TURLEY PHOTO BY PAULA QUIMETTE

The towns of Belchertown and Ware have partnered to launch a shared Housing and Care Navigator position to support individuals affected by opioid use disorder. Shown from left are members of the grant team: Julie Lutz, Maureen Babineau, Lisa Roossien, Emily Kirby and Gail Gramarossa.

selected Lisa Roossien to lead this important initiative. Roossien brings more than a decade of experience in peer recovery support, program development, grant writing, and community-based service delivery, along with a strong commitment to expanding access to recovery resources in Western Massachusetts.

"I am honored to support my neighbors through this exciting partnership. As a person with lived experience, I understand how critical it is for people on the recovery journey to have access to stable housing, coordinated care, and a strong sense of community. I am excited to work alongside residents, local organizations, and community leaders to help individuals access the resources they need to heal and thrive," said Roossien, Housing and Care Navigator.

Guided by the voices and experiences of residents affected by the opioid crisis, Belchertown and Ware are advancing community-centered solutions that promote recovery, stability, and well-being.

Through strategic investment, strong partnerships, and a shared commitment to meeting people where they are, both communities are building more accessible pathways to support and long-term recovery.

Housing and Care Navigation will be available on Mondays at Belchertown Town Hall and on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at the Recovery Center of HOPE in Ware. Thursday evening hours in Belchertown will also be offered at a location to be determined.

Community members and partners who would like to

learn more about the initiative or connect with the Recovery Center of HOPE are encouraged to stop by at any time to say hello or visit www.recoverycenterofhopeware.org.

About the Recovery Center of HOPE

The Recovery Center of HOPE is a peer-led community in the Quaboag Hills for and by people who identify as being in or seeking recovery, their families, and allies. RCH creates a safe space where individuals from all recovery pathways can connect, access support, and navigate recovery resources.

The center is a program of the Western Massachusetts Training Consortium, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit with a 50-year legacy of social justice and community-based advocacy.

PLANNING BOARD

from page 1

setting up services to benefit businesses in town. He thinks businesses may be seeking interns, trainees or offering job training that may attract the interest of Pathfinder students.

Weiss said the biggest challenge is figuring out how to keep some of the old qualities, but also embrace what is new.

For any new developments or businesses, the town has to demonstrate the need to make something viable. Weiss thinks the town should keep to its character but make reasonable developments in certain parts of town.

The Planning Board asked Weiss if offering a tax incentive financing program would draw businesses.

Weiss said that program historically sometimes works out in some towns but also hasn't worked out in other communities. The tax incentive program would have been evaluated in researched if it were to be suitable in

Belchertown.

The Planning Board also asked about housing and if the town should limit housing. Weiss said it depends on what type of housing they're talking about and also depends on the housing market.

Weiss will think about other properties that have potential for development while he reviews the town. The Planning Board appreciated Weiss' time to discuss community and economic development ideas.

Zoning recommendation

The Planning Board reviewed a variance and appeal decision made by the Zoning Enforcement Officer.

The decision resulted in submitting a cease-and-desist order for the applicant, Rooty Tooty Daycare, located at 31 South Main St.

Planning Board Chair Daniel Beaudette read the packet that said the owners of the property have to remove the animals off the property that is considered an under-sized lot.

According to the bylaw, the lot has to be roughly .92 acres, and the current lot has .76. The applicant is seeking a variance to keep the animals on the lot.

The board reviewed the petition and saw that the signature of the applicant was applied but wasn't the owner of the property. The deed also has a written signature but has a different person's name.

It appeared to the Planning Board that the petition wasn't signed by the owner of the property.

The applicant also submitted an argument that explained why they should be relieved. Beaudette says the dimensional standards language is still in the bylaw.

The Planning Board does have the right to apply conditions and standards including safety, welfare and health standards.

Beaudette asked if the owner is a party to the variance request. It was uncertain due to the different signatures that appear on all the documents.

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FOR FALL FUN!**

Randall's Pumpkin Decorating Contest

OCTOBER 24TH & 25TH

CASH PRIZES BY CATEGORY



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& Most Creative**

**Every Entrant
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YOUTH & ADULT CLASSES

**All Entries Must Be Submitted
By Saturday, October 24th**

Sunday, October 25th Vote For Your Favorites!

LAST WEEKEND FOR

Fall Fun Workshops!

IN THE GARDEN CENTER

Saturday & Sunday

11AM – 4PM

Scarecrow Workshops

**Make Your Own
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We Provide All The Materials

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Pumpkin Decorating Workshop

We Provide The Pumpkins & Decorations



**"Make It Here" Or Buy A Kit
To Make At Home**

Pumpkins, Pumpkins, Specialty Pumpkins!

**GOURDS
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OPINION

SOCIAL SECURITY Matters

By Russell Gloor

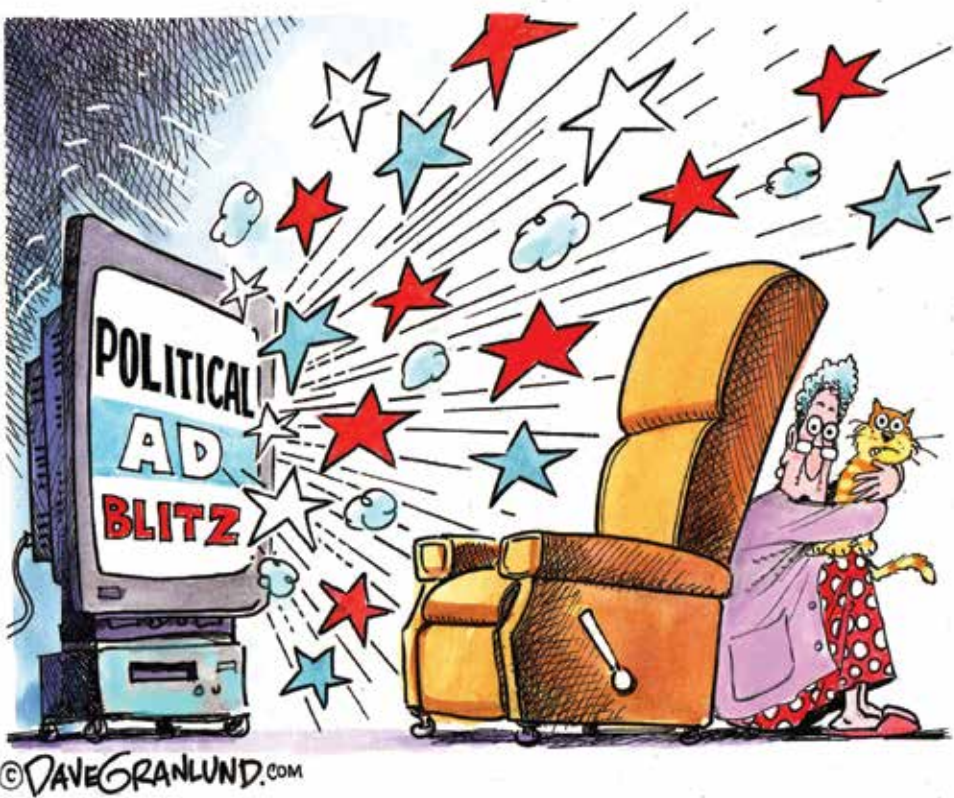
Did I understand you right - I won't get all my SS benefits immediately?

Dear Rusty:
I was a little confused with one of your past articles.
This September I hit my full retirement age and for every month I continue to delay, my SS benefit goes up a little more. But reading your article sounds like the extra benefits are only added at the end of the year.
For example, let's say that at my full retirement age in September I get \$3,524, and in January 2027 I would get \$3,619.
According to the Ask Rusty article I read, if I start my benefits in June of 2027, I will have earned \$3,735, but it sounds like I would only get \$3,619 up until the end of the year, and then they would adjust it.
If this is the case, would I get retroactive money back for the 6 months I did not get the correct amount?

Signed: Seeking Clarification

Dear Seeking:
Thanks for your inquiry. Your understanding of the previous Ask Rusty article is correct.
If you start your benefits in June 2027 (10 months after your Full Retirement Age or your FRA, in September 2026), you will initially only get the Delayed Retirement Credits you earned through the end of 2026.
The DRCs you earned from January 2027 to June 2027 would not be credited until January 2028 and you would not get any retroactive benefits for the DRCs earned during the January – June 2027 timeframe.
SSA's reasoning for this is somewhat confusing but has to do with your ability to claim retroactive benefits when you claim after reaching your full retirement age.
When claiming after reaching your FRA you have the ability to claim benefits retroactively for up to six months. So, to avoid potentially overlapping benefit payments, SSA defers applying your current year's DRCs until January of the following year.
Thus, you essentially lose the extra 2027 DRC money for the remainder of 2027. And, FYI, the

one exception to this rule is that when benefits are claimed mid-year at age 70, all DRCs are immediately paid.
Please understand that I'm not endorsing this SSA rule; only trying to explain how it works and why. Like many SSA rules, there are nuances to how benefits are paid. And this is a classic example. And just remember, as attractive as taking 6 months of retroactive benefits may sound, it also means your monthly amount would be reduced by about 4% for the rest of your life.
As you contemplate when you should claim your Social Security retirement benefits, you should always keep in mind your anticipated life expectancy when making that decision.
If you expect to live at least to the "average" life expectancy for those in their mid-60s (about mid-80s for someone your current age), then waiting longer to claim is usually a better long term financial decision (even considering the DRC issue described above). But if your life expectancy is less than "average," claiming sooner is usually a better choice.
If you have further questions about when to claim Social Security, please contact us at SSAdvisor@amacfoundation.org or 1-888-750-2622. There is never a fee for our advisory service because we are a non-profit organization.
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.



LETTERS

Trick-or-Treaters welcomed at Dana Woods

Letter to the Editor:

Dana Woods is a neighborhood that loves Halloween. As a way for visitors to give back, we're continuing a tradition we started last year of collecting cleaning supplies and health care items to be donated to town food pantries. Collection bins will be placed throughout the neighborhood.
Because we welcome lots of trick-or-treaters, any cars driving through the neighborhood present a safety hazard. If you plan on trick or treating in Dana Woods, please remember the following:
1. Per order of the police, there will be absolutely no parking allowed on George Hannum Road.
2. Driving in the development will be extremely limited. Parents in cars following trick-or-treaters will be asked to park and walk.
3. Follow No Parking signs and use common sense by parking on only one side of the street to allow for passage of emergency vehicles.
4. Don't allow kids to zigzag across the streets. In addition to the obvious safety



concern, many of the streets are cul-de-sacs and this tends to result in homes being visited twice. See the map to help you navigate.
5. Do not litter—keep candy wrappers in treat bags.
6. Do not block driveways.
7. If a house's lights are off, they are either not participating or have run out of candy.
Keeping these points in mind will help assure a safe, fun night.
Thank you,
Dana Woods Homeowners Association

The next steps for frost tinged dahlias, glads

Finally came inside at 6:45 p.m. with a flashlight in hand.
It was my own fault. I started a project much too late in the day for the work that it entailed.
You see, we had a frost last night. The first one of the year, for me, anyway.
The temperature just hit the 32-degree mark, so the tips of certain plants were hit. Leaves that were under the cover of other plants looked pretty good.
I probably could have left the gladiolus and dahlias in the ground for a bit longer based on the upcoming, warmer forecast, but I decided to seize the moment and get them dug up and moved indoors.
Read on to learn the specifics of how to overwinter these summer loving, tender bulbs.
As mentioned, dig up dahlia tubers either just prior to or soon after frost hits. I typically use a shovel or pitchfork, starting a foot or so away from the stems.
Once the soil is loosened up a bit, the stem should lift up easily with the tubers intact.
Soil should be eased off the tubers with a spray of water before placing in storage. Leave a small portion of stem attached to the tubers – it is a great place to adhere a label.
Once the tubers have air-dried for a bit, you can even

write on the tubers themselves with a permanent marker. Take it from me – it is easy to forget a name over the winter months!



Placing tubers in damp peat moss, saw dust, shredded leaves, or even ventilated plastic bags will help to prevent shriveling.
Choose a location to overwinter your tubers that maintain 40-50 degrees temps and 90% humidity. These conditions will keep them dormant and healthy until it is time to replant.
Many people have good luck using a cold basement or root cellar; small quantities of tubers can be stored in the crisper drawer of the refrigerator. Be sure to check on your tubers every couple of weeks throughout the off-

season.
Should you see shriveling, mist them with clean water and re-dampen the medium in which they were placed. If you see mold, bring down the temperature and humidity level.
Some growers like to get a jump-start on the season by pre-starting dahlias indoors.
We have done this occasionally at Old Sturbridge Village and I am amazed at just how fast the plants grow, and how quickly they outgrow their pots and become leggy. If you attempt it, four weeks prior to the last spring frost would be soon enough.
Similarly, around the time of our first frost gladiolus corms should be lifted from the ground with a spading fork or shovel. Never just yank the plant out by pulling on the stem!
Once out of the ground, cut the stem from the corm as closely as possible. Rinse under running water and allow to dry in a frost-free airy location for two-three weeks.
Check the corms regularly, and when a corky area develops between the mother corm and the new corm break off and discard the mother. After drying is complete, store on trays or in mesh bags in a well-ventilated area at temperatures between 38 and 58 degrees. The lower the temp, the better.

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.

BBB warns against job scam messages

The Better Business Bureau is warning people about a job scam that starts with an unsolicited text or direct message and offers online work, such as rating products, reviewing businesses, clicking on ads, or completing repetitive tasks.
The job seems legitimate, and you may even get paid at first. As you complete more tasks, your supposed earnings increase exponentially.
This is a typical task-based employment scam. The earnings displayed on the platform are fake.
When you try to withdraw the money, the scammers may demand additional payments for fees, taxes,

or account verification. Ultimately, you are blocked from being able to withdraw the funds and are left without pay and the money you paid out.
Finding a job can be tough, and scammers know it.
Employment scams were the second riskiest scam for individuals in 2025, according to the latest BBB Scam Tracker Risk Report. In recent years, BBB has seen an increase in task-based job scams in which victims perform tasks and are paid online but eventually are asked to use their own money for a variety of purposes.
Please see **SCAMS**, page 7

Belchertown, Granby & Amherst
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COMMUNITY

News from the Town Clerk on voting

BELCHERTOWN—Early in-person voting began on Saturday, Oct. 17 and runs through Friday, Oct. 30. It is being held in the auditorium at Town Hall, 2 Jabish St.

The hours for Saturday, Oct. 24, will be from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Weekday hours will be from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. For this election, the ballot is 2 pages, a first for Belchertown.

Be sure to be ready to vote when you come in person, to avoid delays in the voting booths. In the back of the red voter information book, there is a voter check sheet that you can bring with you to make voting quicker and easier, as the questions can be confusing and being prepared will help you have confidence when you vote.

We also suggest bringing the check sheet with you if you are voting in person on election day. Lots of extra voter information books can be found at the Town Hall and Clapp Memorial Library.

If you have already requested a ballot by mail,

you should be receiving them shortly, they have all been mailed.

Please consider returning your ballot just as soon as you can to allow time for processing before the election and be sure to return both pages.

If you are able, you can use the secure ballot drop box at Town Hall, which is available 24/7 and is collected multiple times throughout the day. This is much quicker than using the Postal Service to return your ballot.

To check the status of your mail-in ballot, go to “mass.gov” and put “track my ballot” in the search bar. Here you will be able to see when your ballot was mailed to you and when we received it back.

Feel free to stop by with any election or voter registration questions. They will be able to check your voter registration status for you.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Town Clerk’s Office at 413-323-0281 or clerk@belchertown.org”



CPC Grant applications for the upcoming year now being accepted

BELCHERTOWN—Grant application submission forms will be accepted until Friday, Nov. 13 at 5 p.m. ONLY. Proposals for Community Preservation funding must be submitted by downloading the application from the Belchertown Community Preservation website.

All relevant information

requested on the application form must be included with the proposal. Please refer to the Community Preservation Criteria Guidelines that are posted on the CPC website: www.BelchertownCPC.org.

Applications must be typewritten or provided as a word processing document. Please send

one copy of the application electronically to Jnate7007@aol.com.

Twelve (12) hard copies of the application and all supporting documentation must be submitted to: Community Preservation Committee Town of Belchertown 2 Jabish St. Belchertown, MA 01007-0670.

Deadline to register to vote Oct. 24

BELCHERTOWN—From the Town Clerk, the deadline to register to vote in the upcoming November 3, 2026 State Election is Saturday, Oct. 24, 2026.

Be sure to check your voter registration status ahead of time at www.mass.gov and put “check voter registration status” in the search bar. If it shows that you are inactive, please contact the Town Clerk’s Office to update your status prior to the election.

The reason voters show as inactive is because the Town did not receive a signed census for 2026. If you return your signed census each year, your voter

status will remain active, and you will avoid having to complete additional forms at the time of voting. You can register to vote online at www.registertovotema.com.

The State has mailed out the red “Information for Voters” booklets to all voters in the State. This booklet explains all 9 questions that will appear on the Nov. 3rd ballot. The last page of this booklet has a tear out sheet where you can mark your responses ahead of time. You are welcome to bring this voter checklist with you to vote, to help complete the ballot quicker.

For the first time,

Belchertown will have a 2-page ballot. Not just a 2-sided ballot, but 2 separate pages. We do anticipate it taking voters longer to mark their ballots in the voting booths and are hoping to shorten the time if everyone comes prepared to vote, instead of seeing the questions for the first time on election day.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact the Town Clerk’s Office at 413-323-0281 or email clerk@belchertown.org. Be sure to follow us on Facebook for up-to-the-minute information.”

Historical graveyard tours Oct. 25

BELCHERTOWN—Have you ever spent a night in the graveyard when Halloween is approaching?

The Belchertown Historical Association is once again holding Historic Halloween Graveyard Tours in the Mount Hope Cemetery. Tours will be held on Sunday, Oct. 25, from 5 to 7 p.m.

Inhabitants of the cemetery that impacted Belchertown’s history will “come to life” represented by members of the community in period costumes.

Tours will start from the United Church of Christ parish house, where a renowned storyteller will share stories of Halloweens past.

Visitors will meet Belchertown residents from the 19th Century, along with some occasional spirits, and lost souls wandering among the tombstones.

The event is free; donations being collected toward continued reconstruction of the Washington District Schoolhouse.

This is not a trick or treat event.

SCOUTS from page 1

Jeff Staples and Jess Wall of Cub Scouts Pack 507 were greeting customers entering St. Francis Catholic Parish Center. Customers purchased meal tickets and raffle tickets.

Family donations and corporate sponsors donated a total of over 20 prizes for the raffle to further benefit the pack. These funds go

towards events and trips for Cub Scouts Pack 507.

St. Francis of Assisi Parish sponsored the raffle.

The pack features about 25 children and is open to girls and boys in age groups from kindergarten to fifth grade.

The dining hall was busy with round tables filling up and a food assembly line operated by members of Cub Scouts Pack 507.

Wall said the Scouts have

been working hard at organizing this event displaying skills of working in their community.

The Scouts were responsible for running the food assembly line, placing spaghetti, meat sauce and dinner rolls on customers’ plates.

The spaghetti dinner is an annual event and fundraiser in the making and will return to Belchertown next year.

Cub Scouts Pack 507 also

perform bottle and can drives throughout the year.

For more information about Cub Scouts Pack 507, follow them on Facebook at Belchertown Cub Scouts. The pack can be contacted at belchertowncubscouts507@gmail.com.

Additional information can be found at www.belchertowncubscouts507.com.

GARDEN from page 6

Inspect throughout the winter months and throw away any corms that begin to rot.

Typically glads are planted directly in the ground, with no pre-starting needed. You can stagger when you plant, though, so that all of your flowers are not borne at once. Plant a few every week of June for color throughout the late summer through frost.

By harvesting your bulbs now, you are protecting your investment for years

to come! Only get out there and do it before you run out of daylight!

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.

ECONOMIC GROWTH from page 1

welcome packet for residents and businesses. He also plans to organize a business roundtable to hear directly from local businesses and explore development opportunities.

A longer-term strategy, he said, should include measurable goals and actionable recommendations, not another report left unused.

Weiss also described the proposed business network as a way for Belchertown businesses to connect with each other and the wider region. His role, he said, is to help make those connections and get efforts underway: “My job is a connector and an initiator.”

Cultural District Manager April Jasak-Bangs told the board the cultural designation could help put existing economic development recommendations into practice.

She said previous studies had repeatedly pointed to supporting local businesses and creative entrepreneurs, activating underused spaces and expanding arts and cultural programming. The designation, administered by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, is intended to support arts and culture as part of local economic growth.

The town has until Feb. 8, 2027, to submit its appli-

cation. Preparations include updating a cultural asset map, writing application narratives, developing a five-year plan and gathering community feedback at a summit planned for January.

The town also received a \$50,000 Massachusetts Downtown Initiative grant for professional services and planning related to the designation.

The Selectboard voted unanimously to support the application and agreed to provide a formal resolution and a letter of support from the chair.

Members discussed the need for an accurate, current asset map and asked that businesses and organizations be included fairly. The map remains a draft, and presenters said it can be updated as the application takes shape.

Gather is expected to serve as one example of the town’s investment in the creative economy.

Jasak-Bangs described it as a collaborative project where local artists and makers could display and sell their work, teach workshops and take part in community events.

Residents who spoke during public comment backed the idea.

Barbara Schaffer Bacon said she wants see Belchertown “get its share of

state and federal dollars.”

“I think the number of things that are happening to really bring out what is unique about Belchertown and the attributes we have,” she said. “We really need to coalesce the creative part of that, and this does that, and it does it in a great way. I think we’re ready.”

The immediate plan is to restart arts and cultural workshops, building on a 2024 pilot run with the Recreation Department.

Workshops could include sewing, collage, painting, writing and dance, and instructors would be paid. Organizers are recruiting teachers and hope some programming can help bring visitors to the winter farmers and artisan markets.

A marketplace is a later phase, with the planning group anticipating work on it in the second half of 2027.

No permanent location was presented, and the board was not asked to approve space for the marketplace at this meeting.

Town Manager Steve Williams said a space study is underway to assess how

the recreation and senior center buildings are being used and how available rooms might serve different community programs.

Board members raised questions about fairness to existing businesses, potential rent or other payments for town space, and the tax implications of sales.

Jasak-Bangs said the group is considering operating as its own nonprofit or partnering with another 501(c)(3) organization and is open to discussing a memorandum of understanding with the town. She said a proposed share of marketplace revenue would support programming and improvements to public spaces.

The discussions left the town with two connected but distinct efforts: pursuing Cultural District designation and restarting Gather workshops, while working through practical details of a future marketplace.

The board expressed support for the programming, with further decisions on space and financial arrangements still ahead.

SCAMS from page 6

These schemes are often perpetrated by a team of people: the person who interviews you, the person who hires you, perhaps even a coach who will onboard you. In some cases, victims report being put on a team who urges you to continue if you voice doubts or note a red flag.

Avoid task-based employment scams:

Never pay to get paid. Legitimate employers will not require you to deposit money or cryptocurrency to complete tasks or withdraw earnings.

Proceed with caution with unexpected job offers. Be cautious of recruiters who contact you unexpectedly through text messages, WhatsApp, social media, or other messaging platforms.

Research the job. Verify the company and job opening independently before accepting an offer or completing any tasks.

Be wary of too-good-to-be-true employment opportunities. Offers of high pay for simple tasks such as rating products, liking content, or “optimizing” apps are a warning sign.

Know about fake check tactics. A common tactic used by scammers is to send you an official check for training or office equipment and urge you to deposit and transfer the funds from your account quickly, only to find out the check is bad.

Have you or someone you know been a target of this kind of scam? Report the incident to BBB Scam Tracker and help others avoid similar scams.

For more information, visit BBB.org.

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USDA INSP. FRESH PORK SPARE RIBS TWIN PAK ..	\$2 ⁶⁶ lb	USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF SHOULDER ROAST or LONDON BROIL	\$7 ⁶⁹ lb	USDA INSP. FRESH CHICKEN DRUMSTICK 10 LB	74¢ lb
USDA INSP. SMOKED PICNIC PORK SHOULDER	\$2 ²² lb	USDA INSP. STOREMADE BONELESS CAROLINA GOLD MARINATED CHICKEN THIGHS	\$3 ⁶⁹ lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN HILL AND VALLEY ANGEL FOOD CAKE SUGAR FREE 9 OZ	99¢ ea
USDA INSP. FROZEN PORK TENDERLOIN	\$2 ⁹⁹ lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN GROUND FRESH DAILY DIET LEAN GROUND BEEF 5 LB BAG	\$5 ²⁹ lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN COAST TO COAST KITCHEN HAM & CHEESE OR PEPPORINI PIZZA EMPANADAS 8 OZ BOX	\$2 ⁹⁹ ea
USDA INSP. FROZEN PASTRAMI	\$6 ⁹⁹ lb	USDA INSP. FROZEN SWISS CHEESE	\$4 ⁴⁴ lb	USDA INSP. IQF FROZEN SCALLOPS ON 1/2 SHELL 2 LB BAG	\$9 ⁹⁹ ea
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SCHOOLS

Principal’s List dinner recognizes students

GRANBY—Granby Jr. Sr. High School’s annual Principal’s List Dinner was held on October 15, 2026. This award was recognition for the 2025-2026 school year. We would like to honor the following recipients for this academic achievement. This award is for students currently enrolled at or were 2026 graduates from Granby Jr Sr High School and is one of GJSHS’s most prestigious academic awards, attained by earning maximum or high honors in at least three of the four marking periods during the previous school year.

Grade 8 (achieved in Grade 7): Emilie Bond, Landon Brown, Oliver Francis, Gavin Guilbert, Avery Henderson, Madelynn Heroux, Kyla Houle, Jude Joslyn, Leighton Ladas, Lillian Los, Lily Paquin, Abigail Schmieding, Miley Son, Wallace Trafford, Aubree Wonderlie

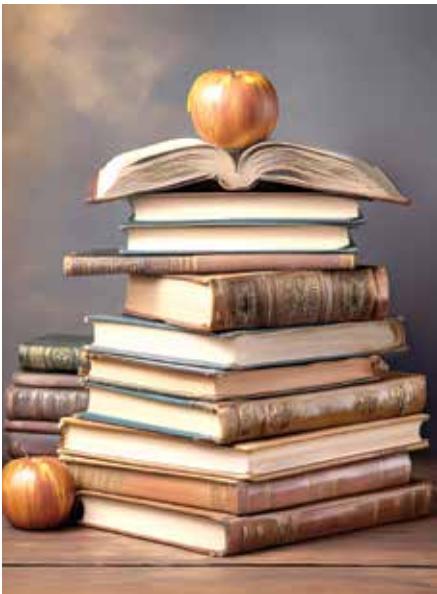
Grade 9 (achieved in Grade 8): Allison Cross, Avery Gagnon, Lilyana Gagnon, Leely Kim, Bri-Anne Kraus, Ella Ludkiewicz, Sofia Marsh, William Pula, Samantha Samonte, Ryan Smith, Alexander Tetreault

Grade 10 (achieved in Grade 9): Ella Clark, Rowan Cook, Allisandra Crowley, Jocelyn Curran, Honor DeCarlo, Addison Hill, Gwen LePage, Arianna Mislak, Sophia Silchuk, Stella Siudak, Marley Skipton, Mia Smith, Avery Tipton-Wolmart

Grade 11 (achieved in Grade 10): Lauren Barlow, Gianna Capone, Emily Durham, Ralph El Aouji, Abigail Esquivel, Amelia Gardner, Vitaly Gavel, Gabriel Helbok, Sophia Labonte, Abigail LaDuke, Anthony Misiaszek, Emma Murphy, Grace Pula, Sophia Rodrigues, Colin Sicard, Kaelynn Slapski, Richard Sweet, Isabella Tetreault, Carli Zobka

Grade 12 (achieved in Grade 11): Meredith Bartosz, Sydney Chateauf, Parker Dufresne, Liam Everson, Kyrsten Gaj, Christopher Gregorio, Madelyn LaPointe, Brenna Moreno, Lauren Piercey, Audrey Pleisch, Jaidyn Roberge, Gilmarie Vega-Febres, Nathan Walsh, McKenna Zumbruski

Class of 2026 recipients: Emma Beaulieu, Lea Charest, Allison Charron,



Kaitlyn Curran, Quinn Fuller, Braeden Gallagher, Maxwell Kennedy, Braydon LaDuke, Mylin Laliberte, Blake Lashway, Ava-Elizabeth Loughman, Rosalba Manduca, Allison Maslak, Annalise Patterson, Anthony Santiago, Addison Scott, Isabella Woods

Belchertown student support services

BELCHERTOWN—Please contact the Office of Student Support Services if you are the parent/guardian of a child, or know of a child living in Belchertown, who is between the ages of 2.5 and 22, who may have a disability or has difficulties in any of the following areas:

- Academic Skills
- Behavior
- Social Skills
- Emotional Health
- Fine Motor Skills
- Gross Motor Skills

- Speech and/or Language Skills

Belchertown residents must be able to show 2 proofs of residency; a mortgage statement/rental agreement and a utility bill that is addressed to the residential address.

You may contact Student Support Services at Belchertown Public Schools Student Support Services at 14 Maple Street, PO Box 841, Belchertown, MA 01007 or call 413-323-0423 Ext. 112



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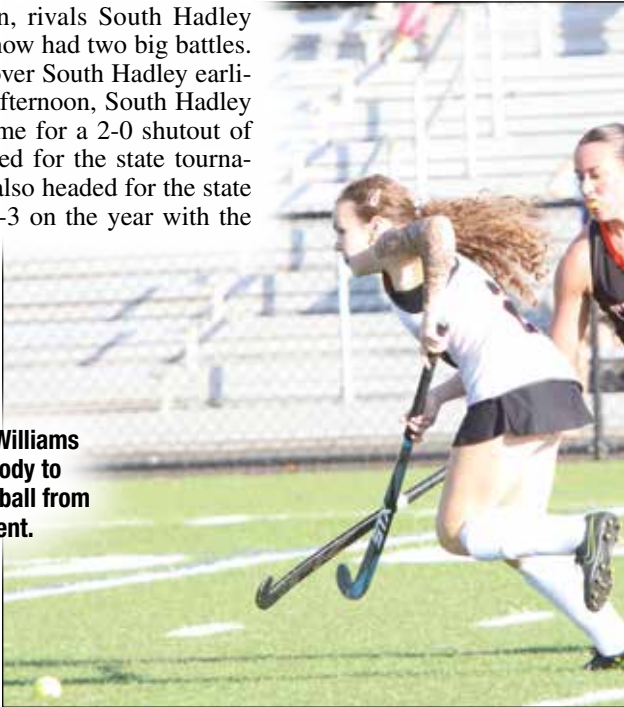


Addi DiBona tries to make a backhand stop.

SOUTH HADLEY – This season, rivals South Hadley and Belchertown field hockey have now had two big battles. Belchertown owns the lone victory over South Hadley earlier this season. But last Wednesday afternoon, South Hadley scored the only two goals in the game for a 2-0 shutout of the Orioles. The Tigers have qualified for the state tournament at 9-1-1 while Belchertown is also headed for the state tournament this year, but fell to 8-3-3 on the year with the playoffs nearing.



Madeline Williams uses her body to shield the ball from her opponent.



Madelyn Murray attempts to keep the ball under pressure.



Samantha Letzeisen hustles up the field pursued by a defender.



Goalie Lila Roy comes out to make a save.



TURLEY PHOTO BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

Brodey Williams turns to play the ball.

Pioneers secure tournament berth

PALMER – Under the lights at Legion Field, the Pathfinder Tech boys soccer team defeated Ware 7-1, and the Pioneers are now headed for the state tournament with a 9-4-1 record. Cayden Bousquet had a hat trick and Owen Pear added two goals for the Pioneers. Pathfinder had one final game this week against Southwick before learning if it makes the Western Mass. tournament.

SEE MORE PHOTOS ON PAGE 10



TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

Pioneers offense rolls to pair of wins

SPRINGFIELD – Last week, Pathfinder Tech girls soccer picked up two more wins, defeating Putnam Voke and Sizer of Central Mass. The offense scored 14 goals in the two games, started by a pair of goals

in 30 seconds to help get Pathfinder going against Putnam. That would lead to a 9-1 win over Beavers, followed by a 5-0 shutout of Sizer. The Pioneers are now 5-2-1 on the regular season.



Evelyn Wood makes a pass to her left.



Meredith Bartosz goes after a high shot.



McKenna Zumbruski tries to get a pass by a Monson defender.

Granby girls remain undefeated

GRANBY – Last Saturday, the Granby High School girls soccer team battled the cold and win and defeated Monson for the second time in two weeks, winning 3-1 at home. Kalli White, McKenna Cudworth, and Marcela Tapia all scored goals for the Rams, who now an impressive 10-0-3 on the regular season. With that record, not only are the Rams headed for the state tournament, they are currently seeded No. 1 in Division 5. Despite a 1-13 record now for the Mustangs, Monson actually holds the No. 5 position due to having a significantly more difficult schedule than many other teams in Division 5.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI



McKenna Cudworth tries to settle the ball off her knee.

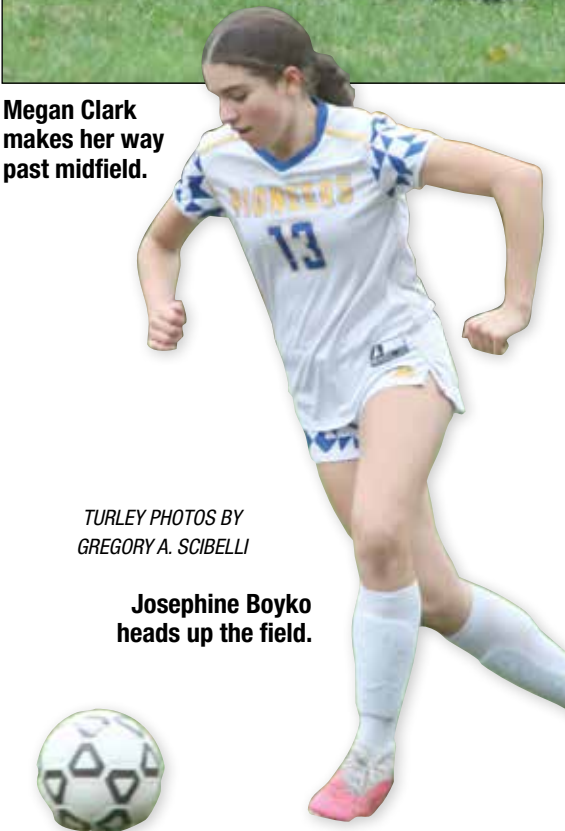


Bri-Anne Kraus advances the ball up the right sideline.

SPORTS



Megan Clark makes her way past midfield.



Josephine Boyko heads up the field.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

PIONEERS OFFENSE ROLLS TO PAIR OF WINS



Abigail Carmody makes a play on defense and heads up the field.



Callie Hawk tries to makes a pass ahead of a defender.

Railers split opening weekend of games

WORCESTER – This is not new around these parts.

The city’s pro teams — IceCats, Sharks, Railers — have always seemed to run into some opponent, at some time, they just can’t find a way to beat. In this time and place for the Railers, those guys are the Trois-Rivieres Lions.

Sunday afternoon, they pasted the home team by a 5-2 score. It was a letdown for Worcester which played so well in a 4-2 triumph over Maine on Saturday night.

In Game 2 of this season the Railers were out-everythinged except for outshot. A particular issue was special teams play. The Lions scored four times on special teams. They had three power play goals, one into an empty net, and a shorthanded goal.

In the year 2026, Worcester has played Trois-Rivieres eight times and won just one of those games. It has been outscored, 27-16 in that time and is 0-3-1 at the DCU Center.

These are divisional games. Each has a four-point swing.

The Railers goals were scored by Cole Donhauser and MacAuley Carson. It there is a sliver of sunlight in Sunday’s total eclipse, it is Donhauser’s goal. He scored on a power play at 14:32 of the second period, a beautiful play set up nicely by linemates Jordan Kaplan and Lincoln Hatten.

It was not a game-winner, or even a game-tyer, but might mean something as the year progresses. It was Donhauser’s first goal since Jan. 2, a span of 47 games and at least 99 shots on goal, maybe one or two more.

It was, indeed, a beauty. If hockey awarded three assists on a goal Hatten would have had two of them. He got the play going with a pass to Kaplan, got the puck back, then slid it across the top of the crease to Donhauser blazing in from the left side.

Carson scored at 11:41 of the third period on a goal was reviewed for a possible high stick. The puck popped up out of some traffic in front of the Lions net and wound up going in off the back of Trois-Rivieres goaltender Francisco Lapenna. Hatten got an assist on that goal as well along with Cooper Moore.

Lapenna was very good for the visitors. He stopped 24 of 26 shots and kept his team ahead all night. Lapenna is a rookie and his career is off to a memorable start. In his first seven pro games including six last season Lapenna is 6-0-1 and has given up just 10 goals on 221 shots.

That is a .955 save percentage.

The Lions got two goals from two players. Anthony Beauregard was one of them, Mathieu Bizier the other. Eduard Charron also scored for the Lions and Isaac Dufour had a pair of assists.

Beauregard scored at 5:32 of the first period, a power play goal, to make it 1-0. Charron gave the visitors a 2-0 lead at 3:55 of the second. Those first 20 minutes may have lost the game for Worcester. The Railers played well and outshot the Lions, 11-4, but could not beat Lapenna.

Donhauser’s goal was the Railers first power play goal of the season.

Phantoms steal win away from T-Birds

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Thunderbirds (2-2-1-1) could not hold onto a two-goal advantage as the Lehigh Valley Phantoms (3-2-1-0) rallied back for a 3-2 overtime win on



Saturday night inside the MassMutual Center to sweep the two-game weekend set.

After succumbing to an early goal against on Friday, the T-Birds flipped the script quickly on Saturday as Calle Rosen crept up into the left circle and deposited a rebound off the pads of Aleksei Kolosov into the twine, giving Springfield the 1-0 lead.

Both Kolosov and T-Birds starting goalie Will Cranley had plenty of work in the opening 20 minutes, but neither goalie blinked after the Rosen goal, with Kolosov denying 14 and Cranley stopping 11 to carry the 1-0 score into the middle frame.

Springfield’s power play, building confidence after a pair of strikes late in Friday’s contest, added insurance at 3:35 of the second, as Rosen set up Jakub Stancl for a one-time rip from the right circle to make it 2-0. It was the second point of the night for each player, and Jack Finley accrued his first

point as a T-Bird with the secondary helper.

Lehigh Valley proved resilient, though, and David Goyette beat Cranley on a backhand in tight to cut the lead in half just 1:13 after Stancl’s tally.

Penalty trouble then haunted the home team, as two penalties in less than two minutes set the Phantoms up with a 5-on-3 advantage. The red-hot Alex Bump took full advantage, rifling home his sixth goal in five games on a one-timer to tie the score at 15:09 of the second.

Cranley and Kolosov did their part to keep the stalemate intact through the third period, with both clubs killing off two power plays in the final 25 minutes of regulation to get the game into overtime.

Bump’s scorching week continued in the extra session, as he took a faceoff drop pass from Jacob Gaucher and fired a shot that bested Cranley on the glove side, giving Lehigh Valley its third straight road win of the week just 15 seconds into the extra session.

The T-Birds look to continue their strong start on the road as they visit the Charlotte Checkers for a pair of games on Oct. 23 and Oct. 24 at Bojangles Coliseum.

PIONEERS SECURE TOURNAMENT BERTH



Mason Ostrout tries to overcome pressure from an opponent.



Christian Ribeiro tries to keep the ball away from an opposing player.



Mason Kilham makes a play on defense.



Elijah Hodge takes the goal kick.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

Owen Marion prepares to receive a pass.

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SPORTS

WSU football scores win

WESTFIELD — Westfield State sophomore fullback Manny Mengata (Tewksbury, Mass.) ran for 172 yards on 37 carries to lead the way as the Owls ground out a 10-7 homecoming win over Framingham State at Alumni Field on Saturday.

Westfield's defense held Framingham to just 185 yards of total offense and just 24 yards on the ground.

Westfield improves to 3-2 overall and 3-1 in the Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference, while Framingham is now 3-2 and 2-2 in the league.

Westfield downed the Rams for the first time since the 2009 season.

Westfield took the lead in the second quarter on a 28-yard Quinn Sumner (Dayville, Conn./Killingly) to Malachi Hymes (Hartford, Conn./E. Hartford) TD toss. Andrew Currier's (Attleboro, Mass./Foxboro) extra point made it 7-0.

At the end of the half, Westfield State took advantage of a Framingham miscue, as backed up inside their own 20, the Rams punt traveled just 15 yards, giving the Owls 1st-and-10 at the Rams 29-yard line with 1:54 left in the half.

Three Mengata carries later, Currier booted a 40-yard field goal as time expired on the first half with room to spare, and the Owls took a 10-0 lead to

the locker room.

Framingham came out of the locker room, getting a big play on their first defensive series as a

botched Owls' punt attempt gave the Rams the ball at the Westfield 33 after a three-and-out.

Framingham QB Michael Marcucella (Foxboro, Mass.)

wasted no time in going up top, hitting Matthais Fowler (Lynn, Mass./English) deep down the middle, with Fowler brought down at the Owls' 1-yard line. The Rams went with a wildcard look and Ransford Adri (Worcester, Mass./South) scored on a 1 yard plunge on a direct snap play.

From there, the Owls saddled up Mengata for the rest of the half, getting 92 of his yards after the intermission.

Framingham had one last gasp with Jelon King getting stopped on a 4th-and-2 from the Westfield 4 yard line, with Andrew Lovell (Marston Mills, MA/Barnstable) and Mark Wright-Woodhouse (Hillside, NJ) combing to stop King a yard short to foil a 12-play, 88-yard drive. Westfield got the ball back with 5:49 on the clock, but the Owls ran in 12 straight plays to close out the clock, including a daring 4th and 1 conversion from their own 12-yard line with Mengata bulling ahead for four yards, then Kevin Moreira (Plymouth, Mass./North) swept for

nine yards on a third and five to keep the clock running. Sumner kneeled on the ball on the final play to run out the clock.

Westfield had nearly 37 minutes of possession to the Rams 23, and outgained the Rams 240-185.

Sumner finished just 2-of-6 passing for 50 yards with the one TD toss, Moreira added 34 yards on the ground. Hymes had the one TD catch for 28 yards, and Cole Ingram (Agawam, Mass.) had a 22-yard reception for the Owls.

Westfield's defense was led by 10 stops from Lovell and six from Wright-Woodhouse. Moose Thompson (Adams, Mass./McCann) added four yards and sack, and Dominic Allen (Palmer, Mass.) added a sack.

For Framingham, Marcucella was 16-25 passing for 161 yards. Fowler led the Rams receivers with five grabs for 76 yards, with Xavier Beauchamp (Lynn, Mass./English) catching two for 26 yards, and led in rushing with six carries for 15 yards. Zimari Omosefe (Lynn, Mass./English) made 13 tackles to lead the Rams, with Jordan Cabbagestalk (Bridgeport, Conn./Bullard) making 12 tackles and forced a fumble. Korrey Barron (Rockwall, Texas) made nine stops and recovered a pair of fumbles.

Westfield will travel to Plymouth State next Saturday for a noon kickoff with the Panthers, while Framingham will host Mass Maritime at Bowditch field. Both are conference clashes.

AMHERST



TURLEY PHOTO BY RYAN DRAGO

The dining hall at South Congregational Church was full during the annual Fall Dinner.

South Church hosts Fall Dinner

By Ryan Drago

Staff Writer

rdrago@turley.com

AMHERST — The South Congregational Church, 1066 South East St., had a busy evening featuring its annual Fall Dinner.

The dinner took place on the evening of Oct. 17 with over 50 dine-in guests, over 30 takeout orders and home deliveries.

The Fall Dinner was an idea put together by the South Congregational Church's Board of Trustees. The dinner has been held at the church since the early 2000s.

Linda Todaro serves on the Board of Trustees and she said the church hosts similar

events throughout the year.

The annual church suppers in the spring have been a tradition at the South Congregational Church for nearly 100 years.

The spring suppers' traditional meal includes chicken salad, strawberry shortcake and asparagus. In February, the church will be offering a lasagna meal for takeout only.

This year's Fall Dinner featured a choice of pork and gravy or a vegetarian sausage, both accompanied by mashed potatoes, butternut squash, applesauce, roll and butter and apple crisp.

Members of the South Congregational Church provided curbside pick-up and home deliveries. The parking lot had a line of guests wait-

ing for their meals.

The kitchen staff were busy preparing all the meals for dine-in guests and curbside pick-up.

Todaro said the church offers "real community building events" throughout the year. The efforts of the members and volunteers of the church make each event possible.

This holiday season, the South Congregational Church will host its annual Sleighbell Fair on Saturday, Nov. 21 from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. The church is collecting items for the fair until Nov. 13.

More information can be found at amherstsouthchurch.org or by calling 413-253-2977.

Movie in the Park Oct. 24

GRANBY — The Friends of Granby Parks is hosting our 4th Annual Movie in the Park on Friday, Oct. 16, the rain date: Saturday Oct. 24. The event is held in Dufresne Park in Granby, Mass.

Trunk or Treating will begin at 5 p.m., and the movie, "Minions and Monsters" will begin around 6:30 p.m.

There will also be free balloon creations by Brie's Balloons and glitter tattoos by Western Mass Face Painting from 5 to 7 p.m. The suggested donation per car is \$5.

All are welcome to participate in the festivities.

Craft & Vendor fair to be held Oct. 24

BELCHERTOWN — Pine Valley Plantation Mobile Home Community is preparing for their upcoming, annual Craft & Vendor Fair on Saturday, October 24 from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

This will be the 8th year for this popular fair, with over 30 crafters and vendors coming together to display (and sell) their Fall and Holiday items. Held both indoors and outdoors, there's a huge assortment of "Must Haves" and great gift

ideas for even the most difficult to buy for.

For the convenience of shoppers and vendors, they offer a snack bar, with delicious homemade chicken or broccoli cheddar soups, hotdogs, egg- and ham-salad sandwiches, beverages and snacks.

Pine Valley is just off route 21, near the Cold Spring Golf Course. Follow the signs to the Community Building. It will be held "rain or shine".

Amherst Dog Park to hold Halloween Pawty Oct. 24

AMHERST — The Friends of the Amherst Dog Park is hosting the fifth annual dog costume "Halloween Pawty" Saturday, Oct. 24 from 2 to 4 p.m. at the dog park on Old Belchertown Road. Rain date is Sunday, Oct. 25.

Everyone - human and dog - is invited and encouraged to show up in costumes. The Mad Hatter will make a special appearance to judge the costumes and bestow awards. A \$5 donation is suggested.

Costume categories this year are best costume large dogs, first, second and third place, best large dog and human duo, best costume small dog (30 pounds or less), first, second and third place, best small dog and human duo.

This year there will also be

a People's Choice category where everyone can vote for their favorite costume.

Raffle prizes, a combination of gift certificates and products are donated by local merchants. Volunteers from the Alpha Phi Omega fraternity, a UMass service organization, will help run the 'Pawty'.

All dogs must be on leash unless they are inside the dog park.

Located off Rt. 9 on Old Belchertown Road in Amherst, the dog park is one and a-half acres of play space on a capped landfill. It's divided into large and small dog areas.

The Amherst Dog Park is open year-round, from dawn to dusk, and is free to all visitors. The park is ADA



compliant. It is governed, run and maintained by volunteers, collectively called the Friends of the Amherst Dog Park.



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CRAFT FAIR from page 1

of the Men’s & Women’s Club at the Immaculate Heart of Mary Church and was cooking in the kitchen to provide breakfast and lunch for guests. Members of the church also offered a bake sale and raffles during the craft fair.

Kim Marion of Kim’s Kreations served as the coordinator of the craft fair and is a regular vendor during the event.

This was the first year the church expanded their craft fair to the outdoors to welcome more vendors to set up. A total of 53 vendors arrived this year.

The holidays are fast approaching and there were plenty of vendors that were accommodating holiday shoppers.

D & J Country Crafts had plenty of fall and Christmas items for sale during the craft fair. The business is operated by Donna Pike of Southwick and Judy LaPlante of Granby.

These two crafters make a little bit of everything out of former wood and household structures.

“We repurpose, recycle and reuse,” Pike said.

Many crafts were made out of wood, bed slats, shutters, clothing racks and many household items that were nearly thrown in the trash. For example, the shutters were turned into decorative snowmen.

This was the 10th year D & J Country Crafts attended the Craft Fair at the Immaculate Heart of Mary Church.

Attending the Craft Fair for the first time is Gracie’s Creations of Ludlow. Gracie is in eighth grade raising money to go to dance nationals at Disney next year.

Gracie’s Creations offered bracelets, earrings, shell creations, diamond dot stickers and other creative crafts. Gracie has been crafting for a couple years.

If shoppers were shopping for their pets, they could visit Stay Cozy of Wilbraham. This crafter makes pet beds, microwave cozies, scarves and hats.

Virginia Weiner of Granby is the founder of Gourds by Virginia. Her work involves collecting local gourds and applying paint.

It all started with decorating three gourds and now,

15 years later, there are hundreds of decorated gourds in all shapes and sizes.

It was the holiday season, so Weiner had snow people and caroler gourds available during the Craft Fair. Weiner’s favorite decorations for her gourds are flowers.

One Eye Wanda Coffee Roasters of Wilbraham attended the Craft Fair providing samples of coffee and selling a variety of roasted coffee.

The name was inspired by founder Michael Branchesi’s adopted cat Wanda. While in operation, One Eye Wanda supports local animal shelters throughout Massachusetts.

“The more we grow, the more we want to give,” Branchesi said.

Throughout the year, the Immaculate Heart of Mary Church hosts a Veteran’s Dinner, chicken dinner and a summer festival. More information can be found on the Immaculate Heart of Mary Facebook page and www.ihmparishgranby.org.



Shown from left are Donna Pike and Judy LaPlante, the owners of D & J Country Crafts. They are regulars at the annual Immaculate Heart of Mary Church Craft Fair.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY RYAN DRAGO

Do not disturb the napping kitty relaxing in a pet bed crafted by Stay Cozy of Wilbraham.



Decorative gourds for the holiday seasons were painted by Virginia Weiner of Gourds by Virginia of Granby.



Quilts and blankets of all styles were made by Deb Quilts.



Unique Halloween figures were spotted during the Craft Fair.



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CLUES ACROSS

1. Nocturnal rodent

5. Requesting

11. Give temporarily

12. Frivolousness

16. Military arm

17. “Westworld” actor Harris

18. Persian Gulf port city

19. Air hostesses

24. Partner to “Pa”

25. Percussion instrument

26. Raincoats

27. Lower the light

28. Asian mountain range

29. Every one of two or more

30. Lack of difficulty

31. A public announcement of a proposed marriage

33. Reduces in size

34. Make an impact

38. Serviceman

39. A French river

40. Prehistoric people

43. Messenger ribonucleic acid

44. “Layla” singer Clapton

45. Ancient Greek sophist

49. Largest English dictionary (abbr.)

50. “Top Gun: Maverick” actor Powell

51. A way to disentangle

53. Atomic #93

54. Manifesting approval

56. Indigo bush

58. Larry and Curly’s pal

59. Off-Broadway theater award

60. Fencers

63. Masses of fish eggs

64. Passerine birds

65. Arrange systematically

CLUES DOWN

1. Colorless part of blood

2. Of a main artery

3. Photog’s tool

4. Blues Traveler hit “But ___”

5. Grew older

6. Not the leader

7. ___ Lang: country singer

8. A driver’s license is one

9. Nests of pheasants

10. Antelopes

13. One quintillion bytes

14. Japanese lute

15. A type of cat

20. It cools your home

21. Dorm official

22. Pouches

23. German trigraph

27. Form of Persian

29. ___ route

30. Upper body part

31. Bridge building degree

32. Indicates position

33. Political action committee

34. Edible nuts

35. Front part of a quadruped

36. Locate

37. Geological time

38. Of I

40. Northern Utah city

41. They work in the trenches

42. Hammer is one

44. Tall deciduous tree

45. Performers

46. Slang for mistake

47. More open

48. Most slick

50. Provokes

51. Home of the NCAA’s Flyers

52. Sodium

54. Large fish of the mackerel family

55. Not one

57. ___ and behold

61. Atomic #21

62. “The Great Lakes State”

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 Oct. 9, through Oct. 15. 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, Oct. 10
3:50 p.m. – A Belchertown resident was charged with domestic violence.

Monday, Oct. 12
7:02 a.m. – A Ware resident was issued a summons for unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle. A vehicle traveling west on Ware Road on Route 9 at a high rate of speed. The vehicle tried to stay in the lane but was unable to navigate the roadway. A vehicle going east tried to swerve to avoid a head on collision. The two crashed. The first vehicle rolled over four times for 150 feet from the road. The operator was transported to the hospital.

Sunday, Oct. 11
2:14 a.m. – An officer dispatched to an active domestic incident. A person was subsequently arrested.

Wednesday, Oct. 14
2:54 p.m. – A woman was issued a summons for a violation of a harassment prevention order.

ACCIDENTS/INCIDENTS

Friday, Oct. 9
3:29 a.m. – An officer responded to a report of a fire alarm at a Mill Valley Road business on scene. The officer found the gates were closed and they were able to gain entry. Belchertown Fire Department searched the building. There was a smoke condition in the building, then the officers found what appeared to be ignited rags. There were no signs of forced entry. The rags were covered in stains used to stain wood. They checked security camera footage. No one was in there and it was believed to be due to spontaneous combustion.
7:43 a.m. – An officer responded to an accident on Henry Drive and State Street. A vehicle was struck by a turkey on the right side of the road. There was damage to the windshield and feathers in the road. No tows were needed. No injuries were reported.

11:55 a.m. – An officer took a report of fraud. The resident said they received a call from a person claiming to be a fraud center employee. The person gave away their personal information and got a charge on their account. The person tried to call the number back and no one answered. They were told to make their financial institutions aware.
1:06 p.m. – A person sold a puppy via Venmo. They sold the puppy and got money via Venmo. The person who purchased the puppy then cancelled the purchase, stating it was a false charge. The officer told the person it was a civil matter. The officer contacted the person who bought the dog and contacted the local agency where the person was a resident. They said they would follow up with the person. The seller was advised to go to the community to make the exchange for the dog.
1:45 p.m. – An officer responded to an accident. A vehicle rear ended another vehicle. One operator said the other was tailgating them. The other vehicle slammed on their brakes unnecessarily. No injuries were reported and no tows were needed.
4 p.m. – An officer and Belchertown Fire met with a reporting party for a dryer fire in their basement. There was smoke coming up from the basement. The person heard a loud boom. Belchertown Fire was able to extinguish it. The Building Inspector was called and the resident was allowed to reenter but was told not to use a propane appliance until there was an inspection.
5:43 p.m. – An officer met up with a person who was surrendering their firearms license because they were transported to the hospital for their mental health. The officer retrieved the firearms.

Saturday, Oct. 10
1:05 p.m. – An officer responded to a crash on Allen Road and Daniel Shay's Highway. A vehicle was traveling south on Daniel Shay's Highway and a second vehicle stopped at Allen Road went through a stop sign, striking the first. The vehicle at the stop sign on pulled into traffic and struck

the first vehicle. Partial video of the crash was taken and provided to the officer. No tows were needed. One person was transported from the scene.
2:30 p.m. – An officer spoke with a resident who lost Social Security card and license. They thought their ID was stolen a fraud license was opened in another state under their name. There were also fraudulent medical bills in their name.
2:30 p.m. – An officer noticed a backpack placed at front door of the station. It was found property and filed into evidence.
Sunday, Oct. 11
6:11 a.m. – An officer responded to an accident on Amherst Road. A vehicle going eastbound on Amherst Road went into the oncoming lane, onto the side of the road and crashed into a utility pole and tree. The operator was transported from the scene. The vehicle was towed.
10:04 a.m. – An officer responded to Jabish Street for a crash. A vehicle going westbound on Jabish Street when a second vehicle going eastbound on Jabish Street left the lane, striking the first. The person said items on their seat fell off and as they went to retrieve them, they swerved into the lane, causing the accident. No injuries were reported. Both vehicles were towed from the scene.
11:24 a.m. – An officer was doing a follow up investigation about a vehicle that was used by a person but not returned to the original owner. They asked to check the residence of the person who borrowed the vehicle to see if they would return it.
6:35 p.m. – An officer responded to help a person who was suicidal and making statements to harm themselves. They were transported to the hospital.
Monday, Oct. 12
6:21 a.m. – An officer responded to an accident on Warren Wright Road at Bay Road. A vehicle stopped at Warren Wright Road and Bay Road tried to turn left when a second vehicle tried to get around and struck the first. The second vehicle left the scene. No injuries were reported and no tows were

needed.
12:01 p.m. – An officer responded to a report of a domestic incident. There was a report of people fist fighting and yelling. Upon their arrival, the officer saw bleeding and marks from one person and the two people were separated. They spoke with the involved people who declined medical attention. They went back to their respective addresses.
8:39 a.m. – An officer responded to Chauncey Walker Street for a report of a juvenile that indicated they were lost. The juvenile said they got into an argument with their parents. The officer contacted Ludlow Police. They were transported to school by the officer. The School Resource Officer was contacted. A 51A was filed with DCF.
10:29 a.m. – An officer responded to a crash on George Hannum Road. A vehicle going east on George Hannum Road had the right of way with the flow of traffic when a second vehicle pulled into the flow of traffic. The two collided. Both vehicles were driven from the scene. No injuries were reported.
2:10 p.m. – Police and Belchertown Fire responded to Ware Road business for a report of a dumpster fire that was close to the building and a propane tank. It was extinguished.
7:07 p.m. – An officer was requested to do a wellbeing check for a person who seemed to be in distress. They appeared to be home-

less and shaking. The officer contacted a relative who agreed to be evaluated by Belchertown Fire paramedics. It was determined they needed to be taken to a hospital to be evaluated.
Wednesday, Oct. 14
11:29 a.m. – An officer responded for a wellbeing check for a person who didn't show up for work. They were transported to the hospital. They had a dog at the home that Belchertown Animal Control took custody of.
3:47 p.m. – An officer took a report of a threatening message a juvenile received from another juvenile. The officer spoke with the involved juveniles. Both juveniles were advised they could get harassment orders if they chose to do so.
4:05p.m. – An officer took a report of fraud. For a month and a half, a resident was experiencing financial loss. In September, they got an email from a scammer claiming to be Geek Squad. The resident was told they owed money for services and were requested to send gift cards. The scammer said they would double the person's gift cards and send them back. They did so. They thought had access to email and their credit cards. The person was also getting texts that the scammer was keeping track of what made for purchases. They were advised it was a scam. A report was completed for elder services.
11:42 p.m. – An officer responded to a residence for a report of a person being combative. They weren't interacting positively with other residents in the home. They wanted to be evaluated and obtained a patient refusal. Then 10 minutes later, they asked the fire department to return to the residence. They declined assistance a second time.

Thursday, Oct. 15
1:20 p.m. – An officer and Belchertown Fire responded

to a large brush fire across multiple backyards. Officer said a vehicle was in proximity of the fire. Belchertown requested mutual aid from Granby and Ware Fire to the scene. Three sheds were fully engulfed and the fire within 10 feet of a residence and a vehicle. A large amount of brush and building materials were on fire, then the fire went towards a camper. It was unknown if there was any damage to the camper. The officer spoke with the homeowner who was burning brush and disposed of the ashes in the backyard. It was extinguished.
1:57 p.m. – While the previous call was in progress, Ware Fire provided station coverage. A medical call came in, and Ludlow Fire responded for mutual aid.
2:23 p.m. – Ware Fire responded to another medical call as a first responder for mutual aid.
4:07 p.m. – An officer responded to a South Main Street residence for a report of destruction of property. A rock wall was struck by a vehicle earlier in the day. It was struck several times. It was hit on different occasions. The officer asked for video footage from the neighbors. The person didn't have any information on the cause of the damage.
6:45 p.m. – An officer responded to Amherst Road for a report of a vehicle that struck a bear. Upon the officer's arrival, they couldn't locate the vehicle or the bear. It was determined the operator went back to their residence. The operator said the bear was just clipped. The vehicle had minimal damage, and the person didn't want to file a report.
9:35 p.m. – Officers responded to a domestic incident.

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Candlepin League NEWS

By **Ryan Drago**
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

Bondsville League

WARE – The Wednesday Night Bondsville League has been dominated by Spare Parts after six weeks of bowling.

The team has a commanding lead in both the overall standings and the west division with a record of 32-10. The Pincesses are leading in the east division with a record of 26-16.

Spare Parts bowled against Rolliies during week six on Oct. 14. In game one, Spare Parts and Rolliies had a close game, but Spare Parts prevailed with a score of 455-453.

Jared Demitri of Spare Parts began with 108 to outscore Sue Horton of Rolliies. Rich Picotte of Rolliies had the highest game of 110.

In game two, Spare Parts won again by a score of 493-449. Steven Daniel of Spare Parts scored 136, while Demitri scored 109.

In game three, Spare Parts won by a score of 490-475 to complete the three-game sweep over Rolliies.

Demitri finished the match with 145 for a three-game series of 362. Ron Gouin of Rolliies had a strong game of 133 for a series of 341.

The final score was 1438-1377 in favor of Spare Parts.

Fire Mountain bowled against the Pincesses during week six. In game one, Pincesses defeated Fire Mountain by a score of 474-437.

In game two, Fire Mountain won by a score of 509-477. Rick Trott of Fire Mountain scored 122 to get his team back in the match. Shawn Ross of Fire Mountain had a good game of 126.

In game three, Keith

Ferenz scored his best game of the season, 127, to help his team win 522-433.

The final score was 1473-1379 in favor of Pincesses. Ferenz had a series of 322 with scores of 93, 102 and 127.

The Night Hawks bowled against the Flaming Bowling Balls during week six. In game one, Flaming Bowling Balls by a score of 491-465.

Joe Mullen of FBB scored 116 to start the match. His teammate Don Paulus scored 118. Dave “Smigs” Smigiel, Lee Robinson and Darryl Sinclair of Night Hawks had scores of 113, 106 and 106.

In game two, Flaming Bowling Balls won again by a score of 476-470. Brandon Haley of FBB scored 121 and Sinclair scored 118.

In game three, Night Hawks managed to win the last game 462-446. Smigiel finished with 118 for a series of 326. Mullen scored 108 for a series of 313.

The final score was 1413-1397 in favor of Flaming Bowling Balls.

Zeke’s Freaks bowled against P&J Meats. In game one, P&J Meats won by a score of 493-452. Shaun Midura of P&J Meats started with 118. Kevin “Kras” Krasnecky of Zeke’s Freaks started with 122.

In game two, P&J Meats won again by a score of 488-460. Krasnecky scored 125 in a losing effort. Midura scored 124 and hist teammate Paige Stabach scored 108.

In game three, Zeke’s Freaks won by a score of 500-444. Krasnecky finished with 116 for a three-game series of 363.

Pete Ducharme of Zeke’s Freaks finished strong with 112. Stabach finished with 106 and a series of 323.

The final score was 1425-1412 in favor of P&J Meats.

The Cannonballs bowled against Slow Burners during



week six. In game one, Slow Burners won by a score of 487-457. Jody Orszulak of Slow Burners started off with 114.

In game two, Slow Burners won again by a score of 467-466. Dean Koczur of Slow Burners scored 115 to help lead his team to another win.

In game three, Slow Burners completed the three-game sweep by winning the last game 476-468. Nate Orszulak of Slow Burners finished strong with 125.

The final score was 1430-1391 in favor of Slow Burners.

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue of 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 Mortgagee’s 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

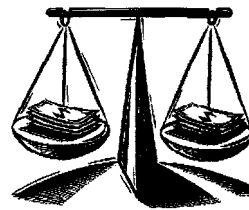
its election, to sell the property to the second highest bidder at the public auction provided that Mortgagee, in its discretion, may require (1) said second highest bidder to deposit the amount of the required deposit as set forth herein within three (3) business days after written notice to the second 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



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

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