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MWRA withdraws Quabbin water increase application

By Melina Bourdeau
Correspondent

REGION – The Massachusetts Water Resources Authority withdrew its application Nov. 5 to increase the amount of water it can draw from the Quabbin Reservoir, a move local officials called a win for watershed communities, but only the start of a longer conversation.

In a letter to the state Water Resources Commission, MWRA Interim Executive Director Stephen Estes-Smargiassi rescinded the authority's Interbasin Transfer Act application. The proposal sought to raise the MWRA's transfer rate by 20 million gallons per day, from about 220 MGD, to accommodate future service-area expansion.

It drew more than 1,000 comments, with elected officials and residents questioning its legal basis, climate assumptions and fairness to communities in the watershed. The MWRA said future requests will be reviewed community by community.

"As stewards of an essential regional water resource, we recognize the importance of maintaining the confidence and trust of the Quabbin communities that have protected and supported the Quabbin watershed for generations," Estes-Smargiassi wrote.

He said the MWRA sought "a full and transparent disclosure of the impacts of increasing withdrawals from the reservoir system," but that "the use of that regulatory option added to confusion and concern, rather than allaying it."

Instead of seeking a single, systemwide increase to cover future growth, the MWRA said it will return to its tra-

Please see QUABBIN, page 7

HOLIDAY Craft Fair





TURLEY PHOTOS BY RYAN DRAGO

The holiday-themed pottery of Swift River Pottery of Belchertown.
Santa Claus and one of his elves were spotted off Park Street in Belchertown.

Returns to Old Town Hall

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

BELCHERTOWN – The annual Belchertown Twirlers Holiday Craft Fair returned to the Old Town Hall for a weekend of shopping.

This holiday-themed craft fair has been held at the Old Town Hall for at least 20 years and is a fundraiser for the Belchertown Twirlers.

President of the Belchertown Twirlers Parents Group Geoff Ochs said this craft fair benefits the Twirlers and has been a supportive fundraiser.

This year's holiday craft fair had 21 vendors from throughout the region, including new and repeat crafters. Members of the Twirler Parents Group hosted a raffle and a snack bar for visitors attending the holiday craft fair on Nov. 7.

Attending the Belchertown Twirlers Holiday Craft Fair for the first time was Vintage Inspired Christmas. The business is operated by Kim Durant and Rainy Walsh, who put together a glitter-filled display of holiday decorations inspired by Christmas.

Returning to the holiday craft fair for the sixth year was Marie Budness of Swift River Pottery. Budness operates Swift River Pottery year-round and dedicates time for decorative pottery during the holidays.

Budness has been a potter for 15 years out of her home in Belchertown and loves crafting usable pottery for her customers.

"I want them to use the pottery," she said.

Holiday creativity was seen all over the Old Town Hall. Matt's Crazy Designs of Agawam creates T-shirts, framed puzzles, shot glasses, cozies and towels.

For the holidays, Matt creates holiday-themed towels with notable figures, quotes and designs featured on each one.

Please see TWIRLERS, page 3

Board has informal talks

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

BELCHERTOWN – The Planning Board had an informal discussion was with Brenden Normand of Tall Tree Landscape LLC.

Normand attended the board's Oct. 27 meeting to discuss a potential business site.

Normand said his primary purchase plan is for his business, and he came across a large site with options for development. He said his business was currently on a steady growth pattern and was running out of space in his current location.

Tall Tree is a year-round operation and Normand said storing equipment out of the weather is critical for what they do for work. Therefore, his company started looking at other locations.

"My primary goal is to get in and develop a location and a building site," Normand said.

Normand is looking to put a 7,000-7,500 square foot shop that is in a fashion that allows for future expansion.

Normand had a temporary timeline in mind for the building project that would satisfy the need for his tree business.

Please see TALKS, page 2

Stone House Museum holds annual fair

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

BELCHERTOWN – The Stone House Museum became a winter wonderland as it hosted the annual Yuletide Holiday Fair.

The fair has been a holiday tradition at the Stone House Museum for at least 25 years. As the trustees said, "it's been going on for a long time."

Please see YULETIDE FAIR, page 4



TURLEY PHOTO BY RYAN DRAGO

Amy Lanham is one of the Trustees of the Stone House Museum where the annual Yuletide Holiday Fair took place.

Pavilion added by Granby Veterans Memorial

By Ryan Drago
Staff Writer
rdrago@turley.com

GRANBY – The newest addition to the area of the Granby Veterans Memorial was completed this past week.

A new pavilion was added to the property in addition to the memorial wall and tank. This project was made possible by the efforts of the Granby Veterans Memorial Committee and the Friends of Granby Veterans.

The Memorial Committee was appointed by the Select Board back in 2012 for the purpose of finding a place to put the veteran plaques that honor the Granby service members.

The Friends of Granby Veterans is a group of dedicated men and women chartered to finance and care for the Granby Veterans Memorial wall and assist Granby veterans with their needs.

The memorial was completed and celebrated back in 2024. The memorial wall recognizes Granby servicemembers who served from the Revolutionary War to modern conflicts.



TURLEY PHOTO BY RYAN DRAGO

Members of the Granby Veterans Memorial Committee and Friends of Granby Veterans stand below the newly constructed pavilion near the Granby Veterans Memorial. Left to right is Charlotte Mugnier, Brian Sowell, Tom Rousell, Ann Rousell, Rob Chauvin, Rhonda Haska and Jason Richard.

The tank currently displayed on the property was delivered to the Granby Veterans Memorial on June 27, 2023. The tank was delivered from Fort Devens and is from the Vietnam War era.

The current project, constructing and installing a pavilion, was completed on Nov. 6 of this year. Chairperson of the Granby Veterans Memorial Committee Jason Richard said this project was supported thanks to many volunteers.

He said contractors donated their labor and many materials for the project were donated as well. The Friends of Granby Veterans supported this project through fundraising.

"It has come a long way," Richard said.

Please see PAVILION, page 3

COMMUNITY

BHS indoor track use schedule released

BELCHERTOWN—Belchertown High School use of track Nov. 16 - April 17, 2027. The track will be open for use Monday - Friday by Senior Citizens between 9 a.m. and 10 a.m. The track will be closed on weekends, holidays, and vacations. Please see the school calendar.

Walkers must have an approved CORI on file with the school district. Please come to Belchertown Public Schools, Central Office, 14 Maple Street, Belchertown, MA to complete a CORI in person. You will need to show a valid driver's license or state ID.

All walkers must sign in and sign out at the Main Office at Belchertown High School.

All walkers must wear a visitor's badge while walking the track.

All walkers must leave the building if there is a fire drill/emergency and report to the front of the building to be accounted for when checking attendance.

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Town of Belchertown seeks bids for surplus Law Library Collection

Sealed bids for the complete collection are due Thursday, December 3, at 2:30 p.m.

BELCHERTOWN—The Town of Belchertown is accepting sealed bids for its surplus law library collection. The Select Board declared the collection surplus property on September 8, 2026.

The collection is made up of printed legal reference materials first published in 1998, with updates through 2009. It is being sold as a single lot, and bids must be for the complete collection.

How to Bid

Sealed bids must be received at the following address no later than 2:30 PM on Thursday, December 3, 2026:

Office of the Select Board, The Finnerty House, One South Main Street, P.O. Box 670, Belchertown, Massachusetts 01007

Bids will be opened and read aloud in public at that time.

To get the official bid form or more information about the collection, contact the Office of the Select Board at 413-323-0403.

Terms of Sale

The collection will be awarded to the highest responsible bidder. The successful bidder must pay the full bid amount by check within ten days of being notified of the award and must remove the entire collection at their own expense within ten days of payment.

The materials are sold in their current condition, with no guarantees or warranties, expressed or implied. The Town of Belchertown reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to award the bid in the best interest of the Town.

CPC Grant applications being accepted for the upcoming year through Nov. 13

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.

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TALKS from page 1

The parcel Normand is currently looking to purchase does have wetlands. He also wanted to get a site plan and stormwater plan in place in addition to applying for a special permit and building permit.

His initial concern with the property was the traffic speed. Normand said traffic tends to speed a lot off the road where the property is.

The Planning Board asked Normand several questions about his plans for the property, including future development plans.

Michael Hofler of the Planning Board said Normand should keep in mind what the bylaws are for businesses in the particular zone he's looking at.

Normand said he does want to place a building in a way where it helps provided additional privacy to the abutters.

Town Planner Doug Albertson said Normand would still need a site plan approval from the Planning Board in addition to what he has to ask for from the Zoning Board of Appeals.

The board recommended that Normand look at the property to provide screening protection as part of the site plan approval process.

The property Normand is looking at is big enough for two lots. He will return to the Planning Board at their next meeting with more information.

Potential property conversion

The Planning Board's next informal discussion was with Erik Hagstrom to discuss a potential property conversion.

The property is located off Depot Street and was originally a church. Hagstrom said the space was used as an artist gallery but wants to convert the property to its original use.

Hagstrom presented preliminary plans to the Planning Board and wanted to seek feedback. A walk-through at the property with the Building Inspector did take place.

Hagstrom said he is also in conversation with the abutter behind the property. He asked the board about what guidance they may have and should be done to the property to repurpose it as a religious structure.

The Planning Board began by reviewing the dimensional requirements for the parking lot near the building. The lot may need a certain number of spaces to meet the occupancy.

The square footage of the property allows approximately 210 people.

For the parking, Hagstrom asked if there was a certain number of spaces the Planning Board would consider granting.

The Planning Board made a recommendation for Hagstrom to look at other parking lots near the facility and look at offsite parking to maybe offer a shuttle service.

A variance could be asked for while seeking site plan approval.

"We'll go and make the appropriate inquires," Hagstrom said.

ZBA recommendation

The Planning Board continued to discuss the ZBA recommendation for the variance and appeal decision of the Building Inspector for 31 South Main St.

The board made some changes to the language of the specifications they wrote up. One involved specification on definitions of family and child centers.

Hofler wanted to add that the Planning Board unanimously recommends that the ZBA upholds the determination of non-compliance.

"This land is not primarily purposed for commercial agriculture," Hofler said.

Wanting to make sure everything is referenced correctly, the board wanted to put in the words "primary purpose" in their specification.

The applicant's business was filed as a family daycare corporation. The Planning Board voted to send their revised recommendation to the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Data centers

The Planning Board continued discussion on data centers. The board conducted research on what other communities are doing to address data centers.

For example, Marshfield has data centers allowed by special permits in the industrial zone with strict requirements and definitions.

Albertson said data centers involve looking into energy, noise and water requirements. The board thought about what model regulations could be.

They also discussed the idea of having a temporary moratorium. Members of the board asked if they could do a moratorium and expand it.

A moratorium is not a permanent cancellation or ban. It is a period of time where local governments can place temporary holds on building permits or zoning approvals to update codes and requirements.

This sort of discussion could lead to a potential town meeting. The Planning Board agreed to draw some language for an 18-month moratorium. In the future, the board will seek input from other departments in town.



HOLIDAY Craft Fair



Giselle Grenier of Pillows Talk attended the annual Belchertown Twirlers Holiday Craft Fair at the Old Town Hall.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY RYAN DRAGO

Rainy Walsh and Kim Durant of Vintage Inspired Christmas.



Holiday themed towels designed by Matt's Crazy Designs.



TWIRLERS from page 1

Tricia's Treasures of Ware attended their first Belchertown Twirlers Holiday Craft Fair over the weekend. Patricia LaFountain creates jewelry, art and home décor.

One of her unique items for sale was wooden décor signs featuring designs of cardinals. LaFountain said cardinals are popular themes around the holidays and are symbols representing spirits of loves ones who have passed.

According to one vendor, "every pillow has a story to tell." Giselle Grenier of Pillows Talk fell in love with making pillows.

"I take T-shirts and turn them into pillows," she said.

Grenier had many themed pillows from military, Christmas, kids, seasonal and specialized ones for baby showers.

For more holiday-themed items, Donna's Gift Store of Ludlow offered holiday books, stuffed animals, Christmas trees, snowmen and children's gifts.

These items are all handmade by Donna, originally from Belchertown, who encountered many of her repeat customers at the Belchertown Twirlers Holiday Craft Fair.

More information about Belchertown Twirlers can be found on their Facebook page.

Cardinals represent spirits of loved ones who have passed. This holiday cardinal piece was made by Tricia's Treasures.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY RYAN DRAGO

The Granby Veteran Memorial has been made possible by the efforts of a committee of volunteers.

PAVILION from page 1

Tom Rousell serves on the friends and memorial committee and has been with the Friends of Granby Veterans for 14 years. He is a veteran who served during the Vietnam War.

Rousell said the Friend of Granby Veterans is made up of 13 members and are always looking for volunteers.

The pavilion project started in the spring of 2024.

The work consisted of raising the old garage that was originally on the property. The work involved altering the foundation so the pavilion could be built.

Plans to dedicate the pavilion will take place around Memorial Day 2027.

Rousell said there will be new additions to the pavilion in the near future. For example, a patio with benches and making the area Americans with Disabilities Act compliant.

Underneath the pavilion is a compass pointing north in the direction of where the memorial stands.

With the memorial, the area has become a Veterans Memorial Park dedicated to the veterans and a place for the community to enjoy.

"Dedicated to the veterans, but this is for everyone to enjoy," Rousell said.

Shown is a compass pointing north on the ground of the pavilion.

A Veterans Day Ceremony took place at the Granby Veterans Memorial on Nov. 11. The memorial and the new pavilion can be found on the corner of North Street and Route 202, 257 East State St.

For more information about the Granby Veterans Memorial, visit www.granbyveteransmemorial.org.

Holiday Bazaar to be held Nov. 21

SOUTH HADLEY—The 25th Holiday Bazaar is being held at Center Church, UCC, located at 1 Church Street in South Hadley, on Nov. 21 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and November 22 from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. Get ready for the holiday season.

The Fellowship Hall will be filled with new and gently care for, affordable tree decorations, lights, window candles, gift wrapping supplies, permanent wreaths and trees, table linens, decor items, toys, books, gifts, the list continues.

The Meetinghouse House Room, the Chapel, and the Music Room will have a variety of local crafters for you to start your holiday shopping and decorating.

New this year is a silent auction.

Always a favorite is selecting cookies from the Pastry Cabinet.

Other tasty treats will also be for sale. A free children's craft will keep the kids busy.

Sit for while at the cafe area taking a break and enjoying a delicious soup lunch, also available to take home.

Lots of great finds while having a nice time in a boutique setting.

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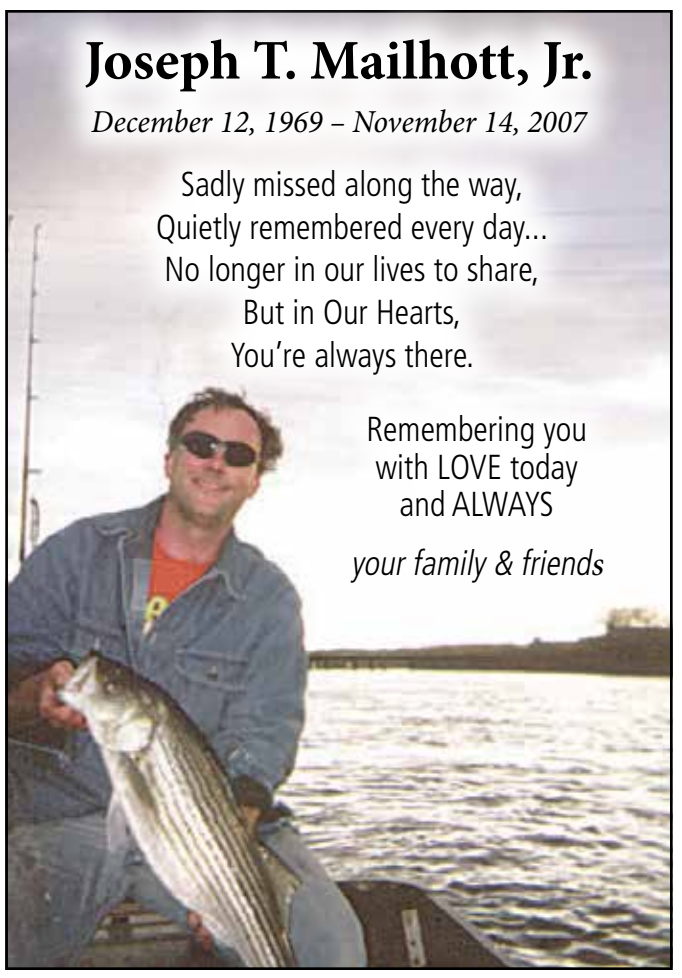
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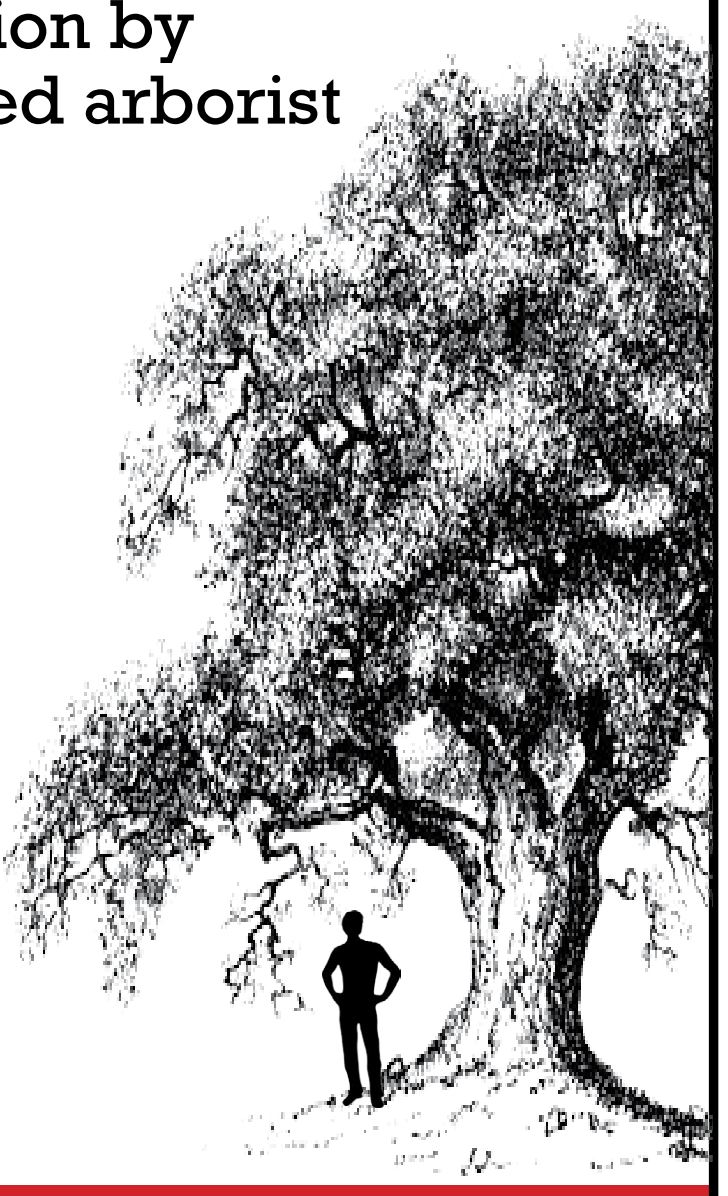
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COMMUNITY

Town of Belchertown invites local businesses to first Business Roundtable

Evening at Arcpoint Brewing launches a series of conversations

BELCHERTOWN—The Town of Belchertown invites local business owners to grab a seat at the table for a Business Roundtable on Thursday, Nov. 19, 2026, from 6 to 8 p.m. at Arcpoint Brewing located at 30 Front Street.

Hosted by Eric Weiss, Community and Economic Development Planner for the Town of Belchertown, the evening is a chance for local businesses to connect with one another and help shape the future of the town's business community. Discussion topics include:

- Challenges and opportunities facing local businesses
- Ideas for the future
- Starting a new Belchertown business organization

This is the first in a series of business roundtables, with dates for future meetings to be announced.

"Our local businesses are a big part of what makes Belchertown such a great place to live, and they know better than anyone what's working and where we can grow," said Weiss. "I'm excited to sit down together, hear their ideas, and talk about building a business organization that gives our business community a stronger collective voice. This is the start of something really good for the town."

Business owners with questions about the roundtable can contact Eric Weiss at EWeiss@belchertown.org.

About Belchertown

Belchertown is a welcoming community of about 15,000 residents that blends small-town character with room to grow. Located at the crossroads of Hampshire, Hampden, Franklin, and Worcester counties, Belchertown is part of both the Pioneer Valley and the Quabbin Region, offering working farms, forests, and trails alongside access to the area's colleges and cultural life. The town is just 90 minutes from Boston and an hour from Hartford, Connecticut.

YULETIDE FAIR
from page 1



A basket raffle was held during the Yuletide Holiday Fair for folks to do some early holiday shopping.

This annual holiday fair took place on Nov. 7 as the holidays are quickly approaching. Guests entered the museum and experienced the holidays in a 19th century home with refreshments and an opportunity to complete some early shopping.

The Yuletide Holiday Fair featured an array of crafts, old bags, baked goods, gift baskets and raffle items. These are donated by members of the Historical Association.

During the event, refreshments such as cookies and cider were enjoyed by guests.

The kitchen room had all the baked goods available. There were cookies, brownies, muffins, cinnamon rolls and much more.

The old bag sale has been a popular feature during the Yuletide Holiday Fair. After their opening day event, the Historical Association has accumulated more bags.

What began as a display of bags would soon become a single room filled with bags. There was one room in the Stone House Museum fully dedicated to hosting the bag sale.

There were a variety of shopping bags and pocketbooks of all sizes for sale to be put to good use.

Rooms throughout the museum were decorated, including a room with a Christmas tree lit up with tables full of baskets and raffle items.

Members of the Historical Association dressed for the occasion during the 19th century holiday atmosphere.

Amy Lanham is one of the Trustees of the Stone House Museum and was wearing a Victorian Era dress during the Yuletide Holiday Fair.

Last year, the Stone House Museum hosted a new event during the holidays. The museum was decorates with trees, garlands, ornaments and candles inspired by the Victorian Era.

This year, the Stone House Museum will bring back Tours of Christmas Past on Sunday, Nov. 29 and Saturday, Dec. 12. Timeslots for tours will be 5 p.m., 5:30 p.m., 6 p.m., 6:30 p.m. and 7 p.m.

For more information, visit www.stonehousemuseum.org or call 413-323-6573. The Stone House Museum us located at 20 Maple St. and is dedicated to keeping Belchertown's history alive.

Tours of the museum are offered year-round by appointment.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY RYAN DRAGO

The bake sale took place in the Stone House Museum's kitchen.



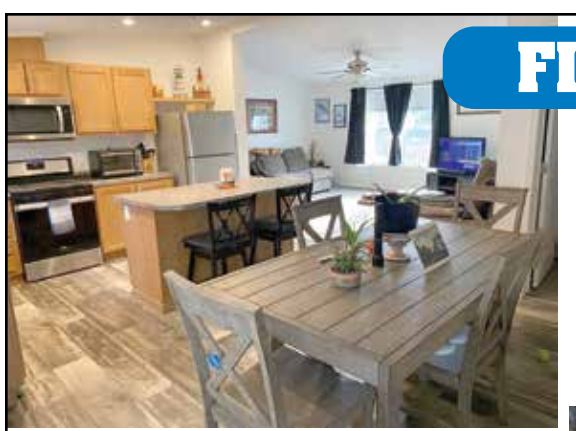
The Yuletide Holiday Fair had each room in the Stone House Museum decorated.



The Yuletide Holiday Fair held a bag sale which started as a small display and is now a full room..

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OPINION

SOCIAL SECURITY Matters

By Russell Gloor

How can I find out what I've contributed to Social Security?

Dear Rusty:

I have a simple question (I think).

How do I find out how much I have paid into Social Security over the years?

Signed: Curious Senior Citizen

Dear Curious Senior:

I expect you might rightfully believe you have contributed quite a lot and, fortunately, there are a couple of convenient ways for you to find out how much you have actually paid into Social Security over your lifetime:

1. If you have an online Social Security account (www.ssa.gov/myaccount) you can simply go to your online "my Social Security" account and click on the link for "Social Security Statement."

In that online Social Security statement, you will see a listing of your lifetime earnings, and at the bottom of that listing you will see how much you and your employers on your behalf have paid in Social Security FICA payroll taxes (or SECA self-employment taxes) over your lifetime.

2. If you do not have your online Social Security account set up, you can also contact the Social Security Administration, either your local SS field office get the local office contact information at www.ssa.gov/locator or call 1-800-772-1213 to ask that a copy of your personal "Social Security Statement" be mailed to you.

Obviously, getting this information online is the most efficient method, so you may wish to create your online account if you don't yet have one. Instructions for doing so can be found at www.ssa.gov/myaccount. Having this online account will open the door for you to access all the information Social Security has for you, including details of your monthly benefit and your lifetime earnings history.

FYI, many who seek this information are looking to understand when (or if) they might get back all their contributions once they start collecting Social Security benefits. Of course, much depends on the age at which you claim your benefits, but as a general guide, it usually takes about 5 years or less for you to get back in SS benefits all that you have personally contributed to Social Security. However, the length of time to "breakeven" is longer for self-employed individuals, who must pay both the employee and employer portion of Social Security payroll taxes.

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.



in my BACKYARD

By Ellenor Downer


Hairy woodpecker

I received an email this week from a reader, who shared a photo of a white-breasted nuthatch he took. He said he has not seen a hairy woodpecker in three years.

The hairy woodpecker is a medium-sized woodpecker found across North America, characterized by its black-and-white plumage. Males have a red patch on their head; females do not.

They typically inhabits forests and is known for its energetic climbing behavior while foraging for insects in tree bark.

The hairy woodpecker is the larger of two look a likes – the hairy woodpecker and the downy woodpecker. Although they both possess the same black and white feather pattern color and the red patch on the back of head (males only), the hairy woodpecker has a much longer bill than the downy woodpecker.

The hairy woodpecker measures approximately 9.8 inches in length and has a wingspan of about 15 inches. Its diet mainly consists of insects particularly wood-boring beetles, which it extracts from tree bark.

They also excavate their own nesting cavities often in the dead stub of a living tree. The entrance to the nest is about 2 inches tall and 1.5 inches wide, leading to a cavity 8-12 inches deep.

The inside widens at the bottom to make room for the eggs and the incubating bird. It's typically bare except for a bed of wood chips at the bottom.

They are known for their distinctive drumming sounds, which they use to communicate and establish territory.

The hairy woodpecker's call is a short, sharp peek and is similar to downy woodpeckers, but slightly lower pitched and often sounding more emphatic. They also make a rattle or whinny. This call is also similar to the downy, but does not descend in pitch at the end.

Ravens

The man, who sent the photo of the white-breasted nuthatch said where he lives, the supermarkets are

"raven territory." He recommended reading the book "Ravens in Winter" by Bernd Heinrich..

Bald eagles

A Petersham resident spotted four bald eagles, two in a tree and two flying above, on Saturday, Oct. 31 around 10 a.m. on Popple Camp Road, Petersham. He said, "Perhaps the unlucky rabbit road kill caught their attention or they were a reminder to us all to vote on Nov. 3."

Large flock of blackbird

Three of my grandchildren and I saw a large flock of blackbirds flying overhead in Spencer on Friday, Oct. 30. I guessed there were at least 200 birds, maybe more, in the flock.

Other birds

I spotted a flock of about a dozen robins along the road side recently. I wondered if they were gathering to migrate south or if they were some of the robins that over winter in this area.

I spotted a red-tailed hawk fly across the road on election day, Nov. 3. I have seen a red tailed hawk three different days and in different locations recently.

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

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.

Carrots beckon to be harvested

in the Garden

by Roberta McQuaid



My youngest daughter loves cooked carrots with a little drizzle of maple syrup, whereby my older one likes them raw with peanut butter on the side.

It's funny that these incentives that we started back when they were little kids and we wanted them to eat their vegetables stuck through the years!

Regardless of what the girls like to eat their carrots with, I am so glad they eat them. Carrots are a nutritious root vegetable, containing beta-carotene which our bodies convert to Vitamin A, potassium and other vitamins, dietary fiber and antioxidants which vary according to the color of the carrot.

For years I struggled to grow carrots when my friends seemed to have an easy time of it. Either the seeds didn't germinate well, or if they did, bugs ate the seedlings when they were just an inch tall.

One year I got past that only to have the roots taste so bitter at harvest that I ended up throwing them all out. All that work for nothing!

The last few years I've done much better, and as we speak my carrots beckon me to finish the harvest. So far I've been in a "pick as needed" mode, but since I don't want to deal with insulating them under layers of straw, time is running out and I better get them out of the ground.

Here are some tips for growing great carrots.

Ideally your soil should be deep, loose and free of stones. Carrots grow well in raised beds for this reason.

Regular garden beds should have the soil loosened to about a foot deep. Be wary of using fresh manure or other sources of fertilizer that are super high in nitrogen. While it's true that carrots like some nitrogen, having ultra rich soil will make for fibrous, hairy roots.

Experts say that if you are going to amend it should be done the fall prior.

It can take a long time for carrot seeds to sprout. Gardeners have tried all sorts of extraneous measures to get them to germinate more quickly and with greater consistency.

Here are some things I have read about and some I have tried.

The old radish trick – try sowing radish seed interspersed among your carrot seed. The radishes will sprout first, marking the row and providing some shade for the developing carrot seedlings. Some people pre-sprout. Place seed in a moist paper towel and set it in a warm spot in the house and it will sprout.

Immediately after sprouting it is sown in place in the garden. The rows are kept moist and ideally the seedlings take hold.

Sadly, I have read that sometimes this causes roots that end up misshapen. Sometimes gardeners use wood, shade cloth or burlap to keep the seedbed moist.

If you miss when the seeds sprout, they could be smothered under these coverings or worse yet, get tangled up in the fabric. Check daily and remove coverings on the first notice of germination. Continue to keep the bed watered or seedlings will perish.

I planted my carrot seeds in shallow furrows just after Memorial Day and kept the plot watered until they were up and growing. Although carrot seed can germinate in early spring – even when soil temperatures are below 50 degrees, I have had better luck with later sowings.

Another concern gardeners have has to do with sowing the tiny seeds and/or thinning the seedlings.

Carrots mature to the right size when given at least two inches between plants. I usually try to sow my seed a half-inch apart and then thin to two inches.

Thinning is a pain to do, especially in bigger plantings, but it can be done. In order not to damage nearby seedlings, I often use a tiny pair of scissors to cut away the crowding seedlings.

A thumb and index finger can also be used to pinch away the excess plants right at the soil line. Sometimes gardeners mix carrot seed with sand or dry coffee grounds to make sowing the small seed easier; using seed tape or pelletized seed are other, albeit expensive, options to ensure more equidistant seedlings.

Regular carrot seeds are viable for two-three years whereas pelletized seed is viable for a year. Tape and coated seeds do still need to be kept as moist as regular sowings – maybe even more so, due to the additional layers.

This past year I thinned early on but probably should have done it again when the plants were bigger. I do have clusters of roots within my rows where some carrots look like "baby" carrots and others are full size.

Ah, such it life. The small ones will take a little more work to deal with, but will taste just as good, I imagine.

It'll be fun to serve carrots at our Christmas dinner. After harvest I'll store them unwashed in perforated bags in the fridge until I am ready to use them. And maybe I'll serve them with a drizzle of maple syrup.

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

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COMMUNITY

Residents warned of scam claiming unpaid taxes

The town will never call residents to say they owe taxes and request payment over the phone

BELCHERTOWN—The Town of Belchertown is warning residents about a phone scam in which callers claim to be from the Town and say the resident's taxes have not been paid.

The Treasurer/Collector's Office learned of the scam this week when a resident came in to report receiving such a call. The resident's taxes were paid in full, and they did not share any personal or financial information with the caller.

The Town will never call residents to say they owe taxes and request payment over the phone.

Residents who receive a call like this should hang up and should not share personal information or bank or credit card numbers or make a payment over the phone. Residents should also not rely on caller ID, as scammers can make a call appear to come from a local or official number. To check the status of a tax account, residents should call the Treasurer/Collector's Office directly at 413-323-0400. Calls can also be reported to the Belchertown Police Department at 413-323-6685.

Because scammers often target older adults, the Town encourages residents to share this information with family members, friends, and neighbors who may be at risk.

More information is available at https://www.belchertown.org/m/NewsFlash/home/detail/214.

About Belchertown

Belchertown is a welcoming community of about 15,000 residents that blends small-town character with room to grow. Located at the crossroads of Hampshire, Hampden, Franklin, and Worcester counties, Belchertown is part of both the Pioneer Valley and the Quabbin Region. Residents enjoy working farms, forests, and trails alongside access to the area's colleges and cultural life, all just 90 minutes from Boston and an hour from Hartford, Connecticut.

Town seeks donated holiday tree for Winter Light Night

BELCHERTOWN—The Town of Belchertown is asking residents to help light up the season by donating an evergreen tree to be the centerpiece of the 9th Annual Winter Light Night, hosted by the Belchertown Cultural Council. The official tree lighting will take place Saturday, Nov. 28, at 5:30 p.m. on the Belchertown Common.

The tree on the Common has been a bright spot at the heart of town for many winters. This year, the Town is hoping to add something new to the celebration with a tree donated by a member of the community. The Town is also exploring planting an additional holiday tree on the Common in the future.

The Town is looking for an evergreen located in Belchertown that is ten to 12 feet tall, in great condition, and full on all sides. A fresh-cut tree is preferred, but a live tree will also be considered.

Please see DONATION, page 10

QUABBIN from page 1

ditional approach, reviewing the impact on the water source, known as the donor basin and the communities receiving water "contemporaneously."

Each community that applies to join the MWRA system will submit its own analysis of the effects on the Quabbin watershed and a case for its demonstrated water needs.

The MWRA did not name which communities are seeking admission.

Weymouth is applying to join the system to serve the town and the Southfield redevelopment at the former South Weymouth Naval Air Station, according to the town's website.

The town expects an MWRA decision in early 2027 and says pipeline construction could be completed between 2030 and 2032.

Separately, nine MetroWest public water suppliers, known as the MetroWest-MWRA Connect Coalition, entered an intergovernmental agreement in 2025 to study the cost of connecting, the Acton Exchange reported Nov. 7. The suppliers are Acton Water District, Concord, Bedford, Ayer, Groton, Lincoln, Littleton, Maynard and Westford.

Local reaction

Sen. Jake Oliveira (D-Ludlow) thanked "legislative colleagues and everyone who made their voices heard" in a statement after the withdrawal.

"This was a collective effort, and the credit belongs to the communities that refused to be left out of decisions affecting their future," he wrote. "While we must remain vigilant against future proposals, today is proof that when communities come together and speak with a united voice, they can make a difference."

Sen. Jo Comerford (D-Northampton) called the outcome "a testament to their collective power and transformative advocacy and organizing." She encouraged continued dialogue with the MWRA.

Rep. Aaron Saunders (D-Belchertown), whose 7th Hampden District includes Quabbin watershed communities, called the withdrawal the start of a discussion.

"I think we can get to a place of fairness and equity, without being overly burdensome on the MWRA ratepayers," he said. "Getting there is going to be a conversation, and compromises will need to be made, but (withdrawal of the application) is a big step. It removes an obstacle."

What's next

Attention is turning to payments and representation for the 12 communities involved in watershed and system discussions: Barre, Belchertown, Hardwick, Ludlow, New Salem, Orange, Pelham, Petersham, Phillipston, Shutesbury, Ware and Wendell. Together they have received about $3 million in payment in lieu of taxes funds for state-owned land.

In an Aug. 12 letter to the MWRA, Gov. Maura Healey proposed a commission to review and recommend changes to the PILOT program. She noted that the Mass Ready Act, as filed, proposed that the MWRA make two years of annual payments of $50,000, in addition to existing PILOT, to each watershed community.

She also proposed working with the communities on technical expertise for water infrastructure, support for local fire and police response, a new forum for raising concerns and statewide drought watering restrictions.

The MWRA Advisory Board, in an Aug. 28 response, backed help with local police and fire response and technical assistance, but cautioned that additional payments should account for more than 40 years of existing funding for watershed protection and "be considered through the Commonwealth's broader review already underway."

Saunders has also filed "An Act relative to the Quabbin Watershed and regional equity," which would create a Quabbin Host Community Trust Fund, add representation for Connecticut River Valley and watershed interests on the MWRA board and cap board terms, such as at 12 years.

The withdrawal comes as the MWRA changes leadership. Jonathan Gulliver, named the authority's next executive director pending contract negotiations, supports withdrawing the application and pursuing "a more focused submission that addresses the demonstrated needs of the communities currently seeking admission to the MWRA system," Estes-Smargiassi wrote. The Advisory Board said in a blog post after Gulliver's appointment that the authority's next phase will require "skilled staff, realistic schedules" and a more public-facing MWRA.

The board wrote that the authority and its member communities could build "a meaningful voice in the decisions communities fund," along with a clearer understanding of what their investment provides and more public partners to help sustain the system.

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Department of Developmental Services

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PUBLIC SAFETY

Belchertown Police Log

Editor's note: The following are brief explanations of select entries in the Belchertown Police log and arrests for the weeks of Oct. 30 through Nov. 5. 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

Tuesday, Nov. 3

5:40 p.m. – A juvenile was arrested on domestic charges.

Wednesday, Nov. 4

8:19 a.m. – A 22-year-old Belchertown male was issued a summons on charges of negligent operation of a motor vehicle. An officer responded to Boardman Street for a reported crash. A Massachusetts State Trooper was on scene. It was unknown whether anyone was injured. An off-duty Belchertown Police Officer on scene was stopped behind a school bus in the westbound lane when another vehicle passed, sideswiped it and stopped behind the school bus. The trooper was traveling westbound when the vehicle passed them. One injury was reported. The driver of the involved vehicle said they were running late for class. They passed the vehicle and saw it try to catch up, then they decided to go even faster. The suspect then braked, attempted to go around the stopped vehicle, and struck it. The operator said they didn't know how fast they were going. Massachusetts State Police were also going to issue a citation. The operator of the second vehicle was transported to the hospital. Both vehicles were operable, but one was towed from the scene.

ACCIDENTS/INCIDENTS

Friday, Oct. 30

9:12 a.m. – An officer responded to a North Washington Street residence for a report of a stolen motorcycle. The garage door was open overnight. The motorcycle was pushed out, and tire tracks led to North Washington Street and then over a patch of dirt where there was a tire track and a shoe print. There was another motorcycle left untouched in the garage. The door was opened, and the motorcycle was concealed from view. A power washer was in the front yard of the residence. It was previously in front of the motorcycle and was moved to remove the motorcycle. It appeared the person tried to take the power washer, causing them to leave it where it was. Still under investigation. Another report was received of a stolen dirt bike overnight. The dirt bike was posted for sale on Facebook Marketplace.

9:42 a.m. – Officers were dispatched to a neighborhood report of a suspicious person asking where the bus stop was. The officer located and identified the person. They were visiting an acquaintance, got into a disagreement and were seeking transportation to their home. Officers transported them to the station, where a relative picked them up.

5:20 p.m. – An officer took a report of a person in an apartment about a package delivered and left outside in a common doorway. Cameras captured a juvenile taking it. Then they threw it out onto a grassy area.

6:20 p.m. – An officer responded to an accident on George Hannum Road. A vehicle traveling east on George Hannum Drive struck a deer going from the left side of the road to the right. The deer went on its way. No injuries were reported, and no tows were needed.

Saturday, Oct. 31

7:08 a.m. – An officer responded to assist Belchertown Fire with a person having a mental health crisis.

2:43 p.m. – An officer took a report of harassment. A person said they were receiving harassing social media comments about their child. They were advised that stating where someone lives is not harassment. They were told to block the person.

2:59 p.m. – An officer was dispatched for a report of a verbal altercation between two people.

5:46 p.m. – An officer responded to assist Belchertown Fire paramedics.

Sunday, Nov. 1

2:04 a.m. – An officer responded to assist Belchertown Fire for a report of someone having a mental health crisis.

4:24 a.m. – An officer responded to assist Belchertown Fire for a report of someone having a mental health crisis.

5:47 p.m. – An officer responded to an accident on Ware Road. A vehicle struck a deer. The driver tried to avoid the deer. The deer got up and ran away following the crash. The vehicle's hood and bumper were damaged, but it was drivable, and no injuries were reported.

6:23 p.m. – An officer responded to assist Belchertown Fire paramedics with a person having a mental health crisis.

Monday, Nov. 2

11:31 a.m. – An officer responded to a residence. A juvenile was home, and a parent/guardian noticed an acquaintance enter the residence. They didn't want them there. The door was open, and the acquaintance entered. The officer didn't locate anyone in the residence. They found the two at a different location, and the officer passed the information on to the School Resource Officer.

12:52 p.m. – An officer was requested to speak with a resident about an ongoing neighbor dispute.

2:55 p.m. – A person located a shotgun and machete in a vehicle they encountered.

3:59 p.m. – An officer conducted a well-being check at a North Liberty Street residence for a report of a possibly intoxicated person who was stumbling in the road. They were walking on the side of the road, stumbling and fell into the roadway. Officers identified the person. Their speech was slurred, and they said they were trying to get to another address in town and were transported to the hospital. They said they had been drinking.

4:47 p.m. – An officer responded to an accident on North Main Street. A vehicle stopped at a drive-through when it was struck by a second vehicle in the rear. No injuries were reported, and no tow was needed.

Tuesday, Nov. 3

9:13 a.m. – A person came to the station to surrender a firearm for destruction.

9:57 a.m. – A resident said they got two emails from one person: the first was sent early in the morning from the RMV saying they were getting a citation, then later that morning a summons to court, but it didn't say what it was for. The person wanted to check whether there were any issues. They were not sent from a Mass.Gov website, and the person was advised to check with the RMV.

11:04 a.m. – Officers doing an election detail found a license that belonged to a resident. The officer went to the person's home, but no one answered the door. They tried to contact the resident, returned to the residence and the person provided the license.

12:44 p.m. – They spoke with a person in the eastern part of Massachusetts, who said the charges were made from a business in Belchertown, and the business owner told them the charge wasn't real. They were advised to contact the agency in the town they live in. Then, the person said they tried to place an order, said they lived in Indiana and that the buyer used one credit card number, which was declined because it had reached a limit. The person continued using different credit card numbers until they used one that belonged to the person in the eastern part of the state. The charge went through, and then they spoke with the person about the transaction not being legitimate. They asked the original buyer for an ID, and they canceled the order. The matter was referred to the department in the eastern part of Massachusetts.

2:05 p.m. – An officer responded to the North Washington Street underpass for a report of damage to the bridge. It appeared a vehicle struck it. The matter is under investigation.

5:14 p.m. – A person found ammunition at a deceased relative's home, and it was retrieved and put into property at the station.

9:31 p.m. – Police assisted Belchertown Fire paramedics with a person having a mental health crisis.

Wednesday, Nov. 4

2:14 p.m. – A person came to the lobby to report a possible 209A violation.

3:08 p.m. – An officer responded to a reported crash. A vehicle entered a business, tried to turn left into a second entrance, and was rear-ended by another vehicle. No injuries were reported, and no tows were needed.

3:23 p.m. – An officer took a report of a person's vehicle struck 20 min prior on Warren Wright Road. The two vehicles struck each other's mirrors while traveling in opposite directions. No injuries were reported, and no tows were needed. The second vehicle did not stop.

4:50 p.m. – A person dropped off a credit card they found. It was entered into property.

Thursday, Nov. 5

5:17 a.m. – An officer responded to an accident on West Street. A vehicle struck a tree. The operator attempted to make a right turn, lost control, went onto someone's lawn and struck a tree. The vehicle was inoperable. Then both occupants left the scene. Officers found the passenger nearby and provided medical treatment. The driver was never found.

7:15 a.m. – A drone activation occurred concerning the prior accident to try to find the driver, who fled toward Bardwell Street. The person was not located.

9 a.m. – A lieutenant went through property and evi-

Please see **POLICE LOG**, page 13

2027

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Info Sessions for Prospective Members: *Includes Formal Presentation*

Fri., Nov. 6, at 10:00 a.m.
Our Lady of the Valley
33 Adams St.
Easthampton, MA

Tue., Nov. 10, at 10:00 a.m.
Wilbraham Senior Center
250 Springfield St.
Wilbraham, MA

Fri., Nov. 13, at 10:00 a.m.
AMVETS Post 74
2150 Main St.
Three Rivers, MA

Sat., Nov. 14, at 9:00 a.m.
Residence Inn (behind PetSmart)
500 Memorial Dr.
Chicopee, MA

Tue., Nov. 17, at 1:30 p.m.
Longmeadow Adult Center
211 Maple Rd.
Longmeadow, MA

Fri., Nov. 20, at 10:00 a.m.
Our Lady of the Valley
33 Adams St.
Easthampton, MA

Mon., Nov. 23, at 11:00 a.m.
Amelia Park Ice Arena
21 S. Broad St.
Westfield, MA

Tue., Nov. 24, at 10:00 a.m.
The Episcopal Church of Saints James and Andrew Parish Hall
8 Church St. in Greenfield, MA

Open House Events for Prospective Members: *No Formal Presentation; Drop-In Anytime*

Wed., Dec. 2
10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
La Quinta
100 Congress St.
Springfield, MA

Sat., Dec. 5
9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Residence Inn (behind PetSmart)
500 Memorial Dr.
Chicopee, MA

Mon., Dec. 7
10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Homewood Suites
Holyoke/Springfield
375 Whitney Ave. in Holyoke, MA

Visit our website at **healthnewengland.org/sessions** or call **(855) 218-2203 (TTY: 711)** for a full session schedule. We're here from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., seven days a week.

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Orioles capture WMass Championship



Kian Roy maintains possession of the ball.



Kina Roy is pressured as she tries to turn play around.



Mary DiBona advances up the field.



Madeline Williams gets her stick out in front of an opponent.

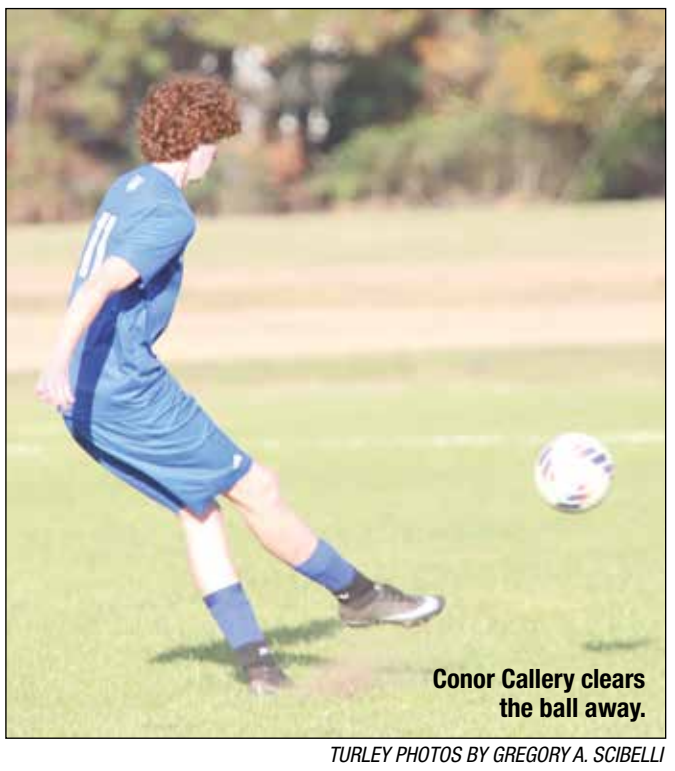


Samantha Letzeisen sends a pass forward.

BELCHERTOWN – On Saturday, Oct. 31, Belchertown High School field hockey continued its rivalry with South Hadley. After the two teams split a pair of league matchups during the regular season, the Orioles handed the Tigers a 3-1 loss in the Class B finals of the Western Mass. Tournament. Belchertown improved to 11-3-4 and was scheduled late last week to enter the Division 3 State Tournament with a preliminary round game against North Middlesex.



Addi DiBona looks to clear the ball.



Conor Callery clears the ball away.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI



Daniel Brown chases after the ball near midfield.



Colby Szymonik goes after a loose ball on defense.

Granby boys win in WMass quarter finals

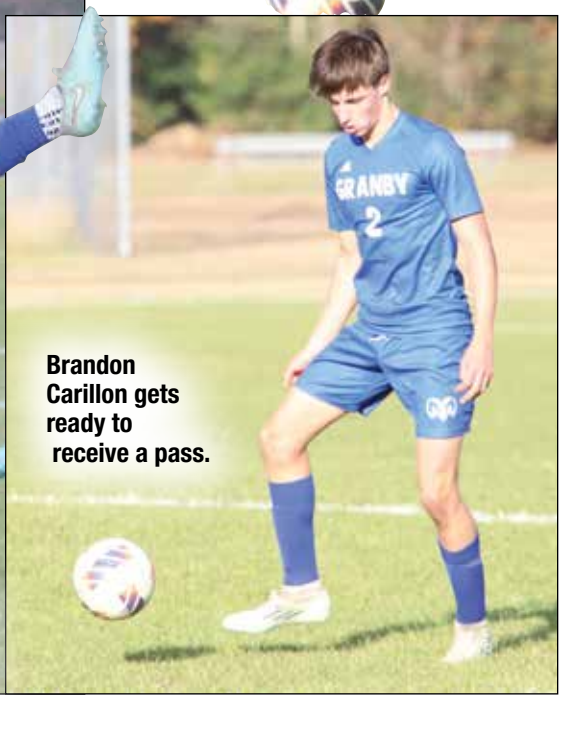
GRANBY – In the quarterfinals of the Western Mass. Class D quarterfinals, the Granby High School boys soccer team got one first half goal from Austin Carmody and defeated Mt. Everett 1-0. The Rams were scheduled to play Hopkins in the next round. Highlights from that matchup will be in a future edition.



Gabriel Helbok gets a leg out to block a pass.



Jacob Weglarz goes high to bring down an intercepted pass.



Brandon Carillon gets ready to receive a pass.

T-Birds grab split with Bears

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Thunderbirds (4-5-2-1) were unsuccessful in carrying over momentum from the night before, falling 6-1 to the Hershey Bears (7-5-0-0) on Saturday night inside the MassMutual Center.

After a pedestrian showing a night ago, the visiting Bears, unsurprisingly, had a strong push in the opening 20 minutes, putting 17 shots at Springfield goaltender Will Cranley, with the T-Birds' backstop making answers 16 times, including a pair of point-blank denials on Jonny Brodzinski and Theodor Niederbach on back-to-back opportunities.

The only time Hershey dented Cranley came on a 5-on-3, set up by two Springfield penalties less than a minute apart. Brodzinski slid a perfect diagonal pass to the right circle, where second-year pro Andrew Cristall one-timed it through Cranley's five-hole for his first goal of the season and a 1-0 Bears lead at 14:26.

Mitch Gibson got the start in the Hershey crease, where much of the pressure he faced came in the opening half of play. Chris Wagner and Otto Stenberg each found themselves with their point blank chances, with Gibson making a pair of pad-flashing stops. The T-Birds got one power play

Please see T-BIRDS, page 10

SPORTS

Pioneers turn back Frontier

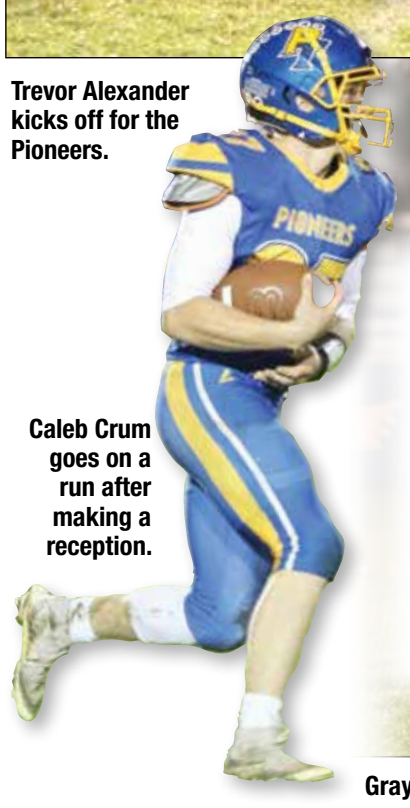


Trevor Alexander kicks off for the Pioneers.

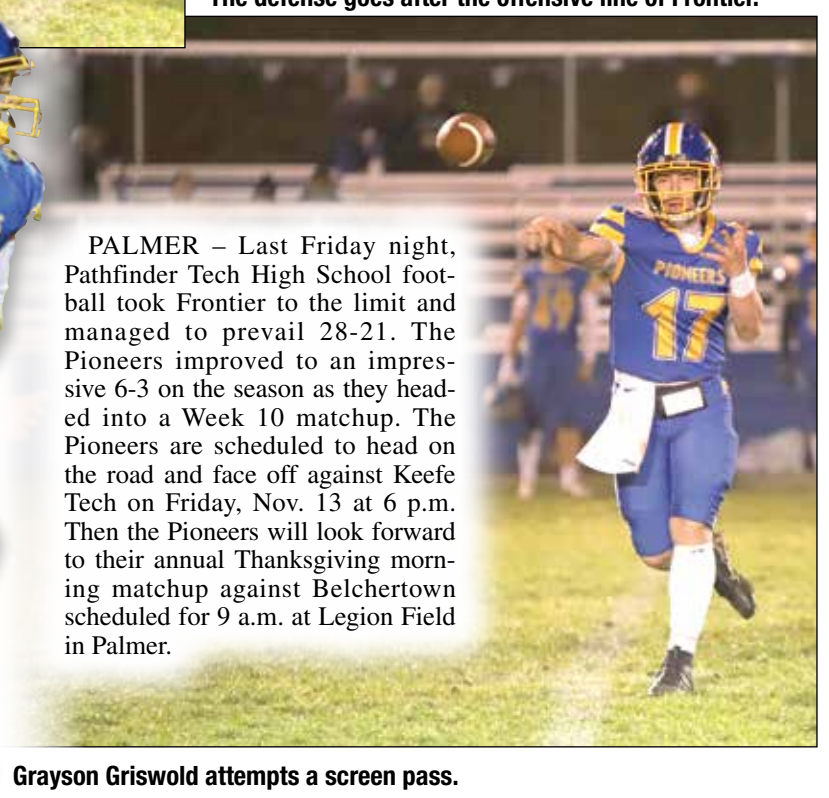


The defense goes after the offensive line of Frontier.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI



Caleb Crum goes on a run after making a reception.



Grayson Griswold attempts a screen pass.



Ray Kularski makes a tackle.

PALMER – Last Friday night, Pathfinder Tech High School football took Frontier to the limit and managed to prevail 28-21. The Pioneers improved to an impressive 6-3 on the season as they headed into a Week 10 matchup. The Pioneers are scheduled to head on the road and face off against Keefe Tech on Friday, Nov. 13 at 6 p.m. Then the Pioneers will look forward to their annual Thanksgiving morning matchup against Belchertown scheduled for 9 a.m. at Legion Field in Palmer.

Railers fall to Wheeling at DCU Center

WORCESTER – Maybe a trip south is what the Railers need to start going north in their division.

They lost to Wheeling Sunday afternoon, 5-3, and were swept by the Nailers in their two-game weekend visit to the DCU Center. Worcester will play eight of its next nine games on the road starting with three against the Greensboro Gargoyles in Waffle House country later this week.

The Railers' only home game in the next 26 days will be versus Reading on Nov. 22.

The afternoon started fairly well for the home team as it scored the first goal, generally a good omen. It ended with Wheeling scoring five of the next seven, though.

For the day their goals were scored by Adam Samuelsson, Jordan Kaplan and Vinny Corcoran. Sam Stange had two assists. Gabe Carriere stopped 26 of 31 shots.

Connor Federkow had an assist, his first in 23 games with Worcester.

Wheeling got two goals from Matt Crasa. Dustin Geregach was 1-1-2, Dante Sheriff 1-2-3 and Remy Parker had a goal. Nailers goaltender Philip Svedeback made 14 saves.

Samuelsson put Worcester ahead with a nifty goal at 9:27 of the first period. He beat Svedeback with a 45-footer from the base of the left boards. Samuellson had about six square inches to shoot for in the top right corner and put the puck right there.

It was the first goal by a Railers defenseman this season and the second of Samuellson's career in Worcester. His first one last season came in his 59th game. It took just three this year.

Geregach tied it at 17:21. The puck went in over Carriere's glove as it changed direction on the way in from the left side.

The Railers sagged in the second period, though, and fell behind by 3-1 as the clock headed toward 12 minutes. Parker put a 35-footer off the far post from the left circle at 8:40. Crasa batted in a second rebound to give Wheeling a two-goal edge at 11:19.

Kaplan gave his team some momentum with a power play goal at 18:46. He was set up just in front of the net by Sterzer, who carried the puck down the right side.

The final period was a dud. Crasa scored at 10:14, then Corcoran slammed home a pass from Anthony Repaci at 12:12 to make it 4-3. That marked Worcester's first shot on goal of the period. Sheriff's goal at 15:25 was a weird one from a tough angle to the right of the Railers net.

T-BIRDS from page 9

of their own in the first, but could not find the twine.

Hershey picked up right where they left off as the second period got underway. Longtime AHL enforcer and former Springfield Falcon Dalton Smith provided the next punch in the goal column, crashing the net front and putting a backhander over Cranley's glove to make it 2-0 just 1:13 into the second.

The Bears' defense was unyielding, as the T-Birds did not have a single shot for the first nine minutes of the second. Springfield drew two power play opportunities, but the Hershey penalty kill kept Gibson from having to face much in the way of shots. Unlike an evening earlier, the Bears did not allow any pushback in the second, and the 2-0 score carried into the third.

Springfield's power play struggles continued early in the third, and things were made worse when Petr Sikora beat Cranley on a shorthanded 2-on-1 to extend Hershey's lead to 3-0 at 3:05.

Brodzinski's continued success against Springfield came to the forefront when he connected on a snapper in the slot at 9:17, making it 4-0 on his fourth point of the weekend.

Zach Dean finally ended Gibson's shutout bid on a forehand roof shot in close at 10:41, but the Bears never looked back. With Cranley pulled for an extra skater during 4-on-4 action, Ryan Chesley sailed a loose puck into the empty net at 14:15, and Sikora added his second of the period for good measure at 18:15 to round out the Bears' offensive explosion.

DONATION from page 7

Residents interested in donating a tree should email Town Manager Steve Williams at SWilliams@belchertown.org by Monday, Nov. 16. Submissions should include the tree's location, its approximate height, and a photo of the tree. Questions may be directed to the Town Manager's office at 413-323-0403.

The Town will notify donors by Wednesday, Nov. 18, whether their tree has been selected. The selected donor will be responsible for cutting the tree, or for prepping it for transport if it is a live tree. The Town will coordinate with the donor to arrange either pickup, which requires direct access to the tree, or delivery to the Common by Monday, Nov. 23. The Town will then set up, secure, and decorate the tree, and the donor will be recognized publicly for their contribution.

More information is available on the Town's website at https://www.belchertown.org/m/NewsFlash/home/detail/210.

NOTICE

ERRORS: Each advertiser is requested to check their advertisement the first time it appears. This paper will not be responsible for more than one corrected insertion, nor will be liable for any error in an advertisement to a greater extent than the cost of the space occupied by the item in the advertisement.

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Writing and MEDIA CLUB



PHOTO BY LEO FISHER

The Belchertown Orioles prepare to snap the ball during their matchup against Minnechaug High School.





The Halloween Dance

Belchertown High School students enjoy the annual Halloween Dance.

PHOTO SUBMISSION BY MYRA ABLICKI





PHOTO BY NATALIE COUTURE

Kaiya Cavanaugh waiting for the serve.



PHOTO BY LEO FISHER

Harper Bean spikes the ball to help the Belchertown Orioles in their victory over Taconic High school on Oct. 26.

BELCHERTOWN— The Belchertown Girls Volleyball team met Ludlow High School at the Western Mass Semifinal on Thursday, Oct. 29.



Belchertown gets ready to defend a play by Ludlow.

PHOTO BY NATALIE COUTURE



PHOTO BY LEO FISHER

Cassidy MacLean spikes the ball for Belchertown.



PHOTO SUBMISSION LEO FISHER

Madelyn Philpott makes a play on the ball to help the Belchertown Orioles soar over Frontier Regional High School.

NEWS & FEATURES

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

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

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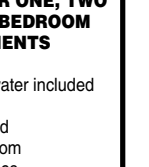
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This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertising in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development " HUD" toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

EARLY DEADLINES

FOR ADS, CLASSIFIEDS & LEGAL NOTICES

Thanksgiving will bring early deadlines for all legal notices to run in TURLEY PUBLICATIONS the week of November 23-27, 2026.

Thursday, Nov. 19 at 2 PM for November 26 issue
• CLASSIFIEDS FOR ALL PAPERS •
• Country Journal • The Register • Wilbraham-Hampden Times

Friday, November 20 at 2 PM for November 26 Issue
• Agawam Advertiser News • Sentinel • Quaboag Current

Monday, November 23 at 2 PM for *November 26 Issue*
• The Journal Register • Ware River News • Barre Gazette

Tuesday, November 24 at 2 PM for *November 27 Issue*
• Town Reminder • The Holyoke Sun • Chicopee Register

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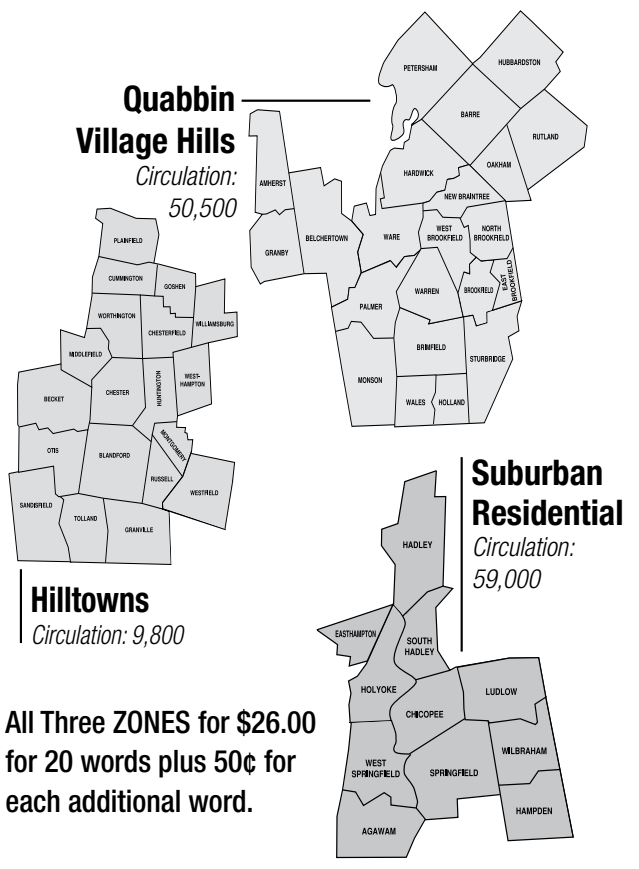
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OBITUARIES

Evelyn H. Riddle, 100



Evelyn H. Riddle (Harrington), age 100, of Belchertown and formerly of Wilbraham, MA, passed away peacefully at her home on Saturday, Oct. 31, 2026.

Born in Springfield to Russel and Eleanor "Frances" Harrington, she lived a fearless century on her own terms.

Evelyn graduated from the High School of Commerce in 1943, playing every sport they had to offer. From riding motorcycles and serving in the Massachusetts Women's Defense Corps during WWII, to overcoming polio while living overseas and traveling the country with her former husband, Raymond, she never slowed down. As a lifelong athlete, she was an avid competitor-winning tennis and ping-pong championships in high school, scoring a hole-in-one in golf, and earning Gold and Bronze medals in tennis at the Massachusetts Senior Games. Evelyn was also deeply involved in her community, a member of Grace Union Church since 1939, President of the American Legion Post 286 Auxiliary, and member of the Pine Valley Board of Directors, all while working for many years in accounts receivable. Evelyn will be remembered by friends and family for her humorous nature and infectious laugh.

She was predeceased by her parents and siblings, her former husband, Raymond R. Riddle Jr., and her daughter, Nancy Lewenczuk. Evelyn's legacy lives on through her surviving daughter, Lucille Riddle; three grandchildren, Tina Thorne, Anna Pac, and Jason Lewenczuk; seven great-grandchildren; and four great-great-grandchildren, to whom she was lovingly known as "G.G.".

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, Nov. 14, 2026, from 2 to 3 p.m. at Christopher Heights of Belchertown located at 99 Front St. in Belchertown, MA 01007. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Grace Union Church of Wilbraham, or to the Belchertown Senior Center in her honor.

James Vincent, 77



After a long, courageous journey, James Vincent, 77 passed away peacefully on Oct. 30, 2026 in the comfort of his Belchertown home leaving behind a legacy of laughter and adventure.

After earning his degree from Western New England College, he went on to become a skilled decorating contractor, where his creativity and craftsmanship knew no bounds. His talents were many, he was equally at home blowing glass, woodworking in his shop, tinkering with a car, or tackling a complex project - he was the ultimate "Mr. Fix-It." A man of quiet strength, he took on life's challenges the same way he faced a stubborn project: with determination, a positive attitude, and zero complaints. Friends and family were the grateful recipients of Jim's talents as he selflessly helped anyone in need, never asking for anything in return. Even as Kennedy's disease threw physical obstacles his way, he never grumbled, choosing instead to focus on helping others and enjoying the beauty of the world around him.

Jim truly loved nature. He spent many trips exploring the great outdoors, hiking in National Parks, and appreciating the beauty of a roaring waterfall. Among his favorite memories were trips to the Canadian Rockies, American southwest, sunny days on St John, and the lush landscapes of Ireland.

Of all his adventures, his greatest joy was his family. He shared 51 wonderful years of marriage with his beloved wife, Denise, building a life filled with deep devotion, incredible travels, and plenty of laughter. Together they raised two sons that meant the world to him. He took immense pride in watching them grow, passing down his selfless nature, his love for the outdoors, and his legendary handy skills.

He is survived by his wife Denise, his two sons, Michael and David, their girlfriends Annie and Hank, a brother-in-law, Arthur and wife Joan, two nephews, and a lifetime of beautiful, handcrafted treasures. He was predeceased by his parents, Clifford and Arlene and his brother Clifford Jr.

At Jim's request there will be no services. A celebration of life will be held at a later date.

Donations can be made to Compassionate Care ALS of Falmouth, MA. The family extends a special thanks to Michael Hodgkins of Compassionate Care and also the Cooley Dickinson hospice team.

DEATH NOTICES

Evelyn H. Riddle
Died Oct. 31, 2026
Service Nov.14, 2026
Beers & Story Funeral Home

James Vincent
Died Oct. 30, 2026
Celebration of Life at a later date
Beers & Story Funeral Home

GRANBY

The Friends of the Granby Free Public Library to hold Holiday Gift Basket and Knit Sale

GRANBY—Come shop from a variety of gift baskets, beautiful knitted & crocheted items, holiday ornaments, and much more on Saturday, Dec. 5 from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Do you have someone on your list who is hard to shop for? We have got you covered! The sale will continue to run through the month of December during open library hours, while supplies last.

Donations of premade gift baskets and new handcrafted items will be accepted until Dec. 3.

*Sponsored by the In Stitches Knitting Group and the Friends of the Granby Library. The Granby Free Public Library is located at 297 E State St in Granby, MA. For more information and a listing of open library hours, please visit granbylibrary.org or call 413-467-3320. All proceeds of this sale benefit the Friends of the Granby Free Public Library.

Historic trestle bridge repairs to begin early Nov. on Mass Central Rail Trail

BELCHERTOWN—The Town of Belchertown will begin rehabilitation of the pedestrian trestle bridge over Jabish Brook during the first week of November. Work is expected to take two to three weeks. The bridge is located on the Massachusetts Central Rail Trail about one mile west of Franklin Street and connects to North Washington Street.

The nineteenth-century railroad trestle bridge is a well-used connector for hiking, biking, dog walking, and snowmobiling. Repairs by contractor Warner Brothers LLC will address the deteriorated abutment and pier caps. The work also includes full replacement of the timber deck, curb, and chain link fencing, along with new cross bracing on the bridge's timber pile supports.

While work is underway, a section of trail immediately around the bridge will be closed to trail users, and a marked detour route will be available. Construction materials will be brought in via Franklin Street, but trail access at Franklin Street will remain open to the public. Signs will be posted on-site to keep trail users safe during construction.

The project is funded through a MassTrails grant secured in partnership with Friends of the Belchertown Greenway. The grant was originally awarded at $86,010. After construction bids came in higher than budgeted, the Town requested and received an amendment in June adding $48,350, bringing the total award to $134,360. The grant requires a 20 percent match, the majority of which is covered by a $25,000 state earmark designated for the Rail Trail, with the remainder met through in-kind support.

"We know this bridge is a well-loved connection along the trail, and we appreciate everyone's patience while we get it back into safe shape. We're grateful to the Friends of the Greenway for partnering with us to secure the funds to repair this special historic bridge," said Julie Meyer, Conservation Administrator.

A grand reopening will be announced once the work is complete. For questions, contact the Conservation Department at 413-323-0405 or conservation@belchertown.org.

About Belchertown

Belchertown is a welcoming community of about 15,000 residents that blends small-town character with room to grow. Located at the crossroads of Hampshire, Hampden, Franklin, and Worcester counties, it is part of both the Pioneer Valley and the Quabbin Region. Working farms, forests, and trails sit alongside access to the area's colleges and cultural life, all just 90 minutes from Boston and an hour from Hartford, Connecticut.

POLICE LOG from page 8

dence at the station to be destroyed.

12:02 p.m. – A person came to the station to get a firearm. Arrangements were made with the person for pickup.

1:32 p.m. – An officer responded to a report of a verbal argument. A 51A was filed.

2:36 p.m. – An officer spoke with a person about a vehicle they let a relative borrow. The relative didn't return the vehicle. A "be on the lookout" alert was put out in the area.

3:45 p.m. – An officer responded to assist Belchertown Fire paramedics for a person having a mental health crisis.

5:12 p.m. – An officer responded to an accident on George Hannum Road. A vehicle on the access road from Stop and Shop attempted to enter the main parking lot when a second vehicle traveling through the lot struck it. No tows were needed, and no injuries were reported.

7:30 p.m. – An officer took a report of online fraud. The person got an alert that their package was delivered. However, they didn't receive the item. They were advised to tell the department if the package arrived.

8:38 p.m. – An officer responded to assist Belchertown Fire paramedics for a report of a person having a mental health crisis.

PUBLIC NOTICES

Belchertown
Conservation Commission
LEGAL NOTICE

Pursuant to the authority of the Wetlands Protection Act (M.G.L. Ch. 131, Sec. 40, its Regulations (310 CMR 10.00) and the Belchertown Wetlands Protection Bylaw (Chapter 139), the Belchertown Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on **Monday, November 23, 2026 at 7:00 PM in the Town Hall Select Board Meeting Room #102, located at 2 Jabish Street in Belchertown, MA 01007** to review a **Request for Determination of Applicability** permit application submitted by Jordan Benoit **for tree removal at 29 Poole Road (Assessor's Map 106-20) in Belchertown**. Work is proposed to occur within the 100-foot Buffer Zone to Bordering Vegetated Wetlands and Lake Metacomet. Anyone interested in this matter should appear at the time and place designated.
11/12/2026

Belchertown
Conservation Commission
LEGAL NOTICE

Pursuant to the authority of the Wetlands Protection Act (M.G.L. Ch. 131, Sec. 40, its Regulations (310 CMR 10.00) and the Belchertown Wetlands Protection Bylaw (Chapter 139), the Belchertown Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on **Monday, November 23, 2026 at 7:00 PM in the Town Hall Select Board Meeting Room #102, located at 2 Jabish Street in Belchertown, MA 01007** to review a **Notice of Intent** permit application submitted by Stephen Rehbein c/o J&P Engineering Services **for the proposed work to construct a single family home and associated facilities at Lot 53.021 West Street (Assessor's Map 275-53.021)** in Belchertown. Work is proposed to occur within the 100-foot Buffer Zone to Bordering Vegetated Wetlands. Anyone interested in this matter should appear at the time and place designated.
11/12/2026

Belchertown
Conservation Commission
LEGAL NOTICE

Pursuant to the authority of the Wetlands Protection Act (M.G.L. Ch. 131, Sec. 40, its Regulations (310 CMR 10.00) and the Belchertown Wetlands Protection Bylaw (Chapter 139), the Belchertown Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on **Monday, November 23, 2026 at 7:00 PM in the Town Hall Select Board Meeting Room #102, located at 2 Jabish Street in Belchertown, MA 01007** to review a **Request for Determination of Applicability** permit application submitted by Asif Sikander **for single family home construction at Lot S Sunny Crest Lane (Assessor's Map 271-53) in Belchertown**. Work is proposed to occur within the 100-foot Buffer Zone to Bordering Vegetated Wetlands. Anyone interested in this matter should appear at the time and place designated.
11/12/2026

TOWN OF BELCHERTOWN
Board of Health
Public Hearing Notice

Pursuant to MGL C. 111, sec. 31 the Board of Health will hold a Public Hearing on **November 23, 2026 at 6:05 PM** in the Select Board meeting room Lawrence Memorial Hall 2 Jabish Street Belchertown, MA 01007 and remote at https://meet.goto.com/MGrenier

To amend the regulations prohibiting the manufacturing, sale and distribution of Synthetically Derived Cannabinoids, Kratom Products **and Unregulated Novel Intoxicating Products** in the Town of Belchertown. Copies of the proposed regulations can be obtained at the Board of Health office, Room 105 Lawrence Memorial Hall 2 Jabish Street Belchertown, MA and on-line at https://www.belchertown.org/health

All interested parties are encouraged to participate. If you are unable to attend but wish to express your views to the Board of Health in writing, please feel free to do so.

Board of Health
P.O. Box 670
Belchertown, MA 01007-0670
11/12, 11/19/2026

TOWN OF GRANBY
BOARD OF HEALTH
PUBLIC HEARING

The Board of Health of the Town of Granby, pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 111, Section 143 and Chapter 40A, Section 11, will hold a Public Hearing on **Tuesday, December 1, 2026 via Zoom meeting, at 7:00 PM** to present and discuss the application for a Piggery License for Rheaumestead at 134 Batchelor Street, Granby, MA. This public hearing conforms to the Rules and Regulations Relative to Pigs and Piggeries, approved and adopted by the Board of Health, November 8, 2011.

Any person interested in or wishing to be heard on this matter should appear at the time designated for public hearing. Zoom link can be found on the Town website, granby-ma.gov or by contacting the Health Department at 467-7174.

Granby Board of Health
11/12, 11/19/2026

Belchertown
Conservation Commission
LEGAL NOTICE

Pursuant to the authority of the Wetlands Protection Act (M.G.L. Ch. 131, Sec. 40, its Regulations (310 CMR 10.00) and the Belchertown Wetlands Protection Bylaw (Chapter 139), the Belchertown Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on **Monday, November 23, 2026 at 7:00 PM in the Town Hall Select Board Meeting Room #102, located at 2 Jabish Street in Belchertown, MA 01007** to review a **Request for Determination of Applicability** permit application submitted by Gary Labrie f**or tree removal at 127 Metacomet Street (Assessor's Map 105-48) in Belchertown**. Work is proposed to occur within the 100-foot Buffer Zone to Bordering Vegetated Wetlands and Lake Metacomet. Anyone interested in this matter should appear at the time and place designated.
11/12/2026

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The Sentinel
OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary,** costing $275, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice (with a word limit of up to 500 words) and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

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



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