

# Belchertown remembers the fallen with ceremony

By Emily-Rose Pappas  
Staff Writer  
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BELCHERTOWN – The town came together last week to remember those we lost and the brave first responders who sacrificed their lives to save people.

After 24 years, the country still takes time every September 11 to remember and to commemorate the loss of the firefighters, police officers, and EMTs who lost their lives.

“It means a lot that we have really come together with all of our emergency service people, and we had community members come out to the ceremony, which was great to see. It was to bring memory to the people who sacrificed their lives, and the families who lost loved ones,”



Fire Department Chief John Ingram



Chief John Ingram shared a few words during the ceremony last week.

Please see **CEREMONY**,  
page 5

The bell ready to be rung to remember the lives lost on September 11, 2001.

SUBMITTED PHOTOS



Stacia Cantin, a resident at Christopher Heights, enjoying s'mores.

## Christopher Heights celebrates Assisted Living Week

By Emily-Rose Pappas  
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BELCHERTOWN – When people think of an assisted living home, it can often leave them feeling uncomfortable as they wonder what kind of assistance their loved ones will receive.

Christopher Heights in Belchertown, however, offers

Please see **CELEBRATE**,  
page 4

## SB grapples with rising health costs, economic development

By Melina Bourdeau  
Correspondent

BELCHERTOWN – In a meeting touching on everything from town branding to economic development, the Belchertown Selectboard confronted mounting challenges, with health insurance costs emerging as a central concern.

Town Manager Steve Williams confirmed ongoing efforts to address the escalating costs.

“We are testing the market... working with the trust

and labor council,” he told the board, indicating a proactive approach to a complex problem.

Williams confirmed the board is taking an active approach to the crisis. He told the board they are “testing the market” and meeting regularly with the HR director to explore options.

Selectboard member Nicole Miner provided additional context from a recent Hampshire County Group Insurance Trust meeting.

“Only 72 subscribers across the entire trust took

advantage of moving from the more expensive PPO plan to the less expensive HMO plan,” she said.

Miner also highlighted additional concerns, noting “retiree plans are running higher than expected by 4% through claims through August.”

The board agreed to make health insurance updates a standing agenda item, with Selectboard Chair Lesa Lessard-Pearson suggesting they continue discussing

Please see **BOARD**, page 4

## Artists come together to share their work

By Emily-Rose Pappas  
Staff Writer  
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SOUTH HADLEY — The Quabbin Art Association began in Belchertown 10 years ago, and has functioned as a place for artists of all skill levels to come together, and make, show, and sell their art works.

The Association spans

across 19 different towns and cities across the Pioneer Valley and around Belchertown, and they host several art showings, classes, and more for people to take part in.

“We are not a hurried group,” said President Rick Guimond. “We welcome everyone, and we’re happy to welcome everyone that loves to make art.”

The Association hosts many special events, including Art-On-the-Common at the Belchertown Farmers Market, and a special event with the Clapp Memorial Library called Art-Meets-Poetry, where artists submit their work, and members of the public can write a poem inspired by the art piece. The artist chooses the winner of the poetry contest, and they

get to take home the piece of art.

The Association hosts art receptions and shows all over the area, and last week hosted a reception at the South Hadley Council on Aging,

Please see **ARTISTS**, page 8

A stunning beach house by  
Eleanor Small.



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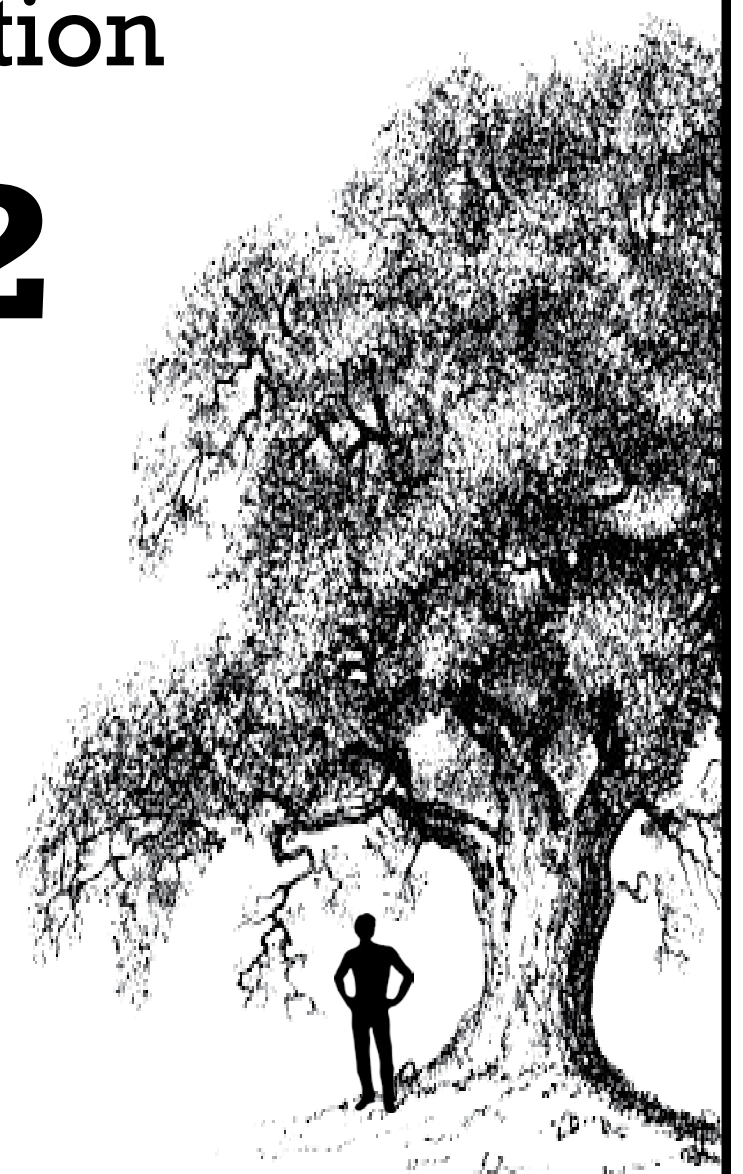
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BELCHERTOWN

School Committee moves to close Cold Spring School

By Emily-Rose Pappas  
Staff Writer  
epappas@turley.com

BELCHERTOWN – As the crisis surrounding the budget grows, the School Committee, Selectboard, and Finance Committee jointly held a public forum to discuss a proposal to reorganize grades K through 8 and close Cold Spring Elementary.

“We had talked about possibly closing Cold Spring last year,” said Superintendent Brian Cameron at the forum last week.

Inflation has caused everything to become more expensive for both the town and schools, and added costs associated with health insurance, costing the schools \$656,352.

However, with gradually declining enrollment as well as homerooms and the reduction of several teachers over the past 10 years, a continued decline is estimated by the schools for the coming years.

“We can’t keep reducing our teachers,” said Cameron.

Reducing home rooms will make the class sizes larger, with an estimated 19 to 21 children per classroom if this trend continues.

The School Committee took time and looked at each of the schools, and what they still needed to have replaced, fixed, and the costs of utilities to run them.

Cold Spring Elementary was built in 1954, had a roof replacement in 2012, and the boiler is an estimated 20 to 25 years old and is expected to need to be replaced in 5 years. In total for utilities, maintenance, and yearly Maintenance and Operations costs, it’s estimated to cost the town about \$253,850.

Swift River Elementary was built in 1996 and has its original roof that will likely



The School Committee seated and ready to hear the concerns of the community.

“We got the message: no new school. But we got to do something. So if we take the savings from Cold Spring School, we can use it to help the other schools.”

– Brian Cameron  
Superintendent

need replacement within the next 5 to 7 years. The boilers were replaced in 2013 and 2018, and the total annual M&O costs are estimated to be \$376,480.

Chestnut Hill Community School was built in 1986 and has undergone several different upgrades and changes, resulting in higher-than-average utility costs of \$564,530.

Jabish Brook Middle School was built in 1964, and a full roof replacement is needed; an LED lighting upgrade is scheduled for this year. In total, for annual M&O, the cost is \$415,330.

Belchertown High School was built in 2001, the newest building, and its annual

maintenance and operations costs are \$847,250.

The Belchertown Public School Central Offices are located in a different area, constructed in 1939, and is in need of window replacements.

The total annual M&O is \$37,650.

The proposed reorganization for the grades after the closure of Col Spring would have PreK-2 at SRES, grades 3-5 at CHCS, grades 6-8 at JBMS, and grades 9-12 at BHS.

“We really want to maximize savings,” said Cameron. “It’s a better alignment and spacing of grades to the four schools.”

Cold Spring Elementary costs the most per pupil, and closing CSE would result in five reduced positions and a savings of \$315,000, plus the utilities and maintenance costs of \$253,850, for a grand total of savings for the town

of about \$568,000.

“We got the message: no new school. But we got to do something. So if we take the savings from Cold Spring School, we can use it to help the other schools. These are things we need to talk about,” said Cameron. “Just keep in mind that if we close Cold Spring, we still have these things we need to fix. If we continue to cut beyond this, it’s going to be teachers and extracurriculars. This is the reality: we’ve been cutting, cutting, cutting...”

During public comment, several people came forward to share their thoughts and concerns, including about the safety of the existing buildings, how pick-up lines will function with different grades, and how to ensure older students and younger students can have the space they need. “We were told the problems with Jabish could be fixed, and now we are pro-

Community Preservation Committee  
FY 2026 grant application

BELCHERTOWN – The Community Preservation Committee will be accepting applications for grant requests for the 2026 fiscal year. The applications can be submitted between Wednesday October 1, 2025 through Friday, November 7, 2025. The current application form can be found on WWW.Belchertowncpc.org.

CPC approved grant requests will be considered for the May 2026 Annual Town Meeting. Approved grant requests will be funded during the 2027 fiscal year. Any questions on the application process can be sent to Jim Natle at Jnate7007@aol.com.

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Outside of my professional life, I enjoy the outdoors as much as possible and spending time with my family and children, which keeps me grounded and inspired. I am grateful for the opportunity to grow, contribute and connect with the community. I will be out and about to introduce myself over the next few months. Please don't hesitate to reach out with any advertising needs, even if it's to say hello!

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The Belchertown Fire Department enjoying Christopher Heights’ annual BBQ to thank them for all they do for the community.



The Belchertown Police Department was enjoying the annual BBQ, and Comfort Dog Oliver enjoyed some vanilla ice cream, too.

**CELEBRATE** from page 1  
something special and makes a way to communicate and help those transitioning into assisted living and their families move with ease.

“Just because you go to assisted living doesn’t mean you have to stop living. We want you to live,” said Lorna Stone, Director of Marketing and Admissions.

For the past five years, Christopher Heights has hosted a special BBQ to thank and honor the first responders who serve the community.

The Police Department, Fire Department, and the EMTs were welcomed to the assisted living facility to enjoy a delicious BBQ and spend time with the residents there.

“Christopher Heights of Belchertown donated a third Doty Belt to the new ambulance in town. We love seeing Oliver, the Comfort Dog of the Belchertown Police Department; he got to enjoy some ice cream, too,” said Director Lorna Stone.

The time was spent to also celebrate the donation of a third Doty Belt to the EMTs for the new ambulance in town, a belt that helps to assist lifting a patient in the event of an emergency.

This past week, Christopher Heights celebrated National Assisted Living Week, which celebrates the staff and residents of assisted living facilities across the country, with a focus on



Resident Lucy Cincotta shooting staff with her water gun.

helping residents experience more from outside of the facility, and other fun activities to remind them of their childhood.

The residents at Christopher Heights got the chance to spend some time with the first responders for the BBQ last week, as well as having some fun with water guns and water balloons, and roasting marshmallows for s’mores.

The relationship between Christopher Heights and the first responders of Belchertown is tightly-knit,

and with its location right next to the police department and a short distance from the fire and ambulance department, it’s the perfect spot.

With its location right next to the senior center and the police station, it is the perfect spot to be near entertainment and safety, so all concerns can be addressed.

“My passion is seniors and always has been. All these seniors are like my adopted grandparents. They are all like my family,” said Stone.



The Belchertown Fire Department enjoying Christopher Heights’ Sunrise Mocktail.



Resident Reanette Biernann presented Fire Chief John Ingram with a donation of the third Doty Belt to the new Belchertown Ambulance for the EMTs to use.



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**BOARD** from page 1

the issue until a resolution is reached.

Williams emphasized the collaborative effort, praising the work of HR staff.

“Jill (Rossi, Town Accountant) and Joanne (Misiasek, Human Resources Manager) have spent a tremendous amount of time... making sure we have the right outcome,” he said.

The ongoing discussions reflect the significant financial pressure the town faces, with insurance costs threatening to strain municipal budgets and impact employee compensation.

The board will continue to explore alternative plans and work with the insurance trust in the coming months.

The meeting also featured a comprehensive update from the Economic Development and Industrial Corporation (EDIC) about the former state school property redevelopment.

Jonathan Spiegel, an EDIC member, outlined the prop-

erty’s transformation, noting they have worked with Mass Development since 2012 to develop the site.

Spiegel highlighted significant progress, including “the establishment of over 25 businesses on parts of the property” and current tax revenues of approximately \$325,000 annually. The first development phase will focus on affordable housing, with 105 planned units across different income levels.

The board also discussed potential improvements to town governance, including forming a committee to review and update bylaws. Williams proposed creating a committee of at least five town residents “to go through the bylaws and make recommendations for changes, deletions, new bylaws.”

The board also heard updates on various town projects, including a water infrastructure project that has been in planning for 25 years. Williams noted the project is finally moving forward, with potential additional grant funding expected in October.



## READING

## NEWSPAPERS

### IS A QUEST

### LIKE NO OTHER



# Celebrate the foundation of America

DAR Promotes Constitution Week: Sept. 17-23, at Belchertown and Granby Libraries

REGION – The National Society Daughters of the American Revolution urges Americans to reflect on the United States Constitution during this month’s annual observance in honor of this foundational document of national governance. The DAR initiated the observance in 1955, when the service organization petitioned

the U.S. Congress to dedicate September 17 to 23 of each year to the commemoration of Constitution Week. Congress adopted the resolution, and on August 2, 1956, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed it into Public Law #915. The celebration’s goals are three-fold: to encourage the study of the historical events that led to the framing of the Constitution in September 1787; to remind the public that the Constitution is the basis of America’s great heritage and the foundation for its way of life; and to emphasize U.S. citizens’ responsibility to protect, defend, and preserve the U.S. Constitution. One time-honored observance is the ringing of bells.

During colonial and early days of our country, bells – church bells, firehouse bells, town and city hall bells - were used to call people together, to alert them to some important announcement or event. Bells called the people of Philadelphia together to hear the Declaration of Independence read publicly for the first time on July 4, 1776. Then, again, just over 11 years later, on September 17, bells were used to call people together for the first public reading of our new Constitution. The public is welcome to join the Betty Allen Chapter NSDAR Bell Ringing Ceremony on September 17

at 4 p.m. at the historic Clapp House, located at 148 South Street, Northampton, MA. Additionally, you will find displays featuring books about the US Constitution, for all ages, at both the Clapp Memorial Library in Belchertown and the Granby Free Public Library in Granby during Constitution Week. DAR has been the foremost advocate for the awareness, promotion, and celebration of Constitution Week. The annual observance provides innumerable opportunities for educational initiatives and community outreach, two mission areas of crucial importance to the National Society.



Members of the police and fire departments standing at attention with the flag.

## CEREMONY from page 1

said Belchertown Fire Department Chief John Ingram. The ceremony took place early Thursday morning, and the police and fire departments took turns sharing their thoughts and holding a moment for this day. “It means a lot to bring people to remember, and it’s changed the way we respond to things and deal with these types of situations and become more aware of what’s going on in today’s world,” said Ingram. The ceremony included the ringing of a bell from an old fire truck, and firefighter Carrie Forrant read the Firefighter’s Prayer to close out the ceremony. The Belchertown Fire Department has hosted 9/11 ceremonies in the past, but with the help of firefighter Kevin Girard, Chief Ingram brought them back this year, and it is scheduled again for next year, same day and time, September 11, 2026, at 8:46 a.m.



Raising the flag as we remember the fallen. We will never forget. Every year, we honor and remember those we lost.

Police Chief Kevin Pacunas was there for the ceremony and read a prayer, Jennifer Pickering from Senator Oliveira’s Office came to represent him, and the Town Manager and other town employees and residents came to be a part of the ceremony. “It was really nice to see all the town employees and residents and everyone who came to take part in it. It meant a lot to everybody,” said Ingram.



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OPINION

SOCIAL SECURITY Matters By Russell Gloor

I'd like to retire early, but don't want my Social Security reduced

Dear Rusty:

I will be 65 this year and my husband is 72 (he retired in 2019 at age 66).

I would like to retire and enjoy some time with him before he gets too much older. I do not want to have my benefits cut by retiring earlier, but I don't see a way to be able to do that. My benefit will be \$,1343 on my Full Retirement Age.

If I took half his retirement when he retired, it would be less than mine. If I take early retirement and he passes away before me, would I get his full benefit as his survivor or will it be cut? We are trying to figure it out. His current benefit (before Medicare Part B) is \$2,978. It's very confusing.

Signed: Confused and Wondering

Dear Confused:

Whenever any Social Security benefit is claimed earlier than Full Retirement Age, the monthly amount is permanently reduced. If you were to retire at age 65, your Social Security benefit would be reduced by about 13% - in other words, if your FRA (age 67) amount is \$1,343, at 65 you would get about \$1,164. And at age 66 you would get about \$1,253 per month.

Whether you would be entitled to a "spousal boost" from your husband depends on how your FRA amount compares to 50% of his FRA entitlement. If your FRA amount is less than 50% of his FRA amount, then you would get a "spousal boost," but the amount of that boost would also be reduced if you claim before your FRA. Note: from the numbers you provided, you may be entitled to a spousal boost and, if so, it would be applied by Social Security when you claim.

Also, FYI, if you take SS before your FRA and are still working, Social Security has an annual

earnings test which limits how much you can earn while collecting early benefits. If you earn more than \$23,400 in 2025, you will likely not get all of your monthly SS payments (SS will take away some monthly benefits if you exceed the earnings limit). Of course, if you retire from working, this will not be a problem, because earnings before you claim SS won't count toward the limit.

When you claim your SS retirement benefit now will not affect your survivor benefit from your husband later. If your husband passes first, your benefit as a surviving spouse would be based on the amount your husband was receiving at his death. But if you were to claim your widow's benefit prior to your FRA, your survivor benefit would also be reduced (the amount of reduction depends on how much before your FRA you claim your survivor benefit). If you claim your widow's benefit at or after your FRA, you will get 100% of the amount your husband was receiving at his death instead of your own smaller amount. It will only be reduced if you claim before your full retirement age.

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.

Levi's first mountain



By Julie Midura Correspondent

I knew going into this hike that it would require a strategy. You see, our energetic 3-year-old grandson, Levi, can play outside for hours, but walking uphill for long distances isn't his strong point. Peaked Mountain in Monson is not a long or strenuous hike, but when you're not even 3 feet tall, even 475 feet of elevation gain can feel like Mt. Everest.

He started strong, making it to the frog-filled pond with ample energy, but about a third of the way to the top, he said, "Memere, pick me up."

Since carrying my 28-pound grandson to the summit was not what I had in mind, I decided to utilize every ploy in my arsenal to ensure that he would hike the trail under his own power. I implemented Ploy #1... DISTRACTION.

"Let's look for the red blazes on the trees," I said. Levi inched his way forward in search of the large red painted circles marking the trail. "I see one!" he exclaimed each time he saw a blaze. This only distracted him for a distance of three blazes, so I needed a new distraction.

I asked him if he wanted to be a big boy and use one of my trekking poles like the 'real hikers' do. His eyes lit up. I shortened one of my poles and showed him how to use it. He wrapped his tiny hand around the handle, and for the next 5 minutes, he was

Please see **HIKING**, page 7



LETTERS

Belchertown Boys and Girls Club Meeting

To the Editor,

Should Belchertown have a Boys and Girls Club? That is the question that will be discussed next Wednesday, September 24, 2025, at an exploratory meeting of residents at 7:15 pm in Lawrence Memorial Hall. The agenda will include brief statements by the Moderator and Town Officials, followed by a presentation by visiting officers of the Ludlow Boys and Girls Club.

The Club Representatives are expected to explain the necessities for organizing a Club, financial options for funding a Club, and operating a Club once started, fol-

lowed by a question-and-answer period for audience participation.

The last item will be "Do we want to start the effort to create a club in Belchertown?" and if yes, "Who will step forward to lead and participate in the effort necessary for forming a club"?

Recent research has shown that young people want to be with friends in their free time. The alternative is relying on electronic devices. Working parents want assurance that their children are in a safe and structured environment after school and weekends (and summers). The Town wants assurance that

truancy and mischief are kept to a minimum. (Idle hands are the devil's workshop!) The last question, and perhaps the most difficult, is We don't want to raise taxes! The answer for some 16 towns in the area is a Boys & Girls Club, run in conjunction with a Recreation Department.

If there is a lack of interest shown by poor attendance at this exploratory meeting, it will mean a lack of support for a club here! Be there and be a part of the decision!

Daniel Fitzpatrick, Belchertown

Grateful for the many who came to the course

To the Editor,

The Zonta Club of Quaboag Valley extends a heartfelt thank you to the players and supporters of its 31st Annual Golf Tournament Fundraiser, held at Cold Spring Country Club in Belchertown. All profits from this fundraiser are used

to fund scholarships, service grants, advocacy efforts, and other service initiatives aimed at breaking down barriers and building a brighter future for women and girls. Special thanks to our major sponsors DESCO and Valley Dentists of Belchertown. Check out the Tournament winners and the supporters

from all over Western MA at [www.zontaqv.org](http://www.zontaqv.org) - click on Golf Tournament.

The Zonta Club of Quaboag Valley Golf Committee  
Debbie Wood, Chairman  
Karen Keough-Huff  
Kris Goold  
Mary Knight

Plant exodus, coming soon

Just this past week I put a call in to the herb gardeners at Old Sturbridge Village where I work part time.

I asked them to let me know they'd like me to deliver the pots and soil for the annual "exodus." We will be moving the tender perennials from their summer residence in the herb garden to my domain, the maintenance department's greenhouse.

There are some wonderful and very familiar plants in our living collection: rosemary, bay, lemon verbena and scented geraniums are some of my personal favorites.

Before the interpreters dig up the plants, I always ask that they give them a bath to cut down on the number of insects that will be brought into the greenhouse. For the home gardener this is equally important.

I say "bath" because my pesticide of choice is a natural and fairly benign one-made of potassium salts of fatty acids (soap) that weaken the insect's outer shell and cause dehydration. It is sprayed on leaves and stems until they are soaked, and can be reapplied every seven-10 days as needed.

This product is especially effective on insects that make their home on herbs and houseplants: whitefly, aphids and mealy bugs.

Once the insects have been

eradicated, it is time to get out the shovel and get to work digging up and repot-



ting the plants. You will be amazed at how large some of them can become after only a few months in the ground.

It is important to salvage as much of the root ball as possible to minimize the shock of being potted up. To do this, position your shovel along the "drip line" of the plant and dig straight down, completely around its circumference. After you've made your way around, get your shovel underneath and lift.

Have a pot ready - one that is an inch or two bigger than the root ball is sufficient, and will allow for minimal winter growth. My container of choice is always plastic, but glazed pottery is fine too. I steer clear of clay; it dries out too quickly.

I usually put a couple of inches of moist potting soil into the container, set the plant and then fill in with more as needed before watering well. Oftentimes I leave the plants outside until a frost threatens, then I bring them in and back out until the

weather turns decidedly cold. Home gardeners often ask how to overwinter their favorite herbs without a greenhouse.

Perhaps the most cherished of all tender herbs is Rosemary (Rosmarinus officinalis), the herb of remembrance. The key to growing it successfully indoors is "cool but sunny."

My old house affords me many such microclimates. If you aren't as lucky, try for a sunny window away from dry heat, in other words far from heat vents, the wood stove etc.

Bay tree (Laurus nobilis) is another favorite and can be grown right through the winter with little or no coddling provided it is given medium to bright light and consistent watering. Do be on guard for the waxy-looking scale insect; one giveaway is leaves covered in a sticky, shiny sap called honey dew.

Try to "Q-tip" individual insects with rubbing alcohol or use insecticidal soap or horticultural oil to smother larger infestations. If the bugs have been active for awhile, sooty mold may have formed. This thick, black coating will likely need to be scrubbed off leaf by leaf to allow the plant to photosynthesize properly.

To have success overwintering scented geraniums (Pelargonium spp.) indoors, situate them in bright light where daytime temperatures

Please see **GARDEN**, page 7

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](mailto: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.

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COMMUNITY



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**Slender Spreadwing**

This is a photo of a Damselfly (called a Slender Spreadwing) sitting on a vine leaf that is beginning to go through its color change. I thought it might bring a smile to people's faces like it did mine. (Photo by Jim Stewart)

Fair weekend is here

BELCHERTOWN — Thanks to Casey Kibbe we have a great theme “Shake, Cattle and Roll.” With a theme like that we know we will see lots of shakin’ going on in the parade, exhibit hall and booths.

The fair opens on Friday, Sept. 19 at 12 noon and closes at 10 p.m.; Saturday, Sept. 20 fair hours are 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. followed by the final day of the fair being Sunday, Sept. 21 opening at 8 a.m. and closing at 6 p.m.

What fun it promises to be with a variety of entertainment planned we know the Social Tent will be rockin’ all weekend. A huge thank you to our loyal sponsors. We

hope you are looking forward to seeing friends and neighbors as much as we are. Above all let’s be safe. Make a plan to connect with family if you get separated. Remember we close at 10 p.m. on Friday and Sat night. Lost and found is at the gazebo and first aid and police are on the common to assist your needs.

Find more information about schedule of events, times, and places for events, activities, live music, the parade, and midway on the website, [www.belchertownfair.com](http://www.belchertownfair.com), and check out Turley Publications’ Fair Guide for more. Get ready for a fun weekend.

Granby to host free drama for substance use awareness

GRANBY – August 31 was National Overdose Awareness Day, and attention to the struggles and sad reality of drug addiction and abuse is sadly overlooked.

Join the Town of Granby at East Meadow School on Friday, September 19, at 6 p.m., for a performance by 2nd Act, “I’ll Never Do That.” The event is free to the community.

“I’ll Never Do That” is an intimate story of one family’s struggles happening behind closed doors. As one of the

parents descends deeper into addiction, the rest of the family struggles to cope. This story sheds light on family dynamics, the harrowing path to recovery, and the overwhelming truth that addiction is a “family disease.”

2nd Act is a collective of artists in recovery that uses theater, film, and drama therapy to address the impact of substance use. Together, we empower diverse and inclusive communities to promote understanding in the face of stigma.



HIKING from page 6

so busy staring at the tip of the trekking pole with each step forward that he kept tripping on it.

Whereupon he decided to use the pole for more entertaining purposes. He wielded it over his head like a light saber in order to strike every large boulder he happened upon. Then he transformed it into a javelin to pierce mushrooms with. And finally he turned it into an excavator to dig in the mud and dirt.

In between the trekking pole fun, he found boulders to climb on, rocks to throw, branches to hang from, and long sticks to drag behind him. With all of the distractions, it was slow going, but at least he was moving upward on his own 2 feet. Until, that is, the trail became steeper, and he suddenly proclaimed, “I can’t do it.”

It was time for Ploy #2- DISCOVERIES.

“Look, Levi! There’s are more mushrooms up ahead. Let’s go see them!” “What kind of animal do you think made the hole in that stump?” “Check out this stack of rocks! It’s called a cairn.” “Oh look! A sign! Do you want me to read it to you?”

With each step, Levi’s interest was piqued, his imagination increased, and his self-confidence soared. ALL the way to the very top of the mountain, at 1,227 feet!

Levi seemed less than impressed with the views, but very excited to celebrate his victory with mini muffins and apple juice. Once he had popped the last muffin in his mouth, he was off like a rocket, exploring the summit. We allowed him the freedom to test his abilities. Levi climbed, jumped and scrambled over numerous boulders. He tripped, then righted himself. He learned what his three-year-old self was capable of.

When he asked Tom and I if we could play hide and seek, we happily obliged. Tom and I spent close to an hour taking turns hiding so that Levi could find us. However, I drew the line when he said, “I’m going to hide by myself, and you



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

cannot be understated.

A child needs unstructured time to explore their natural environment. They need to be encouraged to play in a stream, walk through the woods, dig in the dirt, go fishing, or even climb a mountain. Many important life skills that children will need as they grow into teens and adults can be learned through outdoor activities-skills such as multi-tasking, troubleshooting, planning and prioritizing. Outdoor play also helps to build self-confidence, independence and self-esteem. It decreases stress, and increases attention, focus and motivation. I encourage every parent and grandparent to do everything you can to get the children in your life outdoors. Teaching children to appreciate our natural world and all of its wonders is one of the most amazing gifts that you can give them!

and grandpa can come find me.” Sorry little man, unless you’re wired with a tracker, that’s not happening!

When it was finally time to head down, Levi once again asked me to carry him. So I resorted to Ploy #3... BRIBERY. “Levi, if you can make it all the way down to the trailhead on your own two legs, we can stop for an ice cream on the way home.”

Needless to say, the vanilla ice cream with rainbow sprinkles sure hit the spot!

Spending time in nature is crucial to a child’s physical health, as well as for their emotional and intellectual development. The best way for children to grow up to be healthy, well-rounded individuals with a strong sense of independence and compassion is to get them off of the screens and into nature. The benefits of outdoor play

Join the library for a morning of art

GFPL to host ‘The Seahorse: How to Pastel Paint,’ with materials, for adults and teens

GRANBY – Award-winning pastel artist Gregory John Maichack will present “The Seahorse,” a pastel painting workshop for adults and teens 18+ hosted by the Granby Free Public Library on October 4, 2025, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. This is a pastel painting workshop designed for both beginners and advanced participants. Space is limited, so please call the Library at 413-467-3320 to pre-register.

In this all-new “The Seahorse: How to Pastel Paint,” we will draw a seahorse OR use a template that Maichack provides of seahorses. We also create bubbles (a template will be provided as well). This is fun and has an ocean of possibilities, having instruction in expressive pastel strokes, blending, slurring, and layering. Additionally, emerald pastel pencils will be provided for details. All keep their 12 X 18 pastel painting of their personalized vivid seahorse. Photo

references of various pastel seashores are supplied for ideas, allowing unfathomable possibilities. Maichack’s own pastel-painted seahorses will unveil the process. All will be entertained by lively anecdotes on the mystery of seahorses.

Maichack, is an award-winning artist, a twice-nominated Massachusetts Cultural Council Gold Star Award Program nominee, and a seasoned pro from instructing at the Museum of Fine Arts (MFA) Boston, colleges, to 100’s of libraries. Maichack lives in the Berkshires and is a portraitist and painter working primarily in pastels. Winner of the Award of Merit from the Bennington Center for the Arts: Impressions of New England Show 2003, he was also awarded the Savoir-faire Pastel Award from the Great Lakes Pastel Society. Maichack was commissioned by Westfield State College to paint the pastel portrait of the past president of Westfield State University, Dr. Frederick Woodward, which was unveiled at the dedication of the Woodward Center; and a pastel painted dictionary great Charles Merriam, unveiled by Merriam-Webster Co. at Merriam-

Gilbert Library. He has been in many national juried shows and was awarded numerous Massachusetts Cultural Council grants. In addition to portraiture, his still lives and landscapes are represented by galleries from Kennebunkport, Maine, to San Francisco, California. Maichack is accepting requests to do various commissions to do pastel paintings. Visit his website at [www.GregoryMaichack.com](http://www.GregoryMaichack.com).

Maichack has been a faculty member of the Museum Studio School in the Fine Arts Museum Quadrangle in Springfield, MA, and taught at Holyoke and Greenfield Community Colleges, Westfield State University, East Works, the MFA, Boston, and The Guild, Northampton. Maichack’s pastel paintings have been selected twice for the Annual National Exhibition of the Academic Artists Association, and as a result, Maichack was invited to be a member of this prestigious organization.

This project is supported in part by a grant from the Granby Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

GARDEN from page 6

are 65-70 degrees, and night temps are in the 50s. Fertilize every other month during the fall and winter.

Smaller leaved varieties will be easier to manage; large leaved cultivars will get top-heavy quickly- take terminal or “tip” cuttings of these instead.

Lemon Verbena (Aloysia triphylla) may start out looking great, but a month or so into indoor culture

will likely begin to lose its leaves. Fear not, leaf drop is completely normal and to be expected! You may be tempted to throw it out; instead, position in a sunny spot, water as needed and await new growth in the spring.

Enjoy your favorite tender herbs over the winter and again come springtime and summer when they return to the garden.

Roberta McQuaid grad-

uated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 33 years she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to [pouimette@turley.com](mailto:pouimette@turley.com) with “Gardening Question” in the subject line.

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ARTISTS from page 1

where artists displayed their paintings and brought some other pieces of their art to sell at a table, but all art is for sale.

The Association was founded by Belchertown members Denise Fontaine-Pincinse and Jennifer Turner. This fall, the Association is celebrating its 10th Anniversary, and functions as a non-profit.

“The Association has two goals,” said Guimond. “To support artists throughout the Pioneer Valley, and to promote the arts in the Valley. We work hard to keep our membership fees low. We want our artists to get a chance to show and sell their work.”

The Association hosts many artists who specialize in a variety of different styles, disciplines, and mediums, including paint, collage, sculpture, photography, pen and ink, ceramics, jewelry-making, and more. All art is welcome.

“We are giving artists an opportunity to make and show their work, and for the community to see their work,” said Guimond. “We will not hang in an exhibit unless artists are allowed to sell their work. We want to prioritize and help the artists.”

The Art Reception at the South Hadley Council on Aging was a great success, bringing in crowds to view the art, and to purchase some for their homes or as gifts, a perfect and unique addition to any home.

“The biggest thing that made me stay with the Association was the people who welcomed me,” said Rosemary Chaban, the Treasurer of the Association. “We have experienced artists, and some who are newbies, but all are welcome. There is no judgment.”

“We want people to come and be a part of our community,” said Guimond.

The Association is completely volunteer-run, and whether you prefer photography or watercolors, you’re welcome to join them and this wonderful community of art-

ists.

The Association meets on the third Thursday from September to May at 6:30 p.m. at the St. Francis Center at 10 Park Street in Belchertown, where they feature an artist, and the meetings are all open to the public.

“Enchantment” (top) and “Nautilus” by artist Kristine Ville-neuve-Topor.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY EMILY-ROSE PAPPAS

Chris White and her piece, “Cape Cod Twins” that look good enough to eat!



A fantastic painting of a chicken, and a hand-made wooden frame made by artist Chang Yu.



Eleanor Small with her art pieces, “Nauset Beach Camps” (top) and “Leaping Well House” (bottom), depicting well-known and beautiful sceneries.



Beautiful depictions of nature from artists Katherine Wyland, Dennis Burke, and Chuck Myers.



Rosemary Chaban and her piece, “Enchanted Leaves,” the perfect capture of fall.



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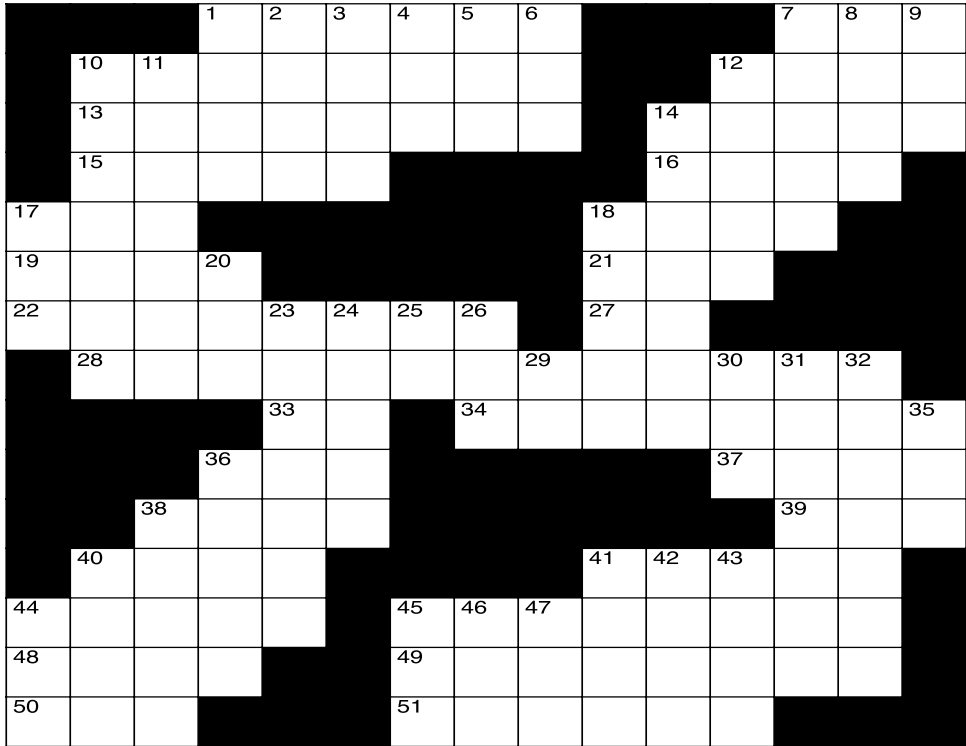
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#### CLUES ACROSS

1. Carved into
7. \_\_\_ Rogers, cowboy
10. Unruly locale
12. Edible mushroom
13. Influential noblemen
14. Rattling breaths
15. David \_\_\_ George, Brit. P.M.
16. Musician Clapton
17. Small Eurasian deer
18. Invests in little enterprises
19. Perimeter
21. Chicago ballplayer
22. Animal body part
27. It's everywhere these days
28. Fictional ad exec
33. Mr. T character

34. Against the current
36. Subway rodent
37. Armor plate
38. Hair on the head
39. Strong insect
40. Swollen lymph node
41. A way to lessen
44. Walter White poison
45. Sleeveless garment
48. Long accompanied song
49. Without features
50. Yankee great
51. Removes from record

#### CLUES DOWN

1. Root of taro plant

2. Those ones
3. Appliances have one
4. A way to sing
5. Midway between east and southeast
6. Animal dwelling
7. An object that as survived from the past
8. Oil cartel
9. Affirmative
10. Foul smell
11. Brisk tempo
12. S. American indigenous person
14. Restored
17. Official
18. Skin lesions
20. Electro-encephalograph
23. Middle Eastern country
24. Extremely angry

25. Title used before a woman's name
26. British thermal unit
29. By the way (abbr.)
30. Anger
31. Nullifies
32. Ones who acquire
35. Time zone
36. Arabic name
38. Protein in mucus
40. Ballpoint pen
41. Mimics
42. Humans have a lot of it
43. Expressions of good wishes
44. Cool!
45. One point east of due south
46. City of Angels football team (abbr.)
47. A way to save for retirement



# SPORTS

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## Orioles get better of Lions



Luke Dudek looks to make a play in goal.

By Tim Peterson  
*Sports Correspondent*

BELCHERTOWN — Seniors Tim Haley and Luke Dudek are first-year starters for the Belchertown boys' varsity soccer team. The duo helped the Orioles post a shutout victory against the Ludlow Lions in the first meeting of the 2025 regular season between the Smith Division rivals.

The contest remained scoreless until late in the second half when Haley scored a goal leading to a 1-0 victory in the Orioles home opener, last Monday night (Sept. 8).

"The past few games in the Rte.21 rivalry have been very close," said Belchertown head coach Zach Siano. "Any win against a Smith Division

Please see **LIONS**,  
page 10



Henry Mueller eyes up the field as he gets ready for the free kick.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY [WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM](http://WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM)  
Chase O'Connor goes for the loose ball.



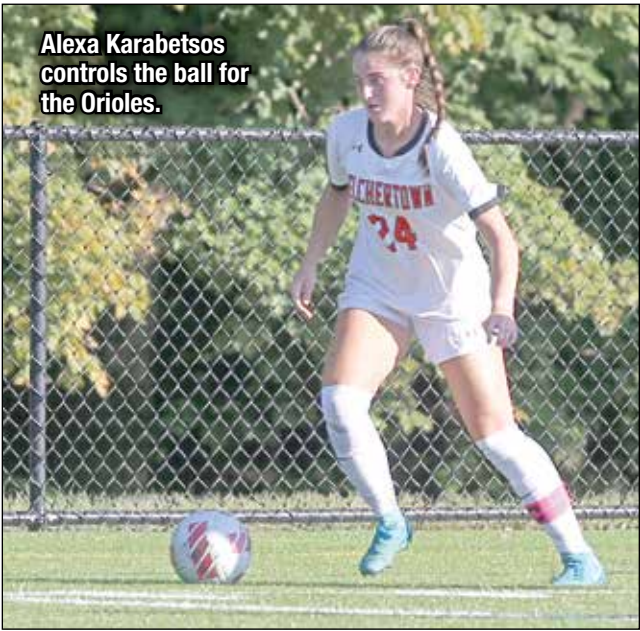
Morgan Litz tries to play a head ball.



Isabella Vozzella tries to avoid an oncoming defender.



Gabriella Slovack clashes with a South Hadley player for the ball.



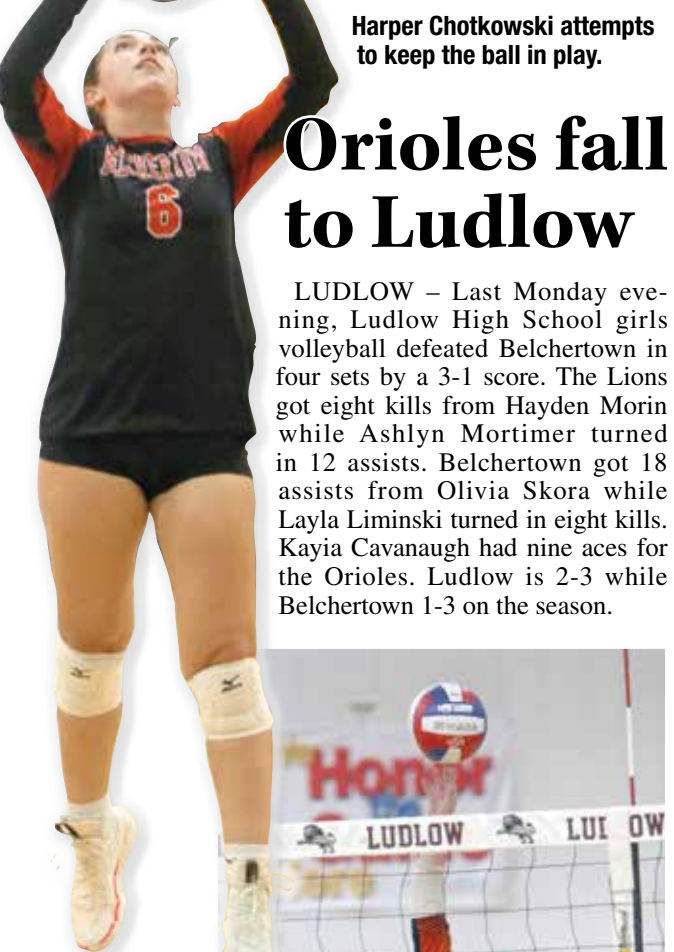
Alexa Karabetsos controls the ball for the Orioles.

## Belchertown girls beat rival Tigers

SOUTH HADLEY – In a very big matchup last Friday afternoon, Belchertown High School girls soccer defeated South Hadley with single goals in each half for a 2-0 final. Aubrey Klingensmith and Aubrey McCain scored the goals for Belchertown while the combination of Ava Stelmokas and Linnea Anderson made 10 saves for the shutout. South Hadley's Olivia Athas made 10 save in the defeat. South Hadley is 2-2 on the young season while Belchertown improved to 2-1-1.



Harper Chotkowski attempts to keep the ball in play.



## Orioles fall to Ludlow

LUDLOW – Last Monday evening, Ludlow High School girls volleyball defeated Belchertown in four sets by a 3-1 score. The Lions got eight kills from Hayden Morin while Ashlyn Mortimer turned in 12 assists. Belchertown got 18 assists from Olivia Skora while Layla Liminski turned in eight kills. Kayia Cavanaugh had nine aces for the Orioles. Ludlow is 2-3 while Belchertown 1-3 on the season.

ABOVE: Abigail Almeida sets up a point.

RIGHT: Kayla Cavanaugh elevates to send the ball over the net.

TURLEY PHOTOS  
BY DAVID HENRY [WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM](http://WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM)

BELOW: Layla Liminski sends a spike over the net.





SPORTS



TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM  
The boys start their race.

Granby cross country in action



GRANBY – Last Wednesday afternoon at Dufresne Park, Granby High School cross country hosted Palmer. Both the boys and girls teams took part in races, though the final scores of the meet were not reported as of press time. Colby Carleton of Granby was the top finisher in the meet.

Addison Hill finishes for the Rams.



Colby Carelton was the top male finisher in the meet.



Grace Coohely was Granby's top female finisher.

Stafford Speedway hosts responder race

STAFFORD SPRINGS, CT – Stafford Speedway hosted USNE First Responder Friday on Sept. 12 with the TC 13 Shootout joining Stafford's five weekly divisions in feature action. The SK Modified@ division ran their regularly scheduled 40-lap feature as well as the 3rd Annual TC 13 Shootout, a 13 lap race contested between the top-13 finishers from the 40-lap feature. Michael Christopher, Jr. was the big winner of the night taking home the TC 13 Shootout trophy and the \$1,313 to win TC 13 Shootout. Also as part of the TC 13 Shootout festivities, the Ted Christopher Safety Initiative, orchestrated by Quinn Christopher, donated a Bell helmet with the winner determined by the winner of the TC 13 Shootout drawing from a list of the five drivers who finished in 13th place in their respective feature events. Christopher drew the Street Stock division which made Bill Cote the winner of the Bell helmet for his 13th place finish in the Street Stock feature. In the 40-lap SK Modified@ feature event, Michael Gervais, Jr. took the early lead with Anthony

Flannery and Todd Owen going wheel to wheel for second. Owen took second on lap-2 with Andrew Molleur going around Flannery to move into third on lap-3. Flannery was able to get back in line in fourth, just in front of Cory DiMatteo and Alexander Pearl, who were side by side fighting for fifth place. Molleur made a move to the inside of Owen on lap-6 to take second with Michael Christopher, Jr. getting around Pearl for sixth. Molleur took the lead from Gervais on lap-8 with DiMatteo moving into third on lap-9. With 10 laps complete the order was now Molleur, Gervais, DiMatteo, Owen, and Christopher, Flannery was sixth followed by Pearl, Marcello Rufrano, Tyler Chapman, and Jon Puleo. DiMatteo streaked by Molleur to take over the lead on lap-13. Gervais was third behind DiMatteo and Molleur with Christopher fourth and Owen fifth. Christopher took third from Gervais on lap-16 and then took second from Molleur on lap-17. Wesley Prucker spun on the backstretch to bring the caution flag out

Please see **RACE**, page 13

LIONS from page 9

opponent is a big deal for us." While Haley scored the lone goal of the contest, Dudek made four saves at the other end of the field in recording his second consecutive shutout. "A win against Ludlow is honestly a dream come true, especially with a shutout," Dudek said. "This is just an amazing feeling." The Rte. 21 rivalry series between Ludlow and Belchertown is now tied 3-3-3 since the start of the 2021 regular season. The Orioles also posted a 1-0 home win against the Lions in the first meeting of last season. Prior to that game, Ludlow had won the previous three games, which were all shutouts. Dudek took over the starting duties from Jack Mandeville, who made more than 200 saves during his outstanding varsity soccer career. "Luke was our back-up goalie during the past couple of years to Jack Mandeville, who was a two time All-State goalie," Siano said. "Luke has hit the ground running so

far this season. He has done a great job of commanding the defense. He has a very high soccer IQ." The members of the Orioles defensive unit are senior Tyler Burrows, senior Jordan Kalish, senior Austin Raymer, and sophomore Henry Mueller. Raymer is also a co-captain, along with senior Nathan Marino. Dudek's second shutout of the season improved the Orioles overall record to 2-1-0 and a perfect 2-0-0 mark versus Smith Division foes. After beginning the regular season with a 2-1 loss at Chicopee High School, Dudek made seven saves in the Orioles 3-0 win at East Longmeadow in their first Smith Division match. Belchertown also posted a 1-0 home in the first meeting of last season against Ludlow. Esat Cayan netted the only goal of that match. For the first time in many years, the Lions lost their first three games of the regular season. They began the regular season with a 2-1 non-league loss at Northampton before suffering a 1-0 loss to Smith

Division Longmeadow in the home opener. "This was another very tough result for us," said longtime Ludlow head coach Greg Kolodziey. "We created a couple of chances, but they wound up scoring the goal. We're going to get back on the training field and start preparing for our next game against Pope Francis." The Lions closed out last week's action with a 1-1 home tie versus the Cardinals. Belchertown, who also defeated South Hadley, 2-1, last week, had a total of six corner kicks during the first half against Ludlow. The home team went 0-for-6 on them. "The ball just didn't bounce our way on the first half corner kicks," Siano said. "The ball finally did bounce late in the second half." Ludlow junior goalie Nick Dion (4 saves) managed to keep the contest scoreless at halftime. Junior Jayden Premo had several shots on goal for the visiting team during the first ten minutes of the second half. During the 74th minute, a



Austin Raymer sees pressure coming.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM  
Christian Fraga collides with an opponent.

free kick taken by Ludlow senior Gabe DiRosa was saved by Dudek. A couple of minutes later, Haley, who played for an academy soccer team during the past couple of years, became the hero. He finally broke the deadlock with his third goal of the season, which was assisted by senior Chase Connor. The Lions failed to score

the tying goal before the referee blew his whistle for the final time. The second edition of the Rte. 21 rivalry game is scheduled to be held on the new turf field at the Ludlow Sports complex on Oct. 2 at 6 p.m.



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Belchertown Police Log

Editor's note: The following are brief explanations of select entries in the Belchertown Police log and arrests for the weeks of Sept. 5 through Sept. 10. The information was provided by a member of the police department based on the review of the detailed log summary. This feature is designed to provide context and explanation to some of the calls police respond to every day.

ARRESTS/SUMMONS Friday, Sept. 5

9:02 p.m. – A Belchertown woman was arrested and charged with a violation of 209A order.

Sunday, Sept. 7

6:09 p.m. – A 36-year-old Blackstone woman was issued a summons for speeding and unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle. An officer doing traffic enforcement near Hamilton Street and Bay Road saw a vehicle speeding 44 mph in a 20-mph zone. The officer stopped the vehicle and identified the operator. They didn't have a license and provided a Connecticut ID only. A person in the vehicle swapped out with the operator.

ACCIDENTS/INCIDENTS Friday, Sept. 5

4:49 p.m. – An officer assisted Belchertown Fire and paramedics. One person was transported to the hospital.

Saturday, Sept. 6

3:51 a.m. – An officer responded to Mill Valley Road residence for a report of a hit and run. A resident reported hearing a loud noise. They noticed their mailbox was destroyed and car seen heading towards the center of town. They thought the vehicle had popped a tire. A check of the area of completed and not located. The officer began checking with neighbors for video footage. The incident is under investigation.

11:20 a.m. – An officer responded to assist Belchertown Fire and paramedics.

9:31 p.m. – An officer responded to Ware Road near the town line for a report of a disabled motor vehicle. The registration came back as revoked for insurance. The occupants were transported to the station to wait for a ride, and the vehicle was towed from the scene.

10:45 p.m. – An officer was on patrol on Chauncey Walker Road and saw a vehicle with an expired registration sticker which came back as revoked nonrenewable. The person was cited vehicle was towed.

11:45 p.m. – An officer on Mill Valley Road noticed a disabled vehicle that had a flat tire. The operator had contacted a friend, and a tow company was contacted. An inventory of the vehicle was done.

Sunday, Sept. 7

3:25 p.m. – An officer responded to an accident on George Hannum Road. A vehicle going west on George Hannum Road went into the eastbound lane and struck the driver's side another vehicle. The operator of the first vehicle reported they lost control when rounding a curve. At the time there was gravel and debris on the road from heavy rains the night prior. The vehicle struck the driver's side of a second vehicle. It was towed from the scene.

3:35 p.m. – An officer responded to Turkey Hill Road and Chauncey Walker Road. A vehicle was waiting to go onto Chauncey Walker Road when it was struck by a second vehicle turned too sharply around a corner. There was minor damage to both vehicles. No injuries were reported.

Monday, Sept. 8

8:17 a.m. – An officer responded to an accident. A vehicle stopped suddenly due to a bus with its lights on. The vehicle immediately behind the first rear ended the first vehicle and the sec-

ond vehicle was rear ended by a third. No injuries were reported and all vehicles were towed from the scene.

8:56 a.m. – An officer responded to Warren Wright Road and North Street. A vehicle was struck by another vehicle that ran a stop sign. No injuries were reported, and no tows were needed.

9:23 a.m. – An officer spoke with a person regarding an interaction their child had at school with another child.

Tuesday, Sept. 9

4:55 a.m. – An officer responded to Franklin Street for a report of a single vehicle crash. The officer spoke with the operator who drove over the curb and didn't know how it occurred. The vehicle was no longer operable. It was towed to the residence. No injuries were reported.

3:30 p.m. – An officer responded to assist Belchertown fire and paramedics.

4:34 p.m. – An officer spoke with a person about a potential restraining order violation.

Wednesday, Sept. 10

11:49 a.m. – An officer responded to an accident. A vehicle legally parked facing south and it was struck by a vehicle backing out of the driveway. No injuries were reported. No tows were needed.

4:36 p.m. – An officer responded to State Street for an accident. A vehicle struck a curb while pulling into a State Street business. A private tow company was contacted. No injuries were reported.

Granby Police Log

Editor's Note: The Granby Police Department responded to 170 calls for the week of Sept. 9 through Sept. 11. Those arrested are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law. The Granby Police Department provides all information.

Friday, Sept. 5

5:26 a.m. – A motorist reported a two-car crash. Granby Police and Fire responded. There were no injuries.

3:57 pm. – Several motorists reported a four-car accident. One of the vehicles struck and broke a utility pole. Granby Police and Fire responded. There were no injuries.

Saturday, Sept. 6

1:29 p.m. – A store employee reported that someone stole Red Bull and left the store. A reported was completed.

3:16 p.m. – A resident reported that a tree fell across

road and that power lines were taken down. Several more calls were received from across town regarding similar damage due to a passing storm.

Sunday, Sept. 7

2:02 p.m. – Several callers reported that a tree fell onto power line and into roadway. Several power lines are down and blocking the road. The road was closed for several hours until repairs could be made by National Grid.

2:26 p.m. – While directing traffic at a closed road, a motorcycle refused to stop for an officer and went under downed power lines while doing a wheelie. The operator later returned to the scene where it was discovered that the registration plates attached did not belong on the motorcycle. The operator was issued a criminal citation for failure to stop for police, negligent operation of a motor vehicle, attaching registration plates, and operating an unregistered motor vehicle without insurance.

3:23 p.m. – A detail officer observed a known party operating a motor vehicle that was believed to have a suspended MA license. This was confirmed with the registry, and the operator was issued a criminal citation for operating a motor vehicle with a

Please see **POLICE LOG**, page 13

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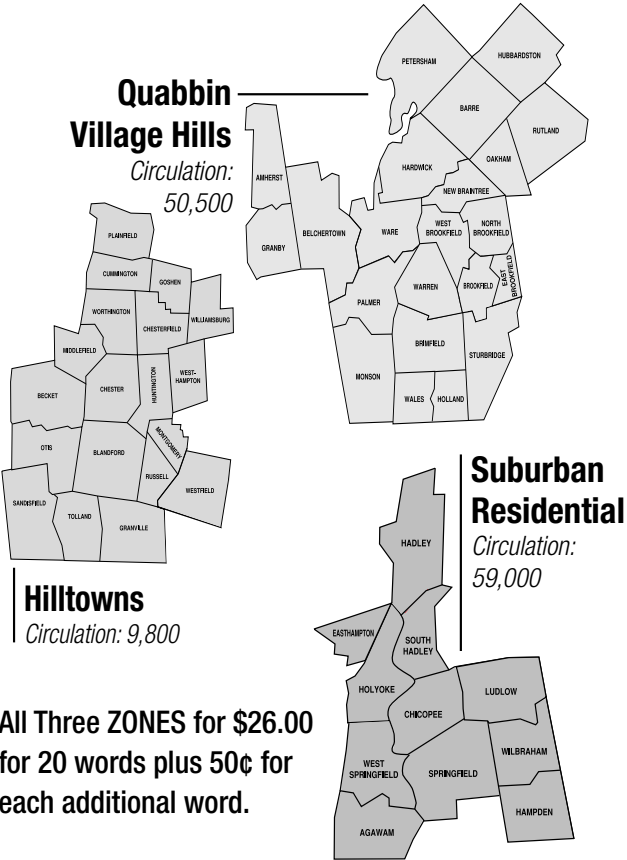
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## Belchertown Communications Committee: Connecting Residents, Building Transparency

BELCHERTOWN – Established by the Select Board in 2018, the Belchertown Communications Committee has worked diligently to strengthen how the town shares information with its residents. Originally tasked with three goals: enhancing communication around Town Meetings, updating the municipal website, and creating a town-wide events calendar. The Committee has since expanded its mission and delivered numerous successes.

Despite a pause during the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Committee moved forward with significant projects. It has overseen two major website redesigns, most recently transitioning the Town to the CivicPlus platform in 2024. The Committee also developed Belchertown’s social media policy, helped establish the role of Communications Manager (a position first filled in December 2024), and supported the launch of the Branding Belchertown Committee, which introduced the town’s official logo in the summer of 2025.

More recently, the Committee introduced Belchertown’s first digital newsletter in spring 2025, which already has nearly 500 subscribers. Current initiatives include drafting an Artificial Intelligence (AI) policy, in partnership with UMass Computer Science, and developing a long-term Communications Master Plan.

Committee Chair Chris Martin reflected on the importance of this work: “When I first moved to Belchertown, I had so many questions but struggled to find clear answers. That experience inspired me to join the Communications Committee. Since then, we’ve launched an award-winning town website, opened new social media channels, started a monthly newsletter, and introduced policies to guide communication. I’m proud that residents today are more connected, engaged, and informed than ever before.”

Vice Chair Ed Comeau added: “In just the past two years, communication with residents has expanded dramatically. One of our biggest milestones was the complete rebuild of the town website, which required hundreds of hours and outreach to every department. Looking ahead, we’ve been tasked with exploring how artificial intelligence might support town operations. It’s an exciting opportunity to help staff and volunteers work more effectively.”

Longtime Clerk and former Belchertown Community TV General Manager, Lew Lorraine, emphasized the Committee’s core mission: “Our town doesn’t have a daily newspaper, a radio station, or commercial television coverage. For many years, timely communication has been a real challenge.

The Committee exists to help solve that problem and ensure our residents can get the information they need.”

Current Clerk Allegra Giovine added: “Since joining the Committee in 2024, I’ve learned so much and built strong community connections. This work is valuable because it helps residents do the same – learn more and connect more deeply with Belchertown.”

Select Board liaison Jon Ritter also praised the Committee’s impact: “As a new liaison, I wasn’t sure at first what to expect. But I’ve quickly seen how passionate and energetic the members are. Their work, updating the town website, launching the alert system, and developing an AI policy, has a direct impact on how Belchertown communicates with its residents.”

The Communications Committee is a seven-member board with two current vacancies. With a new meeting time soon to be established, this is an excellent opportunity for residents interested in public service, technology, or community engagement to get involved.

To learn more or apply to join the Communications Committee, visit the Town’s volunteer page at [www.belchertown.org/374/Volunteer](http://www.belchertown.org/374/Volunteer).

For more information about the Committee, please visit: [www.belchertown.org/264/Communications-Committee](http://www.belchertown.org/264/Communications-Committee).

**RACE** from page 10

with 18 laps complete.

Molleur spun from third place on the restart to bring the caution flag right back out. The next restart saw Gervais shoot out of line going down the backstretch and into turn 3 and his car came back up on the track and collected several cars including Curt Brainard, David Arute, Timmy Solomito, and Wade Gagner to bring the caution right back out again before a lap could be completed. Christopher was sent to the rear of the field for making contact with Gervais.

The third lap-19 restart saw DiMatteo take the lead with Flannery in second. Puleo and Owen were wheel to wheel for third with Mikey Flynn and Tyler Chapman wheel to wheel for fifth. Flynn and Chapman touched going into turn 3 with Chapman

spinning into the wall to bring the caution flag back out with 20 laps complete.

DiMatteo took the lead on the restart with Puleo moving into second. Flynn took third after a side by side lap with Flannery with Rufrano in fifth behind Flynn and Flannery. Rufrano got around Flannery to take fourth place on lap-23 and then took third from Flynn on lap-24. Puleo was looking high and low for a way around DiMatteo but DiMatteo was able to maintain the lead.

With 5 laps to go it was still DiMatteo and Puleo fighting for the win with Rufrano and Flynn fighting for third and Flannery and Keith Rocco fighting for fifth. Rocco took fifth from Flannery on lap-37 while Flynn made a move to get back by Rufrano for third on lap-39. Puleo couldn’t get close enough to DiMatteo as DiMatteo took down his second win of the 2025 season. Flynn finished third with Rocco and Rufrano rounding out the top-5.

**POLICE LOG** from page 11

suspended license the following day.

**Monday, Sept. 8**

1:20 p.m. – While on patrol, an officer observed a motor vehicle pass two vehicles at a high rate of speed, almost causing a head on collision with another vehicle in the opposite lane of travel. The vehicle was stopped, and the operator was issued a criminal citation for a passing violation and operating a motor vehicle negligently.

**Tuesday, Sept. 9**

12:21 p.m. – A motorist reported a minor two-car crash. There were no injuries.

3:44 p.m. – Several callers reported a two-car accident. Granby Police and Fire responded. There were no injuries. One of the operators was issued a written warning for failure to yield the right of way.

5:56 p.m. – Several callers reported a two-vehicle crash, car vs motorcycle. Granby Police, Granby Fire, and SHD1 ambulance responded. The motorcycle operator was transported to the hospital with non-life-threatening injuries.

## OBITUARY

### Pamela Sue Monn

Pamela Sue Monn, of Belchertown, MA, died from a rare sarcoma on August 21, 2025, after two days of superlative hospice care at Cooley Dickinson Hospital in Northampton, MA. She grew up in Mont Alto, Pennsylvania. She is survived by her wife and the love of her life, Rev. Janet Powers of Belchertown, MA, their son, Dr. Jordan Miller of Danielson, CT, and her dogs. She was preceded in death by her parents, Dave and Norma. She is also survived by her sisters, Jenny and Teresa, from Pennsylvania, and a broad circle of dear friends. Her grandmothers, Gladys and Rosalie, provided the nurturing environment that shaped the woman she became.



Pam was a graduate of the Pennsylvania State University and Wesley Theological Seminary and was an ordained Disciples of Christ clergywoman. Immersion work trips to Mexico and North Carolina broadened her worldview as she became increasingly committed to acts of mercy and care for the least, the last, and the lost. She delivered meals to people dying during the AIDS crisis. She was a minister with and to the working-class laborers at UMass for the last 28 years. She was a prolific quilter and a creative maker of many things.

Pam cared deeply for abandoned, abused, or neglected animals. In lieu of all gifts, donations in her honor may be made to the Animal Welfare Society of

DEATH NOTICE

**Pamela Sue Monn**  
Died August 21, 2025  
Services Belchertown United Church of Christ  
Monday, Sept. 22, 3 p.m.

**Robert H. Heffernan**  
Died: September 5, 2025  
Services Sept. 23 at 1 p.m.  
Veterans Memorial Cemetery  
Winchendon, MA

Kennebunk, Maine.

There will be a celebration of her life at 3 p.m. on Monday, September 22, 2025, at Belchertown United Church of Christ, officiated by Rev Susan Tarolli. People of any faith or no faith are welcome. Please come in your work clothes. Bright, celebratory colors and baseball caps are encouraged. Refreshments will follow the celebration of Pam’s life. Please share stories, tears, hugs, and laughter.

## PUBLIC NOTICES

**TOWN OF GRANBY  
TOWN CLERK NOTICE**  
Received on September 10, 2025, with approval from the office of the Attorney General pertaining to the continued Annual Town Meeting of June 9, 2025 – Case #1917 Warrant Article #20 – Town of Granby General ByLaws.

Article 20. The Town vote to enact Chapter XXV of the Town of Granby General Bylaws, entitled “Stormwater Management” for the purpose of regulating illicit connections and discharges into Granby’s storm drain system and to regulate stormwater runoff from new development and redevelopment projects. This is necessary to protect, maintain, and enhance the public health, safety, and general welfare of the citizens, as well as the quality of groundwater and surface water

bodies of Granby. Along with the associated regulations, the purpose of this Bylaw is to bring Granby into compliance with state and federal requirements relating to stormwater discharges, particularly its U.S. EPA National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit, a copy of which is on file with the Town Clerk.

Copies of this approval in its entirety can be viewed in the Granby Town Clerk’s office at the Town Hall Annex. This notice has been posted in the following public places, The Town Hall Annex, the COA, the Granby Public Library, Granby Police Station, the Granby Post Office and the Town website [www.granby-ma.gov](http://www.granby-ma.gov).

Any questions or concerns can

be directed to Emily Reed, Town Clerk at 467-7178.  
09/18/2025

**SALE OF MOTOR VEHICLE Under MGL Ch.255, Sec. 39A**  
This ad is pursuant to MA Gen. Law Ch.255, Sec. 39A as of October 03, 2025 the following motor vehicle will be for sale to satisfy a garage keepers lien:

Vehicle: 1997 Honda Accord  
Vin #: 1HGCD5639VA043853  
Color: Blue  
LKO: Aaron Morrissey  
111 Montague City Road  
Greenfield, MA 01301  
Relentless Towing  
Belchertown, MA  
413-530-3804  
09/18, 09/25, 10/02/2025

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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.



The Sentinel

OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

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

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

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REECE AUTO BODY Complete Auto Body, Paint & Repair” auto glass, computerized paint matching, also routine car maintenance. Free estimates. Old Springfield Road, Belchertown. 413-323-6664.

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ALIX & SONS COMPUTER CENTER. PC/Macs, Laptops, Screen Repairs. New Computer Sales and Accessories, PC Diagnostic Repairs and Upgrades, On Site Work, Home or Office. 40 Daniel Shays Highway. 413-323-1122. John Alix, Owner.

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BELL & HUDSON INSURANCE AGENCY INC., 19 North Main St., Belchertown, MA 01007. Tel. 413-323-9611, 800-894-9591. Fax 413-323-6117. Home, auto, life, commercial, group health.

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