

Complete Streets committee formed

Sports Haven mobile home progress

By Melina Bourdeau
Correspondent

BELCHERTOWN — The Selectboard approved the launch of a Complete Streets committee and received an update on the progress of the Sports Haven mobile home park, both aimed at improving public safety and town resources.

Department of Public Works Director Linda Leduc spoke to the board on both ongoing and future Complete Streets projects, while town staff reported ongoing restoration at Sports Haven. Community impact, funding, and committee appointments emerged as key themes during the 50-minute meeting.

Complete Streets committee moves forward

Leduc recalled the town's previous efforts. Thus far, the town has completed the first tier of the program, adopting the Complete Streets policy. Now Leduc is working on the next step and has proposed reforming the committee as part of tier two.

"I was able to apply to receive funds for the next stage, so tier two, which is creating the prioritization plan," she said. "We received \$37,091 to get through the prioritization plan process."

Leduc outlined plans for

Please see **STREETS**, page 11



Little Evan is surrounded by gifts from some local heroes who saved Christmas.

Local heroes save Christmas for a special boy

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

GRANBY — The holiday season is a time for giving, and the Granby Police and Fire Departments have worked together to create a magical Christmas for one little boy battling cancer. In November, the

Granby Police and Fire Departments participated in fundraising alongside nonprofit Cops for Kids with Cancer, which is composed of retired firefighters and police officers who work to assist families of children battling cancer over the holidays.

The departments met 16-month-old Evan Caraballo through hosting

Cops for Kids with Cancer and donated \$5,500 to assist him and his family.

Recently, the departments spoke with the family and found out that this was Caraballo's first Christmas at home, and the family had had trouble getting ahold of gifts from Santa for the little one, so

Please see **EVAN**, page 4



Katy Martin and Jessica Langlois, directors of the Belchertown Senior Center.

Senior Center looks forward to a bright 2026

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

BELCHERTOWN — The Senior Center is home to many events, activities and even a thrift shop for the public to enjoy.

"The community truly united, allowing us to deliver more than 35 gifts to older adults, aiming to bring joy and warmth to their holiday season."

— Jessica Langlois

The Senior Center has gone through many changes and growth over the past year, bringing in new events, activities and clubs for seniors to enjoy throughout the week.

"As we wrap up 2025 and step into the new year, we're excited to announce that we hit a record high in attendance this past year, welcoming 200 more older adults compared to 2024," said Director of the Belchertown Senior Center, Jessica Langlois.

The Senior Center

launched its new Memory Café, which serves as an enjoyable program for individuals facing memory loss and their caregivers, and Fallon Health's PACE program allowed for participants to create meaningful connections with others on similar paths in life.

The Senior Center also introduced a Giving Tree, where the community donated gifts to the Senior Center for the older adults to receive and enjoy.

"The community truly united, allowing us to deliver

more than 35 gifts to older adults, aiming to bring joy and warmth to their holiday season. We can't wait to announce exciting new programs at the Senior Center while also maintaining our diverse range of offerings," said Langlois. "We're eager to see our familiar friends return in 2026 and to extend a warm welcome to those visiting for the first time."

The Belchertown Cultural Council came through with awards of grants through

Please see **2026**, page 4

Communications Committee pleased to announce newsletter

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

BELCHERTOWN — Getting to know the news around the town you live in is important, and whether you prefer social media, the local newspapers, radio, TV, or some other format, countless platforms make that task easier.

Allegra Giovine, a member of the Belchertown Communications Committee, works on the newsletter for the Carriagetown Chronicle, one of the many ways Belchertown residents can get to know what's happening in town.

The Chronicle is a monthly newsletter from the town that is sent by email and came out of

discussions between the Communications Committee and Town Manager in 2024 about creating a new way for residents to access information.



The carriage and logo for the Carriagetown Chronicles.

"We were thinking about a town newsletter as a useful way to share information from departments and committees," said Giovine.

"Alyssa Lussier and I led the initial research and design, and Emily Laroche stepped in to help with implementation before the first issue went out in May 2025."

Every issue of the Chronicle contains updates from various town government bodies, like the HR department introducing new staff members, or the DPW providing last month's reports and other similar announcements and pieces of information.

"The goal of the newsletter is to help increase and circulate information about Belchertown: what's happening in town government, what services are available, special events coming up, important advisories, etc.," said Giovine.

Please see **CHRONICLES**, page 4

WB&CA and Beyond enters 15th year

Staff Report

For the past 15 years, the Ware Business & Civic Association and Beyond has been a catalyst for growth, creating a hub for businesses to visit and invest in the community of Ware.

The Ware Business & Civic Association and Beyond began in 2011, with a gathering of local business and civic leaders at the Goodwill store, located at the corner of Main and North streets, currently the site of Hanna's on Main restaurant.

"Local businessman, Joel Harder, organized the meeting," said Chris Murphy, WB&CA Board of Director and IT officer. "Joel noted the pessimistic trend with business in Ware and thought there would be strength in numbers."

Meetings were held,



TURLEY STAFF PHOTO

Jason Turcotte, Co-owner, Tombstone Trading Company, is shown at a Ware Business & Civic Association and Beyond monthly meeting.

more people and businesses joined the group and idea developed to support the town

From that starting point, the WB&CA and Beyond

took root in Ware. Over the next few years, community and business activities such as the Holiday Stroll, Shop

Please see **WB&CA**, page 9

MILITARY RELOCATION SPECIALISTS

Supporting our heroes... Military relocation made easy!



POISSANT & NEVEU REAL ESTATE TEAM
Info@TheTeamThatSells.com | (413) 813-4479 | www.PoissantAndNeveu.com



Re/Max Compass
Office: (413) 588-0040
Each Office Independently Owned & Operated



■ POLICE LOGS

Belchertown Police

Editor's note: The following are brief explanations of select entries in the Belchertown Police log and arrests for the weeks of Dec. 18, 2025, through Jan. 1, 2026. 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

Thursday, Dec. 18
12:13 p.m. – A person was issued a summons for a violation of an abuse prevention order.

12:41 p.m. – A 36-year-old Enfield, CT woman was issued a summons for charges of larceny over \$1,200. An officer responded to a George Hannum Road business for a report of shoplifting. An officer took a report of a person who left the store with high-value items and took off in a vehicle after the employees tried to stop them. A be on the lookout notice was put out for the vehicle. Granby police stopped the vehicle, and there was probable cause for arrest. An ambulance was called because the person said they had a medical issue. The operator claimed they didn't know the person well and didn't know what they were doing. The person was transported by South Hadley ambulance to the hospital. The operator was allowed to leave.

1:42 p.m. – A 19-year-old Holyoke man was issued a summons for charges of assault with a dangerous weapon and threat to commit a crime.

1:58 p.m. – A 43-year-old Springfield resident was issued a summons for unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle. An officer responded to the area of Main Street for a report of a person who took their relative's car without permission. The car was located, and the officer stopped the vehicle. The person only had an ID. The vehicle was towed. The person was told a summons would be issued.

Friday, Dec. 19

9:40 p.m. – A man was issued a summons for violation of an abuse prevention order.

Sunday, Dec. 28

2:41 a.m. – A 17-year-old Belchertown juvenile was issued a summons for negligent operation of a motor

vehicle, leaving the scene of property damage, speeding, and junior operator without a parent. They got a call about a single-vehicle crash in the center parking lot. It was heavily damaged, the entire left side damaged by a tree. Belchertown fire dispatched to check the person out. The accident occurred on George Hannum Road. They were transported to the hospital.

Monday, Dec. 29

12:26 p.m. – Kyle Giuffre, 38, of 7 Michael Sears Rd, was arrested on charges of a subsequent offense of operating with a suspended license. An officer was with a disabled motor vehicle on Mill Valley Road when they saw a vehicle going northbound, and the operator was known to have a suspended license. Their license was still suspended, and they were stopped by the officer. The person was identified and placed under arrest. The vehicle was towed.

ACCIDENTS/INCIDENTS

Thursday, Dec. 18

10:30 a.m. – An officer responded to an accident at the intersection of Federal Street and North Main Street. A vehicle stopped at the light on North Main Street, waiting to turn onto Federal Street and was rear-ended by a bus. No injuries were reported, and no tows were needed.

1:26 p.m. – A relative made unauthorized purchases on a credit card. The matter was documented.

5:28 p.m. – An officer responded to Bardwell Street for a report of erratic operation a call was transported. The concrete trough was struck, and the reporting person said the car pulled into a driveway on Bardwell. The operator was identified. The person at first did not admit they were operating on the vehicle. The person was later arrested by Palmer Police for operating under the influence.

Friday, Dec. 19

7:02 a.m. – An officer responded to assist Belchertown Fire and paramedics

9:31 a.m. – An officer emptied the drug take-back box in the lobby.

2:36 p.m. – An officer responded to a North Main Street business to speak with a person regarding a harassment incident. The person found an item in the hallway, and it was perceived to be a threat. They were transported to the station to wait for a ride.

9:41 p.m. – An officer took a report of an accident. A vehicle was parked in a parking lot, and a second vehi-

cle backed out and struck the first in the rear. No injuries were reported, and no tows were needed.

Saturday, Dec. 20

12:45 p.m. – A person came to the station with a debit card they located. The card was entered into the property.

6:19 p.m. – An officer responded to an accident. A vehicle going through an intersection was struck by a second vehicle that pulled in front of the first, attempting to turn left. The operator of the first vehicle said they thought the light was green. Both vehicles were towed from the scene. Both operators were transported from the scene.

10:12 p.m. – A residence for a well-being check after a 911 hang-up call. Another agency heard yelling in the background and spoke with the person. It was determined that there was an argument. They were advised of their options.

11:26 p.m. – An officer responded to an accident on Warner Wright. A vehicle going north on Warner Wright Road went off the road to the right and struck a small bush, a rock wall, and a utility pole. The falling pole struck the driver's side rear of the vehicle. They said they fell asleep before the crash, the pole broke in half, and National Grid was contacted.

Sunday, Dec. 21

7:25 a.m. – An abandoned vehicle that may be a road hazard it was halfway in the roadway, and vehicles were unable to pass it. There was a note taped to the windshield that they ran out of gas. The officer was unable to contact the owner. The vehicle was towed.

11:45 p.m. – An officer responded to a disturbance call. A person having mental health issues was transported to the hospital.

Monday, Dec. 22

12:56 p.m. – An officer took possession of a bag that a person found on North Main Street. There was a BB gun found in the bag. It was placed in the property.

3:42 p.m. – An officer took a report of an accident at a State Street business. They wanted to report that there was damage to the driver's side of the vehicle and wanted footage from the business they were at for insurance purposes. The people did not exchange information in the initial accident.

5:42 p.m. – An officer on patrol stopped a vehicle. The registration had expired and was non-renewable. The vehicle was towed.

8:53 p.m. – An officer

responded to an accident on North Washington Street. A vehicle was driving on North Washington Street when it was struck on the left side of the vehicle. No injuries were reported, and no tows were needed.

Tuesday, Dec. 23

12:47 a.m. – An officer responded to assist Belchertown Fire paramedics.

1:01 p.m. – An officer responded to a report of a vehicle leaving the scene of an accident. The officer spoke with a person about a past crash on George Hannum Road. Saw a TT unit east and entered the lane of traffic, and couldn't move, and was struck in the mirror. It appeared they knew they had struck the mirror and left the scene.

8 p.m. – An officer and Belchertown fire paramedics to Federal Street for a report of a rollover accident. No injuries were reported, and the vehicle was towed.

8:20 p.m. – An officer responded to a three-vehicle crash on Mill Valley Road. A vehicle going north on Mill Valley Road was struck by a second vehicle, which lost control of its vehicle. Another vehicle was struck by the second vehicle. No injuries were reported. All three vehicles were towed from the scene.

8:32 p.m. – An officer responded to an accident on West Street. A vehicle going east on West Street was unable to make a corner due to snow and ice on the roadway. The vehicle went into the westbound lane and struck a tree. No injuries were reported. The vehicle was towed from the scene.

Friday, Dec. 26

2:23 p.m. – An officer spoke with a person regarding several cards used with the person's information. They wanted the matter documented.

4:12 p.m. – Police contacted by the Fire Department concerning the needs of an elderly resident.

8:54 p.m. – An officer responded to an accident on Mill Valley Road. A vehicle going east on Mill Valley Road lost control due to snowy conditions. The vehicle lost control and struck a rock wall. A person was transported from the scene with minor injuries. The vehicle was able to be driven from the scene.

Saturday, Dec. 27

5:51 a.m. – An officer responded to an accident on West Street. A vehicle traveling south on West Street left the road, which was covered in snow, and struck a tree

head-on. The vehicle was towed from the scene. No injuries were reported.

Sunday, Dec. 28

10:55 a.m. – An officer responded to assist Belchertown Fire paramedics.

12:12 p.m. – An officer spoke with a resident about ongoing neighbor issues.

11:29 p.m. – An officer responded to Summit Street. A vehicle parked on Summit Street was reported by the Department of Public Works as illegally parked. They knocked on the door. An officer tried to contact the owner. A tow company removed the vehicle.

Monday, Dec. 29

7:48 a.m. – An officer responded to an accident on Munsell Road at Daniel Shays Highway. The parent of the operator was on scene and said their child was driving and was going to the hospital. It appeared the vehicle slid on ice, coming to rest against a tree and on top of a rock wall.

9:23 a.m. – An officer responded to an accident on State Street. A vehicle going down a driveway on State Street struck the right corner of a garage and a door. The road was covered in black ice at the time.

4:48 p.m. – An officer responded to a residence to conduct a wellness check. The person was not at the residence.

Tuesday, Dec. 30

11:06 a.m. – An officer took a report of fraud. A person spoke with an officer about a call from a bank in reference to a credit card that someone tried to use without their permission. They didn't open the card either. They wanted the matter documented.

4:07 p.m. – An officer took a report of fraud. A resident got various credit card companies rejection letters after someone applied for cards in their name. They wanted the matter documented.

5:11 p.m. – An officer responded to an accident on Federal Street at North Street. A tractor-trailer unit went off the roadway. It was blocking all of North Street. The operator was identified, and they told officers they couldn't make the turn and tried to back up and slid off the road. There was no property damage. The vehicle was towed from the scene, and no injuries were reported.

Thursday, Jan. 1

6:18 p.m. – An officer took a report of an injured deer on George Hannum Road. A vehicle struck the deer and left the area. It was eutha-

nized.

9:27 p.m. – An officer responded to assist Belchertown fire and paramedics.

Granby Police

Editor's Note: The Granby Police Department responded to 130 calls for the week of Dec. 26, 2025, through Jan. 1, 2026. Those arrested are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law. The Granby Police Department provides all information.

Friday, Dec. 26

9:09 p.m. – A resident reported that a motorist struck their mailbox. There were no injuries.

11:35 p.m. – A Granby Highway Dept. employee reported that a vehicle rear-ended a highway truck. There were no injuries.

Sunday, Dec. 28

4:01 p.m. – A store employee reported an unruly customer. Granby Police responded and discovered it was a misunderstanding between the employee and the customer regarding whether items had been paid for.

Monday, Dec. 29

6:23 a.m. – A motorist reported a single rollover accident. Granby Police and Fire responded. There were no injuries.

6:55 a.m. – A motorist reported driving off the road and striking a mailbox and a bush. There were no injuries.

Tuesday, Dec. 30

9:21 a.m. – A resident reported fraudulent activity on their credit card.

Wednesday, Dec. 31

3:12 p.m. – A motorist reported a two-car crash. Granby Police and Fire responded. One passenger was transported to the hospital with non-life-threatening injuries. One operator was issued a civil citation for failure to stop at a stop sign.

Thursday, Jan. 1

9:54 a.m. – A motorist reported driving off snow-covered roads and striking a mailbox and a stone wall. There were no injuries.

7:17 p.m. – A motorist reported a single-vehicle accident. Granby Police and Fire responded. The operator was transported to the hospital with non-life-threatening injuries. Mass DOT contacted for possible slippery conditions.



Easy Propane Tank Swap Out!

\$99

Call For Details!



60 Shumway Street
Amherst, MA 01002

413.253.5999

CONTACT SURNER HEATING TODAY! VISIT OUR WEBSITE SURNERHEAT.COM

LOWER PRICES TO BOOST YOUR BUDGET!

INFLATION

PRICE BUSTERS

PRICES IN RED ARE AT OR BELOW LAST YEAR'S PRICES!

<p>USDA INSP. FRES COUNTRY STYLE PORK RIBS..... \$1.86 lb</p> <p>USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS CUT FREE CENTER CUT PORK LOIN..... \$1.94 lb</p> <p>USDA INSP. FROZEN PORK TENDERLOIN..... \$2.66 lb</p> <p>SLICED IN OUR DELI</p> <p>USDA INSP. ROAST BEEF..... \$7.99 lb</p> <p>USDA INSP. PROVOLONE CHEESE..... \$4.44 lb</p> <p>TAILGATE SPECIALS</p> <p>USDA INSP. STORE MADE ITALIAN MARINATED BONELESS CHICKEN BREAST..... \$2.99 lb</p> <p>USDA INSP. FROZEN FULLY COOKED W/ BBQ RUB ST LOUIS PORK RIBS..... \$2.99 lb</p>	<p>USDA INSP. FRESH BONE-IN BEEF RIBEYE STEAKS..... \$9.98 lb</p> <p>USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF SHOULDER ROAST OR STEAKS..... \$4.99 lb</p> <p>USDA INSP. GROUND FRESH DAILY DIET LEAN GROUND BEEF..... \$4.99 5 LB BAG</p>	<p>USDA INSP. FRESH BONE-IN BEEF SHORT RIBS..... \$8.88 lb</p> <p>USDA INSP. FRESH BONE-IN CHICKEN BREAST 10 LB BAG..... \$1.11 lb</p> <p>USDA INSP. FROZEN CHICKEN THIGHS TRAY PAK..... 66¢ lb</p> <p>USDA INSP. FROZEN FULLY COOKED CORN DOGS..... \$1.99 lb</p> <p>USDA INSP. IQF FROZEN 21/25 COUNT COOKED SHRIMP 2 LB BAG..... \$16.99 ea</p>
--	--	---

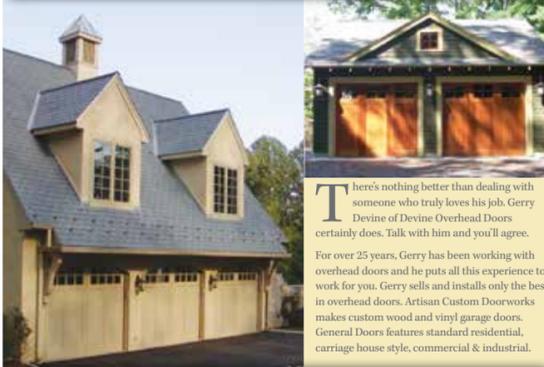
90 Meat Outlet

**HOURS: Mon. - Wed. 8-4
Thurs. 8-6 • Fri. 8-6 • Sat. 8-3**

90 Avocado St. Springfield 413-737-1288 www.90meat.com

We reserve the right to limit quantities.

Devine Overhead Doors



There's nothing better than dealing with someone who truly loves his job. Gerry Devine of Devine Overhead Doors certainly does. Talk with him and you'll agree.

For over 25 years, Gerry has been working with overhead doors and he puts all this experience to work for you. Gerry sells and installs only the best in overhead doors. Artisan Custom Doorworks makes custom wood and vinyl garage doors. General Doors features standard residential, carriage house style, commercial & industrial.

Call Today for Professional Installation

413.586.3161

www.devineoverheaddoors.com

RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL

COMMUNITY

Belchertown Cultural Council announces 2026 grant awardees

BELCHERTOWN – The Belchertown Cultural Council is pleased to announce the recipients of its 2026 Local Cultural Council grants. In partnership with the Town of Belchertown and the Massachusetts Cultural Council, the BCC had \$17,700 available to support local arts and cultural initiatives in 2026.

Artists, educators, entrepreneurs, and community members submitted proposals during September and October of 2025. The Council received 64 applications requesting just under \$60,000 in funding. Narrowing those requests to the available \$17,700 was a challenging task.

To learn more about how the BCC evaluates and prioritizes grant applications, please visit the grants section of our website at belchertown.org/bcc. Ultimately, 28 projects were awarded funding, and we look forward to the many exciting events and initiatives coming to Belchertown in the year ahead. Follow us on social media for news and updates about all BCC funded events <https://www.facebook.com/BelchertownCulturalCouncil>

Musical Storytelling & Folk Songs by Eli Elkus at the Belchertown Farmers Market

This family-friendly program features stories of travel, humanity, and the treasures of the natural world, presented through folk music and storytelling. The material is layered to engage audiences of all ages. Three Sundays (dates TBD) during summer 2026.

Belchertown DEI Task Force Cultural Programming

The Belchertown DEI Task Force is planning a series of educational and awareness-raising programs throughout 2026 for residents and community members. Programming will include speakers and events centered around heritage months, such

as Black History Month in February. Ongoing in 2026.

Paint, Sip & Fun: Canvas Painting Workshop

Presented by the Belchertown Council on Aging at the Belchertown Senior Center on March 24, 2026. This guided Paint & Sip workshop invites participants to create wall art through step-by-step instruction from a professional artist.

Springfield Symphony Orchestra: Musical Petting Zoo

Taking place at Christopher Heights in May 2026, this interactive program introduces families to a diverse range of instruments, including strings, brass, and woodwinds. Participants receive a brief introduction before trying the instruments and making music themselves.

Mother's Day Brunch & Concert

A joyful Mother's Day celebration at the Belchertown Senior Center on May 15, 2026, featuring a live performance by singer-songwriter Stephen George. The program includes a collection of timeless songs honoring mothers and families.

Stitched Journals Workshop with Lisa Hersey

Held at the Clapp Memorial Library in spring 2026, this 1.5-hour beginner-friendly bookbinding workshop for teens and adults teaches participants how to create a pamphlet-stitched journal with a back pocket. No prior experience required.

Dinosaur Puppet Show

On July 1, 2026, Anna Sobel of Talking Hands Theatre will present Two Dinosaurs Are Better Than One, a tabletop puppet show featuring brightly colored Jurassic-era dinosaur puppets. The performance will take place on the Clapp Memorial Library lawn or

inside Town Hall Auditorium in case of rain.

Belchertown Pollinator Garden & Spooktacular Enhancements

Updates include new educational signage in the Pollinator Garden highlighting plant species and habitats. In October, the annual Spooktacular event-offered in partnership with the Clapp Memorial Library and Belchertown Recreation Department-will feature crafts, storytelling, a skit, snacks, a scavenger hunt, and goodie bags with pumpkins for each child.

Sensory-Friendly Hour at the Belchertown Farmers & Artisans Market

Each market will feature a designated sensory-friendly hour on the Belchertown Common, incorporating crafts, music, and sensory textiles. This inclusive initiative supports family connection and community building. Ongoing during spring and summer 2026.

Family Music Concert with The Grumpytime Club Band

Held at the Clapp Memorial Library in summer 2026, this energetic concert features original music from Carrie's award-winning album The Grumpytime Club, along with covers and new songs. Themes include inclusivity, LGBTQ+ family pride, environmental stewardship, social justice, and joyful silliness.

Art-on-the-Common

Presented by the Quabbin Art Association during the Belchertown Farmers Market, this free hands-on art event invites visitors to create projects with experienced QAA artists. Offered three times during the summer and fall of 2026.

Musically Married with Peter & Laura Hicks

Taking place at the Belchertown Senior Center

Please see **GRANTS**, page 9

The Burkey and Blain families celebrated a wonderful wedding

BELCHERTOWN – Darren and Susan Burkey of Belchertown and Jerry and Robyn Blain of Belchertown have the pleasure of announcing the marriage of their children, Kirsten T. Burkey and Matthew R. Blain, on December 26, 2025, in Amherst, MA. Pastor David Ossenfort officiated the ceremony, the uncle of the bride.

Kirsten, a 2019 graduate of Belchertown High School and a 2023 graduate of the Isenberg School of Management, University of Massachusetts.

Matthew, a 2019 graduate of Belchertown High School and a 2023 graduate of the University of Massachusetts.

The couple celebrated with an intimate reception at the Boltwood Inn in Amherst. Kirsten and Matthew are residing in Summerville, South Carolina.



SUBMITTED PHOTO
Matthew and Kristen Blain celebrated their marriage.

Share your best 2025 Photo Help bring our annual report to life!

BELCHERTOWN – We're excited to announce the launch of the 2025 Annual Town Report Photo Contest! The deadline for submissions is January 31, 2026, so now is the perfect time to look back on your favorite photos taken in Belchertown during 2025.

This contest is open to all ages and all abilities - everyone is encouraged to participate!

Last year's report proudly featured a submitted photo on the cover, thanks to the entries we received. But in other recent years, when submissions were low or none came in, the Town had to publish the report with

a plain, image-free cover. Belchertown is full of beauty, energy, and community spirit, and we want this year's report to reflect that.

If you captured a memorable moment or scene in Belchertown during 2025, we invite you to submit your photo for a chance to be featured on the cover of the 2025 Annual Town Report. Your photo could be the image that represents our community to residents, visitors, and future generations.

The winning photographer will be notified by email by February 6, 2026, and additional photos may be featured throughout the report, adding color, character, and

local pride to every page. All submitted photos may also be used in future Town materials to help showcase Belchertown year-round.

Submit your photo here: [/FormCenter/General-Forms-4/Annual-Town-Report-Photo-Contest-2025-70](https://formcenter/general-forms-4/annual-town-report-photo-contest-2025-70)

Let's continue the momentum from last year and ensure the 2025 Annual Town Report reflects the true heart of Belchertown—not a blank cover, but a vibrant image captured by someone in our own community.

Share your photo today and help us celebrate the beauty of Belchertown!

New electric vehicle charger location

BELCHERTOWN – Four new electric vehicle (EV) chargers have been installed between the Finnerty House and the Clapp Memorial Library in the center of Belchertown. They are Level 2 chargers made by EVSE LLC. Users of the chargers can pay for their charging via the AMPUP phone app or by using a credit card with the credit card reader on the charger unit. The energy price is

competitive with other nearby Level 2 charging stations and the charging rate is significantly faster (9.6 KW vs. 6.6 KW) than most other Level 2 chargers in the area.

The parking space reserved for Charger #1 is American Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant, offering easy access to that charger. These chargers were activated on 1/1/2026, are always open to the public, and are convenient for anyone who

lives/works near the center of Belchertown. They are in a convenient location for attending events nearby (e.g., Town Commons activities) and are within walking distance of four eateries near the Town Commons.

The chargers use a J1772 connector. Vehicles with North American Charging Standard (NACS) ports (Tesla-style connectors) will need to bring an adapter to charge.

Are you having difficulty communicating with your partner, struggling with boundaries, and healthy relationships?

We invite you to join us Friday afternoons from 1-2:30 pm to explore these topics and more.

This group will be held in zoom, is educational, confidential, and free.

Please contact **Pat James 413-726-8661.**

O	S	S				A	S	L	
B	O	A				C	L	A	I
T	O	F	F			S	A	B	L
A	T	A	R			S	S	C	O
I	H	R	A	M		E	C	T	E
N	E	I	G	H	B	O	R	H	O
				O	A	R		M	A
				P	E	L	F	T	A
				L	E	O		S	A
				R	E	G	G	I	E
S	C	A	B		N	A	N		S
O	R	B		S	A	N			O
C	O	B	R	A				B	L
S	A	L	I	C					E
									S

LAND OF ALL SHAPES AND SIZES

PALMER – 39+ acres with the potential of 24 lot subdivision, town sewer available. Belchertown side of town. Use as one lot or many the choice is yours call for details. Some engineering available. **\$499,900**

PALMER – Zoned Highway Business – one 2,800 sf building plus acres with town utilities available. High traffic. Owner had approved one building with parking. Details available. **\$625,000**

PALMER – Almost one acre perked and ready for new owner. Affordable at **\$50,000.**

PALMER – 11 acres with mountain view potential and overlooking the Quaboag River. Handy to Pike. **\$79,900**

BRIMFIELD – Overlooking an open field, near the Quaboag River and handy to the Pike. This 1.63 acre lot would be the perfect spot to call home. **\$59,900**

BRIMFIELD – 25+ acres, home site would be privately set off the road. Perc. Info available. Near the Sturbridge line and close to lakes. Call for details. **\$299,900**

MONSON – 28+ acres near the Brimfield town line. Small brook on the property, town water available. **\$259,900**

OPEN HOUSE SUN., 1/11 ~ 11-1

WARREN – Need your new home to have lots of space? Then check out this four-bedroom cape with cabinet packed kitchen that would handle a crowd easily, fireplaced family room. Extra dining room and living room. First floor bedroom/office. Walk out, mostly finished basement with potential for extra bath. Privately set on 3 plus acre lot. Town sewer. **\$525,000**

Contact Sue Como (413) 531-9098

www.BuyRiteHome.com

Belchertown Select Board announces 2026 board/committee vacancies

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

All vacancies are posted until filled.

The Town wishes to fill the following vacancies:

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

Belchertown Buildings & Grounds Committee: The Town wishes to fill one (1) full real estate member seat and one (1) associate member seat on the Belchertown Buildings and Grounds Committee. The committee will advise the Town and the Select Board on funding opportunities for maintaining and developing Town buildings that fit the guidelines of repurpose and/or renovation to benefit the local economy and population as well as advising on historical and cultural development opportunities. Expertise with real estate/architecture, grant writing, or historical experience to strengthen the skill set of the committee is highly preferred.

Board of Assessors: The Town of Belchertown is looking to fill a vacancy on the Board of Assessors. This position has a stipend of \$1,000 per year. This recently vacated position will be appointed in accordance with the provisions outlined in MGL Chapter 41, Section 11 by a joint appointment of the Board of Assessors and Select Board. The appointed individual will fill the seats

remaining term and shall perform duties of the office until the next annual election in May 2026. The applicant must be a registered voter in the Town of Belchertown.

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

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

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

Please see **VACANCIES**, page 6

2026 from page 1

2026 that allowed the Senior Center to create and provide educational and interactive programming for the older adults who use and enjoy the Center.

Some fun and new events coming to the Senior Center this year include "Animal Adventures", "Paint! Sip! Fun!" and a three-part series on "The Art of Joyful Living".

"We genuinely welcome input from the community regarding any ideas or initiatives they'd like to see. Many of our most beloved and successful programs have come directly from suggestions made by our participants," said Langlois.

The Senior Center is full of new people and steadfast community members who have been there for years, making opportunities for new friends to be made available at every visit to the Center.

"Each day on the job offers something unique, making every experience feel fresh and engaging. While we follow a routine schedule, we encounter new faces and countless opportunities for personal and professional growth," said Langlois. "Of course, challenges arise, but we



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Giving Tree, introduced this year, resulted in gifts for 32 older adults.

tackle them together. Our primary mission is to serve our community, and we are committed to enriching the lives of older adults in Belchertown through our diverse programs and activities."

The team that puts together events, hosts clubs, cooks meals, provides services for veterans and beyond is looking forward to 2026, where a new year brings about many new opportunities for success and beyond.

Become a Friend or renew your Friends Membership today

BELCHERTOWN – Friends of the Clapp Memorial Library memberships and donations are used to support library programs and purchase books, magazines, computer software, music CDs, DVDs, furnishings, and equipment. Funds are also used to purchase museum and local attraction passes for free or discounted admissions. Also, members are given early access to the book sales in April and October each year. Only members are allowed on Monday night, the first night of the book sale.

Memberships are valid January through December, so they must be renewed each calendar year. To sign up for a membership, visit the library for a form or go to our membership page on our website at <https://www.friendsofclapplibrary.org/membership.html>.



You can download a form on this page. Individual memberships are only \$10, Family memberships are \$20, Patron memberships are \$35 and Business memberships are \$50. The Friends of the Clapp Memorial Library is a non-profit organization. Donations and memberships are tax-deductible.

If you have not been to our beautiful library yet, we encourage you to visit and use the library for free as a resident of Belchertown. It is one of the best assets this town has to offer. Not only can you borrow books, DVD's, and CD's for free, but there are many programs available for adults, toddlers, middle school children and high school teens. Go to [clapplibrary.org](https://www.clapplibrary.org) for more information.

EVAN from page 1

the police officers and firefighters of Granby decided to take care of his Christmas for him.

"We wanted to step in and make his first Christmas back at home memorable, and we asked them to send us a list of toys he'd like, and the Granby Police and Fire Departments worked together to fulfill the entire list," said firefighter Josh Powers.

On Dec. 23, the departments took the wish list of items and delivered them to the Caraballo house.

"It's really fantastic," said Powers. "The best part of the job is giving back to the community that we serve, so being able to give back to him and make his Christmas memorable was the best, and we are grateful to have been a part of it."

"We were proud to be able to offer our facility to provide a location

for the check presentation," said Police Chief Kevin O'Grady. "Anytime the departments can assist a family, that is what we are here for. Our officers are always looking for ways to assist."

Santa came to help hand out presents, and over 30 presents were gifted to Caraballo, including stuffed animals, educational toys, necessities like diapers and clothes, and books, all age-appropriate and perfect for him.

"We hope that Evan had a wonderful Christmas, and we are so happy and thrilled to be a part of it, and it's what we do - we're always happy to serve members of the community," said Powers.

The evening was a great success of miles and more as community members came together to save Christmas for a precious little boy for his first Christmas at home.

CHRONICLES from page 1

"It's for residents and also people who work in town or visit from nearby towns—anyone who could benefit from knowing what's happening in town."

Giovine works on the newsletter with Chris Martin, chair of the Communications Committee, and they use the support and feedback of the whole committee and from the Town Manager's office. "Our Communications Manager, Kate Nadeau, deserves a special shout out: she helps us connect the dots every month, making sure we get special announcements and helping us strategize," said Giovine.

The Chronicle highlights town events, as well as other important details like reminders for licenses, guidelines around the Transfer Station and more that you won't find in other

sources of information.

"I'm excited every time a new department, committee, or other group uses the newsletter to share information for the first time, and I'm looking forward to seeing it grow to cover more facets of Belchertown," said Giovine.

"This project keeps us on our toes with where we live. Editing the newsletter, we end up learning all the nuts and bolts of Belchertown, and we get connected to dozens of people across town who make things happen. It's a great experience," said Giovine.

You can sign up for the Carriagetown Chronicle yourself by visiting the town website, www.belchertown.org/newsletter. You'll be able to view past issues and sign up for free with just your email address. For questions, you can email newsletter@belchertown.org.



A QR code for you to access the Carriagetown Chronicles, too.

A FULL SERVICE COMPANY

Owner **Mike McKenzie**
MA. Lic. #15648A
Fully Insured
OSHA 10 Certified

B-Town Electric

Residential
Commercial
Industrial

Office: 413-213-0770
Email: btownelectric413@gmail.com

Neighborhood Marketplace

Locally owned businesses here to serve you!

SUPPORT THESE HOMETOWN BUSINESSES

TILTON AUTOMOTIVE

GENERAL REPAIRS

FREDERICK TILTON
Owner
323-5051

ASE CERTIFIED

AutoCare Center
We Install Only NAPA Parts

ROUTE 9
3 AMHERST ROAD
BELCHERTOWN, MA 01007

Quabbin Analytical Laboratory

Have you tested your well water recently?

P.O. Box 1192
9 Stadler Steet
Belchertown, MA 01007
413-323-7134
quabbinanalytical@yahoo.com

Adventure tours of Warren
Share the Adventure with us!

4-Day Boothbay Harbor Vacation
June 9-12
\$899

May 248-Day Bermuda & Halifax Cruise.....from \$1699
June 27.....Lake George Cruise & Lunch\$185
July 11Provincetown by Fast Ferry.....\$220
July 19.....8-Day Bermuda & Halifax Cruise.....from \$1699
Aug 30.....8-Day Nova Scotia Cruisefrom \$1699

Share the Adventure with us soon!
For further information call Randall at (413) 436-5357
or email adventuretours@att.net
or go to www.adventuretoursofwarren.com

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

R EXPIRES 2026

Has This Happened to You?
We do what your body shop won't!
Body Rust • Body Rot • Frame Rust • Chassy Work

Turn to the experts at
Amherst Welding
Welding • Fabrication • Hydraulic
Hoses & Hydraulic Repairs • Snow Plows • Sanders • Hand Railings
330 Harkness Road, Amherst • (413) 253-4867

EDUCATION

BHS announces first quarter honor roll

BELCHERTOWN – Belchertown High School has announced its first quarter honor roll students.

Grade 12 High Honors

Edith Audette, Olivia Bailey, Jaden Bean, Lucas Bermudez, Mackenzie Burch, Lily Carr, Canyon Charron, Sofia Cofone, Mya Couse, Josalyn Currier, July Delaney, Lydia Edds, Jack Forton, Lila Goodrich, Jake Gormely, Ryan Gould, Mason Gualberto, Jillian Harper, Laila Hurlburt, Brooklyn Keeler, Hannah Mandeville, Nathan Marino, Miles McNamara, Isabel Moreau, Brandon O'Connor, Aleksandra Randall, Gia Ronkese, Aliya Sabourin, Sofia Santos, Camryn Scoon, Arabella Smith, Sam Smolinski, Kiera Struzziero, and Gabriella Vazquez.

Grade 12 Honors

Abigail Almeida, Emma Almeida, Rachel Baltazar, Mackenzy Bowers, Brian Burns, Tyler Burrows, Luke Dudek, Zoe Eyster-Pelletier, Nathan Fink, Graham Guardenfield, Izabella Haggerty, Allison Harris, Avigail Heroux, Jordan Kalish, Alexa Karabetos, Alexis Kessler, Clara Lambert, Collin Laragy, Alex Maroney, Molly Mazzaferro, Amanda Murray, Thomas Normandeau, Evan Perkins, Mya Philpott, Destiny Ranzie, Peyton Rathburn, Donald Rogers, Jiovanka Rosa-Cortez, Ryan Shea, Liam Sherwood, Abigail Stevens, Ashleigh Thayer, Lyla-Rae Williams, Gabriel Zavala, and Paityn Zina.

Grade 11 High Honors

Jonathan Alves, Hayden Bressette, Claire Corbin, Paige Dias, Grace Duchon, Ryleigh Fine, Sokaltida Kan, Dory Keefe, Alexander Land-Kazlauskas, Sean Lindsay, Charlotte MacKenzie, Isaiah Matthey, Sophia Mitus, Natalie Morra, Tahlia Nesbitt, Jocelyn Patten, Piper Patten, Alexa Radner, Troy Robinson, Elise Roggie, Dustin Shnyder, Fatiom Siri, Lily Tellier, Payton Tucker, Isabella Vozzella, and Gianna Zenon.

Grade 11 Honors

Naveen Berryhill, Benjamin Causeway, Kaiya Cavanaugh, Cooper Chianciola, Avery Cooper, Avery Cote, Gavin Couchon, Mason DeStefano, Addison-Rose DiBona, Drake Dragon, Maria Fahmy, Charles Fisher, Jacob Gladu, Samantha Heyes, Emmett Howard, Andre Jarry, Brandon Johannes, Natalie Jordan, Eleni Kofides, Owen Laurenzo, Cian Lindsay, Coleman Longley, Yamil Lorenzo-Garcia, Aubrey McCain, Jezelle Morisseau, Ifeanyichukwu Nebedum, Joshua O'Connor, Kali Pacunas, Madelynn Perry, Lia Pikul, Mason Pobiegllo, Racquel Pogoda, Julia Rainaud, Zachary Restucci, Danny Toledo, Ryan Toner, Lelia VanBuren, Emily Waller, Maya Whitney, Aftyn Williams, and Mya Wojtczak.

Grade 10 High Honors

Thomas Chien, Ethan Davis, Peyton Dias, Benjamin Dudek, Kylie

Ferreira, Henry Forton, Brennan Griffin, Lucas Haluch, Matthew Harrington, Sakura Hartsfield, Landon Honeywell, Salem Hubbard, Aubrey Klingensmith, Owen Kurzeski, Ryan Lacroix, Casey Lafayette, Andrew Lambert, Samantha Letzeisen, Joy Lian, Cassidy MacLean, Jocelyn McMahon, Ronan Mosher, Ajuluchukwu Nebedum, Grace Perron, Niko Pisano, Brody Pope, Adryan Roy, Kian Roy, Kina Roy, Ava Swiatlowski, Madeline Williams, and John Yoon.

Grade 10 Honors

Myra Ablicki, Camilla Adamczyk, Alessandra Albelice, Ameyo Ampiah-Bonney, Laura Annis, Harper Bean, William Bordenca, Bridget Breton, Kaidin Brodeur, Ashlyn Carey, James Carey, Jason Carlson, Hayleee Catyb, Tucker Cordle, Jameson Derouin, Riley Desorcy, Rachel Dorman, Lacey Douillard, Jonas Fasser, Charlie Goldman, Carter Hampson, Cooper Honstetter, Serena Jones, Brianna Kaczowka, Rebecca Keeler, Grayden Kendall, Kaylee Leahy, Nathan Leblond, Emma Litz, Braedan Longe, Nick McArdle, Quinn McNamara, Grace Noble-Elsebae, Eli Patenaude, Addison Piedade, Christian Reda, Adren Reyes, Leia Rogers, Justin Roman, Kylie Rose, Kayla Roy, Gabriella Slovack, Mackenzie Stone, Angela Vanderpuije, William Verrochi, Mandie Volz-Benoit, Owen Wallace, Margaret Wheeler, and

McKaila Woishnis.

Grade 9 High Honors

Matthew Almeida, Cecilia Bermudez, Adilyn Bottari, Ashlyn Brunell, Quinten Chen, Tovah DelPrete, Mary DiBona, Raiden Drouin, Hannah Fillion, Patrick Gibson, Jackson Goodsell, Zoey Hale, Helaine Holt, MaryRose Johnson-Jones, Greta Kristensen, Madison Lacroix, Harper Laurenzo, Piper Laurenzo, Nathaniel Lewis, Josephine Lian, Ryan Longe, Amalie Martins, Max Matthews, Eleanor Mazzaferro, Hunter Neiford, Jada Okyere Baffour, Natalie Parent, Logan Ridenour, Annalie Roggie, Ava Stelmokas, Shay Teixeira, Lukas Versace, Jordan Winfield, and Bradford Yacek.

Grade 9 Honors

Gianna Boisjolie, Kylee Burnham, Hunter Carr, Nolan Chianciola, Connor Cormier, Charles Cozine, Jillian Currier, John DeMento, Michael Fontaine, Shannon Fuller, Vivienza Haggerty, Jack Hodgen, Asher Johnson-Jones, Lily Mann, Charles Maurer, Aliyah Mega, Annabelle Morra, Logan Motta, Janice Okyere Baffour, Joshua Page, Charlotte Perry, Blake Piedra, Cora Podraza, William Polanco, Kyla Riley, Veronica Samek, Kamila Santiago, Kierstyn Shaik, Ashley Siri, Brayden Slattery, Tyler Stahl, Ella Stelmokas, Lucy Toner, Noah Turgeon, Amaya Valentin, Gianna Viens, and Jesse Williams.

Granby to Go Mobile serving the community this month

GRANBY – The Granby To Go Food Mobile will be coming again to the Church of Christ parking lot located at 235 State St. in Granby on January 9, and January 23. from 4:30 to 6 p.m.

This food mobile is for all Granby residents and is a drive thru food mobile. For more information or questions you may contact us granbytogo@granby-schoolsma.net.

Find it in the **Classifieds**

413.283.8393 • classifieds@turley.com
24 Water St., Palmer • 80 Main St., Ware

THE BEST FRESH FOR GOOD HEALTH!

Specials January 7-13

FRESH BERRY SALE

Florida Driscoll Strawberries 16 oz Pack\$3.99
Sweetest Batch Driscoll Blueberries 11 oz.....\$5.99
Fresh Blackberries 6 oz Pkg .2 For \$6.00
Red, Ripe Tomatoes Hot House Grown\$1.99 lb
Local Apples 5 lb Tote Bags.....\$3.99
Pink Lady, EverCrisp, Ida Red & MORE!
Grade A Large White Eggs.....\$3.99 Doz
Boar's Head Maple Turkey\$13.99 lb
Boar's Head Provolone Cheese . \$7.99 lb
Elsie's Creamery Hand Packed Pints.....2 For \$10.00
While They Last!

January is National Soup Month

Fresh "Homemade" Soups ~ 2 Each Day

EVERY MONDAY
"Flu Fighter"
Chicken Turmeric

EVERY WEDNESDAY
Chicken Noodle

EVERY FRIDAY
Clam Chowder & Cheese Tortellini

Mood Boosting "Vitamin F" For Flowers!
Yellow "Wellness" Bouquets ~ \$14.99
Yellow Blooms Represents The Sun & Sunshine

WINTER BLOOMING CYCLAMEN

6-inch Pots \$9.99

Heart Shaped Leaves & Butterfly Blooms
Pinks, Red & White

START THE NEW YEAR WITH PLANTS FOR GOOD FORTUNE

"Lucky" Bamboo

Symbol Of Good Fortune
Bringing Harmony To Your Life

Money Trees

SAID TO ATTRACT LUCK & PROSPERITY
The Five Leaves Represent the 5 Elements of Feng Shui
Creating Balance

ALWAYS FRESH AT

RANDALL'S FARM & GREENHOUSE

631 CENTER ST., Route 21, Mass Tpke Exit 54
LUDLOW • 589-7071 • www.randallsfarm.net
WINTER HOURS: OPEN MON - FRI. 7AM – 8PM
OPEN SAT. & SUN. 7AM – 7PM
JANUARY 11TH CLOSING AT 6PM TO HONOR OUR RETIREES

Find us on [facebook](#) and [YouTube](#)

Top Floor LEARNING

Meet Your Professional & Educational Goals

Tutors Needed

For English Language Learners, HiSet Tutors: English, Writing & Math

Call to ask about our next Computer Security class

Computer Security Class

- Basic Computer Use —
- Resumé Building & Updating
- English Language Learning
- GED/HiSET Preparation
- Reading, Writing, Math
- Citizenship Exam
- SAT, TOEFL, etc. Test Prep

1455 N. Main St
3rd Floor
Palmer, MA
01069

We're on Facebook!

Contact Us For More Information

NEW PHONE NUMBER 413-544-6600

email: dkimball@topfloorlearning.org

<https://topfloorlearning.org/>

Our advertisers make this publication possible.

Let them know you saw their ad in the

The Sentinel

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.

FIVE ISLANDS

Georgetown, Maine

2 Bedrooms, 2 Bathroom
Washer/Dryer, Fully Equipped

- Walk to Five Islands Wharf and Ledgewood Preserve Beach
- Close to Reid State Park

\$1200/week

207-607-9333

OPINION

SOCIAL SECURITY Matters

By Russell Gloor

My wife believes she can get a spouse benefit while I'm still alive; can she?

Dear Rusty:

A friend of my wife told her and she believes, she could receive a Social Security benefit based on my SS benefit that I'm currently receiving while I'm still alive. I told her she could only receive spouse survivor benefits. Is there any truth to what she now believes? Would you settle this issue for us please? Thank you.

Signed: Uncertain Husband

Dear Uncertain Husband:

Well, surely I don't want to get in the middle of your marital discussion, but I'll be happy to explain Social Security's rules about your wife's eligibility for spousal benefits while you are both still living. And just for awareness for both of you, the rules about spousal benefits are one of the most confusing areas of Social Security.

Per Social Security's rules, a spouse (e.g., your wife) can receive a "spousal boost" from you — while you are still living — if the SS retirement benefit she is personally entitled to at her Full Retirement Age is less than 50% of the SS retirement benefit you are (were) entitled to at your FRA; full retirement age amounts are used to calculate living spouse benefits, regardless of when each of you actually claimed your Social Security.

So, if your FRA entitlement benefit amount is more than twice your wife's FRA entitlement benefit amount, she can, indeed, get a "spousal boost" from your record while you are both still living. The spousal boost is added to her own SS retirement amount and will be based on the difference between her FRA entitlement and half of your FRA entitlement. Thus, in this discussion, your wife may be correct — she may be able to get a spousal boost from you while both of you are living, depending on how your personal FRA retirement amounts

compare. The best way for your wife to find out is to contact Social Security at 1-800-772-1213 to inquire and if she's eligible, also make an appointment to apply for her spousal benefit.

And to clarify your wife's options as your possible widow, a surviving spouse can also get a survivor benefit if their marital partner passes away, but only if the deceased spouse's current benefit at death was more than the surviving spouse is already receiving. The surviving spouse receives the higher amount, instead of their own smaller Social Security retirement benefit.

But here is an important thing to know: Whenever any Social Security benefit (including a spousal or surviving spouse benefit) is claimed before the recipient's Full Retirement Age, the payment amount is permanently reduced, both spousal and survivor benefits do not reach maximum until the recipient's Full Retirement Age. And just to complete the picture for survivor benefits, a surviving spouse is also entitled to a one-time, lump-sum death benefit of \$255 if their marital partner dies, in addition to any other benefit they are entitled to.

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 ssadvisory@amacfoundation.org. Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.



TLC for overwintering plants

Have you taken a good look at your tender plants lately? Maybe you have a Gerber daisy, coleus, fuchsia or geranium that you are attempting to overwinter because you loved it so much this past summer.

Perhaps the flower color or leaf shade was perfect in a patio planter and you thought if you could get through the winter you wouldn't have to buy it new this spring. Or maybe you intend to use your overwintered plants as stock plants.

Soon you'll be taking cuttings and making your own new plants. Likewise, maybe you brought in some tender herbs in hopes of growing your own seasoning year round.

Whatever the case may be, closer examination of each plant at this point in the winter might be a smart idea.

What I have noticed almost across the board, especially with my Gerber daisy, fuchsia and geraniums is that there are a lot of older leaves turning yellow or showing discoloration. To me, that indicates that fertilizer is needed.

The fact that this coincides with the lengthening of the daylight hours is no accident. And all three plants have continued to bloom inside, which certainly has taxed their nutrient reserves.

I will start watering with half strength fertilizer twice a month now through mid March. I sure bet that old foliage will start to perk up and new growth won't be too far behind.

Don't push growth by fertilizing more than what I recommended or growth could become lanky and weak — just what aphids are looking for.



Speaking of pests, if you notice distorted foliage, webbed areas or stippling on the leaves, take a closer look at your plants. There are many tiny bugs with mouthparts that suck plant juices. Even in your sunny window spider mite, mealy bugs, aphids or white fly might be becoming more active.

Spider mite cause webbing, and are usually indicative of hot, dry conditions. Dousing with cold water will really set them back.

Mealy bug show up as a cottony blob usually on growth tips or at the junction of leaves and stems. Rubbing alcohol on a swab applied directly to the blob will dissolve that protective layer and the insect underneath.

Aphids are usually green and congregate in clusters on stems or leaf ribs. White fly usually hang out on the underside of leaves. They fly around if disturbed.

Both insects are best stopped in their tracks by use of an insecticidal soap. Safer's Soap or M Pede as it's known commercially work well. I've even soaped up

my plants using a mild dish detergent and hosed them off in the shower.

One pest in particular attacks the herb rosemary and is especially troublesome. I noticed stippling on the leaf tips and clear winged insects flying away when I brushed by the plants.

After placing sticky yellow monitoring cards nearby I learned it was leaf hoppers!

As carefully as I could I carried the lighter plants outside and gave them a good shake to dislodge any eggs or nymphs (and to make me feel better) then I doused them to the point of run-off with insecticidal soap. I will have to be careful here, because tiny 3 mm size, wedge-shaped (adult) insects can transmit viruses from plant to plant.

I'll put out new monitoring cards near the rosemary plants to check if the population is decreasing. Regardless, I am glad I caught this situation early.

With the pests under control and a proper fertilization regiment, these plants will be in great shape come springtime, and ready for new adventures in the landscape.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 33 years she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to pouimette@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.

VACANCIES from page 4

Communications Committee: The Belchertown Communications Committee is looking for two (2) new members to help shape how our town shares news and stays connected. This group has supported projects like the Belchertown.org upgrade, Carriagetown Chronicles, and installing a broader social media strategy. We're seeking residents with everyday skills in communications, document preparation, accessibility, social media, or technology — especially individuals with practical experience using AI in workplace or business settings, to support the careful and responsible adoption of these tools in town government.

Energy and Sustainability Committee: The Town wishes to fill a

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

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

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

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

Quaboag Valley Business Assistance Corporation (QVBAC) / Quaboag Valley Community Development Corporation (QVCCD) Board Member: The Town is seeking an individual to represent and serve as a Liaison to the Town of Belchertown on the QVBAC

to bring the concerns of Belchertown's residents and small business community forward to ensure that the services provided by the QVBAC/QVCCD are in line with the town's needs. The board member also helps disseminate information from the QVBAC board to Belchertown's residents and small business community, especially when there is a particular program or initiative they'd benefit from.

While no business acumen is required, an interest in and or connections with Belchertown's small business community would be advantageous. Enthusiasm for Belchertown, and the ability to determine and communicate the interests of its residents are the most important qualifications. For more information about the Quaboag Valley Community Development Corporation and the Quaboag

Valley Business Assistance Corporation, please visit www.qvcdc.org.

Veterans' Services Advisory Board (VSAB): The Town is looking to fill one (1) vacancy on the VSAB. The Board works closely with the Town's Veterans' Agent on issues pertaining to veterans to include but not limited to Veterans Day and Memorial Day ceremonies, war memorials, veterans' graves or any other related areas of concern.

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

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.

SENTINEL TEAM

EDITORIAL
sentinel@turley.com



STAFF WRITER
Emily-Rose Pappas
epappas@turley.com



SPORTS EDITOR
Greg Scibelli
sports@turley.com

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



© The Sentinel

WEB
www.sentinel.turley.com

PATRICK H. TURLEY
CEO

KEITH TURLEY
President

Turley Publications, Inc.

www.turley.com

Turley Publications, Inc. cannot assume liability for the loss of photographs or other materials submitted for publication. Materials will not be returned except upon specific request when submitted.

WE'VE EXPANDED OUR WEB SITE
PUBLIC NOTICES
ARE NOW ONLINE

1 Email all notices to notices@turley.com

2 Access archives and digital tear sheets by newspaper title.

3 Find a quick link to the state of Massachusetts' public notice web site to search all notices in Massachusetts newspapers.

VISIT
www.publicnotices.turley.com

Public notice deadlines are Mondays at noon, Fridays noon for Monday holidays.

SPORTS

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

SEND US YOUR SPORTS SUBMISSIONS

www.sports.turley.com

Orioles score win over Indians



Brice Letendre gets the short range jumper.



Jake Pacunas lifts a shot near the hoop.



Shea Maclean goes for the trey at the top of the arc.



Andrew Wright eyes a teammate across the court.

BELCHERTOWN – Last Monday evening, Belchertown High School boys basketball defeated Ware 55-44. In the win, Brice Letendre led the Orioles with 18 points while Jake Pacunas scored 17 and Shea Maclean added 13 points. For Ware, Jack Gaudreau was the only player in double digits with 12 points. Troy Jurczyk had nine points. Ware had a good first half, before falling farther behind in the third quarter. The Indians fell to 1-4 on the season while Belchertown is 3-3.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM
Austin Raymer angles around a Ware guard.

Orioles close out 2025 with win over Quaboag

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

WARREN — Sophomore forward Aubrey Klingensmith has enjoyed playing basketball games at the Belchertown High School gymnasium since she joined the Lady Orioles varsity team a year ago.

Klingensmith doesn't have a favorite road gym yet, but a leading candidate might just be the Quaboag Regional gymnasium.

When the Lady Orioles faced the Quaboag Lady Cougars for the first time in a non-league road game, it took Klingensmith and her teammates a couple of minutes to get used to their surroundings.

Klingensmith made three of her six 3-pointers during the opening quarter leading to a career-high 24 points, as the Lady Orioles closed out 2025 with a 56-24 victory on Dec. 29.

"The depth perception behind the baskets in this gym is different than we're used to," said Klingensmith, who scored 23 points in loss at East Longmeadow three days before Christmas. "Once I made my first 3-pointer, I got into a rhythm and my shots just kept going in. I do enjoy playing home games a little bit better because I'm used to playing in our gym."

The Lady Orioles, who only have two seniors, entered 2026 with a 3-2 overall record.

"I'm proud of the way my team played against a gritty Quaboag squad. They played us very tough," said Belchertown head coach Jason Woodcock. "Aubrey is one of the best shooters in Western Mass. this year. She was the difference maker in tonight's game."

Two other sophomores listed on the Lady Orioles varsity roster are forward Gabriella Slovack, who scored eight points, and guard Kina Roy, who chipped in with seven points. Junior guard Aubrey McCain made two 3-pointers in the second half for her six points.

The Lady Cougars, who like Belchertown only have two seniors, began the regular season with five losses.

"We're a young team and we're playing a tough schedule. I thought we played well in a couple of quarters in tonight's game," said Quaboag head coach Bill Beauregard. "We were able to get some good looks offensively. We just need to keep improving."

The home team was led offensively by eighth grade guard Caitlyn Toomey with seven points. Seventh grade forward Evelyn Potvin made a pair of 3-pointers for her six points. Senior center Madeline Dufresne scored four of her five points before halftime.

Please see **ORIOLES**, page 9

Tough start hurts Pioneers

PALMER – Last Friday night, Pathfinder opened up the 2026 portion of its schedule with a 56-40 loss against Monson. Pathfinder managed just three points in the opening quarter and trailed 30-11 at halftime. Monson, which improved to 2-3 on the season, had a strong second half as well. Pathfinder fell to 1-4 on the season. Cayden Bousquet was a bright spot with 19 points to lead all scorers with the Pioneers. Monson was led by Niko Mathieu with 14 points. Austin Meacham had 12 points.



Cayden Bousquet eyes a teammate closer to the hoop.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY
WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM



Maddox Baer holds the ball away from his opponent.



Aiden Girard tries to pass out of the corner.



Grayson Griswold launches a pass over his opponent's outstretched arms.



Treynce Senquiz tries to get a shot over a Monson blocker.



Cassian Kowalik tries to lift a shot over a Monson guard.

SPORTS

Lions pull out win over Longmeadow

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

WEST SPRINGFIELD—The only high school sporting event in Western Massachusetts on the day after Christmas took place at the Olympia Ice Center in West Springfield.

The Berry Division matchup between the Longmeadow Lancers and the Ludlow Lions was an entertaining affair from start to finish.

The contest was tied five minutes into the third period when Ludlow senior captain Tannar Severyn netted an unassisted power-play. The Lions managed to hold onto the one-goal lead the rest of the way and celebrated a 4-3 come-from-behind victory before a large crowd.

“We fell behind 2-0 in the first period, but we were able to battle back,” said Ludlow head coach Paul Rivest. “We received some outstanding individual performances in tonight’s game. It’s also a very big win for us because the Berry Division is very competitive this year.”

Following the one goal victory over the Lancers, the Lions had a 3-1 overall record and were in a four way tie for first place in the league standings with a 2-1 mark.

“We do have a very good culture on this year’s

team,” Rivest added. “All of the players are friends and they’re always together. They have team dinners at different players’ houses. We also have a couple of outstanding team leaders. It’s a great group of kids.”

The Ludlow hockey team began a co-op with neighboring Belchertown High School a year ago.

The six Belchertown players listed on the Lions roster are sophomore Andrew Lambert, junior Will Mitus, junior Gavin Harrington, freshman Nolan Chianciola, freshman Luke DeStafano, and senior Donald Rogers.

Belchertown High School Principal Christine Vigneux attended Ludlow’s first meeting of the regular season against Longmeadow as a fan.

The Lancers (2-2, 2-2) didn’t have very many chances to score during the final five minutes of regulation.

Rivest praised the performance of freshman Teddy

Iwasinski.

“Teddy was on the ice for the last 1:45, which was a longer shift than I was expecting for him to be on the ice,” Rivest said. “He’s only five foot one, but he kept getting in the way of the Longmeadow players, which is something that doesn’t show up on the score sheet. Longmeadow couldn’t get the puck out of their own zone.”

Iwasinski plays on the same line as freshman Nathan Ribeiro and Severyn.

The game-winner was Severyn’s fourth goal of the season.

Things didn’t start out very well for the Lions, as the Lancers scored a pair of goals during the first ten minutes of the game.

Longmeadow took a 1-0 lead following a power-play goal from sophomore Anthony DiPietro four minutes into the opening period.

Seven minutes later, senior Alexander Hensch scored a



Evan Dias reaches out to grab the loose puck near the wall.

breakaway goal giving the Lancers a two goal advantage.

Ludlow junior goalie Peter LeBorgne, who made his first start of the season, allowed just one more goal during the final 35 minutes of the match. He made a total of 14 saves.

The Lions clawed back with two goals during the final 1:38 of the first period, which tied the score.

Ten seconds after the Lions first power-play had ended, senior captain Nick Deroin scored a goal, cutting the deficit in half. Senior A.J. Stupek was credited with the assist.

With 5.1 seconds left in the period, senior captain Sean Kefalas, who’s been playing hockey for the past 13 years, received a pass from Ribeiro before firing a shot into the net past junior goalie Jackson Blais (7 saves) tying the score at 2-2.

The Lions took the lead for the first time with 5:26 remaining in the second period when Deroin scored a short-handed goal. The duo of junior captain Evan Dias and Lambert were credited with assists on Deroin’s



TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

Rhett Ribeiro fights off a defender.

team-leading fifth goal of the season.

A little more than two minutes later, sophomore Alex DiNapoli poked a shot into the net, tying the score once again at 3-3.

The score would remain tied until Severyn netted the game-winner a little more

than five minutes into the final period.

The Lions will be looking to sweep the season series with the Lancers in the second meeting, which is scheduled to be held at Olympia at 8:30pm on February 12. The two squads split a year ago.



Teddy Iwasinski recovers the puck.



Jack Benda is ready to defend the net.



Will Mitus dekes with the puck as he heads up the ice.



Tannar Severyn makes his way up the ice.



Your Local BUSINESS CONNECTION

TILTON AUTOMOTIVE
GENERAL REPAIRS
3 AMHERST ROAD (RT. 9) BELCHERTOWN
323-5051

GET HITCHED AT AMHERST WELDING
TRAILER HITCHES SALES & REPAIRS
Welding • Fabrication • Hydraulic Hoses & Hydraulic Repairs • Snow Plow • Sanders
DID YOUR MAILBOX POST GET CRUNCHED THIS WINTER? Stop in and see our exclusive "Steel" retractable mailbox posts!
Amherst Welding, Inc.
(413) 253-4867
330 Harkness Road, Amherst, MA

WE HAVE MOVED!
115 North Main, Belchertown
SWIFT RIVER
HEATING & OIL COMPANY
Sheet Metal Fabrication Is Our Specialty
• Automatic Fuel Delivery
• 24 hr. Burner Service
• Replacement of Furnaces & Boilers
• New Construction & Renovations
• New Customer Discounts
413-323-4123

Complete A/C Service
Glass Installations
Used Cars • Windshields
Expert Body & Fender Repair • Painting
REECE AUTO BODY
323-6664
FREE ESTIMATES
Old Springfield Road
Belchertown
Visa-Mastercard Accepted

SEPTIC PUMPING
• pumping
• new installation
• repairs
• Title 5 inspection
Complete Septic Service LLC
Jason Lafleur • David Kibbe
413-323-4327

\$5.29 SAVE 18%
Peak® All-in-One Windshield Wash -30°F
1 gal.
WWS PKN0D3
Belchertown Auto Parts
116 FEDERAL STREET (RT.9) BELCHERTOWN, MA
(413) 323-7661 OR 323-9296
NAPA AUTO PARTS • **INAPA AUTO PARTS** Get the Good Stuff

ROBERTS ROOFS
SPECIALIZING IN
Slate • Copper • Architectural Shingles • Gutters
Historical Restoration • Flat Roofing • Snow Removal
Tel. 413-283-4395 • Cell 413-237-9434
www.RobertsRoofsInc.com Trusted Name Since 1982

Turley Publications, Inc.
www.turley.com
Proud publishers of 12 community newspapers
Call 413-283-8393 to advertise your business here

GRANTS from page 3

on September 18, 2026, this musical performance features solos and duets from the Great American Songbook and Broadway. Married for 42 years, the duo is often affectionately compared to Steve Lawrence and Eydie Gormé.

Wellbeing, Laughter & Joyful Living Series

Presented by the Belchertown Council on Aging at the Senior Center on January 21, February 18, and March 19, 2026. Robert Rivest leads three one-hour workshops blending mime, storytelling, improvisation, and mindfulness techniques focused on joy, laughter, and resilience.

The Fabric of the Revolution

Holly Field presents a multimedia project at the Clapp Memorial Library exploring Revolutionary-era flag making and the people behind it. The project includes the recreation of an 18th-century flag, documentation videos, a public exhibition through June 2026, a presentation, and a hands-on flag-making activity using natural dyes. Dates TBD.

Animal Adventures: An Educational Experience

Returning to the Belchertown Senior Center on April 21, 2026, this traveling program introduces participants to 8-10 exotic animals through interactive storytelling and controlled petting

opportunities.

Belchertown High School Literary Journal

The Writing Club produces an annual literary journal showcasing student artwork and writing. Submissions from grades 9-12 are reviewed anonymously. The journal will be released at a Coffee House event on May 1, 2026.

The Love Songs of Connie Francis

Donna Lee Honeywell performs at the Belchertown Senior Center on February 20, 2026, celebrating the life and music of Connie Francis—her chart-topping hits, resilience, and lasting cultural impact.

Acousticca at Food Truck Fridays

Returning to the Belchertown Common in summer 2026, Acousticca brings an Americana blend of rock, country, and blues to the popular Food Truck Friday series. Date TBD.

Emily & J. G.

A theatrical conversation performance at the Clapp Memorial Library exploring the relationship between Emily Dickinson and Josiah G. Holland. Through humor, poetry, and storytelling, the program offers insight into 19th-century friendship, art, and loss. Ongoing in 2026.

Sugarfest

Held March 14, 2026, at Shattuck's Sugarhouse, this community celebration com-

bines agricultural education, music, and local food. Visitors can learn about maple production, meet farm animals, and enjoy local beer, food vendors, artisan crafts, and live bands.

Traveling Makerspace: Artful Mechanisms

Arriving at Chestnut Hill Community School on March 20, 2026, this 90-minute STEAM workshop led by teaching artist Jay Mankita invites students to build moving mechanisms and explore storytelling through motion. All materials are provided.

Holiday Sing-Along with David Neill & the Fanfare Brass Ensemble

Taking place December 13, 2026, at Hope United Methodist Church, this festive sing-along features a 10-piece brass ensemble performing holiday favorites.

Celebrate Juneteenth at the Clapp

On June 20, 2026, the Clapp Memorial Library presents a day-long Juneteenth celebration beginning with a community drum circle led by master drummer Otha Day, followed by an afternoon concert curated by Pamela Means. The event honors African and African American cultural traditions through rhythm, music, and shared experience.

Lake Wallace Fall Fest

Celebrated on October 3, 2026, at the Lake Wallace

Sensory Trail, this inclusive community festival features a 5K, 1K, and All Abilities Roll & Stroll, along with live music, sculpture garden unveilings, a storybook trail, and accessible park improvements.

The Scarboro Art Garden: Fauna of Invention

Building on a successful 2025 event, Loren Walker again opens his Gulf Road property for an interactive art experience featuring large-scale puppets, music, and community engagement. Date TBD, summer 2026.

Arcpoint Brewery Community Programming

Arcpoint Brewery will continue hosting family-friendly entertainment and community-centered events throughout 2026, fostering connection and local culture in the heart of Belchertown.

The Kalos Trio Concert

Presented by the Clapp Memorial Library at the Belchertown United Church of Christ on April 18, 2026. Celebrating the restored 1877 Steinway grand piano, the Kalos Trio will perform a program of classical works.

Belchertown Community Band 40th Anniversary

Celebrating 40 years, the Belchertown Community Band will offer free summer concerts on the Town Common from July through August 2026, featuring musicians ranging in age from students to octogenarians.

Evangel Assembly hosts Open Door Open Mic Night

WILBRAHAM - Evangel Assembly is excited to announce our Open Door Open Mic Night, a vibrant community event taking place on Saturday, February 21, 2026, at 7 p.m. at Evangel Assembly, located at 348 Stony Hill Road, Wilbraham, in the East Wing.

This event is open to all, inviting guests to enjoy a night of diverse performances or take the stage themselves for a 5-minute performance of their choice. Whether you're a singer, poet, comedian, or storyteller, this is your chance to shine! Open Mic participants can sign up to perform by visiting <https://evangelassembly.churchcenter.com/people/forms/1120002>.

Spectators are welcome to come, relax, and enjoy an evening of local talent and entertainment in a warm, welcoming atmosphere. "We're thrilled to open

our doors to the community for a night of creativity and connection," said Steve Devereaux, the Open Mic Organizer at Evangel Assembly. "This event is all about celebrating the diverse talents of our neighbors and fostering a sense of togetherness."

Join us for an unforgettable evening filled with laughter, music, and inspiration. Admission is free, there will be coffee and treats for donations, and all are welcome. For more information or to register for a performance slot, visit <https://evangelassembly.churchcenter.com/people/forms/1120002>. About Evangel Assembly: Evangel Assembly is a vibrant community church in Wilbraham, MA, dedicated to fostering connection, creativity, and faith. We are committed to serving our community through events and programs that inspire and uplift.

**WB&CA** from page 1

Local weekends and the Fall Fair were held.

"The last year of the Fall Fair, over 80 businesses and organizations participated. The fair included a breakfast at the Millyard, art show in the town hall, chili contest and vendors at Veterans Park and other events at the library and Workshop13. We also hosted a decorating contest for area stores. It was a wonderful event that brought hundreds to town. One highlight was Cindi LaBombard had over 500 people sign in at the art show," said Carol Zins, member of the Fall Fair committee.

One WB&CA and Beyond program that has excelled since its inception in 2014, is the Ware in Bloom campaign.

"The Flowers in Bloom Committee began in the early years of the WBCA as a way to support the Main Street Improvement Project. Funded by local businesses and powered by hands-on volunteers who even helped water the flower baskets themselves, the initiative has always been rooted in community pride. It's inspiring to see it still flourishing today, with dozens of volunteers continuing to make downtown bloom, season after season," said Shelley Regin, Senior Vice President, Marketing, of Country Bank. Regin served on the original Ware in Bloom committee. The Ware in Bloom continues to today, as Carol Zins handed off the program to current leaders, Carol Blackmer and Janice Ouimette.

WB&CA and Beyond officially became a not-for-profit status organization. Mission statements were created, organizational bylaws set and a formal slate of officers were elected.

In 2014, the mission statement bent towards Ware's revitalization and economic development.

The WB&CA and Beyond has been active over the years with regional and local initiatives.

Members of the WB&CA and Beyond also serve on the Town of Ware's Downtown Economic Development Committee, Community Development Authority, the Massachusetts Regional Railroad Transport Committee and the Hampshire County Transportation Committee.

The goals of the association remain rooted in membership support, networking and communication.

"Membership has grown



Author Elena Palladino presented her book, "Lost Towns of the Swift River Valley", to the attendees of a Ware Business & Civic Association and Beyond workshop held at Workshop13.

every year, even during the COVID 19 pandemic," said WB&CA and Beyond President Dan Flynn. "We continue to evolve in some program areas, but we never lost sight of our core mission. Each month's meeting offers a quality program, each event is enjoyable, the membership fee is inexpensive, but the benefits far outweigh the cost."

For members who have joined the association, the membership benefits have been numerous.

"The networking aspect alone has been very rewarding for myself and my company," said Melissa Fales, president, QVCDC of Ware and WB&CA and Beyond Clerk/Treasurer. "Our Association growth has been making a bigger impact even outside of the Town of Ware."

In 2022, the WB&CA and Beyond altered the approach to its program.

Monthly program meetings were held every third Wednesday of the month at E2E on Main Street. However, due to membership increases and attendance had grown to the point where the meetings had to move the Cedarbrook Village on South Street.

"We wanted to have our members promoted within and outside the association," said Flynn. "We opened up our monthly programs to include meeting at our member's locations. Members could host and get to showcase the location, product and such."

Meetings have been held at American Athletic Shoe Company, Quabbin Wire, Tombstone Trading, Palmer Motorsports Park, 13th World and the newest WB&CA and Beyond member, Align Hypnosis.

At a WBCA&B monthly program, each meeting would begin with a Town Manager/Administrator report from attending towns. Currently,

the Towns of Ware, Warren, Hardwick and Palmer belong to the WB&CA and Beyond.

"I believe WB&CA and Beyond provides the town with a unique opportunity to share its latest projects, events, and future economic development opportunities within the town," said Jim Ferrara, Town Administrator, Town of Warren. "One of my roles as a Town Administrator is to market and promote the town for future economic growth and I believe WB&CA and Beyond creates a forum for this to happen."

"This report from each town improves communications about what projects and growth are moving forward, and what we should be planning together for future projects," said Stuart Beckley, Town Manager, Town of Ware. "In the Quaboag region, connection and cooperation are necessary. The meetings of the WB&CA and Beyond promote the sharing of regional knowledge and resources. This information is very beneficial for each of us."

In 2023, discussion was held to open up the membership to include businesses and organizations from contiguous towns.

"The association was being approached by many non-Ware businesses," said Flynn.

In 2024, the association's bylaws were updated to include members from Palmer, Belchertown, Hardwick, Warren and West Brookfield.

A quarterly evening activity program was developed.

"We planned evening events such as bowling, pinball and pickleball. We had even rented a portable axe yard and held several axe throwing events," said Flynn. "A sponsor assists with defrayment of the cost of the facility or rental. Food is provided. It's a relaxed, fun networking outing but with a twist. A small business or sole

proprietor may not be able to have an outing like this for themselves or employees, so this program is another member benefit"

In 2023, an special opportunity opened for the WB&CA and Beyond. The local state senate seat had been left open as the State Senator Anne E. Gobi took a position with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts administration and special election was then scheduled.

"We contacted both of the candidates on the ballot to offer a Candidates Forum, where both would be given time for an opening statement, each would answer questions, and then give a closing statement," said Flynn. "The forum was taped by local community access channel 15 and the tape was shared with the other town channels within the state senate district. It was a monumental event."

ORIOLES from page 7

While it was the first meeting between the two girls' basketball teams, Beauregard was the boys' varsity basketball coach at Belchertown High School 10 years ago. Woodcock was also coaching the girls' varsity team at that time.

"When I was coaching at Belchertown High School, coach Woodcock and I would also talk about basketball," Beauregard said. "I wish the results were a little bit different, but it was fun coaching against him for the first time."

The contest was scoreless until Klingensmith hit her first 3-pointer from the right corner with 5:15 left in the opening quarter.

Klingensmith would

A second forum was held in 2024 for the candidates in the 2024 election.

One of the recent WB&CA and Beyond initiatives is new local business recognition. "The towns within the WB&CA and Beyond represents are fortunate to have state legislators who are active and truly present in their towns," said Flynn. "We have been setting up and having ceremonial ribbon cuttings for new businesses. If the legislators are available, they or a staffer will attend with a commendation from the Massachusetts Statehouse. The event is then reported in the local newspaper and promoted on social media."

The WB&CA and Beyond had partnered with the Three Rivers Chamber of Commerce on several ribbon cuttings and support of each organization's past events.

"It's been wonderful to work with the WB&CA and Beyond," said TRCC President, Matt Lemieux. "We have even had a friendly wager, President to President, on the outcome of the annual Ware Palmer football game rivalry. Losing President had to scoop ice cream at Rondeau's Dairy Bar. This wager created a lot of interest in both of our towns."

This past summer, the WB&CA and Beyond and the TRCC collaborated on a town-wide school supply collection to support the schools in Ware, Palmer and Monson.

Members of the WB&CA and Beyond are very active

with the community, supporting Main Street banners and the Ware Flair to name a few of the program, Flynn and Director Dustin Pennington serve on the Town of Ware Fireworks Committee.

"When we saw how much the cost of the fireworks went up from the 2024 show to the 2025 show, the committee was nervous about raising the money needed. We approached the WB&CA and Beyond. They volunteered to host and support two celebrity bartender/server nights. Hanna's on Main hosted and members of the WB&CA and Beyond acted as bartenders and servers," said Pennington. "All tips collected went to support the 2025 fireworks show. We had Neil Diamond aka Charlie Lask of Nat Falk, the first night, then karaoke the second night. We raised enough funds to cover the huge fee increase of the 2025 fireworks show. Both nights were a huge success."

To become a member of the Ware Business & Civic Association and Beyond, go online to <http://www.warebca.com/>, email warebca@gmail.com, on Facebook under Ware Business and Civic and Beyond, contact any board of director, or Flynn at 413-297-5886

Interested businesses and organizations are welcomed to attend the monthly meetings, held every third Wednesday, 8:30-9:30 a.m. at Cedarbrook Village, 73 South St., Ware, MA.

make two more 3-pointers in the quarter and Slovack added a lay-up, as Belchertown entered the second quarter holding a slim 11-8 advantage.

The duo of Toomey and Dufresne each scored four points for Quaboag.

With 3:51 remaining in the first half, Klingensmith was fouled while making a 3-pointer from the right corner. She made the bonus foul shot completing the rare four point play, which gave the Lady Orioles a 20-8 lead.

Everlyn Potvin then hit a 3-pointer from the right side, which was Quaboag's only points of the second quarter.

With 40 seconds left in the opening half, Belchertown junior point guard Morghan Litz

knocked home a 3-pointer from the right side, which were her only points of the game.

Belchertown finished the first half with a 9-0 run. Klingensmith made her fifth 3-pointer during the final seconds which made the score 29-11 at halftime.

The Lady Cougars made three 3-pointers in the third quarter, but they were outscored, 20-13 and were trailing 49-24, entering the final eight minutes of the contest.

The trio of sophomore forward Cassidy MacLean (3points), sophomore guard Camilla Adamczyk (2 points), and Slovack made field goals for the Lady Orioles in the final quarter, while senior forward Madison Kapinos (1 point) added a free throw.

OBITUARIES

Kenneth P. Henneman

BELCHERTOWN – Kenneth P. Henneman, 74, of Belchertown, passed away at home on December 31, 2025. Born April 2, 1951, in Northampton, MA, Ken was the son of Arthur and June (Sanford) Henneman and lived in Belchertown his entire life. He graduated from Belchertown High School in 1969 and earned an associate degree from Springfield Technical Community College in 1971. Ken worked as a Rural Carrier for the US Postal Service in Belchertown from 1971 until his retirement in 2010 and was very proud to have received the One Million Mile Award in 2005. He also ran Henneman's Service Center in the town center for 25 years after buying the station from his father.



Wickaboag Boat Club in West Brookfield, where he served as Commodore for many years. He enjoyed golf outings, motorcycle rides, and ski trips with various groups of friends.

Ken leaves behind his beloved wife of 42 years, Katherine (Dziuba), and three children, Kathryn "Katie" Henneman, Kimberly Curtin and her husband Michael of East Longmeadow, and Brian Campbell of Philadelphia, as well as two sisters, Linda Snow and her husband Kenneth, and Marnie Henneman, all of Belchertown, and many nieces and nephews and their children. The family wishes to thank Katie's caregivers, past and present, particularly Cheryl, Deb, and Terrilyn, for doing double duty with their care of Ken over the past few years, as well as the many friends who drove him to and from treatment at Mass General Brigham Cancer Institute at Cooley Dickinson Hospital.

Visitation will be held on Friday, January 9, from 9 to 11 a.m. with a service to begin at 11 a.m., both at the Belchertown United Church of Christ, Park Street, Belchertown, MA. In lieu of flowers, please consider donations to BUCC, PO Box 603, Belchertown, MA 01007, or MGB Cancer Center at Cooley Dickinson, PO Box 329, Northampton, MA 01061. Please indicate that it is in honor of Kenneth Henneman, and your donation will be directed towards cancer research.

To say Ken was active in the community would be an understatement. He was a longtime member of the Belchertown Historical Association and Stone House Museum, as well as an active member of Belchertown United Church of Christ (BUCC) for more than 50 years, serving on multiple committees and as a Deacon throughout the 1990s. He was always ready to lend a hand to any friend or community group who had a need.

He was also a member of many recreational organizations over the years, including the Belchertown Snowmobile Club, several Bowling Leagues, Cold Spring Country Club, and for more than 50 years, was an active member of the Lake

Beverly West Marcy

Beverly West Marcy was the daughter of the late Lewis West and Pauline (Davenport) West. Beverly was also predeceased by her brothers William West and Shepherd West, and a sister Betty Philobotte. Her beloved husband, Melvin Marcy, died in 1987. Although she will be greatly missed by family and friends, we take comfort in knowing she is no longer in pain and is resting in the arms of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Beverly leaves behind a son, Randy Marcy, (Connie), and a daughter, Cathy Hammond (Karl).



great-grandchildren, which she took great pride in.

Throughout her years, she became NANA to everyone she met. Her sewing and crocheting talents were a true gift that she shared with so many.

She had 90 wonderful years, always facing any challenges head-on and always with a smile.

Beverly resided at Christopher Heights in Belchertown for the last 7 years. Her final months were spent at Hadley Pointe in Hadley, MA. The family would like to take this time to thank everyone for their care and support throughout the years. It is greatly appreciated. A private service will be held in January.

She was NANA to seven grandchildren and 14

Eric S. Corp

Eric S. Corp passed away peacefully on Tuesday, Dec. 9, 2025.

Born December 2, 1944, in Phoenix, Arizona, early in his life the family moved to southern California. He came to western Massachusetts in 1997, fulfilling his pursuit to be an academic neuroscientist. He settled in the area and spent the last 28 years of his life in Amherst and then Belchertown.

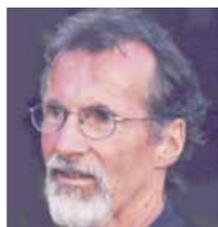
Eric was many things, but "a gentle soul" is one way that people would often describe him. He was also charmingly self-deprecating in a way that led many people to open up and feel connected to him. He was witty, well read and had a keen intellect, making him an engaging and entertaining conversationalist. Eric's laughter was contagious and endearing. He was one of those people who made the world more interesting and exciting.

Eric's life took many twists and turns with difficult years. "Rick," his California family's name for him, had a childhood rich in friends, activities and experiences. From an early age, he loved the beach, body surfing and pool swimming, which strengthened his lungs weakened by chronic asthma. He thrived on hobbies with chemistry sets, microscopes and reading. He learned the trumpet and played "To the Colors" every morning for flag-raising at his elementary school. Band practice and drama class captured his interest and dedication in middle school.

Eric graduated from Pasadena High School in 1963. In his late teens, he and his friends were passionate amateur folk musicians. Eric learned to play the guitar and with his three close friends would regularly play at a fellow musician's house literally all night long. They spent any other free time at coffee houses where they would listen to established

and rising folk artists.

In 1967, he married Jane Beaven and became stepfather to Jane's three young children (Leif Eric, Sara Jane, and Ruth Ann). The children have fond memories of hiking the San Gabriel mountains and spending weekends beachcombing the tidepools. Eric was attending graduate school, and they recall lively conversations about psychology—what makes people tick—and the humor in some of the psychological techniques he experimented with (on the family), such as a token economy for behavioral reinforcement and various psychological tests. His passion for psychology inspired them to think deeply about personality and human nature.



Eric earned a B.A. in psychology in 1969 and an M.S. in psychology with a clinical track in 1972, both from California State University Los Angeles. While there he volunteered as a crisis intervention therapist. The family then moved to Austin, Minnesota where he practiced as a psychotherapist. He would often relate the shock this southern Californian felt by the severe cold of his first winter in Minnesota and the euphoria of his first spring there. In 1974, the family moved to Spokane, Washington where he continued his work in the field of psychology as an Involuntary Treatment Officer performing civil commitments. This frequently involved being called into homes to assess persons who were in acute psychological distress.

By 1977, his marriage to Jane ended and he moved to central Washington where he continued his work as a mental health professional. While in Washington, he met Shelley Smith, whom

he married in 1979 and later that same year their daughter Jessica Lillian Louise was born.

His time as an Involuntary Treatment Officer led him to believe that the prevailing view of the causes of severe psychiatric disorders was overlooking a biological root. This spurred him to pursue a doctorate in the field of neuroscience which he completed in 1986, earning a Ph.D. from the University of Washington in Seattle.

In 1986, after his marriage to Shelley ended, Eric moved east to pursue a fellowship at the E. W. Bourne Behavioral Research Laboratory of Weill Cornell Medicine in White Plains, New York. His research there explored receptors in the brain that were involved with insulin and appetite mechanisms. He eventually was promoted to Assistant Professor of Psychology in Psychiatry.

In 1990, he met Elaine Fronhofer whom he married in 1993. In White Plains, Eric and Elaine enjoyed spending free time attending club concerts of folk and blues musicians, exploring hiking trails in the Hudson Valley, long bike rides and other sports, often with Eric's Bourne Lab colleagues.

In the summer of 1997, they settled in Amherst after Eric was hired as a Research Associate Professor of Psychology at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. In 1998, their son, Nathaniel Carlock, was born, and in 2001, their son Leif Socrates was born. His sons have fond early memories of him singing them to sleep with folk songs that he would sometimes perform to them on guitar, weekly trips to the library selecting large volumes of books, and bicycle

rides. In his professional career at UMass Amherst, aside from teaching courses in psychology, Eric ran a successful research lab investigating how the brain controls feeding behavior, identifying brain regions and peptides that control food intake. He was also a dedicated and patient mentor who inspired those that trained with him.

In 2012, Eric's marriage to Elaine ended however he and Elaine remained lifelong friends.

In later life, Eric struggled with mental and physical health challenges. He could no longer be a scientist, but his core personality traits of kindness, unwavering courteousness, and wit remained to the end.

Eric was predeceased by his parents, Charles Ives and May Louise (Crook) Corp, his stepdaughter Ruth Swanson in 1981, and stepson, Leif Swanson in 2021. Eric is survived by his sisters Beverly (Dennis) Johnson, of San Clemente, CA, and Mary Corp of Azusa, CA, his stepdaughter Sara Swanson (Mark) Mone, of Milwaukee, WI, and their children, Eric and Emily, his daughter Jessica (Joel Jones) Corp, of Lake Oswego, OR, and their son Gus, his sons Nathaniel Corp and Leif Corp, both of Belchertown, MA, his nephew Nick (Kelly) Johnson, of San Diego, CA, nieces Holly (Otong) Durahim, of Vashon, WA, and Joanne Werthwein of Bridgeport, CA, great-nephews Charlie, Wally, and Sani, and great-nieces Utisah, Hazel, and Willa.

The family would like to thank the staff at Christopher Heights of Belchertown for the remarkable care he received.

There will be a private memorial. Donations in Eric's memory can be made to The Jones Library of Amherst or the environmental conservation charity of your choosing.

STREETS from page 1

forming a diverse committee, stating, "The committee's main goals... is really after the prioritization plan is formed and we're looking at projects that we then can apply for construction funds and then to implement the policy as we go forward."

She emphasized the importance of the committee's involvement from day one.

Recommended members are the town manager, department of public works director, town planner, director of public health, a public safety official, council on aging director, superintendent of schools, conservation director, and recreational director, and "whoever they might appoint as a respective designee," added Leduc.

Board members sought

further clarification on the project's scope and funding.

Leduc specified that the policy would focus on pedestrian and bicycle accessibility along public roads: "It's not Rail Trail... We're really looking at the roads and how to make the roads complete, so making sure that they have pedestrians and bikes and... ADA accessibility."

Regarding prioritization plans and construction grants, Leduc told the board: "We are allowed up to \$500,000 over three years. You can do \$500,000 at one shot, or you can mix smaller projects, and then in three years you're up, and you can apply for the round."

Select Board members discussed the benefits and constraints of committee formation, including potential overlap with other town groups.

"I don't want to start creating more committees right now for me anyway, so I was glad to see that it was strictly included," Selectboard member Nicole Miner said.

The board ultimately voted to create the committee, with appointees to be named by the town manager.

Public engagement remains a priority. Leduc said she hopes to host one meeting in January and another at some point later this year.

Sports Haven mobile home project advances

Town Manager Steve Williams provided an update on the restoration and infrastructure work at the Sports Haven mobile home park.

"There's been a lot of progress construction season; the water and sewer pipes are in the ground, under the roadway. The

water is connected to all the units. There are 38 units. Currently, there are five vacant lots, but it's stubbed out for those. The foundation is in for the water tank. The foundation is in for the generator."

He outlined the remaining steps and financial outlook: "Those are under order. There's money available for the road restoration, paving. We are paying for some additional funding we've been doing about \$1.6 million to complete the septic system and make the connections to the units on that end of things."

He said the hope is to have additional funding in the spring, but said the work done so far is also a good sign.

Board members examined the board of directors' structure and anticipated a transition to resident control.

DEATH NOTICES

Beverly West Marcy
Died November 28, 2025
Services are private

Eric S. Corp
Died December 9, 2025
Services are private.

Kenneth P. Henneman
Died December 31, 2025
Services and Visitation
Jan. 9 at Belchertown
United Church of Christ

\$12.50 Each

Digital Photos
TURLEY PUBLICATIONS, INC.
Purchase a photo that recently ran in one of our publications. Go to newspapers.turley.com/photo-request

The Sentinel
OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

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

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$275, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph.

Death Notices & Paid Obituaries should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

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

~ DORSEY MEMORIALS ~

- Monuments & Cemetery Lettering • 707 Main St., Amherst, MA • 413-253-5212
- Civic Memorials & Custom Designs • www.DorseyMemorials.com

You can count on Dorsey Memorials to guide you through the Memorial Stone Process.

PUBLIC NOTICE

SALE OF MOTOR VEHICLE

This is pursuant to MA Gen. Law Ch.255, Sec. 39A as of January 16, 2026 the following motor vehicle will be for sale to satisfy a garage keepers lien:

Vehicle: 2003 Acura TL
Vin #: 19UUA566603A039534
Color: Red
LKO: Tyler Real
Address: 43 Garfield Circle
Southampton, MA 01073

Relentless Towing
Belchertown, MA
413-530-3804

01/01, 01/08, 01/15/2026

PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

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

Public notice deadlines are Friday at 3 p.m.

visit www.publicnotices.turley.com

think OUTSIDE of the BIG BOX

SUPPORT COMMUNITY BUSINESSES

DL&G TREE

Tree
Removal



Structural
Pruning



Crane
Service



Storm
Damage



Stump
Grinding



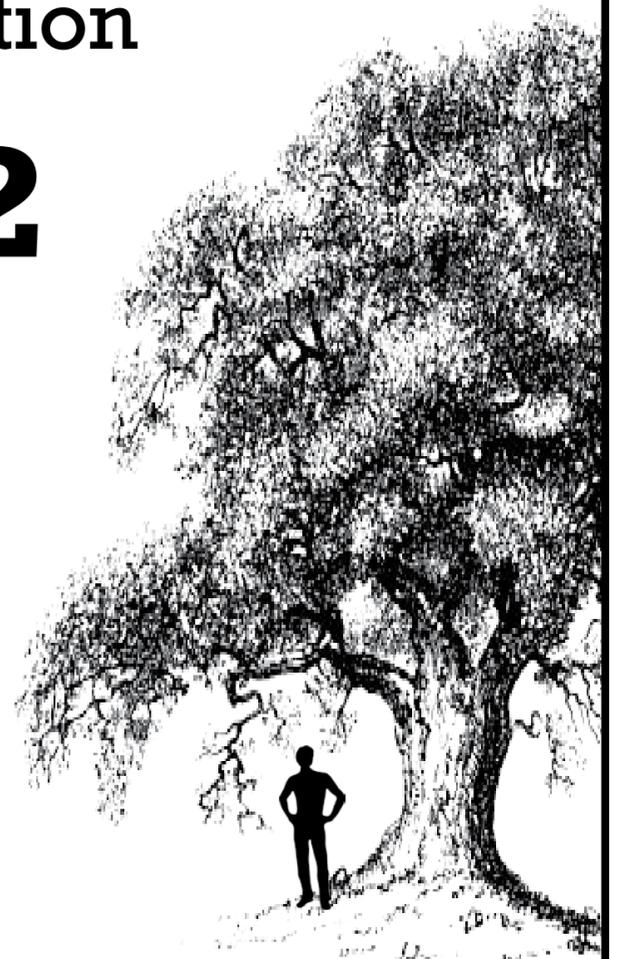
Lot
Clearing



Give us a call for your free estimate
and tree evaluation

413-478-4212

DL&G TREE



INSURED AND CERTIFIED