

Clay Mates brings community together for

'EMPTY BOWLS' fundraiser

Sue Hevey, owner of Clay Mates in Belchertown, displays more than 60 handmade bowls created by participants for donation to the Amherst Survival Center's Empty Bowls fundraiser.

Studio helps create more than 60 handmade bowls to support Amherst Survival Center

BELCHERTOWN — Inside a warm, welcoming studio filled with color, conversation, and creativity, something meaningful has been taking shape—one bowl at a time.

Clay Mates recently hosted a series of "Empty Bowls" fundraiser events, bringing together community members to paint and donate handmade bowls in support of the Amherst Survival Center. Held on the third Wednesday of each month from November through March, the five-event series created multiple opportunities for people to participate and give back.

The response was overwhelming.

Please see **BOWLS**, page 3



Granby schools wrestle FY27 budget gap

By Melina Bourdeau
Correspondent

GRANBY — School leaders are grappling with soaring special education costs, unstable state aid and rising insurance and transportation expenses, leaving a cushion of reserves and an FY27 budget gap that approaches \$400,000 despite town support.

A single change in one student's special education placement has become the latest symbol of how unpredictable costs are straining the district's finances and forcing difficult choices for the coming fiscal year.

During the April 7 School Committee budget hearing, Superintendent Mary Jane Rickson and School

Committee Chair Jennifer Bartosz returned repeatedly to six interconnected themes: surging special education expenses, the remaining FY27 deficit, major budget drivers like insurance and transportation, the limits of a "level service" budget, athletic safety coverage and donations and growing concern about the budget and oversight at Pathfinder Regional

Vocational Technical High School.

Special education costs and budget whiplash

Rickson opened the hearing by explaining how special education has reshaped the budget since the committee's last meeting.

Please see **GRANBY SCHOOLS**, page 13

Pathfinder Tech unveils FY27 budget proposal

The proposal includes plans for Cold Spring building

By Abigail McCoy
amccoy@turley.com

PALMER — Officials from across the region gathered at Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical High School have proposed the Fiscal Year 2027 budget, outlining continued growth, strategic investments, and increasing demand for career and technical education.

The event, held in the school's library, drew a strong turnout of Select Board members, Finance Committee representatives, town administrators, managers, and council members from all nine member communities; an indication, school officials said, of the district's deepening partnerships across the region.

"It was great to see such strong representation from our member communities,"

officials noted during the presentation. "The turnout and engagement demonstrated the continued partnership between Pathfinder Tech and the towns we serve."

Budget Overview and Fiscal Strategy

Superintendent Eric Duda led the presentation, opening with a series of recent highlights to illustrate what he described as a year of "growth and progress" for the district.

The proposed FY27 budget reflects an overall increase of 4.98% compared to FY26. Of that, the assessment to the district's nine member towns would rise by 2.27% collectively.

One contributing factor to the increase is a \$519,000 rise in the minimum local contribution requirement across member communities.

Despite these increases, district leaders emphasized their continued focus on balancing fiscal responsibility with program quality.

Please see **PATHFINDER**, page 12

Granby OKs sewer hikes

Officials warn of multimillion-dollar Forge Pond Dam fix

By Melina Bourdeau
Correspondent

GRANBY — Officials adopted new sewer rates and reviewed a fragile but balanced fiscal 2027 budget, while warning that looming costs, from trash and recycling to dam repairs, could force difficult choices.

Granby's FY27 budget will balance without an override and keep basic services

Please see **GRANBY**, page 2

Local photographer's Quabbin exhibit on display at State House

By Ben Hernandez
Staff Writer

BELCHERTOWN — The Quabbin Reservoir is on display at the Massachusetts State House Senate Gallery. The exhibit, entitled "Quabbin — Yesterday and Today," is a photography collage of the Quabbin, which is a combination of old archival photos of the region as well as photos taken by local nature photographer and Friends of the Quabbin board member Ed Comeau.

"It's just amazing," said Comeau as he reflected on

Please see **EXHIBIT**, page 4



TURLEY PHOTO BY BEN HERNANDEZ

Local natural wildlife is on display as part of the Quabbin Reservoir Exhibit.

TR Drost Company partners with BEF

BELCHERTOWN — The TR Drost Company has become a major donor in the Belchertown Education Foundation's annual corporate campaign. The TR Drost Company is the parent organization of Window World of Western Mass, Hometown Exteriors, Go Green Home Performance, and The Kitchen & Bath Co. The company is contributing at the Foundation's highest sponsorship level and will have a Student Success Grant named in its honor in fall 2026.

Tim Drost, owner of the TR Drost Company and its family of companies, has called Belchertown home, where he lives with his wife and children, for more than 25 years. Drost has brought all his companies to town, choosing Belchertown to grow his family of businesses.

"This donation from The TR Drost Company significantly increases our capacity to fund grants for the upcoming school year. We are grateful for their community-minded philanthropy," says Belchertown Education Foundation Board President Jennifer Faulkner. The Foundation has provided



The extended Drost family partnering with the Belchertown Education Foundation includes, back row from left, Grace, Nick and Lanea. Front row from left, Tim and Anna.

more than \$110,000 in grants to fund projects over the last decade.

"The Foundation is proud to partner with a successful local organization deeply

committed to Belchertown. The TR Drost family of companies is the town's largest private employer, providing jobs for residents, including several Belchertown gradu-

ates who now serve in leadership roles. In our conversations with Tim and his family—each actively involved across different parts of the business—we discovered a shared commitment to giving our schools every possible advantage so students can thrive. This support has a direct and positive impact on our community," adds Faulkner.

Drost emphasized the company's commitment to giving back: "Rooted in our foundation at the TR Drost Company – and across our family of companies, Window World of Western Mass, Hometown Exteriors, Go Green Home Performance and The Kitchen & Bath Co. – we believe 'Home Improvement, Elevated' starts with people. We feel compelled to support the people who make our community strong, especially our students and educators. We're truly honored to donate \$10,000 to the Belchertown Education Foundation."

Drost adds, "As a family-owned business, this community is our foundation. Belchertown isn't just where we work—it's our home. It's where our family lives,

where we're raising our kids, and where we've built lasting relationships. Giving back isn't just something we do—it's at the core of who we are.

This donation is more than a contribution; it's an investment in the future of our town. We're proud to support the teachers, families, and students who make Belchertown such a special place, and we're committed to being part of its growth for years to come."

The Belchertown Education Foundation's grant cycle is currently open and teachers, administrators and staff of Belchertown Schools are encouraged to develop projects that enrich education for students that would otherwise go unfunded. More information and the application is available online at BelchertownEducationFoundation.org. The grant submission deadline is May 1.

Belchertown Education Foundation is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization that raises funds from the community and provides grants that enrich education for students in Belchertown Schools.

Belchertown Fair cover logo sought

BELCHERTOWN – It's time to create logos for the 167th Belchertown Fair. Every year, the Friends of the Belchertown Fair request help from the community to bring a vision for the Fair to life. With a backdrop of the country's 250th birthday, what does this year's theme of "Stars, Stripes and Fair Nights" mean to you? The chosen logo will appear on the cover of the Exhibit Hall booklet, the volunteer reusable totes and t-shirt designs.

Artwork should be created digitally, in color, with a minimum 300 dpi. Additionally, the following text can be included in the design: 167th Belchertown Fair; Sept. 25-27; Stars, Stripes and Fair Nights. All submissions will become the property of the Friends of the Belchertown Fair. The winning artist will receive recognition and a token of appreciation in the amount of \$50. There are no age limits. Please submit artwork for consideration to belchertownfair@gmail.com by Saturday, Apr. 25.

GRANBY from page 1

running for another year, but Selectboard members and the town's longtime former administrator warned that major infrastructure and operating pressures are closing in.

In a wide-ranging presentation, interim financial adviser Chris Martin opened with the bottom line on the budget.

Martin explained that he was asked to assemble the FY27 spending plan because the current interim town administrator was uncomfortable building the full municipal budget.

The plan uses borrowing for larger capital items and includes \$500,000 in free cash for the schools as an "above minimum contribution," continuing a recent practice. Even so, school officials have signaled they want substantially more.

"I believe a number I've heard out there is they are going to be about \$700,000 short of what they're looking for. We do not have that type of money available period, unless you want to put an override together for that figure," Martin said.

Sewer rates rise as costs climb

Acting as sewer com-

missioners, the Selectboard voted to increase rates for all sewer users beginning in FY27, driven largely by outside charges, including South Hadley's higher sewer use fee.

Martin laid out the new annual charges per Equivalent Dwelling Unit (EDU):

"We are looking at for the community's septic system users to go from 335 per EDU per year to \$337 per EDU per year for the five corners portion of the sewer to go from \$804 per year per EDU to \$857 per year, or per EDU per year. And for the houses that are on the South Hadley line, to go from \$450 per EDU to \$500," he said.

South Hadley's decision to raise what it charges Granby for sewer treatment is a major factor.

He also spelled out the percentage hikes and the overall budget increase:

"For the community septic's, it's a point five 9% increase. For the Five Corners users, it's a 6.59% increase. And for the South Hadley users, it's an 11.11% increase, and the total budget increased 8.76% over FY 26," Martin said.

The board unanimously approved the FY27 sewer rates after brief discussion and a motion by Glenn

Sexton to adopt the new schedule acting as sewer commissioners.

Fiscal outlook: one more year, but warning lights flashing

While FY27 avoids an override, Martin repeatedly cautioned that the town is running out of room to absorb cost spikes — especially in trash and recycling and in education assessments.

He noted that Granby's assessment from the Pathfinder Regional Vocational School jumped by roughly \$150,000 because the number of Granby students increased by seven.

Granby also expects to pay for additional students attending Smith Vocational School, raising vocational costs further.

"We currently pay for three students to go to Smith vote that is projected to go up to five students," Martin said.

On the solid waste side, Martin described steep increases in the cost of processing recyclables and the push by Waste Management toward automated collection — issues he labeled "stressors" on the town's finances.

"Last year it was costing us around \$45 to \$50 per ton for processing of the recyclables. This year it's jumped to about \$75 to \$80 a ton," he said.

That translates into a recurring monthly hit.

He reminded the board that Granby resorted to a \$300,000 trash override less than a decade ago and may be headed back to that territory if the town wants to maintain curbside collection.

"You may have to start looking at maybe doing another \$300,000 override to try and get you through these additional costs that have been going on," Martin said.

Selectboard Chair Mark Bail recalled how contentious that last override was.

"There are some large issues that this board has to face, and we can't keep delaying the decisions," Martin warned.

Forge Pond Dam and Dike: multimillion-dollar decision looming

One of the largest of those issues is the Forge Pond dam and dike, where the town has completed initial engineering and planning but still must decide whether to repair, replace or remove the aging structure.

Martin explained that Granby previously secured a \$100,000 state grant for planning and phase-one engineering. The next round of state funding allows for up to \$1 million, but even the maximum award would cover

only a fraction of the total cost.

"The state has another round of the grant... \$1 million the price to replace the dam is \$3.3 million the price to take it down is \$4.8 million so," Martin told the board.

Removing the dam is actually more expensive than replacing it, he said.

"The reason it costs more is because of all the ecological studies and environmental impact studies that would have to be done," Martin added.

State regulators are signaling that inaction is not an option.

"We ignore it, because the Office of Dam Safety has indicated that the condition of the dam and dike are poor, and they are expecting the town to address the situation," Martin said.

Beyond construction, any decision to rebuild would lock the town into a long-term maintenance obligation.

"Once if the town decides to go forward to replace the dam, you then have to put together a maintenance plan so that it doesn't get to this condition again in the future, which would be vegetation control, regular maintenance monitoring, so on and so

forth," Martin said.

Bail underlined the potential consequences of a structural failure at Forge Pond.

"If the thing collapses, it's only literally disastrous, contaminating wells, taking out buildings," he said.

Sexton suggested the town will need help from higher levels of government.


"That might be a good discussion. Then we reach out to our legislative delegation, see if there's anything the state can help us with," he said.

Martin recommended that the board create a dedicated group to shepherd the project and ensure environmental concerns are addressed.

"You should have a member of the Conservation Commission as part of that committee. You've been creating a separate committee that way they can make sure that we're addressing any environmental concerns with this," he said.

Bail was open to the idea.


"I would almost like to appoint a committee or something to actually look at this more... but you should have a member of the Conservation Commission as part of that committee," he said, referring to a "dam committee" to stay focused on the issue.



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Clay Mates hosts 'EMPTY BOWLS' fundraiser

BOWLS
from page 1

By the end of the events, more than 60 unique, hand-painted bowls had been created—each one a small work of art, and each one destined to help someone in need.

Among those who participated was the Maggi group, who joined one of the evenings and contributed their own beautifully crafted bowls to the cause.

“What fun!” said owner Sue Hevey. “The Amherst Survival Center reaches out to us each year, and they are so appreciative. It really feels good knowing we’re helping make a difference.”

The bowls will be featured at the Amherst Survival Center’s 18th Annual Empty Bowls event on Saturday, April 18, from 12 to 4 p.m. at 138 Sunderland Road in Amherst. This year’s event marks a milestone, celebrat-



More creations from the event.

ing 50 years of service to the community.

Attendees will enjoy a variety of soups prepared by local

restaurants, along with fresh bread, salad, and dessert. As part of the experience, guests will choose a handmade bowl



The Maggi group participated in one of Clay Mates' Empty Bowls fundraising nights, helping paint and donate bowls for the Amherst Survival Center.

to take home—a lasting symbol of community care and connection.

For Hevey, the event is about more than just pottery.

“It’s about bringing people together,” she said. “People come in, sit down, and create

something with their hands—and at the same time, they’re helping someone else. That’s what makes it so special.”

Clay Mates, known for its relaxed, all-ages, no-experience-needed atmosphere, continues to be a place where

creativity and community go hand in hand.

And for those who missed this year’s events, there’s always another opportunity.

“Didn’t make it? No worries—we’ll do it again next year,” Hevey said.



Community members gather at Clay Mates in Belchertown to paint bowls for donation during the Empty Bowls fundraiser series.



Participants had the freedom to make bowls of all kinds of designs.



Participants work on bowls.



A variety of bowls were created at the event. SUBMITTED PHOTOS

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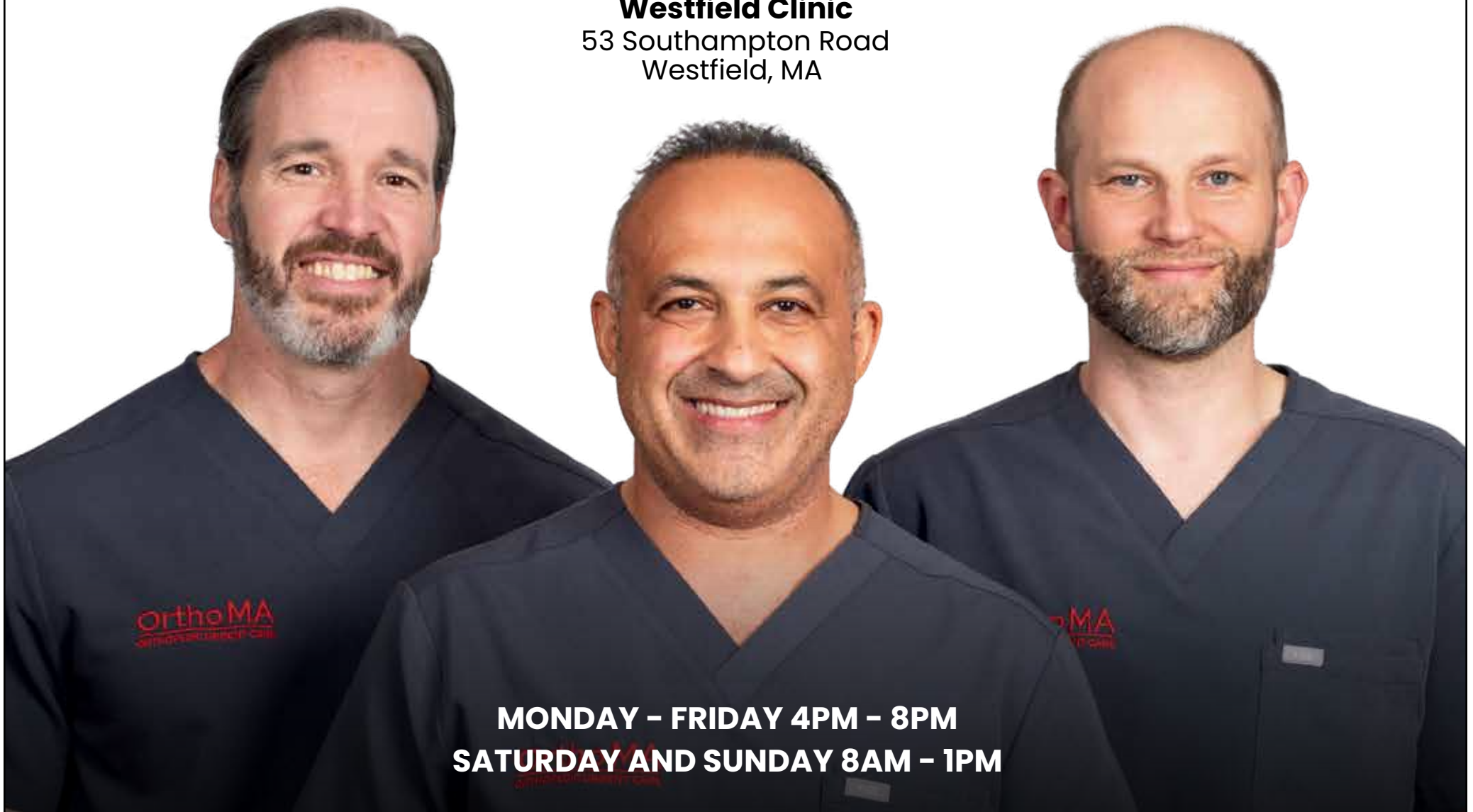
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Library book sales cancelled for this year

BELCHERTOWN – The Friends of the Clapp Memorial Library book sales scheduled for 2026 have been cancelled. The major renovations that are required to make the basement meet fire and safety codes are going to take at least a year to complete. The library was built in 1887 and the basement needs a complete overhaul to meet codes. Unfortunately, it means that the basement will be closed to the public during this renovation. The Trustees Board and the Friends Board are working together on a plan to create a space that will be safe for everyone for many decades to come.

If you can, please hold onto your books until the renovation is complete or until we find a way to accept and store them. We currently have no dedicated storage space available. We are looking at a number of possible options for conducting smaller book sales until the basement is ready, but have not yet found a suitable space.

Thank you to the people of Belchertown and the surrounding towns for your years of patronage at our books sales. We are as sad and disappointed as you are about the necessary cancellation. However, we look forward to many years of continuing the book sales in a safer and cleaner environment upon the completion of the basement renovation.



Hydrant flushing to take place

Apr. 21 to May 1

BELCHERTOWN – The Belchertown Water District will be conducting the annual hydrant flushing program Apr. 21 to May 1 from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Flushing will begin in the northern end of the district and proceed south. Rusty colored water and low pressure may occur during this program.

Belchertown launches ADA self-evaluation and transition plan

Residents invited to share their accessibility experiences through a short online survey

BELCHERTOWN — The Town of Belchertown has retained KMA, LLC to conduct an ADA Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan to ensure that all Town programs, services, and facilities are accessible to residents and visitors with disabilities. As part of this process, the Town is asking the public to complete a short six-question survey.

Under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), a disability includes a wide

range of physical and mental conditions, including mobility impairments, hearing or vision loss, chronic illness, PTSD, autism, and more. Paul Adzima, Belchertown's ADA Coordinator and Building Commissioner, is overseeing the project in partnership with KMA, LLC.

Public input is an essential part of this effort. Residents are encouraged to share their experiences — whether positive or challenging — with accessibil-

ity in Belchertown's public spaces, programs, and services. Survey responses will directly inform how the Town prioritizes accessibility improvements in the years ahead.

The survey is available online at www.surveymonkey.com/r/HCNH77M. Hard copies are available at the following locations:

- Clapp Memorial Library — 19 South Main Street
- Belchertown Senior Center — 60 State Street

Water Commission confidence report available

BELCHERTOWN — The 2025 Belchertown Water District Consumer Confidence Report is available by mail by calling (413)323-6987. It is available online on the District

website www.belchertown-waterdistrict.org under "Reports" Direct URL: <https://www.belchertown-waterdistrict.org/Forms/ccreport2025.bwd.pdf> This water quality report is also

available at the Belchertown Select Board's office, the Belchertown Public Library, as well as Belchertown Water District office located at 206 Jabish Street.

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EXHIBIT from page 1

the three pictures featured in the gallery that were taken by Bert Brooks, a well-known photographer from the 1800s. "Back in those days, cameras were pretty substantial pieces of equipment. Every day he was out walking around taking pictures just like that of everyday life in the valley."

The reservoir today is the largest unfiltered public water source in the region, supplying about 2.7 million people across Massachusetts with clean drinking water. The majority of the supply feeds into the metro Boston area; with Wilbraham, South Hadley, and Chicopee also getting their water from the reservoir.

The region is protected by a stewardship between the twelve towns that remain in the area, as well as the Department of Conservation and Recreation's Division of Water Supply Protection. This partnership also protects thousands of acres of open space, which are used for both public recreation and land conservation. Comeau's main reason for the exhibit is to raise legislative awareness. While working with Senator Oliveira on "some quadrant related legislation," Comeau saw an opportunity to educate Boston politicians on where their city's drinking water comes from.

"Many people in Boston have no idea where their water comes from," said Comeau. "So I said, well, what if we had some sort of exhibit at the State House to educate the other senators from the Boston area about the Quabbin?"

The Quabbin was constructed between the years of 1930 and 1946 through the damming and intentional flooding of the Swift River Valley. Four towns, Dana, Enfield, Greenwich, and Prescott, were flooded for the sake of the project. The clearing of the valley moved and razed town buildings, as well as relocated over two thousand five hundred



Charming vistas bring the region to life.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY BEN HERNANDEZ

residents through eminent domain land reclamation.

"The whole thing is very well documented because they had teams going out and just taking photographs of everything," explained Comeau.

Comeau also explained that a massive tunnel was dug between the Quabbin and Wahusett reservoirs, a key engineering project when developing the region. The stark contrast captured in the exhibit between the modern day area and the valley before the project is striking. The exhibit includes snapshots of past everyday life in the Quabbin. From a young boy displaying a caught fish to a group of children returning home from school, the archival photos offer a rare glimpse into the valley's past.

"We didn't want it just to be a nice collection of nice photos of the Quabbin," said Comeau on his intent. "The



A vintage photo taken by Bert Brooks shows a boy with a fresh caught fish.

LEFT: Workers depicted during the project showcase the amount of work performed to create the Quabbin Reservoir.

idea is for them to be educational in nature too. Senator Oliveira chose my photos to be there for the month of April and I'm extremely grateful to him."

The exhibit includes photos of regional wildlife, landscape portraits of the reservoir itself, and slice of life pictures taken from the region. The exhibit will be hosted throughout April and May at the Massachusetts Senate Gallery located in the State House in Boston. A virtual tour of the exhibit may also be accessed on photographer Ed Comeau's website at www.ComeauPhotography.com/StateHouseExhibit and was possible by a Mass Cultural Council grant to the Friends of the Quabbin..

LEFT: Local fisherman keep the tradition alive in the valley.



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OPINION

SOCIAL SECURITY

Matters

By Russell Gloor

When a spouse dies will the other get a Social Security Survivor Benefit?

Dear Rusty:

I am 79. My husband is also 79 and we both receive Social Security benefits. We were both married before and we married each other at the age of 58. Am I to understand correctly that when either of us dies, the surviving spouse is not eligible to collect the deceased spouse's Social Security benefits? Please correct me if I am wrong.

Signed: Curious Spouse

Dear Curious Spouse:

A surviving spouse only gets one benefit - either their own SS retirement amount, or their deceased spouse's amount, whichever is more. So, the Social Security benefit that the deceased was receiving at death will be paid to the surviving spouse, replacing any smaller SS payment the survivor was already collecting. To be sure you are aware, the surviving spouse will also be eligible for a one-time lump sum death benefit of \$255 (I know it isn't much, but it should be claimed anyway).

Also, unless the surviving spouse was already receiving a spousal benefit while both partners were living, the surviving spouse will need to contact Social Security at 1-800-772-1213 or at the local SS field office to make an appointment to apply for their survivor benefit.

One other thing to be aware of since you were both married before: if either of you die, and your first marriage lasted at least 10 years and your ex-spouse has also died, the surviving spouse will have a choice to collect a survivor benefit from either

the ex-spouse or the most recently deceased spouse, whichever amount is more. But, again, you can only collect one benefit payment as a surviving spouse either from your ex-spouse or from your recently deceased spouse, whichever benefit is higher.

FYI, survivor benefits are a confusing area of Social Security, so you might also find informative this article I recently published, as it goes more deeply into surviving spouse benefits including benefits for surviving minor children and surviving adult disabled children. Read the article titled "Demystifying Social Security Survivor Benefits" at www.amacfoundation.org/demystifying-social-security-survivor-benefits/. Of course, if you have any further questions, please contact us at 1-888-750-2622 or email us at SSadvisor@amacfoundation.org. There is never a fee for our services.

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



LETTER

Donation appreciated by Respect Life Committee

Dear Editor:

St. Francis Church received a thank you card from Charly Roque, the Belchertown Veterans Agent at the time, for the Respect Life Committee sponsored collection for the Veterans Food Pantry. She was able to

fill not only the shelves, but also the storage closet.

We would like to extend this thank you, not only to the parishioners of St. Francis, but also to those in the community who showed up on Park Street with bags and boxes of very generous donations to make this a very

successful collection. We also thank those who shared with us the stories of their and their family's military service.

A big thank you and God Bless to our Military men and women.

Respect Life Committee

What I did last weekend

I was so looking forward to last Saturday, a day in which I did not have to drive anywhere. I could simply stay put and work on getting the yard in shape.

Boy, was it a long winter, and there was proof of that no matter where I turned.

Read on to learn which outdoor and indoor gardening activities kept me busy.

First I decided to tackle the perennial and shrub borders that I walk by the most often. Half of the reason we garden is because we like to stand back in admiration, so I figured if I cleaned those up I'd have something to feel good about on my way to the car or the chicken coop.

I leave many perennials standing through the winter, especially those with seed

heads the birds might like to dine on.



So, before I got out the rake, I went plant by plant with my hedge clippers, cutting the dead and brown stalks to about "fist" height from the ground. Hedge clippers make fast work of this task. After that came the rake, with which I carefully cleaned the bed of matted leaves and the plant parts I just cut back. As I was working, I weeded out clover, and some perennial grasses that

appeared within the bed, and although I am nowhere near ready to apply bark mulch, I got out the spade and did my best to put a crisp edge on the border with the lawn. Looking good.

While I was putting tools away I found (gasp) some hyacinth and daffodil bulbs that never got planted in the fall. I cannot even believe that there were green tips on these bulbs that sat in a empty pot in my unheated subarctic garden shed over the winter months.

I figured that after that torture they deserved to be planted. I sunk them twice their height deep and watered them in. Say a prayer.

My "Redbud garden" shares a stone wall with

Please see **GARDEN**, page 8

Simon says, 'Stand on one leg'

Imagine you're 6 years old again and playing Simon Says.

"Simon says, 'Stand on one leg.' Now, stand on the other one."

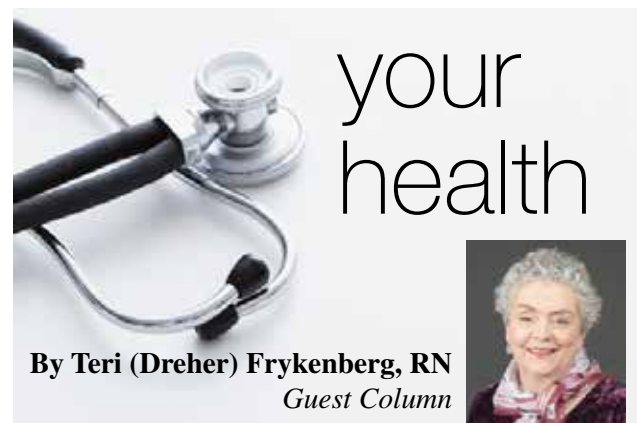
Oops, you're "out," because there wasn't a "Simon says." But you can be "in" better health

if you can train yourself to stand on one leg for a few seconds or as long as a minute.

A recent article posted by the BBC detailed the positive health effects of being able to balance on one leg. It can improve and maintain balance, mobility and even memory. The thing is, our ability to do it peaks at around age 10 and then slowly declines with age.

"If you find that it's not easy, it's time to start training your balance," Tracy Espiritu McKay of the American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, told the BBC.

Quite a lot of research has backed this up. For example, it's been found that for older adults, including those with dementia, regular single-leg training significantly reduc-



By Teri (Dreher) Frykenberg, RN

Guest Column



es the risk of falls and helps maintain muscle strength, balance and the ability to perform those all-important activities of daily living (ADLs). These are the things that, if you can do them on your own, keep you out of assisted living and nursing homes.

Balancing on one leg also significantly increases muscle activity in the legs and ankles compared to standing on both feet. This includes the hamstrings, which is beneficial for stabilizing our knees.

It seems counterintuitive, but standing on one leg even challenges the brain, improving its alertness and motor control, improving posture and maintaining stability.

In addition, when performed with specific instructions (such as focusing on an external object), the exercise significantly activates

core muscles, including the abdominals and back muscles, which is vital for preventing and rehabilitating lower back injuries. It's also a key tool for recovering from ankle and knee injuries.

It's even good for your heart and overall cardiovascular fitness. Balancing on one leg is more physically demanding than standing on two, increasing oxygen demand and metabolic rate.

Doctors can use the ability - or inability - to stand on one leg as a reliable indicator of future fall risks and cognitive decline. "In Alzheimer's patients, researchers are actually finding that if they're unable to stand on one leg for five seconds, it usually predicts a faster cognitive decline," Espiritu McKay told the BBC.

So let's get going - I mean standing. And we need to

start slowly and safely.

If you can't hold a one-leg stance for more than a second or two, hold on to the back of a chair. Stand upright with a slight bend in your knees and lift one foot off the ground. Lift your hands off the chair briefly, then repeat on the other side. Keep practicing several times a week until you can maintain a one-leg stance for 10 seconds without holding on and without too much wobble.

Then you can move on to other variations. Wear different kinds of shoes, have socks on or go barefoot. Stand on different types of surfaces: carpet, wood, tile, sidewalks. Focus on an object in front of you, like a clock so you can time yourself. One minute is longer than you think.

Or try it with your eyes closed, which is especially challenging!

The nice thing about this exercise is that you can build it into your everyday routines, such as waiting for the coffee to perk or brushing your teeth before you go to bed.

What else can you do to improve your ability to stand on one leg?

Lift your knees as high as you can, one after the other, balancing for a few seconds between lifts. Incorporating hand weights makes it more challenging - as well as help-

ing you work on your upper body.

Sit and stand without using your arms for 30 or so seconds. A dining chair or other straight-backed chair is good for this exercise. (Also works the upper legs and glutes.)

Older adults who work on maintaining strength, balance and mobility have a better chance of remaining independent, being able to drive and aging in place. In addition, research is finding that older brains that are able to keep generating neurons are less subject to cognitive decline.

Do your body and brain a favor by playing a little "Simon Says" every day.

Teri (Dreher) Frykenberg, R.N., a registered nurse and board-certified patient advocate, is the founder of www.NurseAdvocateEntrepreneur.com, which trains medical professionals to become successful private patient advocates. A Monson, MA resident, she is the author of "How to Be a Healthcare Advocate for Yourself & Your Loved Ones" and her new book, "Advocating Well: Strategies for Finding Strength and Understanding in Health Care," available at Amazon.com. Contact her at Teri@NurseAdvocateEntrepreneur.com to set up a free phone consultation.

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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.

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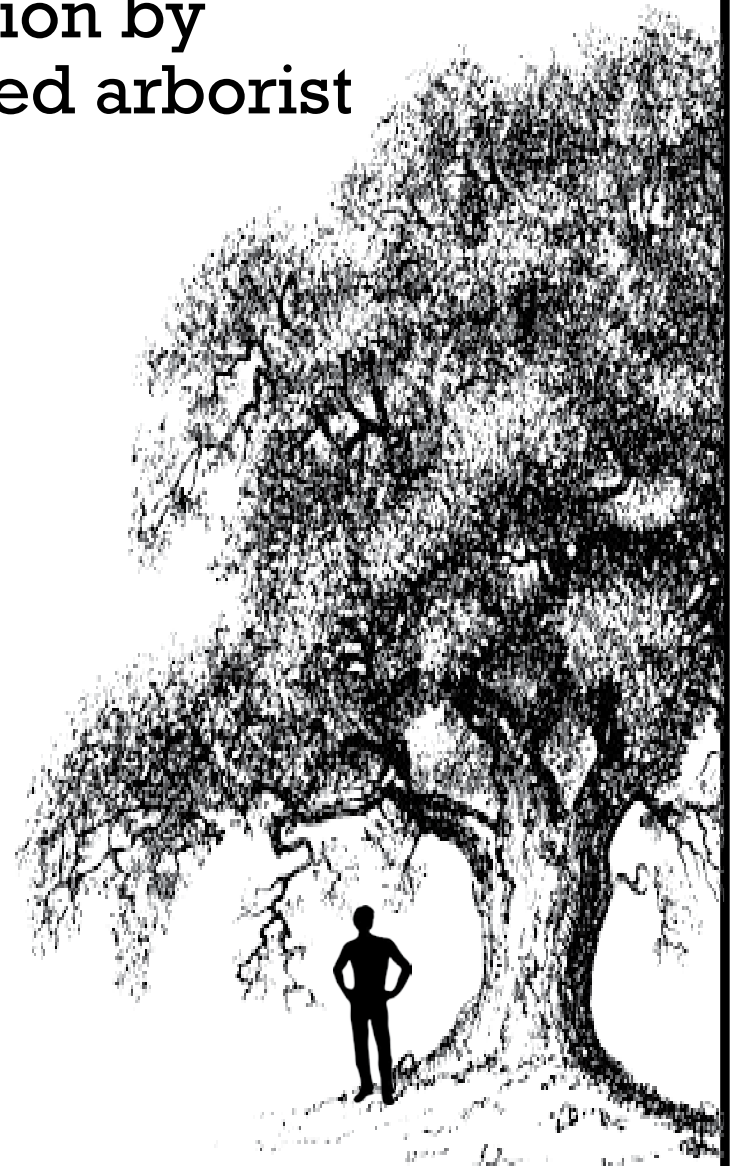


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INSURED AND CERTIFIED

OBITUARIES

Dawn Frances (McKenzie) Diloreto

1957-2026

BELCHERTOWN – It is with deep sorrow that we announce the passing of Dawn Frances (McKenzie) Diloreto, age 68, at her home in Belchertown on March 30, 2026.



Born on April 3, 1957, in Marlborough, Massachusetts, she was the beloved daughter of the late Donald and Lorraine (Mahoney) McKenzie.

Dawn's life was beautifully woven with love and family. She cherished 48 wonderful years of marriage to Fred "Skip" Diloreto, with whom she built a life filled with laughter and warmth. Together, they were blessed with two daughters, Jennifer Barkyoumb and her husband, Eric, and Amanda Staples and her husband, Mark, who brought her immense joy and pride. Dawn was also a doting Nonni to Cooper, Cameron, Clara, and Emerson, further enriching her legacy of love.

Dawn grew up in Marlborough and later lived in Spencerport, New York, before settling in Belchertown to raise her family 35 years ago. She embraced her role as a homemaker with grace and dedication. While she took on part-time roles at CVS and as a receptionist at

a hair salon, her most fulfilling work was caring for her own family as well as being a nanny, where she nurtured and cared for the children of the Hulmes and Cote families. A remarkable cook, Dawn possessed an extraordinary ability to craft meals both from scratch and by following recipes. Her specialties included "Nonni bread" and pasta sauce, creating unforgettable meals that drew family and friends together for delicious Sunday dinners.

Dawn is survived by her husband, "Skip"; her daughters; her siblings, Maureen Margraf, Donna Callahan, James McKenzie, and Gary McKenzie; and was predeceased by her siblings, Renee Boutwell and Kevin McKenzie. Her life touched many, and she will be profoundly missed by all who had the privilege of knowing her.

A graveside service was held at South Cemetery on Monday, April 13 to honor Dawn's memory and celebrate her beautiful life.

In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests that donations be made to the D'Amour Cancer Center, supporting those battling the disease she faced with courage.

Elizabeth Anne "Liz" Richer

Elizabeth Anne "Liz" (Rogers) Richer, 72, passed away peacefully on April 9, 2026, at the Community Hospice House in Merrimack, New Hampshire, after a long and courageous battle with multiple myeloma and multiple strokes.



Born on October 20, 1953, in Northampton, Massachusetts, Liz was the beloved daughter of the late F. Edward Rogers and Diane (Allen) Rogers.

Liz was a graduate of Belchertown High School and continued her education at Mount Ida Junior College and the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

She was the devoted wife of Michael Richer, whom she married in 1976. Together, they built a loving life and were looking forward to celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary on August 14.

Liz dedicated much of her life to working with children. She served as the Preschool Director and lead teacher at the former YWCA of Nashua, where she was affectionately known as "Miss Liz" by countless children and parents whose lives she touched. She later became co-owner of Adventures in ABC's & 123's Preschool. In 2024, Liz retired from the Nashua School District after 22 years as a paraeducator at Ledge Street School, where she continued to make a lasting impact on her students and colleagues.

Outside of her work, Liz found joy in creating a warm and welcoming home. She loved decorating her house inside and out for every holiday, bringing

friends and family together to celebrate. She was also an avid gardener who took great pride in her outdoor spaces.

Her greatest joys in life were her children, grandchildren, siblings, and extended family, all of whom she loved deeply.

Liz will be remembered for her warmth, kindness, and unwavering dedication to children, family, and community. Her legacy lives on in the many lives she nurtured and the love she shared so freely.

In addition to her husband Michael, Liz is survived by her loving children; Ryan Richer and his wife Julie of Ayer, Massachusetts; Stephanie Richer and her husband Nicholas Surdam of Nashua, New Hampshire; and Leslie Camar and her husband Jonathan of Merrimack, New Hampshire; her grandchildren Camila Richer, Aiden Richer, Jackson Surdam, and Olivia Surdam; her siblings Kathy and Bruce Smith, David and Jan Rogers, Joseph and Georgette Rogers, Steven and Lisa Rogers, and Scott and Patti Smith; along with numerous nieces and nephews.

The family would like to extend their heartfelt thanks to Dr. Cherif Abdelmalek, Bryn Farrington, and the nurses and staff at Foundation Hematology and Oncology for their compassionate care and for helping us understand and navigate this disease. We are also deeply grateful to Drs. El-Jawahri, Yee, and Frigault, along with their team of doctors, the nursing staff, and PCAs at Massachusetts General Hospital, Lunder 9, for the exceptional treatment and care Liz received.

Family and friends are invited to Liz's visitation on Saturday, Apr. 18 from 10 a.m. to 12 noon at Rochette Funeral Home & Cremation Services, 21 Kinsley Street, Nashua. Words of remembrance will be shared starting at 12pm in the funeral home. Interment will follow at St. Louis Cemetery, Nashua. To leave an online condolence for Liz please visit WWW.ANCTIL-ROCHETTE.COM

In lieu of flowers, and in honor of Liz, whose strength and courage have left a lasting legacy, donations may be made to Caring for a Cure at the Mass General Brigham Cancer Institute. This nurse-founded initiative provides meaningful support to patients and families throughout their cancer journey. Gifts may be made online at <https://because.massgeneral.org/campaign/caring-for-a-cure/c112468> or by mail to:

Mass General Hospital Development Office, Attn: Caring For A Cure, 125 Nashua Street, Boston MA 02114. Please write "In honor of Liz, Caring for a Cure" in the memo line. Your gift will carry forward Liz's spirit and her deep commitment to helping others.

Or by donating to Southern New Hampshire Legacy Trust in memory of Liz by visiting <https://give.legacytrustnh.org/give/441971/#1/donation/checkout>

Or by donating to the Community Hospice House by visiting <https://hhhc.org/make-a-gift/donation/> or by mailing to 7 Executive Park Drive, Merrimack, NH 03054.

Health Roundtable set for Apr. 18

BELCHERTOWN – A recently released West Health-Gallup Affordability Index indicates that Americans' ability to afford healthcare has deteriorated in recent years. In 2026, millions are expected to face higher insurance premiums and rising out-of-pocket costs as the expiration of some Affordable Care Act subsidies and upcoming cuts to Medicaid enrollment threaten coverage. Collectively, these shifts could leave millions of Americans without health insurance at a time when financial stress is already running high.

On Saturday, April 18, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., a Healthcare Roundtable at Belchertown Town Hall will reveal some of the complexities that have created this situation, as well as potential options to bring accessibility to quality healthcare back to the realm of affordability and reliability. Keynote presenters include Dr. Chris Flory, a retired physician who maintained a private practice in Western Massachusetts for over 30 years, and Dr. Michal Horny, a noted UMass

Amherst healthcare economist specializing in affordability.

Belchertown Select Board Chair Lesa Lessard Pearson, who will serve as moderator, said she is pleased to bring together experts alongside Senator Jake Oliveira to help unpack the pressures facing our healthcare system, clarify what's at stake for residents, and identify practical paths toward more affordable, reliable care.

The event is free, and all are invited to attend and participate in a robust Q&A at the end of the program.

The roundtable is coordinated by the Belchertown Town Democratic Committee (BDTC) in its commitment to feature experts on topics that impact quality of life in the community and the Commonwealth. According to BDTC Chair Cara Lapenas, "This is a subject that cries out for deeper understanding when one in ten Americans are contemplating financial trade-offs to maintain healthcare insurance. We hope this will help us understand where we are in the effort to make it better."

Learn to grow edible mushrooms



BELCHERTOWN – The New England Small Farm Institute, located at 275 Jackson Rd. in Belchertown, will host a workshop teaching people how to grow edible mushrooms on Saturday, Apr. 25 from 2 to 5 p.m. Hosted by NEFSI and Forestopia, come enjoy a hands-on workshop that explores all dimensions of shiitake mushroom cultivation on home and commercial levels. The workshop will provide an introduction to the agroforestry practice Forest Farming, cover the fundamentals of mushroom cul-

tivations, and review basic considerations of those interested in growing commercially. Participants will also have the opportunity to take home an inoculated shiitake log. The event has a suggested donation of \$20 to \$30 (add \$15 for participants wishing to take home one inoculated shiitake log). All are welcome. To register, please contact Sara Weil at info@smallfarm.org or call 413-323-4531.

GARDEN from page 6

some thornless blackberry bushes. It may not have been smart on my account to have an ornamental garden opposite plants that like to sucker like crazy but such is life when you want to squeeze in as many plants as you can into the space you've got...Anyway, ten foot long canes jumped the wall into the bed where I have a few bulbs and biennials at the base of the Redbud.

I was able to give the canes a strong yank and lo and behold I have three new blackberry bushes free for the taking. I separated them from the mother plant, potted them up and will delight a friend with them, just as my friend Kelly's husband had done for me some years back.

These berries are so wonderful. Even with a small patch I am always able to freeze a couple of quarts for use in the offseason. Yum!

With stems cut back, leaves raked, weeds and suckers removed and the beds given a crisp edge, I felt good enough about leaving outlying gardens for another day. It was time to turn my attention to tomato seedlings that had long since outgrown the seed packs the seeds were sown in the third week of March.

Typically we transplant

when the first true leaves form. I am maybe a week late.

Carefully I lifted out the clumps of seedlings and gently pried the roots apart. Tomato seedlings can be sunk deeply, almost up to their leaves; new roots will form on the stems.

After a gentle watering they will go back under the grow lights they until they are big enough to be moved from the six packs to a four inch pot. Probably by May 1.

What is next on the agenda? Next weekend I have to assess my potato patch. I'll probably pull up old red raspberry canes nearby to expand the bed.

Blueberry bushes need some fertilizer. Asparagus could use lime and compost, probably some weeding as well.

There is never a dull moment this time of year, and I am not sure I'd want it any other way.

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

The Sentinel
OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries. One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

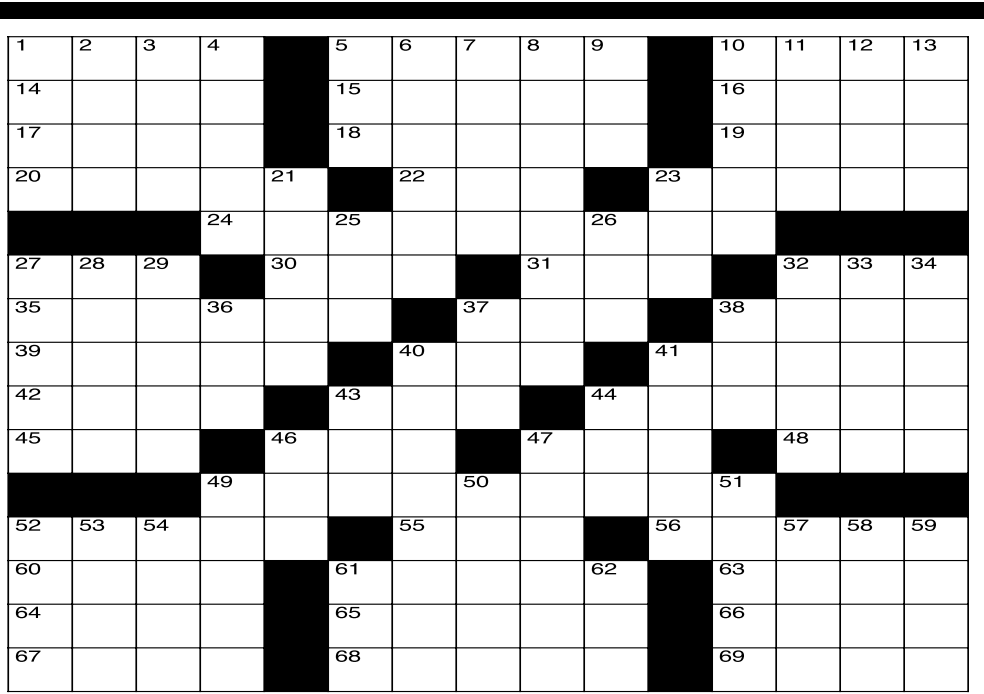
The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$275, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice (with a word limit of up to 500 words) and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

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

DEATH NOTICES

Diloreto, Dawn
Died March 30, 2026
Beers & Story Funeral Home

Richer, Elizabeth
Died April 9, 2026
Services April 18 from 10 a.m. to 12 noon.
Rochette Funeral Home,
21 Kinsley St., Nashua, NH



CLUES ACROSS

1. Greek goddess of marriage
5. Tropical American blue jay-like bird
10. Abba __, Israeli politician
14. Dark olive black
15. Light, crinkled fabric
16. Notre Dame has a golden one
17. Leaked blood
18. Confronted
19. Negligible amount
20. Facilitated
22. Hill or rocky peak
23. Minneapolis suburb
24. Songs to one's beloved
27. Brake horsepower
30. Angry
31. Children's game
32. Spelling is a type of one
35. Obtained in return for labor
37. Indicates center
38. Chinese dynasty
39. Old World buffaloes
40. Slang for time off

41. Fabric
42. Ancient kingdom near Dead Sea
43. Defunct regional economic organization
44. Philly footballers
45. Female sibling
46. Peter Griffin's daughter
47. Digital audiotape
48. Insecticide
49. Scientific instrument
52. Pages may be dog__
55. Israeli city __ Aviv
56. Type of sword
60. Middle Eastern military title
61. Wise individuals
63. French Polynesian island
64. Popular shoe type
65. One of 50
66. Divulge a secret
67. Dish of cooked meat mixed with potatoes
68. Actress Zellweger
69. Romanian city

CLUES DOWN

1. Greek cupbearer of the Gods
2. Ancient Syrian city
3. Small Eurasian deer (pl.)
4. Range of mountains
5. One thousand cubic feet (abbr.)
6. Spoke
7. City in Georgia
8. Theatrical
9. CNN's founder
10. Icelandic poems
11. Bjorn __, tennis player
12. Bowfin genus
13. One point north of northeast
21. Political divisions in ancient Greece
23. Electroencephalograph
25. Cool!
26. Male parent
27. Where some gymnasts work
28. Capital of Vietnam
29. Sailboats
32. Shelter (Scottish)
33. Completed

34. Discharge
36. Arrest
37. Partner to cheese
38. Coffee receptacle
40. Stagnate
41. Satisfies
43. Snake-like fish
44. Consume food
46. Type of school
47. Erase
49. Inform
50. Girl's given name
51. Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation
52. Every one of two or more things
53. Northern India city
54. Seventeenth stars in a constellation
57. Weapon
58. Amounts of time
59. Isodor __, American Nobel physicist
61. Soviet Socialist Republic
62. Witness

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Orioles pile up on Pope Francis

Kina Roy makes a play in front of the plate.

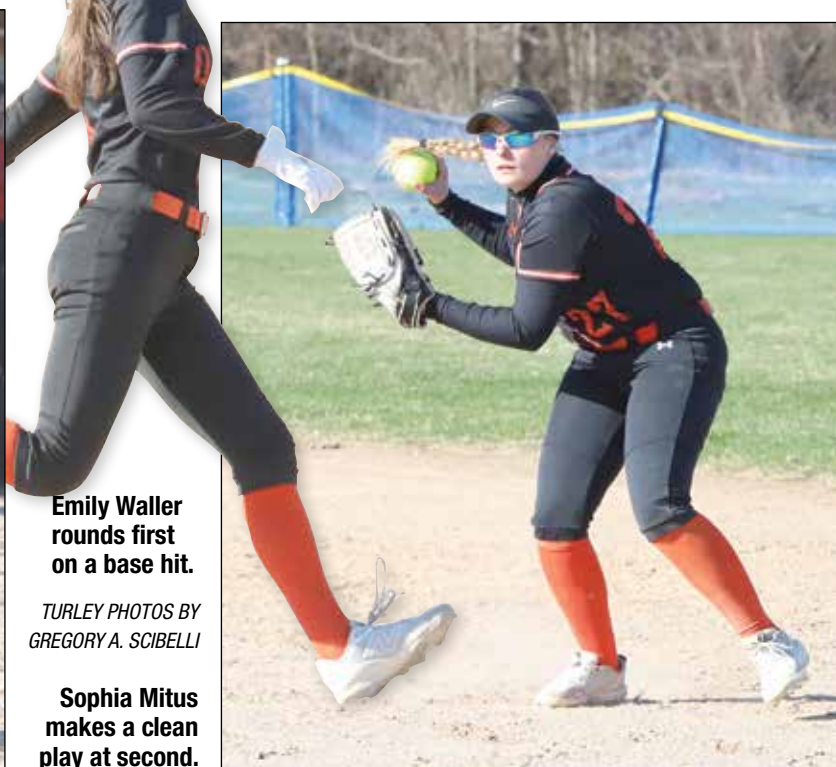


Lila Roy sends a pitch home.

SPRINGFIELD – Last Wednesday afternoon, Belchertown High School softball scored a 17-0 shut-out of Pope Francis. The Orioles improved to 3-1 on the season. The Orioles are back in action on Friday, Apr. 17 at home against West Springfield at 4 p.m.



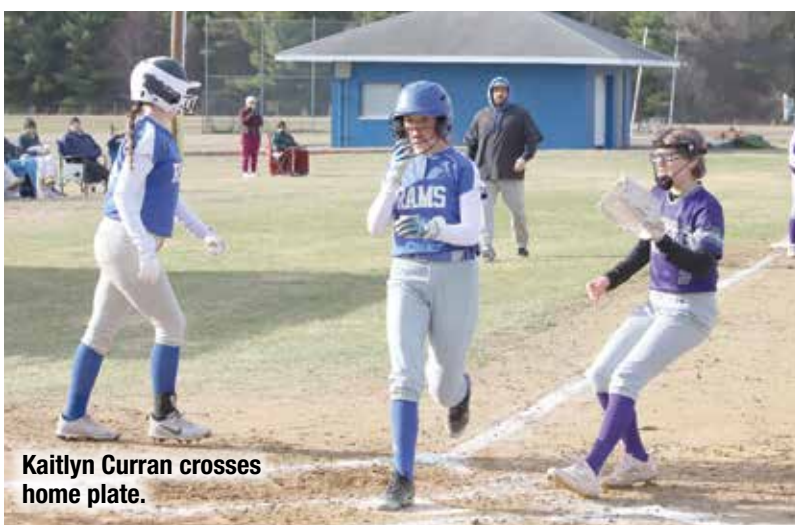
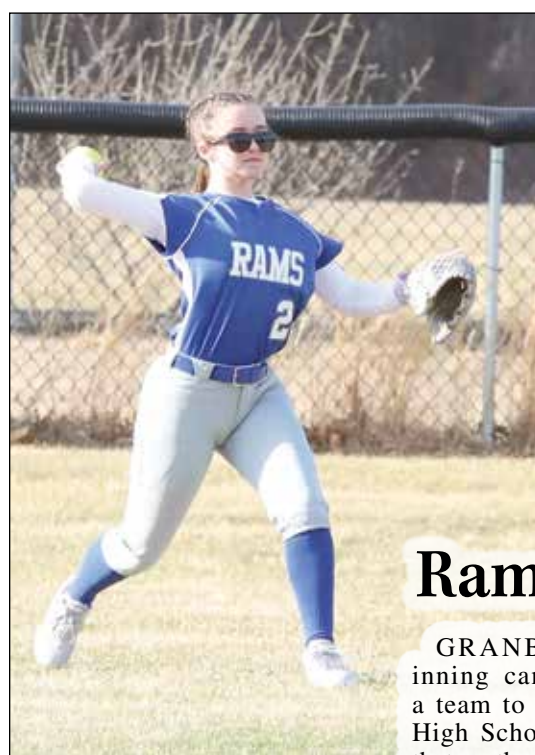
Kina Roy pops the ball foul.



Emily Waller rounds first on a base hit.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

Sophia Mitus makes a clean play at second.



Kaitlyn Curran crosses home plate.

Rams score 17 runs in one inning

GRANBY – A big inning can always lead a team to a win. Granby High School softball got that as they scored 17 runs in the bottom of the sec-

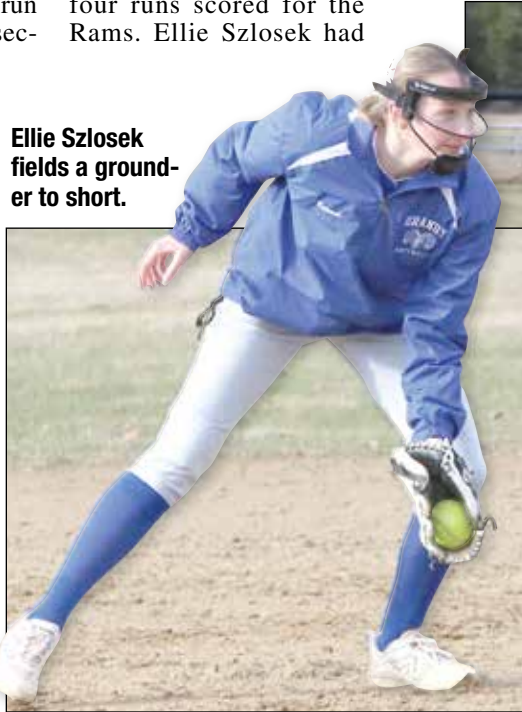
ond to score a 21-1 win over Holyoke last Monday afternoon at home. Kaitlyn Curran had three hits and four runs scored for the Rams. Ellie Szlosek had

two hits and three runs scored. The Rams are now 4-1 on the season.

Sydney Chateaufeu sends a throw to the infield.



Kiki Gaj swings and connects.



Ellie Szlosek fields a ground-er to short.



Meredith Bartosz winds and fires to the plate.



Abby LaDuke pinch-runs at first base.

Lions defeat Granby in six innings

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW—The first of two regular season meetings between the Granby and Ludlow varsity baseball teams took place on a chilly afternoon at the Ludlow Sports Complex.

While the fans tried to stay warm by wearing winter coats and blankets, the frigid conditions didn't seem to impact Ludlow junior Christian Kochanek very much.

The righthander tossed a two-hitter as the Lions moved above the .500 mark with an 11-1 victory over the Rams, last Tuesday. The Bi-County North contest ended with no outs in the bottom of the sixth inning due to the 10-run mercy rule.

"I actually love pitching in the cold weather," said Kochanek, who threw a total of 100 pitches. "I feel more energized on cold days. It's a lot better than sweating on hot days. I also pitched on a cold day against Monson last year."

Ludlow head coach Cam Rivest, who's also an assistant hockey coach at Ludlow High School under his father, Paul, also didn't mind the cold temperatures.

"I wore shorts while I was throwing batting practice before today's game," said Rivest, who also wore a short sleeve jacket. "I'm used to the cold weather due to hockey."

The home victory pushed the Lions overall record to 2-1, while the Rams fell to 1-3.

The Lions swept the season series a year ago after the Rams had accomplished the same feat in 2024.

Granby threatened to take an early lead in the first meeting of this season when junior shortstop Brandon Carillon walked with two outs in the top of the first inning before stealing second base. Carillon was stranded there, as Kochanek struck out the next batter. The righthander finished the game with 9 K's and six walks.

"Christian is a very good pitcher," Rivest said. "He threw a one-hitter against Amherst last year. He's gaining a lot of confidence."

The Lions failed to score a run against Granby junior righthander Joe Barrett in the bottom half of the opening frame.

Barrett worked the first three innings before being replaced on the mound by eighth grader Reymond Barrett, who's also a righty.

The Lions, who banded out ten base hits, scored three runs in the second inning with a little bit of help from the Rams defense.

Junior shortstop Luke Stejna swung at a strike three pitch leading off the inning, but he was safe at first base following a wild pitch. After stealing second base, Stejna advanced to third on another wild pitch before scoring on a passed ball. Senior third baseman Mason Morace drove home the Lions' second run with a double to center before scoring on a throwing error by the catcher.

Kochanek, who was 2-for-3 at the plate, helped himself with an RBI single to right with one-out in the third. Two batters later, sophomore right fielder Kellan Steigmeyer singled home another run, which was followed by a run scoring triple by junior leftfielder Connor Castro (2-for-3). He scored when senior second baseman Drayden Keirseley hit a double to center. The last three runs were scored with two outs.

Granby senior Brodie Funk leadoff the third inning with a single up the middle into center field, which ended Kochanek's no-hit bid. Following a flyball out, the inning ended with a double play.

The Rams ended Kochanek's shutout bid with one swing of the bat with one out in the top of the fourth.

Granby's rally began with walks to Joe Barrett, junior left fielder Liam Everson, and junior second baseman Sam Moure, which loaded the bases with one out. Then freshman right fielder Andrew Grabherr hit a flyball single, which scored a run.

The next batter grounded into an inning ending double play.

The Lions responded by scoring three more runs in the bottom half of the fourth inning.

The game came to an end two innings later when Spurlock hit a leadoff off double past the third baseman down the left field line. He scored when Ethan Steigmeyer lined a single into left field making the score 11-1.



Ellisyn Gelinis sends an easy throw to first.



ABOVE: Julieta Tweedell hustles home on a hit.



Pitcher Taylor Thornton sends a pitch to the plate.



LEFT: Carly Juda makes a throw across the diamond.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI

Addison Doktor swings and connects on a base hit.

Pioneers score early, but fall to Comp

PALMER — Pathfinder softball was able to push across a couple of runs early, but Chicopee Comprehensive came roar-

ing back and ended up turning the game around, defeating Pathfinder 25-9 last Thursday at Pathfinder Tech. The Pioneers fell to 0-4 on

the season while Chicopee Comprehensive rose above .500 to 3-2.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Belchertown Police Log

Editor's note: The following are brief explanations of select entries in the Belchertown Police log and arrests for the weeks of March 20, through April 2. 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

Sunday, April
11:10 p.m. — A 17-year-old juvenile was issued a summons on charges of negligent operation of a motor vehicle, speeding, junior operator with pass under 18 and marked lanes violation. A vehicle was traveling south at high rate of speed on Chauncey Walker Road in area of a dangerous corner. The driver lost control of their vehicle, crossed over the lines into the opposite lane, ran off the roadway and severed a utility pole then rolled over onto the roof of the vehicle. Three Belchertown Fire

ambulances and mutual aid from Granby and Ludlow responded to the scene. National Grid was contacted regarding the pole. The vehicle was towed.

Monday, April 6

8:26 p.m. — A 38-year-old Belchertown male was issued a summons on charges of operation with a suspended license, a lights violation and license not in possession. An officer responded to Stebbins Street where they saw a vehicle that had no taillights on. The officer stopped the vehicle and identified the operator. They said it must have just recently broke and they didn't have their license. The officer looked up the license, and it came back as suspended. A criminal complaint was issued. A relative took possession of the vehicle.

Tuesday, April 7

12:44 p.m. — Corey J. Bebeau, of 325 South Shore Road, Pascoag, Rhode Island was arrested on a warrant. An officer on patrol saw a vehicle in the right turn lane on Main Street then the vehicle went straight, cutting off traffic. They stopped the vehicle and found the person had a warrant. The person was

transported to the court and a tow company contacted to remove the vehicle.

ACCIDENTS/INCIDENTS

Friday, April 3

12:26 p.m. — An officer spoke with a resident about fraud. They got a credit card bill in the mail that was made was in another town. The person said they hadn't been to the town and wasn't sure who made the purchase. The matter was documented.

1:46 p.m. — An officer was dispatched to Turkey Hill Road for a report of a person who felt unsafe. The person was spoken with and claimed they were being threatened by another person. They were advised how to get a harassment prevention order.

3:50 p.m. — An officer spoke with a person who reported a credit fraud. They got a call from a person saying a loan was taken out. They were told to call a credit company to see if they got a loan.

Saturday, April 4

2:30 p.m. — An officer responded to a North Main Street business for a well-being check for a person who was in the parking lot. They were evaluated by

Belchertown paramedics and transported.

6:38 p.m. — An officer responded for a requested well-being check of a person. There was an interaction that people viewed as abuse of a youth. The officers investigated and the School Resource officer as notified.

8:38 p.m. — An officer responded to a report motor vehicle theft. It was reported a trailer was stolen. They went to pick it up and move it, but it was gone. The person said they saw on Facebook marketplace that it was being sold. The person said they were not sure who the person was that posted it. They spoke with the person who posted it and that person said they were posting for a friend. It hadn't been sold and an officer is waiting for additional follow up.

Sunday, April 5

1:27 a.m. — An officer responded to assist Belchertown Fire paramedics.

3:42 a.m. — An officer responded to State Street for an accident. An operator of a vehicle lost control and over the yellow lines, slid sideways and crashed into a tree on a property. There was heavy damage to the

right rear corner panel. There was report of entrapment. Five victims were involved in the accident. A helicopter was requested. There were five ambulances called to the scene. The vehicle was towed from the scene.

3:54 p.m. — An officer responded to an accident on Rockrimmon Road. A vehicle traveling eastbound on Rockrimmon Road was turning left and struck a second vehicle stopped to make a right turn. No injuries were reported and no tows were reported.

Monday, April 6

6:21 a.m. — An officer responded to an accident on Bardwell Street. A deer entered the roadway and struck a vehicle traveling on Bardwell Street. It struck the right front of the vehicle. No tow was needed and no injuries were reported.

9:29 a.m. — An officer responded to Ware Road for an accident. A vehicle traveling east on Ware Road struck a tree branch suspended by a guardrail. The branch was obstructing the eastbound travel lane as it just fell in front of the vehicle. The vehicle's right-side mirror was struck. No tows were needed

Residents encouraged to attend Complete Streets Public Engagement

BELCHERTOWN - The Town of Belchertown, working with Vanasse Hangen Brustlin (VHB), will be reviewing the existing conditions and identify Complete Street project opportunities. Tables will be set up for residents to come and have conversations about what is important to you. This event will be held at the Belchertown Town Hall Auditorium on April 30 from 6-8 p.m.

A Complete Street is one that provides safe and accessible options for all travel modes — walking, biking, transit, and vehicles — for people of all ages and abilities. In 2025, the Town adopted a Complete Streets Administrative Policy to commit to Complete Street designs in future infrastructure projects, as appropriate.

In the next months, the Town will be working with consulting firm Vanasse Hangen Brustlin (VHB) to develop a list of priority Complete Street projects, in hopes to qualify for Complete Streets funding from MassDOT for future projects.

The Town and VHB is looking for feedback on where priorities exist throughout the community so they can be considered as part of this report — your input is welcome and needed to create this list.

7:43 p.m. — An officer responded to the area of Bay Road and Hamilton Street for a heavy spill from a vehicle. The vehicle was on North Main Street being loaded onto a tow truck. The person said they had a broken transmission line in the vehicle which caused the leak. It was determined the fluids needed to be removed from the roadway. It was cleaned.

Tuesday, April 7

6:10 a.m. — An officer responded to an accident on West Street. A vehicle traveling west on West Street while crossing was struck by vehicle. There was damage to the driver's side. No injuries were reported and the vehicle was driven from the scene.

7:09 a.m. — An officer took a report of a vehicle that was vandalized. It was sprayed with spray paint, and another vehicle was scratched with a key. The matter is under investigation.

7:50 a.m. — An officer responded to an accident on George Hannum Road. A vehicle traveling east on George Hannum Road

Please see **POLICE LOG**, page 11

The Jack Rome Memorial 5K & Fun Walk

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To Benefit The Foundation for TJO Animals



POLICE LOG from page 10

approached the underpass at the same time as another vehicle traveling from the opposite direction. The vehicles only had damage to the mirrors. No injuries were reported and no tows were needed. Both operators claimed the other vehicle was speeding to go through the underpass.

12:14 p.m. – An officer responded to a North Main Street residence for a report of a person making threats. The matter was investigated. They encountered the person who allegedly made threats and spoke with them. The matter was resolved.

2:27 p.m. – An officer responded to an accident on Federal Street. A vehicle stopped in the eastbound lane on Federal Street for paving equipment in the roadway was rear ended by a second vehicle traveling in the same direction. Both

vehicles were towed from the scene. The company didn't have anyone directing traffic or signs in the roadway indicating there was roadwork ahead.

4:25 p.m. – A person came to the station to report their vehicle as keyed while in the North Main Street parking lot. Photos were taken of the vehicle.

5:03 p.m. – An officer took a report of an animal complaint. The officer responded to North Main Street to assist with a loose dog. There was an allegation a dog bit some children. There was a scratch on one of the children. Belchertown Fire and EMS responded to evaluate the child. Animal Control also responded to the scene. No one was transported.

5:54 p.m. – An officer responded to a report of larceny on Franklin Street. A person reported stolen jewelry taken by a former

acquaintance.

Wednesday, April 8

7:48 a.m. – An officer responded to a North Main Street residence to meet with a person regarding threats. The threatening person claimed they were threatened by the reporting party and said they were having issues. The matter was resolved.

9:55 a.m. – An officer spoke with a person about their child being harassed at school. The officer spoke with the involved people and the School Resource Officer. The incident was documented.

10:19 a.m. – An officer responded to a report of a disturbance North Main Street resident about issues with person who lived there. The person was concerned because the person has a dog was trying to make it act aggressively. The person was going up to children with the

dog.

4:41 p.m. – An officer responded to an accident in the center parking lot. A vehicle parked in the center parking lot was struck by a vehicle making a U-turn. The person left their information on the parked vehicle.

10:37 p.m. – An officer responded to North Main Street for a report of a person causing a disturbance by knocking on doors and yelling at vehicles.

Thursday, April 9

10:07 a.m. – An officer responded to assist Belchertown fire paramedics.

11:05 a.m. – An officer responded to a North Main Street residence for a report of a person talking to youths. They were telling him to leave them alone.

6:10 p.m. – An officer responded to an accident on Bay Road involving a truck.

'The Old Bag Sale' is back

Sale to benefit the Stone House Museum

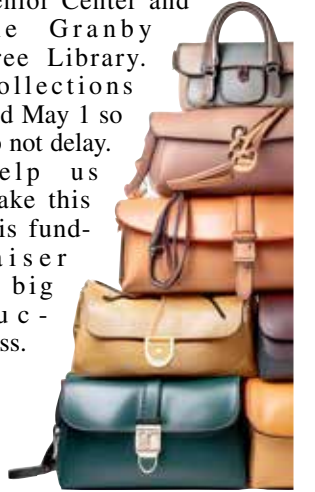
BELCHERTOWN – The Stonehouse Museum's opening day is Saturday, May 9 and the hugely popular Old Bag sale will be there again.

The museum needs your help to make this event a big success. We are collecting gently used bags, pocket-books, purses, wallets, backpacks, etc. (please no suitcases).

Now is the time to clean out your closets and donate. Spread the word to friends and family as well.

Donation bins have been placed in several locations around town including the Senior Center, Clapp Memorial Library, Town Hall, Pine Valley Plantation mail room, Bell and

Hudson insurance Agency, Easthampton Savings Bank, Swift River Gift Shop, Tina Marie's Hair and Boutique, Eclipz Salon, Rannaska Gift Shop, Dynamic Do's, Making Waves Salon, Looks To Kill Salon, and Station Five Salon. We also have 2 collection bins in Granby at the Granby Senior Center and the Granby Free Library. Collections end May 1 so do not delay. Help us make this fundraiser a success.



GRANBY SCHOOLS from page 1

She said that while the district had already pared its initial \$1.4 million wish-list deficit, a recent change in an out-of-district student's placement quickly erased anticipated savings. To keep the budget afloat, the district tapped its last major safety net.

Bartosz, stressing she was not opposed to meeting any student's needs, said the speed and size of the financial swing was alarming.

"We were negative, I don't know, whatever it was, 12% or something last week, and now we're up 9% so that's a 21% change in a week," she said. "So what's to say that this... we're not going to have another 21% change next week?"

The chair likened the process to a board game rather than serious budgeting.

"It feels like we're playing with Monopoly money... or the game of life. We're going to spin the... spin and... we have no control over some of those things," Bartosz said.

With circuit breaker funds fully committed for FY27, both acknowledged that any high-cost student moving into Granby, even on Aug. 1, could force cuts elsewhere in the budget.

Deficit shrinks but still looms

Despite the volatility, Rickson emphasized that careful trimming and new help from the town have narrowed, but not erased, the FY27 budget gap.

The district's initial internal budget development, which included principals' and departments' full "wish lists," produced a roughly \$1.4 million deficit. After multiple rounds of reductions and offsets, Rickson said: "Our

working deficit is, right now, as of today, is \$390,000," she told the committee.

Bartosz thanked the town for stepping up with more aid than anticipated.

"I appreciate the fact that the town even found \$500,000 because it could have been, it could have been \$150 or it could have been \$10 and been like, 'Here you go,'" she said.

Even so, she pointed out that if another special education change had cost \$100,000 less, the district would "still [be] almost \$300,000" in the hole.

Insurance, inflation and state aid gaps

Rickson devoted a significant portion of her presentation to explaining the structural pressures behind the numbers: health insurance hikes, inflation, transportation and a mismatch between state aid and required local spending.

She noted that Hampshire County Trust insurance rates jumped, and the foundation for employee benefits increased 8.29%, with insurance driving up the town's in-kind contribution.

At the same time, she said, the state's main school funding program isn't keeping pace.

"When the governor creates a budget, they talk about how much money you're going to get per pupil. Right now, it is allocated at \$75 per pupil," Rickson said.

She added that Chapter 70 state funding increased "only by every 1%" while required local spending rose 4.4%, calling it "a huge disconnect."

Inflation, especially for fuel, remains another wild card.

"We never know what next week price is going to be on

something else, diesel fuel," Rickson said.

Level service goals, but real tradeoffs

The superintendent framed the FY27 request as a "level service" budget — an attempt to provide the same services as last year without program cuts.

"We're looking for a level service budget this year. We want to make sure that our teachers and students are getting the best for them. Now we're doing the best we can with what we have," Rickson said.

She said the district aims to preserve core instruction. Advanced Placement and early college offerings, sports and after-school activities, specials like art and music, technology and building maintenance.

But to close the gap, Rickson outlined likely impacts:

No new positions that administrators had hoped to add.

Reduced professional development funding.

Complete depletion of the circuit breaker reserve.

Possible cuts to Chromebook repair and replacement, playground mulch, baseball and softball field work, gym floor refinishing and some contracted special education services.

"Our total operating budget from FY 26 what we're asking should be only 2.8%... from last year," Rickson said, noting that while 2.8 to 2.86% might sound modest, "it is a small town. So \$356,000 is a good chunk of change."

Athletic trainer coverage and potential donations

Some proposed trims focused on athletics and facil-

ities, prompting questions about student safety and community support.

Bartosz asked about reducing athletic trainer hours, given state requirements.

"What do we do in that case? Because aren't we required by Mia to have a trainer or EMT or some kind of service on site," she said.

An administrator explained that Granby would still meet mandatory coverage for specific sports and tournament rounds through contractual services but would not be able to add extra hours.

"We will meet our obligations, but we're not able to expand what we offer," he said.

Bartosz then raised the possibility of volunteers and donations, asking if licensed EMTs who are parents could donate sideline services and whether the district could accept donations for playground mulch, field maintenance and even Chromebooks.

"Is that something that we can accept donations for?" she asked of the playground and fields, then added, "Same for other things too, like Chromebooks and other things."

Administrators indicated they were open to exploring those ideas.

Pathfinder budget and oversight worries

The meeting also turned to Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical High School, where rising assessments for member towns are adding another layer of concern.

Rickson, speaking with care to praise the school's educational value, said local superintendents are uneasy about how easily Pathfinder's budget is approved.

"Pathfinder is a great school. We love our students to get a technical education... however, our concern really is... oftentimes... Pathfinder puts forward their budget, they don't really question their budget," she said.

She cited reports that Palmer's Pathfinder costs are going up about 10% and other districts' increases are also steep, while Granby is facing a 5% hike this year.

At the same time, Pathfinder has accepted a large incoming class of Granby ninth graders — 17.

Rickson proposed sending a letter, modeled on one used in Palmer, asking for more detailed justification and oversight and inviting Granby's Pathfinder representative to present regularly.

As the committee heads toward a late-April budget vote, members said they will keep pressing both for local solutions and for broader changes at the state and regional level to stabilize school funding in the years ahead.

PART-TIME CLERK / TREASURER SOUTH HADLEY FIRE DISTRICT NO. 2

South Hadley Fire District No. 2 seeks a qualified professional to fill the part-time (19-24 hour) position of Clerk/Treasurer. The Clerk/Treasurer maintains oversight of the District's financial health, under the policy direction of the Prudential Committee. The Clerk/Treasurer is responsible for receipt and disbursement of district funds, payroll processes, employee benefits, debt management, cash flow, the annual district election, ensuring compliance with state and federal regulations and reporting requirements.

Municipal financial experience with a working knowledge of municipal procedures and state and federal laws is highly advantageous. Minimum qualifications include: three years of progressive experience in financial management, administration of payroll, employee benefits and other human resource functions, and the demonstrated ability to utilize multiple financial software platforms. The successful candidate must be bondable, and must attain Certified Massachusetts Municipal Treasurer (CMMT) status within four years.

Desired qualifications include a bachelor's degree in finance, business administration, accounting or public administration, previous municipal experience and SoftRight software experience. CMMT, MMAAA or MCPPO designation additionally advantageous. A combination of experience and education will be considered.

The successful candidate will work under a three-year, renewable memorandum of agreement. The hiring range is \$35.00 to \$39.00 hourly. The top step exceeds the hiring range. Visit the District website shdistrict2.org for the full job description. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. Review of applications will begin immediately.

Send cover letter and resume to: Barbara Miller, Clerk/Treasurer, South Hadley Fire District No. 2, 20 Woodbridge Street, South Hadley, MA 01075

Electronic submissions in PDF format BMiller@shdistrict2.org South Hadley Fire District No. 2 is an equal opportunity employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender



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Baseball tryouts set for Apr. 26

BELCHERTOWN — There will be tryouts for Belchertown's American Legion Post 239 baseball teams. The tryouts will be held on Sunday, Apr. 26 at Belchertown High School with Senior Legion players trying out from 9 to 11 a.m. and Junior Legion players trying out from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. Residents of Belchertown, students at Belchertown High School, along with other area town players, such as Granby, Amherst, Ludlow, Hadley, and Ware could also be eligible to try out for the team. The cost to participate on the team is \$250. New players receive a jersey and hat. Returning players who keep their same jersey and hat are \$180. Money is payable after tryouts. Any questions, please contact Mark Zawistowski at markzski@hotmail.com or call/text 617-999-3999.

PATHFINDER

from page 1

"Our goal continues to be balancing fiscal responsibility with maintaining high quality programs and opportunities for our students," Duda said.

Expansion Efforts and Facility Investments

A significant portion of the presentation focused on ongoing and recent expansion projects, including the district's partnership with the Cold Spring School in Belchertown. The initiative will add 150 seats, expanding access to vocational education in the region.

"The excitement around the 150-seat expansion initiative with the Cold Spring school in Belchertown could be felt in the room," officials said.

District leaders also highlighted the successful redevelopment of the former Country Bank property at Four Corners. Renovated by Pathfinder students, the building is now fully operational and serves multiple

community functions.

The space currently houses the Quaboag Hills Chamber of Commerce and is used in the evenings for adult continuing education programs; an initiative that has grown significantly in recent years.

Costs associated with the Cold Spring expansion, including transportation and staffing, are being offset through revolving funds, meaning they will not impact member town assessments for FY27.

Rising Costs and Insurance Adjustments

While the district remains in a stable financial position, several cost drivers are putting pressure on the budget. Among the most significant increases are:

- 10% rise in transportation costs
- 12.7% increase in retiree health insurance premiums
- 9.83% increase in active employee health insurance
- 12% increase in non-employee insurance

District officials pointed to reforms made in FY23 to health insurance offer-

ings as a mitigating factor. The transition to tiered plans and expanded options has improved coverage while positioning the district for long-term savings.

Officials project that continued staff attrition and retirements over the next five to seven years will further reduce insurance-related costs.

Strong Financial Position

Despite rising expenses, Pathfinder Tech reported no outstanding debt and no major capital requests for the upcoming fiscal year.

This stability is largely attributed to the district's success in securing more than \$1.4 million in competitive grants across FY25 and FY26.

"Through careful planning and strategic grant funding, the district has been able to invest in programs and facilities while avoiding new debt," Duda said.

Enrollment Trends Defy Regional Decline

A key theme of the presentation was the contrast

between regional enrollment trends and Pathfinder's continued growth.

Across the nine member towns, K-12 enrollment has declined by more than 20 percent over the past 12 years. In contrast, Pathfinder Tech has seen steady increases in enrollment, with particularly strong demand among incoming ninth-grade applicants.

"Even as overall K-12 enrollment declines in many communities, demand for career and technical education continues to grow," officials said. "We are seeing that reflected in our application numbers each year."

Enrollment is expected to increase further in FY27, driven by both in-district students and non-resident tuition applicants.

Programs Driving Engagement

District leaders also highlighted several initiatives contributing to student success and engagement.

Among them is the "PATH to Professionalism" framework, which emphasizes core

values and workforce readiness skills. Officials credited the program, along with hands-on learning opportunities, for helping drive student interest and retention.

Pathfinder is also now in its third year as a cell-phone-free school; a policy administrators say has significantly improved focus, engagement, and productivity in classrooms.

Daily attendance rates exceed 95%, a figure officials cited as evidence of strong student investment in their education.

Expanding Adult Education

The district's adult continuing education program was another area of growth highlighted during the presentation. Now fully self-sustaining, the program operates without financial impact on member towns while generating revenue and expanding course offerings.

In the past year alone, the program secured more than \$500,000 in grant funding.



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PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Charles J. Lydon and Elaine A. Lydon to UMass Five College Federal Credit Union, said mortgage being dated December 5, 2014, and recorded in the Hampshire County Registry of Deeds in Book 11823, Page 134, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing, the same will be sold at Public Auction at **11:00 A.M. on Wednesday, May 13, 2026**, upon the premises described in said mortgage, namely 89 Green Avenue, Belchertown, Hampshire County, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:

THE LAND IN BELCHERTOWN, HAMPSHIRE COUNTY, MASSACHUSETTS BOUNDED AND DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

TRACT 1:
BEGINNING AT A POINT ON THE SOUTHERLY SIDE OF GREEN AVENUE, WHICH POINT IS THE WESTERLY SIDE OF THE INTERSECTION OF GREEN AVENUE AND A RIGHT OF WAY LEADING FROM GREEN AVENUE TO THE PREMISES NOW OR FORMERLY OF GEORGE H.B. GREEN KNOWN AS THE "CARVER LOT"; THENCE RUNNING WESTERLY ALONG SAID GREEN AVENUE TWO HUNDRED SIXTEEN (216) FEET AND THENCE RUNNING IN A SOUTHERLY DIRECTION ALONG LAND NOW OR FORMERLY OF WILLIAM CHARLES BELMONT AND WILLIAM BELMONT, JR. EIGHTY-THREE (83) FEET, MORE OR LESS, TO A STAKE; THENCE RUNNING EASTERLY ALONG SAID LAND OF WILLIAM CHARLES BELMONT AND WILLIAM BELMONT, JR. FIVE HUNDRED AND FIVE (505) FEET TO THE WESTERLY SIDE OF SAID RIGHT OF WAY; THENCE NORTHERLY ALONG SAID RIGHT OF WAY FOUR HUNDRED SEVENTY-FIVE (475) FEET, MORE OR LESS, TO THE PLACE OF BEGINNING. SUBJECT TO THE RIGHT OF ALL PERSONS LAWFULLY ENTITLED THERETO, TO USE THE RIGHT OF WAY WHICH RUNS ALONG THE EASTERLY LINE OF THE ABOVE DESCRIBED PREMISES.

BEING THE SAME PREMISES CONVEYED TO CHARLES J. LYDON BY DEED OF ELAINE A LYDON DATED OCTOBER 14, 1977 AND RECORDED IN SAID REGISTRY OF DEEDS IN BOOK 1985, PAGE 67.

TRACT 2:
BEGINNING AT A POINT ON THE SOUTHERLY LINE OF GREEN AVENUE, WHICH POINT MARKS THE WESTERLY SIDE OF THE INTERSECTION OF GREEN AVENUE AND THE BROOK THAT PASSES UNDER THE ROAD; THENCE WESTERLY ALONG THE SOUTHERLY LINE OF GREEN AVENUE TWO HUNDRED TEN (210) FEET, MORE OR LESS, TO A RIGHT OF WAY LEADING FROM GREEN AVENUE TO THE PREMISES NOW OR FORMERLY OF GEORGE H.B.; GREEN, KNOWN AS THE "CARRIER LOT"; THENCE SOUTHERLY FOUR HUNDRED SEVENTY-FIVE (475) FEET, MORE OR LESS, ALONG LAND NOW OR FORMERLY OF ROBERT D. BLAKESLEE TO A POINT; THENCE NORTHWESTERLY ALONG SAID OTHER LAND OF BLAKESLEE FIVE HUNDRED FIVE (505) FEET, MORE OR LESS, TO A STAKE; THENCE SOUTHERLY ONE HUNDRED TEN (110) FEET, MORE OR LESS, TO A STAKE IN A STONE WAIL (SIC); THENCE SOUTHEASTERLY THREE HUNDRED (300) FEET, MORE OR LESS, ALONG LAND NOW OR FORMERLY OF WILLIAM CHARLES BELMONT AND WILLIAM BELMONT, JR. TO A STAKE AND STONE WALL, CORNER; THENCE RUNNING NORTHERLY ALONG SAID BELMONT PROPERTY THREE HUNDRED (300) FEET, MORE OR LESS, TO THE AFOREMENTIONED RIGHT OF WAY; CONTINUING NORTHERLY

ACROSS SAID RIGHT OF WAY AND ALONG LAND OWNED NOW OR FORMERLY BY SAID GEORGE H.B. GREEN FOUR HUNDRED FIFTY (450) FEET, MORE OR LESS, TO THE WESTERLY SIDE OF THE AFOREMENTIONED BROOK; THENCE NORTHWESTERLY ALONG SAID BROOK FIVE HUNDRED (500) FEET, MORE OR LESS, TO THE PLACE OF BEGINNING.

BEING THE SAME PREMISES CONVEYED TO ELAINE A. LYDON BY DEED OF CHARLES J. LYDON DATED OCTOBER 14, 1977 AND RECORDED WITH SAID REGISTRY OF DEEDS IN BOOK 1985, PAGE 68.

SUBJECT TO RESTRICTIONS, RESERVATIONS, EASEMENTS, COVENANTS, OIL, GAS OR MINERAL RIGHTS OF RECORD, IF ANY.

BEING THE SAME PREMISES CONVEYED TO CHARLES J. LYDON AND ELAINE A. LYDON, HUSBAND AND WIFE, AS TENANTS BY THE ENTIRETY FROM CHARLES J. LYDON AND ELAINE A. LYDON BY DEED DATED 3/31/1997, AND RECORDED ON 4/4/1997, AT BOOK 5089, PAGE 275, IN HAMPSHIRE COUNTY, MA.

Said premises will be sold subject to and/or with the benefit of any and all rights, rights of way, restrictions, easements, improvements, covenants, outstanding tax title, municipal or other public taxes, assessments, liens or claims in the nature of liens, rights of parties in possession, and existing encumbrances of record created prior to the mortgage, if any there be, whether or not reference to such restrictions, easements, improvements, liens or encumbrances is made in the Deed.

No representations, express or implied, are made with respect to any matter concerning the premises which will be sold "as is".

The successful high bidder will be responsible for paying the Massachusetts State Documentary Tax Stamps, all closing costs and all recording fees.

TERMS OF SALE: The highest bidder in the sale shall be required to deposit cash, bank treasurer's check or certified check in the amount of **TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$10,000.00)** at the time and the place of the sale of the premises to qualify as a bidder (the present holder of the mortgage is exempt from this requirement) to be held by the Mortgagee. The successful bidder will also be required to deposit an additional sum equal to ten percent (10%) of the amount bid less the \$10,000.00 deposit (but no less than \$10,000) with the Mortgagee's auctioneer, Aaron Posnik & Co., Inc., 31 Capital Drive, West Springfield, Massachusetts 01089 or the Mortgagee's attorney as may be directed within five (5) days of the date of the sale to be held by the Mortgagee, and the balance of the purchase price shall be paid in cash, certified or bank treasurer's check at the closing which shall occur within thirty (30) days after the date of foreclosure sale, time being of the essence, unless the Mortgagee agrees otherwise. The successful bidder at the sale will also be required to pay a buyer's premium

of 5% and shall be required to sign a Memorandum of Terms of Sale containing the above terms at the auction sale.

In the event that the successful bidder at the public auction shall default in purchasing the within described property according to the terms of this Notice of Mortgagee's Sale and/or the terms of the Memorandum of Sale executed at the public auction, the Mortgagee reserves the right, at its election, to sell the property to the second highest bidder at the public auction provided that Mortgagee, in its discretion, may require (1) said second highest bidder to deposit the amount of the required deposit as set forth herein within three (3) business days after written notice to the second highest bidder of the default of the previous highest bidder, (2) the second highest bidder to execute a Memorandum of Sale, and (3) the closing to occur within twenty (20) days of said written notice, time being of the essence unless the Mortgagee agrees otherwise. The Mortgagee reserves the right to sell any parcel or any portion thereof separately, or in any order that Mortgagee may choose and/or to postpone this sale to a later time or date by public proclamation at the time and date appointed for the sale and to further postpone any adjourned sale date by public proclamation at the time and date appointed for the adjourned sale date.

Other terms, if any, to be announced at the time and place of the sale.

The description for the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication.

UMass Five College Federal Credit Union
Present Holder of said Mortgage

By /s/ David A. Lavenburg
David A. Lavenburg,
Its Attorney
BACON WILSON, P.C.
33 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413) 781-0560
04/16, 04/23, 04/30/2026

Belchertown Conservation Commission LEGAL NOTICE

Pursuant to the authority of the Wetlands Protection Act (M.G.L. Ch. 131, Sec. 40, its Regulations (310 CMR 10.00) and the Belchertown Wetlands Protection Bylaw (Chapter 139), the Belchertown Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on **Monday, April 27, 2026 at 7:00 PM in the Lawrence Memorial Hall Auditorium, located at 2 Jabish Street in Belchertown, MA 01007** to review a **Notice of Intent** permit application submitted by 50 Federal Operating Company for the **proposed work to construct five duplex buildings, associated utilities and extend the water main along Pelham Road and 50 Federal Street (Assessor's Map 238-62 & 63) in Belchertown.** Anyone interested in this matter should appear at the time and place designated.
04/16/2026

TOWN OF BELCHERTOWN REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP) SALE OF 6 BERKSHIRE AVENUE AND 8 BERKSHIRE AVENUE, BELCHERTOWN, MASSACHUSETTS

The Town of Belchertown (the "Town") is seeking proposals to sell the following two (2) parcels of Town-owned property (individually or together, the "Property"): (a) the 1.022-acre parcel of land with the building and other improvements thereon located at 6 Berkshire Avenue, Belchertown, Massachusetts, and identified on Assessor's 243 as 243A (the "6 Berkshire Property"), and (2) the 1.028-acre parcel of land with the building and other improvements thereon located at 8 Berkshire Avenue, Belchertown, Massachusetts, and identified on Assessor's 243 as 244 (the "8 Berkshire Property"). Proposers may submit proposals for the purchase of the 6 Berkshire Property, the 8 Berkshire Property, or both, provided that a separate proposal is submitted for each Property. The property record cards are attached as **Exhibit A** and the Assessor's map is attached as **Exhibit B**, which exhibits are incorporated herein.

Copies of the full Request for Proposals may be obtained from the Town Manager's Office located at Finnerty House, 1 South Main Street, Belchertown MA 01007. Copies may also be obtained by contacting Steve Williams, the Town Manager, by email at swilliams@belchertown.org.

Proposers are advised that the deed by which the Commonwealth conveyed the Property

to the Town, recorded with the Hampshire Registry of Deeds in Book 5341, Page 34 (the "Deed"), states that the Property is to be used for those uses set forth in the Belchertown Economic Development Industrial Corporation Economic Development Plan of 1993 (as such plan may be changed from time to time, the "Plans"). Attached to and incorporated into the RFP as Exhibit C are the 1993 Plan, the 2001 Plan, the 2009 Plan, and the 2014 Plan. The following is a list of some, but not all, of the uses set forth in the Plans: offices, commercial, business, light industrial, and retail; research, and/or development, assisted living facilities and/or services in support thereof; education; hospital and/or geriatric center; recreation; tourism; and other uses that support the economic development of the Town. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Town will consider all proposed uses of the Property, even if not listed on the Plans, and may seek all approvals required to allow such use, including demolition and redevelopment of the land.

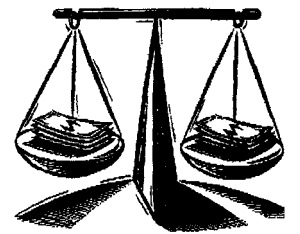
All questions must be submitted in writing to Steve Williams, Town Manager, email: swilliams@belchertown.org and facsimile: (413) 323-0403, and received by the Town on or before 3:00 p.m. on April 21, 2026. Questions that the Town, in its sole discretion, deems appropriate for a response will be answered in writing and sent to all proposers on record as having requested the RFP. It is the Town's preference to use email to respond to questions and to send future addendums to potential proposers who have provided their contact information to the

Town. Proposals must be sent or delivered to the Town Manager's Office, Finnerty House, 1 South Main Street, Belchertown MA 01007 on or before **11:00 a.m. on April 28, 2026** at which time and place the proposals will be publicly opened. Proposals become public information when opened. Late proposals will not be considered.

The successful proposer must enter into a purchase and sale agreement, substantially similar to the Purchase and Sale Agreement attached hereto as Exhibit D and incorporated herein (the "P&S"), within thirty (30) days from the date the sale of the Property is awarded to the proposer. The terms and conditions applicable to the sale of the Property are more fully set forth in Section K and Exhibit D of the RFP.

No proposer may withdraw his or her proposal for a period of one hundred twenty (120) days after the date set for the opening thereof. The awarding authority is the Belchertown Select Board.

The Town of Belchertown, acting through its Select Board, reserves the right to waive any informality, to negotiate sale terms with the successful proposer, to award the sale of the Property to the proposal deemed in the best interest of the Town, and/or to reject any or all proposals if it is in the public interest to do so.
04/09, 04/16/2026



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

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.
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Start Date: Within the next few weeks to months
Pay: Varies based on experience. Ranges from \$16 to \$20 per hour.
Requirements: Applicants must be 21 or older and eligible to work in the United States. Background checks are required under state cannabis regulations.

Interested candidates should email holyokewilds9@gmail.com with their contact information and brief work history.

Holyoke Wilds is an equal opportunity employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability, or veteran status.

HELP WANTED

SEASONAL FACILITIES CREW wanted at Norcross Wildlife Foundation. For a full job description, please visit www.norcrosswildlife.org or email info@norcrosswildlife.org

The Town of North Brookfield is looking for a **part-time Program Assistant** for the Council on Aging. Please submit a resume with a letter of interest to the **Selectmen's Office, 215 Main St., North Brookfield, MA 01535;** or by email to selectmen@northbrookfield.net.

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FOR RENT

All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status (number of children and or pregnancy), national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, or any intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination.

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

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30	Base Price \$31.00	32	Base Price \$32.00
33	Base Price \$32.50	35	Base Price \$33.50
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PUBLIC NOTICES

Please see more NOTICES on Page 13

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
TOWN OF BELCHERTOWN
OFFICE OF TAX COLLECTOR
NOTICE OF TAX TAKING

To the owners of the described property below, and to all others concerned, you are hereby notified that on Thursday, May 7, 2026 at ten o'clock a.m. at 2 Jabish Street, Belchertown, MA pursuant to General Laws Chapter 60, Section 53, and by virtue of authority vested in me as Collector of Taxes, IT IS MY INTENTION TO TAKE FOR THE TOWN OF BELCHERTOWN the following parcels of land for non-payment of taxes due, with interest and all incidental expenses and costs to the date of taking, unless the same is paid before that date

55 MAIN PROJECT LLC: A certain parcel of land situated at 55 Main Street, containing .550 acres of land more or less with any buildings thereon as shown on Belchertown assessors' map 243-113 and as described in H.C.R.D Book 14510 Page 36
FY 2024 assessed real estate taxes \$2,952.16 FY 2024 CPA \$44.28 FY 2024 liens \$ 410.66: FY 2024 unpaid balance of the tax assessed \$1,558.38 FY 2024 unpaid balance of CPA: \$31.91 FY 2024 unpaid balance of liens: \$410.66

74 MAPLE STREET PROPERTIES LLC: A certain parcel of land situated at 74 Maple Street, containing .920 acres of land more or less with any buildings thereon as shown on Belchertown assessors' map 243-160 and as described in H.C.R.D Book 13951 Page 250
FY 2024 assessed real estate taxes \$5,198.08 FY 2024 CPA \$77.97 FY 2024 liens \$ 836.06: FY 2024 unpaid balance of the tax assessed \$5,198.08 FY 2024 unpaid balance of CPA: \$77.97 FY 2024 unpaid balance of liens: \$836.06

74 MAPLE STREET PROPERTIES LLC: A certain parcel of land situated on Howard Street, containing 2.800 acres of land more or less with any buildings thereon as shown on Belchertown assessors' map 243-162 and as described in H.C.R.D Book 13951 Page 250
FY 2024 assessed real estate taxes \$124.09 FY 2024 CPA \$1.86: FY 2024 unpaid balance of the tax assessed \$124.09 FY 2024 unpaid balance of CPA: \$1.86

BAY, SUZANNE: A certain parcel of land situated on 63 Jackson Street, containing 0.419 acres of land more or less with any buildings thereon as shown on Belchertown assessors' map 243-102 and as described in H.C.R.D Book 9658 Page 225
FY 2024 assessed real estate taxes \$3,393.38 FY 2024 CPA \$27.92 FY 2024 unpaid balance of the tax assessed \$14.93

BOWLER ROGER B TRUSTEE OF ROGER B BOWLER REVOCABLE TRUST: A certain parcel of land situated on Shea Avenue, containing 1.150 acres of land more or less with any buildings thereon as shown on Belchertown assessors' map 271-18.02 and as described in H.C.R.D Book 11662 Page 35
FY 2024 assessed real estate taxes \$1,081.59 FY 2024 unpaid balance of the tax assessed \$841.32

COLLAGAN, BARBARA E: A certain parcel of land situated at 255 Amherst Road, containing 0.73 acres of land more or less with any buildings thereon as shown on Belchertown assessors' map 218-63 and as described in H.C.R.D Book 2422 Page 184
FY 2024 assessed real estate taxes \$242.06 FY 2024 unpaid balance of the tax assessed \$242.06

DILL, KEVIN R & DILL, ANNETTE M: A certain parcel of land situated on South Washington Street, containing 17.800 acres of land more or less with any buildings thereon as shown on Belchertown assessors' map 273-16.7 and as described in H.C.R.D Book 14948 Page 315
FY 2024 assessed real estate taxes \$2,837.26 FY 2024 CPA \$19.58: FY 2024 unpaid balance of the tax assessed \$1,406.80 FY 2024 unpaid balance of CPA: \$10.36

JEDRZEJCZYK, LEO: A certain parcel of land situated at 133 Hamilton Street, containing 1.010 acres of land more or less with any buildings thereon as shown on Belchertown assessors' map 239-27 and as described in H.C.R.D Book 6913 Page 285
FY 2024 assessed real estate taxes \$4,565.36 FY 2024 CPA \$45.50: FY 2024 unpaid balance of the tax assessed \$2,330.07

MATHEWS, COSTAS: A certain parcel of land situated at 6 Jackson Street containing .160 acres of land more or less with any buildings thereon as shown on Belchertown assessors' map 243-19 and as described in H.C.R.D Book 13952 Page 145
FY 2024 assessed real estate taxes \$2,972.08 FY 2024 CPA \$21.60 FY 2024 unpaid balance of the tax assessed \$1,802.13 FY 2024 unpaid balance of CPA: \$12.43

HENRICHON, ROBERT E: A certain parcel of land situated at 171 Turkey Hill Road containing 1.00 acre of land more or less with any buildings thereon as shown on Belchertown assessors' map 255-17 and as described in H.C.R.D Book 12169 Page 299

FY 2024 assessed real estate taxes \$4,582.21 FY 2024 CPA \$45.75
FY 2024 unpaid balance of the tax assessed \$4,582.21 FY 2024 unpaid balance of CPA: \$45.75

PRAPLASKI, MARY C FRANKLIN STREET LLC: A certain parcel of land situated on Franklin Street, containing 17.00 acres of land more or less with any buildings thereon as shown on Belchertown assessors' map 110-23 and as described in H.C.R.D Book 3700, Page 322
FY 2024 assessed real estate taxes \$908.48: FY 2024 unpaid balance of the tax assessed \$19.94

RIBEIRO, GEORGE M: A certain parcel of land situated at 159 West Street containing 1.471 acres of land more or less with any buildings thereon as shown on Belchertown assessors' map 276-101 and as described in H.C.R.D Book 13375 Page 345
FY 2024 assessed real estate taxes \$7,373.52 FY 2024 CPA \$87.62 FY 2024 unpaid balance of the tax assessed \$5,735.87

SULLIVAN, SUSAN M: A certain parcel of land situated at 181 Chauncey Walker Street containing 1.090 acres of land more or less with any buildings thereon as shown on Belchertown assessors' map 262-2 and as described in H.C.R.D Book 8997 Page 73
FY 2024 assessed real estate taxes \$4,695.58 FY 2024 CPA \$47.45 FY 2024 unpaid balance of the tax assessed \$2,395.50 FY 2024 unpaid balance of CPA: \$12.06

TURKEY HILL ESTATES LLC: A certain parcel of land situated at 270 Turkey Hill Road containing 16.000 acres of land more or less with any buildings thereon as shown on Belchertown assessors' map 254-32 and as described in H.C.R.D Book 14338 Page 231
FY 2024 assessed real estate taxes \$5,953.35 FY 2024 CPA \$66.32 FY 2024 liens \$ 154.75 FY 2024 unpaid balance of the tax assessed \$1,213.59 FY 2024 unpaid balance of CPA: \$15.59 FY 2024 unpaid balance of liens: \$66.51

VANESSA HOMES LLC: A certain parcel of land situated at 31 High Bluff Road containing .232 acres of land more or less with any buildings thereon as shown on Belchertown assessors' map 271-38 and as described in H.C.R.D Book 15002 Page 42
FY 2024 assessed real estate taxes \$914.60 FY 2024 unpaid balance of the tax assessed \$451.57

VANESSA HOMES LLC: A certain parcel of land situated at 39 High Bluff Road containing .230 acres of land more or less with any buildings thereon as shown on Belchertown assessors' map 271-39 and as described in H.C.R.D Book 15002 Page 42
FY 2024 assessed real estate taxes \$914.60 FY 2024 unpaid balance of the tax assessed \$451.57

VANESSA HOMES LLC: A certain parcel of land situated at 51 High Bluff Road containing .277 acres of land more or less with any buildings thereon as shown on Belchertown assessors' map 271-40 and as described in H.C.R.D Book 15002 Page 42
FY 2024 assessed real estate taxes \$925.33 FY 2024 unpaid balance of the tax assessed \$467.93

VANESSA HOMES LLC: A certain parcel of land situated at 57 High Bluff Road containing .282 acres of land more or less with any buildings thereon as shown on Belchertown assessors' map 271-41 and as described in H.C.R.D Book 15002 Page 42
FY 2024 assessed real estate taxes \$925.33 FY 2024 unpaid balance of the tax assessed \$456.58

VANESSA HOMES LLC: A certain parcel of land situated at 63 High Bluff Road containing .269 acres of land more or less with any buildings thereon as shown on Belchertown assessors' map 271-42 and as described in H.C.R.D Book 15002 Page 42
FY 2024 assessed real estate taxes \$923.80 FY 2024 unpaid balance of the tax assessed \$456.70

VANESSA HOMES LLC: A certain parcel of land situated at 71 High Bluff Road containing .247 acres of land more or less with any buildings thereon as shown on Belchertown assessors' map 271-43 and as described in H.C.R.D Book 15002 Page 42
FY 2024 assessed real estate taxes \$917.67 FY 2024 unpaid balance of the tax assessed \$453.00

VANESSA HOMES LLC: A certain parcel of land situated on High Bluff Road containing .257 acres of land more or less with any buildings thereon as shown on Belchertown assessors' map 271-45 and as described in H.C.R.D Book 15002 Page 42
FY 2024 assessed real estate taxes \$920.73 FY 2024 unpaid balance of the tax assessed \$454.44

VANESSA HOMES LLC: A certain parcel of land situated on High Bluff Road containing .234 acres of land more or less with any buildings thereon as shown on Belchertown assessors' map 271-46 and as described in H.C.R.D Book 15002 Page 42
FY 2024 assessed real estate taxes \$916.14 FY 2024 unpaid balance of the tax assessed \$452.29

VANESSA HOMES LLC: A certain parcel of land situated at 56 High Bluff Road containing .234 acres of land more or less with any buildings thereon as shown on Belchertown assessors' map 271-47 and as described in H.C.R.D Book 15002 Page 42
FY 2024 assessed real estate taxes \$916.14 FY 2024 unpaid balance of the tax assessed \$452.29

VANESSA HOMES LLC: A certain parcel of land situated at 48 High Bluff Road containing .238 acres of land more or less with any buildings thereon as shown on Belchertown assessors' map 271-48 and as described in H.C.R.D Book 15002 Page 42
FY 2024 assessed real estate taxes \$916.14 FY 2024 unpaid balance of the tax assessed \$452.29

VANESSA HOMES LLC: A certain parcel of land situated at 5 Sunny Crest Lane containing .313 acres of land more or less with any buildings thereon as shown on Belchertown assessors' map 271-49 and as described in H.C.R.D Book 15002 Page 42
FY 2024 assessed real estate taxes \$932.99 FY 2024 unpaid balance of the tax assessed \$461.49

VANESSA HOMES LLC: A certain parcel of land situated on Sunny Crest Lane containing .272 acres of land more or less with any buildings thereon as shown on Belchertown assessors' map 271-52 and as described in H.C.R.D Book 15002 Page 42
FY 2024 assessed real estate taxes \$923.80 FY 2024 unpaid balance of the tax assessed \$455.87

VANESSA HOMES LLC: A certain parcel of land situated on Sunny Crest Lane containing .330 acres of land more or less with any buildings thereon as shown on Belchertown assessors' map 271-53 and as described in H.C.R.D Book 15002 Page 42
FY 2024 assessed real estate taxes \$936.05 FY 2024 unpaid balance of the tax assessed \$461.58

VANESSA HOMES LLC: A certain parcel of land situated at 24 Sunny Crest Lane containing .275 acres of land more or less with any buildings thereon as shown on Belchertown assessors' map 271-54 and as described in H.C.R.D Book 15002 Page 42
FY 2024 assessed real estate taxes \$821.15 FY 2024 unpaid balance of the tax assessed \$405.48

VANESSA HOMES LLC: A certain parcel of land situated on Sunny Crest Lane containing .270 acres of land more or less with any buildings thereon as shown on Belchertown assessors' map 271-55 and as described in H.C.R.D Book 15002 Page 42
FY 2024 assessed real estate taxes \$821.15 FY 2024 unpaid balance of the tax assessed \$405.48

VANESSA HOMES LLC: A certain parcel of land situated on 10 Sunny Crest Lane containing .261 acres of land more or less with any buildings thereon as shown on Belchertown assessors' map 271-56 and as described in H.C.R.D Book 15002 Page 42
FY 2024 assessed real estate taxes \$819.62 FY 2024 unpaid balance of the tax assessed \$404.78

VANESSA HOMES LLC: A certain parcel of land situated on 4 Sunny Crest Lane containing .265 acres of land more or less with any buildings thereon as shown on Belchertown assessors' map 271-57 and as described in H.C.R.D Book 15002 Page 42
FY 2024 assessed real estate taxes \$819.62 FY 2024 unpaid balance of the tax assessed \$404.78

VANESSA HOMES LLC: A certain parcel of land situated on 6 High Bluff Road containing .234 acres of land more or less with any buildings thereon as shown on Belchertown assessors' map 272-80.01 and as described in H.C.R.D Book 15002 Page 42
FY 2024 assessed real estate taxes \$813.49 FY 2024 unpaid balance of the tax assessed \$401.09

VANESSA HOMES LLC: A certain parcel of land situated on 7 High Bluff Road containing .234 acres of land more or less with any buildings thereon as shown on Belchertown assessors' map 272-80.02 and as described in H.C.R.D Book 15002 Page 42
FY 2024 assessed real estate taxes \$813.49 FY 2024 unpaid balance of the tax assessed \$401.09

VANESSA HOMES LLC: A certain parcel of land situated on 15 High Bluff Road containing .238 acres of land more or less with any buildings thereon as shown on Belchertown assessors' map 272-80.03 and as described in H.C.R.D Book 15002 Page 42
FY 2024 assessed real estate taxes \$815.02 FY 2024 unpaid balance of the tax assessed \$402.62

VANESSA HOMES LLC: A certain parcel of land situated on 23 High Bluff Road containing .240 acres of land more or less with any buildings thereon as shown on Belchertown assessors' map 272-80.04 and as described in H.C.R.D Book 15002 Page 42
FY 2024 assessed real estate taxes \$815.02 FY 2024 unpaid balance of the tax assessed \$402.62

04/16/2026

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampshire Probate and Family Court
15 Atwood Drive
Northampton, MA 01060
(413)586-8500
Docket No.
HS26P0182EA
Estate of:
Gloria Jean Lyons
Also known as:
Gloria J. Lyons
Date of Death: 12/02/2024
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled

to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. Diana S. Velez Harris, First Justice of this Court.
Date: April 06, 2026

Mark S Ames, Register of Probate
04/16/2026

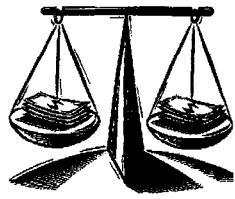


Table with 10 rows and 15 columns containing a grid of letters: H E R A M O M O T E B A N, E B O N C R A P E D O M E, B L E D F A C E D D R I B, E A S E D T O R E A G A N, S E R E N A D E S, B H P M A D T A G B E E, E A R N E D M I D M I N G, A N O A S V A C S U E D E, M O A B E E C E A G L E S, S I S M E G D A T D D T, T E L E M E T E R, E A R E D T E L S A B E R, A G H A S A G E S B O R A, C R O C S T A T E B L A B, H A S H R E N E E I A S I

To all interested persons: A Petition for Formal Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Jonathan Thomas Silva of Eliot, ME requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition. The Petitioner requests that Jonathan Thomas Silva of Eliot, ME be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in unsupervised administration. IMPORTANT NOTICE You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 05/06/2026. This is NOT a

Job Connection
HELPING YOU FIND HELP

Highway Dept. Skilled Laborer / Truck Driver

The Town of New Braintree Highway Dept. is seeking qualified applicants for the immediate full-time position of Skilled Laborer / Truck Driver. Applicants must have a valid Massachusetts Driver's License, Class B (CDL) with DOT Medical Examination Certification and a Hoisting Engineer License Class 2B with DOT Medical Examination Certification. Interested applicants should submit a letter of interest and an employment application to: Highway Department, 110 West Brookfield Road, New Braintree MA 01531.

Highway Dept. Seasonal Laborer

The Town of New Braintree is seeking a qualified candidate to perform seasonal work in the maintenance of town commons, roadways, grounds and cemeteries. Applicants must have a valid Massachusetts Driver's License (Class D). This is a seasonal position for 20 hours per week with a flexible schedule, May through October. Interested applicants should submit a letter of interest and employment application to: Highway Department, 110 West Brookfield Road, New Braintree MA 01531.

For further information, please contact Richard Ayer, Highway Superintendent, at 508-867-2451, or via email at Highway@newbraintree.gov.

A.A./E.O.E.



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