

Pathfinder Tech creates raised garden beds

By Ben Hernandez
Correspondent

BELCHERTOWN — Pathfinder Tech students have created raised garden beds for the local living community center. Utilizing the trade skills learned in the classroom, the students constructed them to allow senior citizens to more easily engage in gardening, which Belchertown school committee representative Lorraine Alves identifies as a “great way of exercise and getting fresh air” for the residents.

“These garden boxes are going to help them because they’re raised garden boxes,” said Alves of the student project. “We don’t have to bend over and get down on our hands and knees.” She identified that initiatives like these not only help the students grow in their skills but also provide a valuable community service for the nine towns located within her district.

“Any monies that we can help communities in our district save is a step in the right direction,” she added.

“They enjoy outdoors and gardening,” said school counselor Brenda Turner when asked why the students were specifically



The student body showcase their hard work prior to the assisted living community's arrival.

TURLEY PHOTO BY BEN HERNANDEZ

asked to make garden beds. “The raised beds make perfect sense because it’s going to adapt to more of the physical limitations that some of them have.”

“They’re made of cedar,

high quality,” said Eric Duda about the material used to create the garden beds. Duda is the superintendent of Pathfinder Tech. “They’re going to last many, many years.”

“As they’re underclassmen, it’s part of their learning,” said Caitlin Phelps, the cooperative education coordinator and grant administrator for the school. “When they’re upperclassmen,

they’re actually working in the community.”

Community outreach is key part of the students’

Please see **GARDEN BEDS**, page 7

West Street panel narrows town hall design choices

Groundbreaking set for April 28 at 10 a.m.

By Melina Bourdeau
Correspondent

GRANBY —The West Street Building Committee used its April 14 meeting to lock in key interior design decisions for the new Town Hall while also reviewing major grant attempts and final plans for an April 28 groundbreaking.

“I don’t know when the last time Granby did a self-evaluation, and I don’t think we can get one done... but I’m going to go through some files in the TA’s office to see if I can find them.”

— Lynne Mercier

The committee refined choices for flooring, wall colors, cabinetry and bathroom finishes to make the former school building brighter, more welcoming and easier to maintain, even as it pursues federal and ADA-related funding to reduce the project’s burden on local taxpayers.

Groundbreaking details

Invitations have gone out for a ceremonial groundbreaking on the West Street site on April 28 at 10 a.m.

The ceremony is planned for the parking lot median, not inside the building.

Architect Tim Widman said the program will follow a familiar pattern.

“It’s usually a few

remarks relating to the nature of the project, and more often than not, it’s a grab bag of appreciation for people who have been working on the project,” Widman said.

Trompke urged that grant partners and agencies be thanked publicly as well. “Including the ones that are currently working. Put a little pressure on them,” he said. “It should go on the record that they were working towards a grant for us.”

Mercier expects a simple set of photo opportunities with representatives from the town, designers and contractor.

Core design decisions

Demolition in the north wing has exposed concrete and structural issues that pushed the project away from a bare concrete floor.

Neil Joyce from Construction Monitoring Services Inc. serves as the Owner’s Project Manager (OPM) for the project.

“The floor is in pretty poor condition, lot of cracking and unforeseen conditions that we’re going to try to address, most likely with a carpet or some kind of floor covering,” Joyce said. “The finished floor in the original scheme was just a sealed concrete, which does not seem to be feasible.”

As a result, carpet that was once intended for a single office will now run through most of the building.

Please see **GROUNDBREAKING**, page 3

GAGNON HITS SECOND MILESTONE



TURLEY PHOTO BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

On Monday evening, Jack Gagnon achieved his second big career milestone of the season. He has already scored his 1,000th career assist for the Granby High School boys volleyball team. And this week, he notched his 500th career kill in Granby’s win over Holyoke.

Patriot’s Day remembered with ceremony, reenactment

By Ben Hernandez
Correspondent

SOUTH HADLEY — A procession of flags, honor guards, boy scouts and Revolutionary War re-enactors, accompanied by a rendition of Yankee Doodle from the fife and drum corps, began the Patriot’s Day Ceremony on April 18th in the Evergreen Cemetery.

VFW National Sergeant at Arms, American Legion Post Commander and National Honor Guard representative Brian Willette served as the primary speaker, leading the assembly through the Pledge

of Allegiance and reflecting on South Hadley’s past as well as its place in American history. In June of 1774, South Hadley was one of many growing communities to establish a Committee of Correspondents, which was an important step to remain informed on British movements within the region.

“This was a key to communicate with the other towns throughout Massachusetts of the actions of the British in preparation for what they pretty much knew was a

Please see **PATRIOTS DAY**, page 13



TURLEY PHOTO BY BEN HERNANDEZ

A march through the Evergreen Cemetery began the Patriot’s Day ceremony that took place on April 18.

PB backs Arcpoint Pavilion

Reshapes EDIC land, eyes housing preservation tools

By Melina Bourdeau
Correspondent

BELCHERTOWN — The Planning Board advanced a slate of projects on April 14 — from a permanent pavilion at Arcpoint to reconfiguring town and EDIC land for future industry — while tightening legal safeguards on subdivisions and exploring new tools to keep residents housed.

The meeting offered a window into how local officials are juggling entertainment uses, economic development, neighborhood concerns and technical infrastructure limits as the town grows.

Over the course of the meeting, the board approved a permanent pavilion for Arcpoint’s outdoor events, clarified legal protections on the Meeshie Moon Path subdivision, endorsed an industrial park layout off Turkey Hill and Forest roads and weighed in on a proposed commercial kennel on Stephen Street. Members also heard about a potential housing preservation trust and ongoing conservation efforts.

Permanent pavilion approved at Arcpoint

The board conducted a site plan review for Arcpoint, where the owners sought to replace their seasonal tent with a permanent open-sided pavilion and add a separate performance pad.

The applicant explained that the goal is to make their event setup safer and more durable.

“We want to put up a pavilion for them to be able to utilize so they get more people coming in,” he said. “So pretty much having in the same location as the tent, but more of a permanent structure, so that we don’t have the wind damage.”

Owner Dave Pare added that a dedicated slab for musicians will sit a short distance away: “That’s where... the live music it’ll be, it’ll be set back from the pavilion,” he said. “We will have power underneath the pavilion too, so that we can do live music either way.”

Please see **ARCPOINT**, page 5

DL&G TREE



- Tree Removal
- Structural Pruning
- Crane Service
- Storm Damage
- Stump Grinding
- Lot Clearing

Give us a call today for your free estimate and tree evaluation by a ISA certified arborist

DL&G TREE

413-478-4212
dlandgtree.com



INSURED AND CERTIFIED

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 April 10, through April 16. 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
Wednesday, April 15**

1:15 p.m. – A 37-year-old Fitchburg resident was issued a summons on charged with operating with a suspended license and using an electronic device while driving. An office conducting traffic enforcement saw a vehicle traveling south with a person holding a cell phone went through a traffic light in the wrong lane. An officer stopped the vehicle and the operator's registration came back as suspended. The operator's license was also suspended. A criminal application was issued.

**ACCIDENTS/INCIDENTS
Friday, April 10**

9:13 a.m. – A person turned in a registration plate found on North Main Street. The owner was contacted and picked up the plate.

9:28 a.m. – A person came to drop off a wallet found on Federal Street to await pick up from the owner.

7:09 p.m. – An officer responded to Sylvan Circle for a report of fraud charges on their account for phone products and wanted the incident documented.

Saturday, April 11

4:26 p.m. – An officer responded to assist Belchertown Fire paramedics.

7:28 p.m. – An officer responded to Stebbins Street for a report of a disturbance at a residence. The officer spoke with involved people. The person didn't want to pursue charges and the matter was documented.

8:22 p.m. – An officer responded to assist Belchertown Fire paramedics.

Sunday, April 12

5:08 p.m. – An officer took a report of trespassing. They had a no trespass order

against the person, and they were seen on the property. There was video of the person who was scrambling the video so they couldn't be documented. There was no evidence of such actions.

6:44 p.m. – An officer responded to Warren Wright Road for a report of a disturbance. A juvenile was involved in an incident with a person. The juvenile returned to the residence.

Monday, April 13

2:03 p.m. – An officer took a report of a missing juvenile. They were later located.

Tuesday, April 14

10:09 a.m. – An officer took a report of fraud. A resident said their phone was hacked and it was unknown how it was hacked. They got a new phone which was also hacked. They couldn't log into their account. The matter was documented.

12:13 p.m. – An officer took a report of suspicious activity. A person stopped at a bus stop and took pictures of a child. It was determining they were just saying hello to people.

4:32 p.m. – A person turned in a backpack with sneakers found on school property and it was placed into property.

6:52 p.m. – An officer responded to a residence to an issue with a juvenile. The matter was documented.

Wednesday, April 15

12:13 a.m. – An officer responded to an accident on Mill Valley Road. A vehicle traveling north on Mill Valley Road went off the road and into a utility pole. The driver said they became fatigued and the crash occurred. There was damage to the front end of the vehicle and a tow company was contacted.

Thursday, April 16

7:23 a.m. – An officer responded to a North Main Street residence regarding a noise complaint.

9:50 a.m. – An officer responded to an accident on State Street. Two vehicles traveling north on State Street when the operator of the front vehicle braked,

causing the second vehicle to strike the first. The operator of the second vehicle said the front vehicle was brake checking them. There was minor damage to both vehicles. No injuries were reported.

12:54 p.m. – An officer spoke with a resident about a case of fraud. A credit card account opened with a deceased relative's information.

Granby Police Log

Editor's Note: The Granby Police Department responded to 168 calls for the week of April 10, through April 16. Those arrested are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law. The Granby Police Department provides all information.

Sunday, April 12

4:05 p.m. – A motorist reported a 2-car accident on Amherst Street and West State Street. Granby Police and Fire responded. There were no injuries.

Monday, April 13

4:39 p.m. – A motorist reported a 2-car crash on West State Street. Granby Police and Fire responded. There were no injuries.

8:28 p.m. – While on patrol, an officer observed a vehicle traveling at a high rate of speed. Radar confirmed the vehicle was traveling at 65MPH in a posted 35MPH zone. The vehicle was stopped and the operator was issued a civil citation for speeding.

Tuesday, April 14

10 a.m. – A resident turned in a wedding band found on Common St.

Wednesday, April 15

5:12 a.m. – Several callers reported a single vehicle rollover accident on East Street. Granby Police and Fire responded. There were no injuries.

7:01 p.m. – While on patrol, an officer observed a vehicle traveling at a high rate of speed. Radar confirmed the vehicle was traveling at 59MPH in a posted 30MPH zone. The vehicle was stopped and the operator was issued a civil citation for speeding.

UMC and BOAT holding 'uplifting gathering'

BELCHERTOWN — BOAT and the United Methodist Church, in partnership with Reverend Michelle Grube, invite community members to a meaningful and uplifting gathering focused on The Spiritual Practice of Joy on Saturday, Apr. 25 from 10 to 11:30 a.m. This engaging session will be guided by Rev. Saramaria Allenby, an experienced spiritual leader, chaplain, and counselor dedicated to helping individuals discover healing, connection, and purpose.

This special event offers a welcoming space for reflection, inspiration, and connection. Through readings, guided reflections, music, video, and shared conversation, participants will explore how joy can be cultivated in everyday life—even during chal-

lenging times. Attendees are encouraged to come as they are and take part in this enriching and supportive experience.

Rev. Saramaria Allenby brings years of experience in spiritual guidance and compassionate care. She currently serves as a chaplain at Falmouth Hospital and as a community chaplain with Upper Cape Chaplaincy. She also works closely with individuals in recovery through Wellstrong, Inc., and provides counseling services through Kairos Counseling. In addition, she leads a variety of online and in-person offerings, including Spiritual Fitness, Praying with the Body, book discussions, and secular meditation practices.

An ordained minister in the United Church

of Christ, Rev. Allenby holds a Master of Divinity from Union Theological Seminary and a Bachelor of Liberal Arts with a concentration in psychology and sociology from Western New England College. A lifelong Cape Cod resident, she lives in Falmouth with her family and is passionate about fostering community, compassion, and personal growth.

Rev. Allenby's work is rooted in the belief in the inherent goodness and value of every human being. She is dedicated to helping individuals recognize their own worthwhile cultivating healing through compassion, forgiveness, and love.

This gathering is open to all members of the community, regardless of background or spiritual tradition.

GROUNDBREAKING

from page 1

"Last time we met, we couldn't really, we didn't like any of the carpet that you brought," Chair Lynne Mercier said. "Especially because the scope changed. It was just for one room. Now it's for the whole space. So, we needed something a little stronger."

Members leaned toward a darker, patterned carpet to hide dirt.

"I think a little darkness better, probably hides dirt a little better," Police Chief Kevin O'Grady said.

The committee also favored a darker, warmer rubber base instead of a cooler gray.

"I'm happy with dark, plus it matches that brown little better, to be honest with you," Mercier said.

In corridors and offices, the design team proposed a neutral wall color with limited accent colors for wayfinding and to reflect Granby's school colors.

"You guys have kind of these departments that we can kind of differentiate with the color," Joyce said. "So that's where we can add a color there... so it's just not bland, and it's just not this corridor that just gets lost."

Mercier said she wanted a clear accent at the bend leading to the town administra-

tor's office.

"I definitely like a color in the turn where the hall turns to go to the TA," she said.

Inside offices, the group agreed on one accent wall per room and on using "Granby blue" as part of the palette.

In the kitchenette, the preferred scheme uses a lighter wood-grain laminate base, blue uppers and a warm accent wall color that picks up the door grain.

Solid-surface countertops in a lighter, speckled neutral were chosen over darker options.

For bathrooms, the committee stuck with two shades of blue in the flooring to help differentiate spaces and reflect Granby's colors.

Joyce suggested using one color at the entry and sinks and another at the stalls.

"In the bathroom, I was trying to introduce where you walk in, there's one color, and then where that partition or toilet stall begins, it'll be a different color," he said.

The group settled on a light, textured material for partitions.

Grants, compliance and outside funding

Mercier said the town is exploring whether it can apply for an Americans with Disabilities Act grant, but eligibility depends on

whether Granby has completed required planning work.

"I'm not sure if we're going to be able to apply for that one," she said. "I don't know when the last time Granby did a self-evaluation, and I don't think we can get one done... but I'm going to go through some files in the TA's office to see if I can find them."

She and O'Grady also filed a congressional spending request that could significantly offset construction costs.

"Chief and I got a congressional spending fund application in on April 3 for funding, federal funding," Mercier said. "I think we asked for about \$10 million dollars."

And, because the project uses federal American Rescue Plan Act money, auditors have asked for documentation of how the town hired its project manager and architect.

"We had an auditor request for all our documentation regarding OPM and architect choice... so that was done since we met last," Mercier said.

Visit us on the web www.turley.com

Oldies from The Estate
WE BUY & SELL ALL TYPES OF STUFF FROM A TO Z.
 COSTUME JEWELRY, FURNITURE, COINS, COLLECTIONS, WATCHES, TOYS, SILVER, ETC.
 Contact Bill or Beth **413-543-6065**
OVER 30 YEARS IN BUSINESS!
 email: oldiesfrom@aol.com
 45 Parker Street, Indian Orchard
 Wed.-Fri. 10-4:30, Sat. 10-2:30, Closed Sun. - Tues.

THE ROADHOUSE CAFE

 (413) 323-6175
 178 Federal St.
 Belchertown, MA
Swing on by The Roadhouse Cafe!
**Specials Are Served All Week
 And Breakfast Is Served All Day!**
 OPEN MONDAY-SUNDAY 7 AM TO 2 PM
 Check our Facebook and Instagram pages for updates

CENTER STREET AUTO PARTS OF CHICOPEE, INC.

 We will pay you top dollar for your car AND we will pick it up! Call us for a price!
 • Top-Of-The-Line Auto Salvaging Services
 • First-Rate Used Auto Parts
 • Top-Grade Auto Body Parts
 • Sell Your Old or Used Car to Us
 "Serving all of Western Mass."
centerstreetautoparts.com
 651 Center St., Chicopee **413-733-2778**

The Jack Rome Memorial 5K & Fun Walk
May 2, 2026 • 11 a.m.-3 p.m.
Fountain Park, 883 Tinkham Road, Wilbraham
A community event to raise funds for TJO Animals in need.
Fun family activities and goodies for the pups.
Their Second Chance Begins With You!
Register at TJOFoundation.org
Not all superheroes wear capes. Some wear sneakers. Some have paws.







Watch where you hunt

BELCHERTOWN – Turkey hunting spring season 2026 begins Apr. 27 to May 23. Know the property that you are walking on. The 200-acre forest parcel that many of you walk in is posted and is private property leased by New England Small Farm Institute. We do allow hunters on this property with permission.

It is always wise to know whose property you are on and to ask permission to be there. The laws are changing such as allowing hunting on Sundays. You can find more information about hunting seasons in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts at <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/2026-hunting-and-fresh-water-fishing-season-summary>.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

Residents are reminded to be careful where they hunt during turkey hunting season.

Hydrant flushing thru 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.



Stone House Museum grand opening May 9

BELCHERTOWN – The Belchertown Historical Association is holding its Opening Day activities at the Stone House Museum on Saturday, May 9. There will be free tours of the museum, our famous “Old Bag” sale, and our plant sale, featuring locally grown perennials. Every year we look forward to the support of our community in making this a successful fundraiser through your contributions of old bags and plants.

The plant sale committee welcomes donations of perennials dug from your

gardens and generously donated to the plant sale. We are looking for flowering plants, shade plants, vegetable plants, trees, shrubs, bulbs, fruit bearing plants and house plants. Plants can be brought to the Stone House during the week before the sale and left near the schoolhouse. Please email sallyshattuck54@gmail.com if you have any questions.

Old bags can be donated at local businesses: Easthampton Savings Bank, Clapp Library, and Looks to Kill Salon.

Community Yard Sale coming back in August

BELCHERTOWN – Belchertown Community Yard Sale Returns the First Weekend in August Belchertown, MA — The Belchertown Community Yard Sale is set to return for its third year, continuing to establish itself as a growing summer tradition in Western Massachusetts. The event will take place the first weekend in August, from July 31 through Aug. 2 (Rain dates: Aug. 7 to 9).

Over the past two years, the Belchertown Community Yard Sale has welcomed thousands of visitors from across the region, transforming the town into a destination for treasure hunters and community engagement. In 2025 alone, the event drew more than 6,400 visitors and raised over \$4,000 for the Belchertown Senior Center and Council on Aging, contributing to a total of more than \$7,000 raised for local non-profits and community initiatives since its inception.

For 2026, the event is proud to announce that its beneficiary will be the Clapp Memorial Library, furthering its mission of

supporting vital community resources.

As the event grows, organizers hope to solidify the Belchertown Community Yard Sale as a signature annual tradition, making the first weekend in August a must-visit experience for residents and visitors alike.

Registration for households and vendors will open on May 1. Participation is open to all, with a cost of \$30 for individual households and \$60 for vendors wishing to sell at the Town Fields. Sellers across Belchertown will be featured on an official event map, guiding visitors to over 100 sales throughout town. Maps will be sold at the Town Fields, 60 State Street, Belchertown, for \$5.

Event organizers welcome local business sponsors and community volunteers to help expand the reach and impact of the event. Those interested in sponsoring, volunteering, or learning more can contact Organizer Kris Lynds at belchertownyardsale@gmail.com

For additional details, updates, and registration information, visit www.belchertownyardsale.com



Spaghetti fundraiser to benefit Nick's Waves of Change

BELCHERTOWN/LUDLOW – Coming up on Thursday, May 7 from 5:30 to 7 p.m., there will be a spaghetti dinner fundraiser to benefit Nick's Waves of Change, Inc. This is the fifth year the fundraiser has been held. The event will be held at the Ludlow Elks Lodge at 69 Chapin St. The cost is \$15 per person with children 10 and under costing \$12. The doors will open at 4:30 p.m. with dinner beginning to be served at 5:30 p.m.

Tickets will be sold at the door. To purchase tickets or donate, please contact Jennifer Boileau at 413-323-7821 or email us at info@nickswavesofchange.org. Payment can be made via cash or check payable to Nick's Waves of Change Inc.

Legion 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 play-

ers 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.

NESCO SALES INC.

COMPLETE AUTO BODY CENTER

RS #1688

We Make It Easy For You!

- Collision Specialists
- We Help with Insurance Claims!
- Free Estimates (By Appointment)
- Expert Color Matching

89 1/2 State Street, Bondsville, MA 01009
www.nescoautobody.com
413-283-6403

FIVE ISLANDS

Georgetown, Maine

2 Bedrooms, 2 Bathroom
Washer/Dryer, Fully Equipped

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

\$1200/week

207-607-9333

Parents, Grandparents & Friends SPECIAL!

Congratulate YOUR Graduate

Class of

2026

We are offering a great deal for you to

CELEBRATE YOUR GRADUATE

in your community graduation issue.

Submit a photo and a brief message.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION MAY 29th

EMAIL YOUR AD TO:
nbrady@turley.com

SPECIAL!

\$55.00

MAIL YOUR AD WITH PAYMENT TO:
Turley Publications, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069

Pay by check or credit card: Checks Payable to Turley Publications, Credit Cards be sure to include: Paper, Name, Address, Phone, Credit Card Number, Exp. Date & CVV

2x3 Black & White Grad Ad

Congratulations Karly Smith! We are so very proud of you and your accomplishments. Good luck at Springfield College!

Love, Mom & Dad

LOWER PRICES TO BOOST YOUR BUDGET!

INFLATION

PRICE BUSTERS

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

USDA INSP. FROZEN BONE-IN CENTER CUT PORK LOIN CHOPS.....	\$249	USDA INSP. FRESH BONE-IN BEEF T'BONE or PORTERHOUSE STEAKS	\$10.99
USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS PORK BUTT STRIP	\$288	USDA INSP. FRESH BEEF SHORT RIBS	\$8.77
USDA INSP. FRESH PORK SIRLOIN CUTLETS.....	\$219	USDA INSP. GROUND FRESH DAILY 80% LEAN GROUND BEEF 7 LB BAG	\$4.28
SLICED IN OUR DELI			
USDA INSP. DOMESTIC HAM.....	\$3.99		
USDA INSP. PROVOLONE CHEESE.....	\$4.44		
SOUP'S ON!			
USDA INSP. FRESH GOAT MEAT.....	\$6.99		
USDA INSP. FROZEN BEEF OXTAILS	\$9.99		

SALE DATES: 4/23/26-4/29/26

90 Meat Outlet

90 Avocado St. Springfield

413-737-1288

www.90meat.com

We reserve the right to limit quantities.

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

HootTheHandyman.com 413-636-9181

Hoot the Handyman

Todd Huhtanen | Belchertown • MA
Todd@HootTheHandyman.com

CALL TODAY!

Repairing Window Screens & Building Aluminum Frames

“Meticulous, Efficient & Reliable”

SPRING RE-SCREENING SPECIAL!

Let the fresh air in & keep the bugs out - CLEARER VISIBILITY

Standard screens starting at \$45 each.

SCREENING DONE ON SITE

Call Today!!!

FULLY INSURED • HIC LICENSE #197767
FREE Estimates by Phone / Email

COMMUNITY

Logos sought for 167th Belchertown Fair

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 cre-

ated 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.

ARCPOINT from page 1

Board members clarified that the pavilion and the music pad are two separate structures. Chair Dan Beaudette said, “Misunderstanding, and I thought that was all in one same project. The two different, two different [structures], just a concrete pad. The other one is going to be a concrete pad.”

Public safety around the parking lot became a central concern. Member Mike Hofler questioned how close patrons would be to vehicle traffic and suggested pulling the pavilion slightly closer to the rear lot line to give more room on the parking side.

“I was going through the code,” Hofler said. “We have the ability, for good and just cause, to release some of that distance... Would that be safer for the customers that are between the pavilion and the parking lot itself?”

The applicant welcomed the idea. “If we could do that, right, yeah, it would definitely work to our advantage,” Pare said, noting that families with children use the lawn during events.

After confirming that the Conservation Commission, Police and DPW had raised no objections, the board voted to treat the change as a minor amendment to the existing site plan and approved it with a dimensional waiver.

Beaudette cited the town’s site plan review section and was later clarified as “a conditional vote that we have waived the dimensional requirements on the very setback, the 15 feet.”

For residents, the decision means Arcpoint’s familiar

outdoor events will continue, but with a sturdier structure, permanent power and an adjusted layout intended to improve pedestrian safety near the parking lot.

Subdivision safeguards tightened at Meeshie Moon Path

The board next turned to the performance guarantee for the Meeshie Moon Path subdivision, focusing on the covenant that legally ties lot releases to completion of infrastructure.

Members and staff flagged that the draft form did not clearly reflect which lots would be “held” until the subdivision work is complete, and that a clause about mortgages appeared out of place.

Later in the meeting, when the developer arrived, the board laid out the issue directly. “The way it’s it should read is, all the other lots except for J, K, L, and M,” Beaudette said. “The way you’ve got it done now you’ve got us holding just four lots.”

The board agreed to approve the covenant in corrected form—listing all lots to be held except J, K, L and M and striking the mortgage language once the developer had initiated the changes—reinforcing protections that ensure roads and utilities are built to town standards before most lots are released.

Industrial land reconfigured for future business park

The Planning Board also endorsed an ANR (Approval Not Required) plan that reconfigures town and EDIC-controlled land off Turkey Hill Road and Forest Road. The move is designed to create a more marketable parcel for an eventual industrial park geared toward contrac-

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 mush-

room cultivations, 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.

tors and equipment-based businesses.

“This is basically flipping that one enclosed rectangle from the town property to the EDIC project,” Planner Doug Albertson said. “At some point that... rectangle... will be conveyed to EDIC ownership so they can develop.”

Kirk Stephens of the Belchertown EDIC described the vision for the site.

“This was the only remaining piece of the former State School property that we had to basically make an industrial park for landscapers, loggers, people with... machinery,” he said. He noted that some local businesses are currently parking trucks “on their front lawn” and “are looking for a spot.”

Stephens stressed that EDIC does not intend to build out the site itself.

“The intent is to find someone else who would like to purchase the entire property,” Hofler summarized, prompting Stephens to confirm that a private buyer would “put in the road... subdivide portions out for commercial purposes... and handle all of the financing.”

Infrastructure limits, especially sewer capacity, remain a constraint. Beaudette reminded the board that current development in that Route 21 corridor is tied into a two-inch force main: “Pride and Tractor Supply and the medical facility up above, they’re all running all their effluent into a two-inch line,” he said. To make that work, he added, “they put holding tanks in so they had to hold the effluent, and then it was timed so that they could get it through that pipe.”

Despite those limits, board members approved the lot reconfiguration, positioning

the site for future commercial use while acknowledging that larger sewer upgrades will be needed if the town wants more intensive development along Route 21.

Questions raised on dog training facility and kennel use

The board finished its major business with a recommendation to the Zoning Board of Appeals on a proposed commercial kennel at 213 Stephen Street, where the applicant already runs dog training and has a small kennel by the house.

The new plan calls for a 40-by-50-foot building roughly 300 feet back from the road. Members noted the residential character of Stephen Street.

“That’s our congested area,” Beaudette said. “There’s houses right next to each other, all up and down the street, so there’s a lot of neighbors.”

While the written application focused on training and grooming, board members wanted clarity on whether overnight boarding would be included. Hofler observed that the application “only references training in groups and private sessions,” and that it “does not reference overnight” boarding.

The board agreed to send a favorable recommendation to the ZBA, but with conditions that the purpose of the project be better documented in writing and that the building inspector determine whether a formal site plan review is required before construction.

Beaudette was favorable “subject to the applicant better documenting the purpose of the project, and the building inspector determine whether or not a site plan [approval] is required.”

THE BEST FRESH FOR SPRING!

Elsie’s Creamery Opening Saturday, April 25 FOR THE SEASON

The Best Homemade Ice Cream
MADE FRESH IN SMALL BATCHES AT THE CREAMERY!
Soft Serve, Shakes and Sundaes Too
Open Every Day Until 8pm
WINNER OF READER RAVES BEST HOMEMADE ICE CREAM

Celebrate Earth Day & Arbor Day
FREE 1 Cubic Foot Bag Fafard Planting Mix (\$11.99 Value)
With \$100 Tree or Shrub Purchase
(One Per Customer While Supplies Last)
April 22nd-April 28th

Administrative Professional’s Week
April 20th – 24th
Recognizing The Professionals Who Keep The Office Running
Great Gifts ~ Fresh Flowers
Indoor or Outdoor Plants
Desktop Dish Gardens • Gift Baskets & Gift Cards!

READY SET GROW!
Cool Weather Vegetable Plants
Lettuce, Cabbage, Broccoli, Celery, Onions, Kale & More!

SPRING BLOOMING TREES & SHRUBS
Forsythia, Magnolias, Azalea, Rhododendrons And More!
Fruit Trees
Apples, Pears, Peaches & Cherries

Spring Blooming Perennials
FOR THE GARDEN THAT BLOOMS YEAR AFTER YEAR!
Creeping Phlox, Columbine, Helleborus, Jacobs Ladder

Pretty Smiling PANSIES
Cool Weather Tolerant
Six Packs, Bowls & Pots
ALWAYS FRESH AT

RANDALL’S FARM & GREENHOUSE
631 CENTER ST., Route 21, Mass Tpke Exit 54 LUDLOW • 589-7071 • www.randallsfarm.net
NEW SPRING HOURS
OPEN EVERY DAY 7AM – 8PM
Find us on [facebook](#) and [YouTube](#)

WRITERS HELP WANTED

Turley Publications seeks **EXPERIENCED WRITERS/JOURNALISTS** to produce news and/or feature stories of local interest for various towns and cities.

- Must be dependable, professional and able to meet strict deadlines
- Salary based on a flat rate by story and photo

Send writing samples with resume to:

Turley Publications, Inc.
www.turley.com

GREG SCIBELLI
24 Water Street
Palmer, MA 01069
or email directly to:
gscibelli@turley.com

JIM POTTER
Your Local Home Town REALTOR® Since 2007

EXPERIENCE | KNOWLEDGE | PERSONAL ATTENTION
Excellent Service • Exceptional Results

“Glad I put my trust in Jim!”

413.221.5230
Jim.Potter@Raveis.com
200 Triangle Street | Amherst, MA 01002

WILLIAM RAVEIS
raveis.com

#1 **WILLIAM RAVEIS** WINNER Top Brokerage The #1 Real Estate Company in the U.S. 15th Year of Award Winner

NEWS & FEATURES

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

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

A TURLEY PUBLICATION
www.turley.com

SOCIAL SECURITY

Matters

By Russell Gloor

Must I set up a Social Security account to enroll in Medicare?

Dear Rusty:

I turn 65 this November 2026. Someone told me I need to set up a Social Security account at least three months ahead of time before applying for Medicare for the first time. I do not intend to take any Social Security benefits until, perhaps, age 67 or later. Please advise and thank you.

Signed: Looking Ahead

Dear Looking Ahead:

You don't technically need to "set up" an online SSA account to enroll in Medicare, but it would be more efficient to do so. We always recommend creating your online "my Social Security" account at www.ssa.gov/myaccount well before you are ready to claim your Social Security benefits. That's because you can monitor your projected Social Security benefits to help you decide when to claim, but it also facilitates other things you might need to do at the Social Security Administration such as claiming your SS retirement benefits online and enrolling in Medicare online.

As for Medicare, you can enroll in Medicare up to three months before the month you turn 65, and you can contact the Social Security Administration by phone up to three months prior in order to schedule an appointment to enroll over the phone (call 1-800-772-1213 to make the appointment). You can enroll via telephone, even if you don't have your "my Social Security" online account set up.

However, an advantage to creating your personal online Social Security account is that you could then enroll in Medicare online as described at this link: www.ssa.gov/medicare/sign-up. And you can, as you wish to do, enroll only in Medicare without also taking your Social Security benefits at this

time.

I want to also make you aware that if you are still working and have "creditable" healthcare coverage from your employer ("creditable" is an employer group plan with at least 20 participants), then you can delay enrolling in Medicare until your employer coverage ends (thus saving the usual Medicare Part B monthly premium). When your employer's healthcare coverage ends, you will enter a Special Enrollment Period during which you can enroll in Medicare without incurring a Late Enrollment Penalty.

Finally, please be aware that whenever you claim your Social Security benefits, you will be automatically enrolled in Medicare Part A (inpatient hospitalization coverage) and Part B (coverage for outpatient medical services). Since there is a monthly premium associated with Medicare Part B (but not with Part A), you can choose to decline Part B if you are still working and covered by your employer's creditable healthcare plan, until your employer's healthcare coverage ends.

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.

OPINION

LETTERS

Resident endorses Pearson for select board

Dear Editor,

It is my pleasure to support Lesa Lessard Pearson for Select Board. As the current Chair, Lesa has proven to be a deeply committed leader who navigates the complexities of local government with compassion, clarity and purpose.

We are living through a time of major global and local changes. To thrive, we need leadership nimble enough to address 21st-century

cultural, economic, and climatic realities. Simply doing things "as they've always been done" is no longer enough. Lesa is a level-headed professional committed to collaborative problem-solving.

With over three decades of experience in healthcare and public policy, Lesa has a sophisticated understanding of how to solve systemic problems. In Belchertown, she is known for her thoughtful and inclusive approach,

ensuring all voices are heard. She strengthens our community by fostering civic engagement, bridging gaps between diverse groups, and inspiring residents to take an active role in our democracy.

Lesa Lessard Pearson is the steady hand Belchertown needs. I hope you will join me in supporting her continued leadership. I encourage you to re-elect Lesa for Belchertown Select Board on May 18.

Cara Lapenas

Please vote Guardenier for school committee

Dear Editor,

I'm writing to share my strong support for Hope Guardenier for the Belchertown School Committee—not just because of her impressive experience, but also because of the kind of person she is.

Since moving to Belchertown in 2003, she has consistently stepped up to serve the community through roles on the Board of Health, the Belchertown Education Foundation, and the Fair Exhibit Hall Committee. She shows up, listens, and puts in the work.

As a parent of two children in Belchertown Public

Schools, her commitment is personal. She understands what families and students are going through because she's living it too. During COVID, she even stepped in as a substitute when help was needed—something that speaks volumes about her character.

Professionally, Hope brings more than two decades of experience as an educator working with local public school districts across the valley. She is also a small business owner, leading The Farm Education Collaborative and School Sprouts Educational Gardens—organizations that reflect her commitment to innovative, hands-on learning. Her work as an Institute

Coach for Massachusetts Farm to School and her role on the statewide Food Literacy Steering Committee demonstrate both leadership and a forward-thinking approach to education.

What stands out most is her collaborative, thoughtful approach and her deep investment in both our local schools and the broader future of education. Hope Guardenier is someone I trust to represent our community with integrity, compassion, and common sense. I'm proud to support her and hope you will too.

Jen Turner

Support for Hope Guardenier for school committee

Dear Editor:

Like many Towns at this time, Belchertown is financially challenged, and without our proper use of the override process last year to invest in Belchertown, we would be even further behind. This year the school budget continues to be cut and programs cancelled despite our best efforts. It is a good time for new people to step up and help. Therefore, in this letter I am writing to express my full support for Hope Guardenier in her campaign for a seat on the Belchertown School Committee. She cares deeply about the quality of our schools and the well-being of our students, I believe that electing thoughtful, commit-

ted, and community-minded individuals is essential for our Town at this time. Hope embodies all of these qualities.

Hope is a deep thinker who has demonstrated a consistent dedication to improving educational opportunities for all students. She will listen carefully, ask meaningful questions, and approach challenges with a balanced, solutions-oriented mindset. Her ability to collaborate with educators, families, and community members in her work makes her uniquely prepared to serve effectively on the school committee. What stands out most is Hope's commitment to the Town, her integrity, work ethic, and her awareness of the needs of the students and their families.

Difficult challenges lay ahead for our schools and town. Full transparency and Town wide collaboration will be needed to create the positive and inclusive changes required in this time of stagnant growth with an aging population. Creative solutions are needed and as a former member and chairperson I fully understand how challenging that can be. Hope is the type of person who can listen to others and see what is needed. I am confident that Hope will bring thoughtful leadership, transparency, and a strong sense of responsibility to the school committee. I encourage others in our community to join me in supporting her candidacy.

Sincerely,

Eric Weiss

In honor of Mother Earth

This week, we celebrate Earth Day. Lots of towns host bulk waste days or a town-wide clean up as ways to note the day.

While most of us garden with great intentions such as beautifying our yards or producing home grown vegetables, it is important to note that the gardening/greenhouse industry hasn't always been what you'd call "earth-friendly." From mountains of plastic pots not rotting away in our landfills to story after story of chemical misuse, we inadvertently hurt the very source of our pleasure.

So, in honor of Earth Day, read from the archives eight easy things we can do as gardeners to tread a bit more lightly on 'ole Mother.

Feed the soil, not the plant

Have your soil tested and ask for organic recommendations to correct nutrient deficiencies. Replenishing your garden with amendments like rock phosphate and greensand will help to create long-lasting nutrient storehouses.

Healthy soil will produce plants that are less prone to insect and disease problems.

Start a compost pile

Layer your vegetable and yard waste, keep it moist and

give it a turn. After a short time it will decompose, leaving behind a great source of organic matter.



No matter how you garden, be it vegetables, flowers, herbs, fruits or even shrubs, each benefit from a yearly top dressing of "black gold."

Make compost tea

Are your transplants looking a little pale? Rather than sprinkling them with "blue water," perk them up with home-brewed compost tea.

Mix one part well-rotted compost or manure to five parts water and allow it to sit for a week or more. Strain before foliar feeding your plants.

Shop Mom and Pop

Buying local, directly from the grower usually means a knowledgeable sales team! Form relationships and learn from their expertise.

Ask them to carry organic seeds, potting soils and pest control options.

Reduce, reuse, recycle!

I first became familiar with this catch phrase back in 1990, when Earth Day celebrations went global. In the context of plastic pots and other containers used to grow or move plants, I'd like to think that the local Mom and Pop shop would take back the pots you bought their plants in and use them to grow

next years crop.

If not, maybe you could reuse them to start some homegrown seedlings and recycle the rest. An even better solution for earth conscious growers would be to replace plastic with fiber (stronger than peat and made from recycled materials to boot).

Use least toxic measures to control bugs and other garden thugs

Beer to trap slugs, and baking soda for black spot—the list of remedies to fight garden maladies is numerous and not always a stretch of the imagination. If you must choose a chemical option follow the manufacturer's recommendations. Assuming that more is better is outdated and dangerous thinking!

Conserve water

We all know that watering during the heat of the day results in lots of moisture lost

Please see **GARDEN**, page 13

Turley Publications Letters to the Editor Policy

Letters to the editor should be 350 words or less in length. No unsigned or anonymous opinions will be published. We require letter writers to include his or her town of residence and home telephone number. We must authenticate authorship prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit or withhold any submissions deemed to be libelous or contain unsubstantiated allegations, personal attacks, defamation of character and offensive language. All unknown or alleged facts and quotations offered by the author need to cite credible, unbiased sources. Send letters to: Sentinel, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069 or via email to sentinel@turley.com. The deadline for submissions is Friday at 5 p.m.

Turley Election Policy

This newspaper will print free self-submitted statements of candidacy only four weeks or more out from the election. All candidates running in both contested and uncontested races are asked to submit their statements to the editor to include only biographical and campaign platform details. Total word count for statements is limited to between 300-500 words maximum. Please include a photo. We will not publish any statements of candidacy inside the four weeks from election threshold. To publish any other campaign publicity during the race, please contact our advertising representatives. We also do not allow personal attacks against other candidates or political parties in statements of candidacy, nor do we publish for free any information about key endorsements or political fundraisers.

Letters to the editor of no more than 250 words from supporters endorsing specific candidates or discussing campaign issues are limited to three total per author during the election season. No election letters will appear in the final edition before the election. We reserve the right to edit all statements of candidacy and letters to the editor to meet our guidelines.

Belchertown, Granby & Amherst
SENTINEL

We Want to Hear From You

EDITOR

sentinel@turley.com

ADVERTISING SALES

Nick Brady

nbrady@turley.com

SPORTS EDITOR

Greg Scibelli

sports@turley.com

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



WEB

sentinel.turley.com



PHONE

(413) 283-8393



ADDRESS

24 Water Street
Palmer, MA 01069

Turley
Publications, Inc.

www.turley.com

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



By Ellenor Downer



Red-breasted nuthatch

Last Wednesday, April 8 while waiting at the bus stop for my grandson, I saw two red-breasted nuthatches in a small grove of pine trees near the road.

They were going up and down several pine trees most likely in search of insects. The red-breasted nuthatch is about 4.3 to 4.7 inches long and exhibits the typical head-down nuthatch behavior of its larger cousin, the white-breasted nuthatch. Male and females are similar with a black eye stripe, white eyebrow and buff orange underparts. It has a blue-gray back.

They inhabit conifer forests and in winter may be found in other trees. They nest mostly in conifers such as spruce, fir, hemlock.

Both sexes excavate a nest cavity in a rotten stub or snag, usually five to 40 feet about the ground. Sticky pitch is smeared around the entrance of the nest hole possibly to prevent other creatures from entering. Adults avoid getting stuck in the pitch by flying straight into the hole. Sometimes they are seen with pitch on their feathers.

The female lays five to six white, spotted eggs. The female incubates the eggs and the male brings food to her. Both parents feed the nestlings. Young nuthatches leave the nest about two to three weeks after hatching.

Please see **BACKYARD**, page 13

GARDEN BEDS
from page 1

education. As Pathfinder is a trade school, these projects are common and are built into the curriculum. Work requests are open to the public and can be submitted through the school's website and include services ranging from carpentry to baked goods. Some students are even hard at work in the community building residential houses. Some students have even been used for massive initiatives, such as the renovation of the Belchertown fire department, an undertaking that saved the town "a million and a half dollars" according to Duda.

"We love collaborating with any one of the nine-member towns," said Duda. "Having our students build something and invest in something with their time and material that's going to last for many, many years in a town like Belchertown, where can watch it be cared for a preserved is just a great feeling."

Students presented the garden beds to a group of Christopher Heights representatives shuttled to Pathfinder's school campus. The generations intermingled as the beds were showcased to the residents with no small amount of pride.

"I've had many students with pride say to friends and family when they are out in the community 'I helped build that' or 'I was part of that'," reflected Turner. "There really is a connection between not only the project that they're getting credit for here at school but then feeling like they are contributing to a community. Especially in this day and age, that's priceless."

"I live in pride every day," said Duda about his perspective of the student body as Pathfinder superintendent. "I'm a graduate from the '90s. It's my twentieth year here, fifth as superintendent. I literally am smiling and feeling good about everything every day here. It's good stuff."



The professional wood shop houses the next generation of carpenters and wood workers.



Superintendent Eric Duda stands in front of a finished raised garden bed.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY BEN HERNANDEZ
Teachers, students, and assisted living residents marvel at the work performed.



Multiple generations gather to celebrate student efforts.

please recycle this newspaper

TOP DOLLAR PAID CARS, TRUCKS & SUVs
GOOD OR JUNK
"WE COME WITH THE CASH"
Nate (413) 636-2929
D AND M AUTO
1422 Park St.
Palmer, MA 01069

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

COMPLETE STORAGE
Units & Sizes Available:
Climate Controlled 5x10/10x10
Regular Units 5x10/10x10/10x15/10x20/10x30
COMPLETESTORAGEDBA.COM
413-308-6904
148 Carmelinas Circle Ludlow, MA

Climate Controlled Units Available

Outside Parking Spaces Also Available for Boats, RVs, Trailers, Etc.

ADVERTISING SALES HELP WANTED

- Do you want to work in your community helping local businesses connect with their customers?
- Do you want a career supporting local journalism, which tells the unique stories of our communities?
- If so, then join our team! Turley Publications is looking for an outgoing, energetic person interested in selling advertising for our community newspapers. The right candidate will assume an established territory with a portfolio of customers.

You must be a self-starter with excellent communication and organizational skills. Basic computer skills are required. Previous print sales experience is preferred but we will train the right candidate.

Turley Publications, a locally owned family business, offers a competitive commission structure, 401k, and health plan.

Send resume & cover letter to:
Jamie Joslyn
24 Water Street
Palmer, MA 01069
Email: jamie@turley.com

Turley Publications, Inc.

Let's Garden
Get your green thumbs in gear right here!

Your lawn projects start here!

Rototillers, brush mowers, pressure washers, overseeders, dethatchers, and more.

TJ'S True Value RENTAL
South Hadley
413-554-4164

SOUTH HADLEY • 533-5503
577 Granby Road (Rt. 202)

tjsrental.com

RANDALL'S FARM & GREENHOUSE

Everything You Need For Spring Planting

631 CENTER ST., Route 21, Mass Tpke Exit 54
LUDLOW • 589-7071 • www.randallsfarm.net
OPEN EVERY DAY 7AM-8PM

DAVE'S NATURAL GARDEN

Huge Selection of Annuals & Perennials
Hanging Baskets, House Plants, Gardening Supplies, Fruit & Vegetable Starts, Chicken Manure, Compost & More

35 Amherst St., Granby
413-320-6802
www.davesnaturalgarden.com

Hodgen Landscape Co., Inc.
Est. 1956

Complete Landscaping, Designing & Planting
P.O. Box 873 | Belchertown, MA 01007

Phone (413) 323-4949 ♦ Fax (413) 323-4999 ♦ Cell (413) 246-9997
hodgenlandscape.com ♦ hodgenlandscape@gmail.com

The Amherst Farmers Market returns

New and old sellers and customers meet on the Common

By Richard Murphy
Correspondent

AMHERST – Opening day of the Amherst Farmers Market on April 18, dawned deceptively warm, but clouds would form and a chill took to the air.

No matter, the plethora of vendors and shoppers as well as folks just strolling the Common were not deterred by the dip in temperature. And who could blame them, the harsh, snowy winter was gone and all of us want to be outside.

Many veteran sellers were back for the first day, but there were more than a few new vendors on hand adding to the necessity of creative tactics if one wanted to see all of them.

The first stop for many early shoppers would be a logical choice, coffee. The blends from Stout Pigeon are many and varied, and all are worth coming to the market to experience. Stout Pigeon Coffee is the way to start your morning.

Bill and Connie Gillen of Sunset Farm in Amherst have been bringing their produce to the market it feels like forever, as they have been coming longer than any other vendor. Bill and Connie are founders of the market.

Aaron, the entrepreneur behind “Beyond Happiness,” is a serious man who worked on his own skin care and keeps at it. He is a market veteran.

The Amherst Market has many specialty foods. On Saturday, biscotti and pizzelles from Bakers Lane were a gourmet snack.

Moving on, Kathryn was offering Lifebooch Kombucha. Lifebooch is a nutrient rich functional, fermented beverage.

Beeswax is known at the market for its usefulness, but Barton Beeswax Candles specializes in lighting up year-round.

Berkshire Mountain Bakery’s specialty is sourdough. This variety has more than a few fans.

Boulder Top Farm has been around a while, previously as New England Wild Edibles. No matter, the shrooms are great.

Bread Euphoria, out from Haydenville, is aptly named. The variety of pastries and breads is oft sold out by market’s end.

Buzz Off Bee Company is an intrepid beekeeper who bravely enters the hive and provides market goers with lovely beeswax and honey.

Chase Hill Farm, an organic 100% grassfed dairy and diversified livestock farm, has been at the market for decades with its meats and cheeses. Chase Hill comes down from Warwick.

Creme Bru.LA is back and happy to be here as are its

many fans. Creme Bru.LA is a rich French custard that you can afford at the market.

Julie has been bringing Crooked Stick Pops to Amherst Farmers Market for years and it is the popsicle perfected.

Donna’s Alpaca wool creations that she calls from Fiber to Fashion, will keep you warm in winter, but get them before then.

Home Fruit Wine returns with more than a few flavors. If it is a fruit that can be made into wine, Home Fruit probably has it.

Jiang Farm always has the market’s healthy fresh Chinese vegetables.

Justamere Tree Farm has been bringing everything with dark, strong maple sweetness since forever.

Leyden Glen is where Kristin sells brightly colored towels and pottery as well as farm-raised lamb. Incongruous maybe, but it works.

Marie and Keith of Little Pond Flower Farm have color with their cut flowers.

Quabbin Hill Farm, from Pelham have a variety of offerings, such as their own tomato sauce, microgreens, pasture raised eggs, CBD and more.

Red Fire Farm is a sizeable organic footprint out of Granby that also has a sizeable presence in Amherst on Saturday’s during the market season.

Bill and Connie Gillen of Sunset Farm in Amherst have been bringing their produce to the market it feels like forever, as they have been coming longer than any other vendor. They must be doing something right.

If you are looking for small batch, simple, local gluten-free granola, Sweet Babu’s is what you want. Come and see Liz on Saturday.

So, you swear you’re never going to like vegan baked goods? Give Twisted a chance and you will change your mind. This summer they’ve added sandwiches to the lineup.

This is the second year for Wild Shoat Farm who added

Please see **MARKET**, page 9



Jiang Farm offered Asian vegetables.



Paul Kaplan entertained at the Amherst Farmers Market on opening day.



Sunset Farm is a longstanding vendor at the Amherst Farmers Market.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY RICHARD MURPHY

Summer Snoballs were available for those who needed to cool off.



Justamere Tree Farm offered maple products.



Animal rights were spotlighted by Western Mass Animal Rights Advocates



Fresh mushrooms were available to purchase from Amherst Mushrooms.



Hillcrest Farm offered popcorn products.



Peterman's Bowls offered woodturned products.

MARKET from page 8

something a bit different. Not only is he bringing his veggies, but the farmer is also a block print artist and had his creations in that medium on display.

South America is represented at the market by two standouts.

Zora's has something the market has not seen before her arrival, Arepas. It is a stuffed flatbread that has been made in Venezuela since pre-Columbian times.

Sofia brings her Argentine Empanadas, a turnover with a flaky crust and a savory filling.

It was pleasant to see all the old faithful vendors return, but all the new faces are welcome as well.

Jen and her Free Spirit farm came with products related to the mini dairy goats she raises. From soaps to natural skincare, there is much available.

Amherst Mushroom Company is in town and has a wide variety of fresh and dried mushrooms.

Banana Compost will



Do you sit too much? UMass Kinesiology can help.

come and get the stuff you need gone in an environmentally responsible way.

Datev Gevorkian's Hillcrest Farms in Hadley produces a few different crops but is known for the popcorn.

Sam Scherer and his beautiful bowls will not be back this year. This year,

Spencer Peterman will bring them. Big shoes to fill, but Peterman's bowls show promise. We wish him luck.

Emet Aron brought a portfolio of his Dream Seed Arts ink and watercolors to "connect to the more-than-human world."

Public service and community organizations were pres-



Kathryn of Lifebooch Kombucha returned to the Amherst Farmers Market.

ent as well.

Better Together Dog Rescue was as its name implied and Western Mass Animal Rights Advocates shared a table with Positive Change for Animals.

Amherst Historical Society was about what the name implied.

Granted, folks at the mar-

ket like to be out and about more than the average person, but there are a people who sit a lot and that is a problem. But The UMass Department of Kinesiology was on the Common on Saturday.

They were there promoting a study to learn about the relationship between, sitting,



TURLEY PHOTOS BY RICHARD MURPHY
Lovely flower colors were arranged at Little Pond.

physical activity and brain health, and they were looking for participants. Maybe you would want to be one. You can contact them at 413-545-8979.

There is always something interesting at the market that will continue until late November from 8 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Come on down.



Quaboag Hills

CHIP GENERAL BODY MEETING

Open to the General Public!

Join us to review progress, hear updates, and discuss next steps for the CHIP initiative.

FOOD AND DRINKS WILL BE PROVIDED!

MAY 1, 2026

10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

E2E Center,
79 Main St.,
Ware, MA 01082

RSVP BY
APRIL 24

Scan QR Code or Use Link:
<https://forms.gle/Bq8VtsUvLs2yan8V6> to Register



CONTACT US

413-807-0901

sblake@townofware.com



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- 1 Reflect & Strategize
- 2 Identify & Engage Stakeholders
- 3 Define the Community
- 4 Collect & Analyze Data
- 5 Prioritize Community Health Issues
- 6 Document & Communicate Results
- 7 Plan Implementation Strategies
- 8 Implementation Strategies
- 9 Evaluate Progress

BUSINESS

Taylor Rental celebrates 20th year anniversary

By Ben Hernandez
Correspondent

SOUTH HADLEY – TJ's Taylor Rental, located at 577 Granby Road, is about to celebrate its 20th anniversary. James Falcone, the location's business owner, comes from a long line of entrepreneurs. His grandfather, Rocco Falcone, created Rocky's Hardware, which is now better known today as Rocky's Ace Hardware.

During the Great Depression in the 1930s, Rocco Falcone noticed that people were unable to buy tools. Identifying a need for rental tools, Rocco Falcone created Rocky's Rentals. It was the business that inspired his friend and owner of the dealer supply end of the business Harold Plugge to establish his own rental company.

"People couldn't afford to buy anything," Falcone said. "So, Rocky's had a rental division. They would buy their hardware from dealer supply. Hal Plugge owned dealer supply, saw my grandfather renting and said, 'hey, that's a great idea. Would you mind if I started renting?' My grandfather said, 'absolutely not, as long as you don't compete with me.' And to this day, there's not a Taylor Rental in Springfield because he said he would never compete with my grandfather."

Jim Falcone's entrance into the business was a bit more colorful. After working as a construction project manager in Los Angeles, he met



James Falcone poses with his team as they celebrate their company's upcoming anniversary.

his wife Tamara while she was working as a commodities broker. Laid off from his construction job in 1992, the Falcones moved to Park City in Utah where he worked a ski instructor. From there, he went to Maui and "messed around there."

"Then I came home got get serious," said Falcone. "There was an old ready rent for sale in Hadley. My family owned the property and the current owner was back on rent six, eight months. And it was an opportunity to buy it. I bought it, converted it into a Taylor Rental, turned



Bobcats are poised and are ready to serve.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY BEN HERNANDEZ

The marquee from the road ushers in generation of clients new and old.

it around and had double digit increases for the first 10 years and turned out to be a great thing."

The original Hadley location was in service for 11 years before building the 577 Granby Road location in 2006 and moving his business to its current place in South Hadley. Falcone attributes the location's success to hard work and catering to the customer.

"Old-school rental stores were dirty," he commented when asked about how he's kept the franchise going for so many years. "We polished it up, we got a bright showroom, we've got clean equipment, we cater to the customer's needs and make sure any time a customer has a problem, we make it right regardless of what we have to do."

He emphasized customer satisfaction as the key that keeps the doors open. Ensuring that the business continues to employ and maintain helpful and pleasant

workers is a major factor in this.

"It's nice to get compliments on how good and pleasant my staff is," remarked Falcone on his strategy to secure the business' future. "If the customer's happy, they keep coming back."

The business services the entire Pioneer Valley. From Longmeadow to Wilbraham, Falcone mentions that they have repeat customers as far as Montague and as far south as to the state line. There are even customers from the original Hadley address that call upon them for services. Despite the many years in operation, the franchise was not without its hardships.

"Drawback was COVID," Falcone reflected when asked about if the business ever experienced hard times. "Also, the construction on Route 9. We ended up closing our store on Route 9 in '23 because of the downturn of Covid and all the construction on Route 9. Trying to find good help in this business is really difficult because it's very laborious."

Falcone mentioned that another important factor to Taylor Rental's success is being community conscious and providing sizable discounts to rental orders, something he refers to as the save 30, shop 30 coupon. "A lot of people have sticker shock when they order a tent, tables, chairs, and they realize it's almost \$1000. They're real happy when I tell them I can save them 30% off."

"I'll be here for another 20 years," said Falcone when asked if he had any additional closing thoughts. "I just want to thank everybody that's been my customers for the last 30 years. I appreciate the return customers. That's what makes it go around."



A myriad of equipment and tools are available for any project's needs.



Falcone stands proudly by his selection of tools and equipment.

A FULL SERVICE COMPANY

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

Residential
Commercial
Industrial

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

Neighborhood Marketplace

Locally owned businesses here to serve you!

TILTON AUTOMOTIVE

GENERAL REPAIRS

AutoCare Center
We Install Only NAPA Parts

FREDERICK TILTON
Owner
323-5051

ROUTE 9
3 AMHERST ROAD
BELCHERTOWN, MA 01007

Quabbin Analytical Laboratory

Have you tested your well water recently?

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

Adventure tours of Warren
Share the Adventure with us!

Boothbay Harbor Vacation

June 9-12 4-Day Boothbay Harbor Vacation	\$899
June 27....Lake George Cruise & Lunch	\$185
July 11.....Provincetown by Fast Ferry	\$220
July 19.....8-Day Bermuda & Halifax Cruise	from \$1699
Aug 30.....8-Day Nova Scotia Cruise	from \$1699

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

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

EXPIRES 6/30/26

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

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

sports@turley.com

@turleysports

facebook.com/turleysports

SPORTS

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

SEND US YOUR SPORTS SUBMISSIONS

www.sports.turley.com

Orioles get four-set win over Pacers



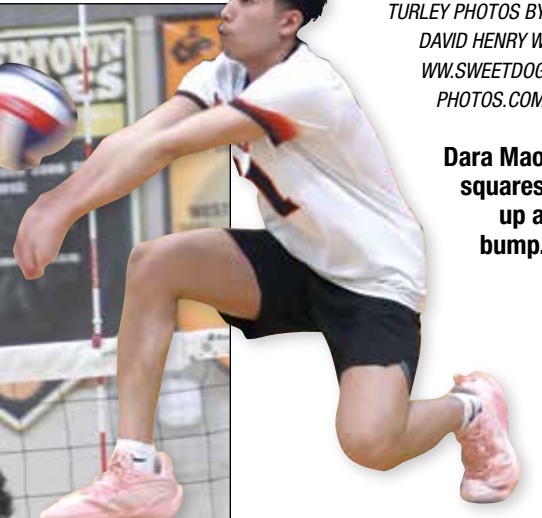
Arda Cayan gets an easy set in the middle of the court.



Henry Walter gets the low hit.



Brian Burns attempts to hit the ball past a defender.



Dara Mao squares up a bump.



Gavin Couchon spikes the ball.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY W WW.SWEETDOG PHOTOS.COM

BELCHERTOWN – Last Monday evening, Belchertown High School boys volleyball picked up its fourth win of the year, defeat-

ing Chicopee High 3-1. The Orioles were outlasted 26-24 in the first set before sweeping the next three for the win. Gavin Couchon had a

big match with 21 kills. Arda Cayan had 35 assists in the win. The Pacers fell to 2-5 on the season and Belchertown is now an even 4-4.

Warriors get late surge to beat Orioles

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

BELCHERTOWN—The non-league girls' lacrosse match-up between the Tantasqua Lady Warriors and the Belchertown Lady Orioles was a tightly contested affair until the middle of the third quarter.

With the score tied, 7-7, the Lady Warriors outscored the Lady Orioles, 8-1, over the final 18 minutes of the contest leading to a 15-8 road victory last Friday afternoon.

"I thought my team played very well, especially during the second half," said Tantasqua head coach Heather Egan. "We lost a tough game yesterday and it feels very good to enter the vacation week with a victory."

Tantasqua (5-4), who aren't scheduled to play any games during the April vacation week, suffered an 8-3 road loss against Northbridge High School twenty four hours earlier.

The Lady Warriors have now won five of the last six meetings against Belchertown, which includes a 15-7 home win a year ago.

The only time that the Lady Orioles (5-3), celebrated a win in the series was a 14-9 victory on their home grass field two years ago.

"We did win at Chicopee High School (19-9) yesterday," said Belchertown head coach Jarrod Lemke. "This has always been a tough

Please see **GIRLS**, page 12



Ava Loughman tries to avoid a crowd and head for the goal.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI
Kaelynn Slapski fights for a loose ball.



McKenna Zumburski heads for midfield with the ball.



McKenna Cudsworth focuses as she picks up the ball.



Carli Zobka use her body to position herself to pick up the loose ball.



Mylin Laliberte picks up a loose ball all alone.

Granby offense explodes for slugfest win over Chicopee

GRANBY – Last Monday afternoon it was all offense between Granby and Chicopee girls lacrosse. Host Granby was a little better, defeating the Pacers 18-12. Brenna Moreno and Mylin Laliberte had four goals

each while Kaelynn Slapski and Carly Zobka had three goals each. Chicopee was led with five goals each from Sophia Moreira and Kiyah Price. The Pacers fell to 3-2 on the season while Granby improved to 5-2 on the year.

Tough start for Pathfinder baseball



Emerson Boronski catches a pop fly.

PALMER – Last Monday afternoon, Pathfinder baseball fell to 0-5 on the season with a 15-1 loss against visiting St. Mary's. The Saints scored 10 times in the first inning to pace win. Pathfinder just managed two hits, including a Brody Wetnicka RBI hit. The Pioneers are now 0-6 on the season.



ABOVE: Zack Smith hits a grounder into play.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY MADDOX BAER

LEFT: Jake Kokoski catches a strike.

Pioneers still searching for first win

PALMER – Last Thursday afternoon, Pathfinder fell to host Palmer 8-3 at Palmer High School. For Pathfinder, Taylor Thornton and Addison Doktor had two hits each. Doktor drove in two of Pathfinder's runs. Hannah Roy, Kylee Lukas and Amhia McElreavy had three hits each. Jaelyn Swiatowski had three RBI. Jill Holbrook pitched a complete game, allowing three runs and eight hits, striking out five. The Pioneers are 0-7 while Palmer improved to 2-5 for the year.



Addison Doktor winds back for a swing.

Taylor Thornton throws a strike over home plate.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY MADDOX BAER



Taylor Thornton sets to swing.



Ellisyn Gelinas pulls back for the throw.



Elisyn Gelinas pressures the runner.

Pitching still needed for Pioneer Valley league

SOUTH HADLEY – The Pioneer Valley Baseball League, an adult baseball league for players who are age 18 and over, still has open roster spots for 2026 season.

The league is especially in need of some additional pitching for a couple of its teams. The season is just one game in and there are 21 games remaining through the summer with playoffs taking place in August.

The adult league will be administered by the Quabbin Valley Baseball League, and a registration link is on the home page of the league's website www.quabbinvalleybaseball.org. Thought it will be under the Quabbin umbrella, there will be no major changes in how the league is operated.

This year, the PVBL will have a 22-game regular season schedule followed by a double-elimination playoffs. The league, which had five teams last year and had to utilize multiple byes throughout the season, will be fielding a sixth team this season.

The league is a wood-bat only league utilizing playing under regular baseball rules though all players do bat. The league operates on a Saturday-Tuesday schedule. Games are played on

Saturday mornings with 10 a.m. starts typical and on Tuesday evenings with start times in the 5:30 to 6 p.m. range. The league will start play in late April and run through the end of August.

There are slots open for both full-time players and part-time players. The fee for full-time players will be \$260 with part-time players getting up to 11 games for \$130. Fees paid go toward the operation of the league, paying for insurance, umpires, fields, and baseballs. No one profits in any way. Those who sign up after the season begins will pay a prorated fee for the season.

In addition to the new sixth team, there are limited open roster spots on the other teams in the league, so get your registration in as soon as possible to participate in this season.

Games are played at ballfields throughout the region from as far south as Southwick's Whalley Field, through South Hadley's Beachgrounds and up north at Frontier Regional High School in South Deerfield.

For any questions, please go to the league website for more information. The league hopes interested players will come out and join the fun this spring and summer.

GIRLS from page 11

match-up game. They're just a fundamentally sound team."

Belchertown, who never held the lead against Tantasqua, is scheduled to play two home games this week.

The Lady Warriors, who play their home matches on a turf field, played their second game on a grass field this spring. They posted a 21-9 win at Notre Dame of Worcester on April 14.

"We've practiced on grass to get ready for our two grass games," Egan said. "It's a lot slower game on grass."

The duo of senior Tess Alexander and sophomore Maeve O'Neil combined to score eight of the Lady

Warriors 15 goals in the only meeting of the regular season against the Lady Orioles.

O'Neil scored five goals, which tied her career high. She was also credited with an assist.

"I'm playing with a lot more confidence so far this season," said O'Neil, who's a second-year varsity player. "I'm also one of the leaders on the field."

O'Neil's older sister, Kaydie, is a first year member of the Wheaton College women's lacrosse team.

Alexander also recorded a hat-trick with three goals and three assists.

"Both of them have been our leaders offensively so far this season," Egan said. "They always make good

decisions and are always in the right places on the field."

Alexander, who holds the school record for career assists, is one of the remaining Tantasqua players who lost to Belchertown in 2024.

"It definitely feels a lot better than the last time we played a game on this field," said Alexander, who's planning to play both soccer and lacrosse at Framingham State University. "I really enjoy assisting a little more than I do scoring a goal."

Senior Fiona Knott, who's the Lady Warriors starting goalie, will be playing lacrosse at Bridgewater State University, which is Egan's alma mater.

"We'll have three players playing college lacrosse next

year," Egan said. "It's always nice to see your players go on and play a sport at the next level."

Knott made several key saves, especially during the opening half, which helped the Lady Warriors keep the lead. She gave her thoughts on following in her coaches' footsteps.

"I decided to go to Bridgewater because it was a good fit for me," Knott said. "I think it's cool that I'll be following in my coaches' footsteps. I'm excited to play college lacrosse. We were able to score a bunch of goals in today's game, which took a lot of the pressure off me."

Freshman Liza Alexander scored two goals and sophomore Liv Kearns added

another goal during the final four minutes of the third period, which helped the Lady Warriors build an 11-7 lead entering the final twelve minutes of the match.

The trio of junior Bryn Carey, junior Liana McCarthy, and senior Abbie Wotten also chipped in with goals for the visiting team from Fiskdale.

The only other senior listed on the Tantasqua girl's lacrosse roster is Ella Kearns, who's a starting defender.

Belchertown senior goalie Emma Almeida, who didn't play in the home game versus Tantasqua, is planning to play lacrosse at Elms College.

Freshman Vivienza Haggerty made her first

career home start in goal for the Lady Orioles.

"Vivienza played well in her first home game," Lemke said. "Because Emma is a senior, I just want Vivienza to get some experience this year. They're probably going to split playing time."

Junior Lia Pikul posted a hat-trick for the Lady Orioles. Her third goal of the game tied the score for the final time at 7-7 with six minutes left in the third quarter.

Junior's Lily Tellier and Aubrey McCain both scored two goals for the Lady Orioles.

Junior Maddy Philpott added a goal and two assists for the home team.

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	
11			12		13				14			
15					16				17			
	18			19	20				21			
				22	23				24			
25	26	27	28	29								
30						31						
32							33	34	35	36	37	
				38	39	40		41	42			
				43				44				
	45	46	47									
48					49			50	51	52	53	54
55					56				57			58
59					60				61			
62					63				64			

CLUES ACROSS

- Egyptian bull-god
- Romanian monetary unit
- Will Ferrell holiday film
- "It Ain't Half Hot Mum" actor
- Error-related negativity
- Volcanic crater
- Boston Herald columnist Margery
- True market value
- Italian term for exchange rate
- Informal loan clubs
- Men's fashion accessory
- Children's craft supply
- Extra benefits
- In an early way
- A judge has one
- Soviet Socialist Republic
- Tractor unit
- Defunct supercomputer developer
- Promotional materials
- A forgetful state
- One who beheads
- Photographers
- Small, rich sponge cake
- Clergy's vestment
- Expressed pleasure
- Abba ____, Israeli politician
- Zero
- Ancient Greek word for "earless"
- Nigerian governmental area
- Mild expression of surprise
- Places to hang things
- Soviet Socialist Republic
- Keyboard key
- Make a mistake
- One-time president of Republic of Korea

CLUES DOWN

- Bridge building degree
- Expression of sorrow or pity
- Large, stocky lizard
- Romanian river
- Communication
- Stoats
- Showcases
- Bird of prey
- King of Thebes
- Cleaving tool
- Large African antelope
- Three are particularly notable
- Meet one's needs
- C. European river
- Dictator
- Indicates how much out of 100 (abbr.)
- The 17th letter of the Greek alphabet
- Consume food
- Woman (French)
- Scrape a surface
- Green vegetable
- Pacific Standard Time
- Capital of Brazilian city
- Paddle
- Cause to become insane
- Drier and flakier
- Mimic
- ESPN personality Kimes
- One who moves slowly
- Secret political clique
- Behind the stern of a ship
- Supernatural force
- Sanctuary
- Swiss river
- Grayish white
- Engrave by coating
- North Carolina university
- Midway between south and southeast



Send Us Your Community Summer Events

Turley Publications will print your Summer event FREE OF CHARGE in our Summer Fest Supplement which will be published June 3, 2026.

Total circulation of 85,000 which reaches over 200,000 readers in the Pioneer Valley.

Event Should Be Non-Profit & Open to the Public

FREE Calendar Listings Reaching over 200,000 Readers in the Pioneer Valley

Event Name _____

Date/Time _____

Location _____

Description _____

Cost _____

Contact name & phone number for more information _____

Please specify if you would like your name and number printed in the paper.

Deadline for calendar submissions is May 6.

MAIL YOUR LISTING INFORMATION TO: Turley Publications, Attn: Jamie Joslyn, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069 or email* them to: jamie@turley.com

***Be sure to indicate "Summer Event" in the subject line of your email.**



Historical flags decorated the event, all of which played key symbolic roles in the foundation of this country.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY BEN HERNANDEZ

PATRIOTS DAY

from page 1

coming fight,” said Willette in his speech. In September 1774, South Hadley and Hampshire County began to organize militias, as well as stockpile weapons, ammunition, and gunpowder.

“War was coming,” said Willette. The increased friction between British forces and local armed militias resulted in outright conflict on April 19, 1775 in Lexington and Concord. A day later and South Hadley joined the fight for independence. The speech spotlighted several well-known moments in history, including the establishment of the Continental Army on June 14, 1775, the appointment of George Washington as the nation’s first commander in chief, his arrival in Cambridge on July 3, and the declaration of the “United Provinces of North America” on July 4.

However, the speech focused on lesser-known local figures that etched their names in history. The speech honored Caesar Cambridge, a slave from South Hadley who enlisted in the Continental Navy, bought



American Legion Post Commander Brian Willette served as lead speaker for the ceremony.

his freedom through his naval stipend, then went on to sign up for service in the Continental Army to rejoin the fight for independence.

Maureen Richardson, a representative of the Revolutionary War re-enactment troupe the 25th Continental, recalled the life of Deborah Sampson. The nicknamed ‘Heroine of Massachusetts’ enlisted in the Continental Army, then created a service record so

impressive and undeniable that she was granted an honorable exception by John Hancock, as it was illegal for women to serve at the time. She went on to be granted an honor by General Henry Knox, which allowed her to successfully retire.

Massachusetts state representative Homar Gómez then took the stand. He spoke about the nation’s founding, the importance of a free democracy, and surprised the



Revolutionary War reenactors pay their respects during the commemorative bell rung in honor of lost veterans.

lead speaker with an award honoring his service and his wider dedication towards the local community.

The proceedings included multiple speeches from South Hadley’s historical societies, a commemorative plaque honoring South Hadley residents that contributed towards the war effort, a plaque replacement ceremony honoring French and Indian War and Revolutionary War veter-

an John Frink Sr., a reading of lost veteran’s names, an extensive exhibition of flags utilized throughout the Revolutionary War and the nation’s founding, and a life and drum presentation. The presentation was punctuated by a three-musket salute performed by the reenactment society.

The ceremony concluded with a changing of the flags at veteran’s graves, the replacements

of which were provided by American Legion Post 260 and switched out by South Hadley residents. It was a reminder that history is not only an echo of the past, but a present reminder of the people that make it daily.

“There are many voices,” said Bob Delisle, a local war reenactment troop member in attendance. “It’s the idea of keeping history alive and trying to give the correct history.”

BACKYARD from page 6

They have a soft, musical song used especially in courtship by the male. These nuthatches eat insects, spiders and seeds in summer. In winter they eat many seeds especially those of conifers.

Nesting bluebirds

On Saturday, April 11 I received an email from a Hampden resident. She said, “Our bluebirds are back and have completed their nest. We are awaiting the first egg. I’m surprised they use mostly pine needles constructing the nest.”

Brimfield birds

A Brimfield resident said he saw a female

brown-headed cowbird in his yard. He said it was unusual as he usually sees the male before the female.

He said, “On Sunday I did a tour of local ponds. There was a pair of ring-necked ducks on Sherman Pond in Brimfield and several on a pond in Warren. Also in Warren I saw an osprey at the pond where they have nested for several years. I’ve been checking the pond since early March and this is the first sighting of an osprey this year. I hope its partner shows up soon.”

He also said, in Warren, there was a bald eagle at a pond on New Reed Street. There has been one or two there frequently during March. A pair of eastern bluebirds was seen perched

on two different trees with holes possibly suitable for a nest. I often see bluebirds using nesting boxes, but have never seen them using a natural cavity. I’ll keep checking to see if they nest in either tree.”

Non-bird sighting

The Brimfield resident reported a non-bird sighting. He said “while driving out of the driveway yesterday I saw a small frog hopping off of the driveway. Probably a spring peeper. I’ll have to check a nearby small pond in the woods nearby to see if there are peepers there. The frog could have been a pickerel frog, we see those every year in the yard. They come in three sizes; small, medium and large. I try to

be careful when I mow or weed whack to avoid them.”

Raven

My granddaughter while walking her dogs on Saturday, April 11 heard the croaking sound of a raven. It startled both the dogs and her.

People may report a bird sighting or bird related experience by emailing mybackyard88@aol.com or edowner@turley.com or mailing to Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005. The Palmer office has a new phone system and I will be getting an extension where messages may be left. I will publish the number as soon as it is set up.

GARDEN from page 6

to evaporation while watering in the evening can make plants more prone to disease. What to do?

For happy, hydrated plants water in the early morning hours instead. Hand watering at the base of each plant or using soaker hoses or drip irrigation is far better than overhead sprinklers when it comes to conservation and disease prevention.

Extend the harvest

Do you know how far most fruits and vegetables have to travel to reach the local supermarket? Probably far more than the average American travels in a year’s time. Frustrated? Then read up on various methods of extending the use of your own garden bounty past the

growing season.

This could mean growing a few veggies like winter squash, onions or garlic – all of which store well. It could also mean trying your hand at freezing or drying some of your produce for use in the off-season.

Few of us can feed ourselves entirely, but whatever we can grow offsets the rest.

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.



Your Local BUSINESS CONNECTION

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

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

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

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

\$19.29 /gal. **SAVE 20%**
Shell Rotella® T4 Triple Protection Motor Oil
1 gal. • 10W30, 15W40
Belchertown Auto Parts
116 FEDERAL STREET (RT.9) BELCHERTOWN, MA
(413) 323-7661 OR 323-9296
NAPA AUTO PARTS

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

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

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

Classifieds

12 WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS | SERVING 50 LOCAL COMMUNITIES

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

COMMUNITY MARKETPLACE

Call us at 413.283.8393

FOR SALE

FIREWOOD

FIREWOOD
Fresh cut & split \$240.00
Seasoned cut & split \$375.00
All hardwood.
Tree length available
*Also have seasoned softwood for outdoor boilers (Cheap).
Quality & volumes **guaranteed!!**
New England Forest Products
(413)477-0083

MISCELLANEOUS

ST. JUDE THANK YOU FOR answering my prayers. P.F.

TAG SALE

MULTI-FAMILY TAG SALE.
MAY 2 AND MAY 3, 9AM-3PM.
63 Charon Terrace, South Hadley.

WANTED

WANTED!

CASH for:
• Machinist tools, power tools & Snap on.
• Electronics & Audio Equipment.
• Sports Cards.
• 70s/80s/90s Toys.
• Antiques & Collectibles.
Much, much more!
Call/Text Sam
413-531-5381

WANTED TO BUY

ALL ANTIQUES AND OLD STUFF WANTED.

BUYING Bottles, Crocks, Jugs, Pottery, Costume Jewelry, Toys, Games, coins, sterling, Glassware, Silver-plated items, watches, Musical instruments, typewriters, sewing machines, tools, radios, clocks, lanterns, lamps, kitchenware, cookware, knives, military, automotive, fire department, masonic, license plates, beer cans, barware, books, oil cans, advertising tins, hunting, fishing, signs, and more.
Donald Roy (860) 874-8396

ALWAYS BUYING ALL ANTIQUES:

Musical instruments, guitars, horns, keyboards, vintage electronics, jewelry, coins, watches, military cameras, sports memorabilia, art, sterling, signs, automotive, hunting, advertising, radios, ham radio equipment, audio equipment, toys, one item or entire estate.
Call Paul 413-206-8688

JUNK REMOVAL

ARA JUNK FURNITURE REMOVAL

Full house cleanouts, attics, basements, garages, pools, hot tubs, sheds, decks. Same day service. 8am-9pm. Credit cards accepted. Free estimates on phone.
Fully insured.
Call Pete 413-433-0356.

A Call We Haul FAST REMOVAL

Junk, Appliance, Cleanouts.
We load it & take it.
413-531-1936
CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

SERVICES



2*****A & B HOUSEHOLD REMOVAL SERVICE*****

Cellars, attics, garages cleaned, yard debris. Barns & sheds demolished. Swimming pools removed. Cheaper than dumpster fees and we do all the work. Lowest rates. Fully insured. (413)283-6512, cell (413)222-8868.

DRYWALL, PAINTING AND CEILINGS, plaster repair. Drywall hanging. Taping & complete finishing. All ceiling textures. Fully insured. Jason at Great Walls. (413)563-0487

ELECTRICIAN

I offer good quality electrical work, no project too small. Service upgrades, pools, trustworthy, dependable & insured.
Master Elec. #20773A.
Text/call Luis 413-218-3301.

ZEN ELECTRIC COMPANY LLC

Fully licensed and insured; Master Electrician on staff. Call for all your electrical needs. No job too small. Senior citizen and Veteran Discount. A veteran owned company. MA License #8101A1.

Call John at (413)206-6509

HOME IMPROVEMENT

Handyman Services

Walker Home Improvement
Finish Carpentry • Framing • Drywall • Painting • & more!
(413) 687-5552

SERVICES

HOME IMPROVEMENT SPECIALIST

Decks, porches, repair service, roofing and siding contractor.
Tim 413-563-2229. Licensed/insured. 35 year construction supervisor.

HOME IMPROVEMENTS. REMODELING Kitchens, baths. Ceramic tile, windows, painting, wallpapering, siding, decks. Insurance work. Fully insured. Free estimates. (413)246-2783 Ron.

CHAMELEON PAINTING & REMODELING

INTERIOR/EXTERIOR Remodeling & Deck Specialists
Residential/Commercial
Fully Insured • Free Estimates
413-351-1147

LANDSCAPING

A+ ROZELL'S LANDSCAPING & BOBCAT SERVICE

Excavator Services
Overgrown property? Extreme Brush Cutting! Shrub, Stump, Tree Removal
Lawn/Arborvite Installed
Loam, Stone, Mulch, Sand
Storm Clean-up
Small Demolition/ Junk Removal
Insured
Josh Rozell 413-636-5957

****ALL SEASON**** Specializing in shrub trimming, pruning, design, deliveries, loader, backhoe, insured. Professional. Please call Bob (413)537-5789.

DAVE MAZ LANDSCAPING

Lawn mowing, Spring thru Fall clean-ups, mulching, pruning, Servicing parts of Hampden and Hampshire counties.
Call 413-536-3697.

SERVICES

MATT GUERTIN LANDSCAPING

Landscape Design and Installation
Paver Patios, Walkways
For more services visit
mattguertinlandscaping.com
Call or text 413-266-9975
Insured - Commercial - Residential

LAWN & GARDEN

"RANDY and RICKY Spring Cleanup, Call Paul Amherst"

MASONRY

STOP WET BASEMENTS

ABC MASONRY & BASEMENT WATERPROOFING
All brick, block, stone, concrete. Hatchway doors, basement windows, chimneys rebuilt & repaired, foundations repaired, basement waterproofing systems, sump pumps. BBB+ rating. Free estimates. Lic #14790. Call (413)569-1611, (413)374-5377

PAINTING

PRO PAINTING

Low, low prices. All phases interior, exterior painting and wallpapering. Also minor carpentry. 413-310-5099.

PLUMBING

GREG LAFOUNTAIN PLUMBING & HEATING Lic #19196 Repairs & Replacement of fixtures, water heater installations, steam/HW boiler replacement. Kitchen & Bath remodeling. 30 years experience. Fully insured. \$10 Gift Card With Work Performed. Call Greg (413)592-1505

PRESSURE WASHING

HOT WATER PRESSURE WASHING. We use brushes and state of the art equipment. We remove grime and mold from homes, patios, fences, walkways, all decks, concrete & driveways. Senior Discounts. For free estimates call Bill (413)519-9800.

RUBBISH REMOVAL

BOB ROBILLARD'S RUBBISH REMOVAL Attics, Cellars, Garages cleaned, Pools/Hot Tubs Removed. Family owned/operated since 1950 (413)537-5090

BUY LOCALLY
support our community!

SERVICES

TREE WORK

AAA-TROM'S TREE SERVICE PROFESSIONAL SERVICE. Residential removal of trees, Free estimates, Fully insured W/Workman's Comp. Remove them before the wind takes them down. Cordwood, stump grinding. Call 413-283-6374.

AFFORDABLE STUMP GRINDING Fast, dependable service. Free estimates. Fully insured. Call Joe Sablack 413-436-9821, Cell 413-537-7994

DL & G TREE SERVICE- Everything from tree pruning, tree removal, stump grinding, storm damage and brush chipping. Honest and Dependable. Fully insured. Now offering a Senior Citizen and Veteran discount. Call today for free estimate (413)478-4212

H & H TREE SERVICE All phases of tree care. Call Dave 413-668-6560 day/night.

TUNE-UPS

LAWNMOWER TUNE UP & REPAIR

A&M TUNE-UPS
Push Lawnmowers, Riding Mowers and Small Engine Repair.
Work done at your home.
FREE PICKUP OF UNWANTED LAWN EQUIPMENT
Call Mike (413) 348-7967

STUMP GRINDING

DL & G STUMP GRINDING Grinding stumps of all sizes, insured & certified. Senior discounts. Call Dave 413-478-4212

AFFORDABLE STUMP GRINDING Fast, dependable service. Free estimates. Fully insured. Call Joe Sablack 413-436-9821, Cell 413-537-7994

AUTO CAMPERS

2011 KEYSTONE MONTANA MOUNTAINEER MODEL RKD LENGTH 33'; 2 SLIDE-OUTS, REAR KITCHEN, SLEEPS 4, LOTS OF STORAGE. \$8000. BRIMFIELD (413)374-1880

PETS

GERMAN SHEPHERD PUPS. Champion Czech and Belgian bloodlines. 30 years experience. 3M, 2F. Ready, w/shots. Now \$1,200. 413-218-2321

CLASSIFIED DEADLINES
FRIDAY AT NOON

HELP WANTED

The Town Oakham is seeking an experienced **LABORER/TRUCK DRIVER** to join the Highway department. Pay rate is \$26.26 - \$28.28/hr depending on experience.

For a full job description and job application please visit: ma-oakham.civicplus.com/216/Highway-Department or email admin@oakham-ma.gov

REAL ESTATE

FOR RENT



EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

ALL REAL ESTATE advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation, or discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or intention to make any such preference, limitation, or discrimination." We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.

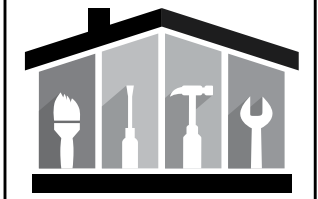
FOR RENT



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.

Advertise your **HOME IMPROVEMENT SERVICES** in our classifieds. **WE GET RESULTS!** Call 413-283-8393



STAY ON TOP OF IT ALL!
Subscribe Today!

Turley Publications, Inc.
12 HOMETOWN NEWSPAPERS
413.283.8393
www.turley.com
24 Water Street
Palmer, MA 01069

FILL OUT AND MAIL THIS MONEY MAKER

MAIL TO: Classifieds, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069 DEADLINES: FRIDAY AT NOON
or call: 413-283-8393

CATEGORY:			
1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20
21	Base Price \$26.50	23	Base Price \$27.50
22	Base Price \$27.00	24	Base Price \$28.50
25	Base Price \$28.50	27	Base Price \$29.50
26	Base Price \$29.00	28	Base Price \$30.50
29	Base Price \$30.50	31	Base Price \$31.50
30	Base Price \$31.00	32	Base Price \$32.00
33	Base Price \$32.50	35	Base Price \$33.50
34	Base Price \$33.00	36	Base Price \$34.00
37	Base Price \$34.50	39	Base Price \$35.50
38	Base Price \$35.00	40	Base Price \$36.00

Name: _____ Phone: _____
Address: _____
Town: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Number of Weeks: _____ X per week rate = \$ _____
Credit Card: MasterCard VISA Discover Cash Check# _____
Card #: _____ Exp. Date _____ CVV _____
Amount of charge: _____ Date: _____

Quabbin Village Hills
Circulation: 50,500

Hilltowns
Circulation: 9,800

Suburban Residential
Circulation: 59,000

All Three ZONES for \$26.00 for 20 words plus 50¢ for each additional word.

GREAT VALUE!
ALL 3 ZONES NOW FOR THE PRICE OF ONE!
Make checks payable to Turley Publications

OUR CLASSIFIEDS REACH 50 COMMUNITIES EVERY WEEK!

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

OBITUARIES

Nancy Croke
1934-2026

Nancy Gayle (Berger) Croke, born Nancy Berger on December 11, 1934, in Holyoke, MA, passed away peacefully on April 12, 2026, in Palmer, MA.

Nancy was the daughter of Walter and Elsie (Blaurock) Berger, who predeceased her. She cherished her family dearly, including her husband of 54 years, John S. Croke Jr., who passed away in 2008.

After growing up as an only child, Nancy wanted a large family and together with her husband, they raised five children, which includes their daughter Linda Croke-DiPietro and her partner Bob Cook, sons Jeffrey Croke and Suzanne, John S. Croke III, Robert Croke and Kerry Morrison, and Barry Croke and Kim. Nancy's legacy is further carried on by her 11 grandchildren, 15 great-grandchildren, and 5 great-great-grandchildren.

Having grown up in South Hadley Falls, Nancy dedicated her life

to her family, residing in South Hadley and West Springfield before settling in Belchertown for over 50 years. An individual of diverse talents and interests, Nancy had a love for gardening and coastal Maine as well as a passion for art. She attended the Massachusetts College of Art, where she nurtured her artistic spirit through oil painting, focusing on landscapes and seascapes. After raising her family, Nancy resumed her artistic pursuits, striving to meet the high standards she set for herself—an undertaking that reflected her dedication and unwavering commitment to excellence.

A private ceremony will be held for the family to honor her memory. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the American Cancer Society. Beers & Story South Hadley Funeral Home has been entrusted with the arrangements

Lorraine Toothill

Lorraine Kay Toothill, age 97, passed away peacefully at her home in Springfield, Massachusetts, in the morning hours of Tuesday, April 14, 2026. She was the daughter of John Francis and Elizabeth Laura Hathaway.



full of life, and a devoted mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother. She will be deeply missed and lovingly remembered by her family and all who knew her.

She is survived by her three daughters: Lynn Bragdon of Marblehead, Massachusetts; Colleen Toothill-Berte and her husband, Lance, of Belchertown, Massachusetts; and Pamela Lane of Delray Beach, Florida.

Born in Burlington, Connecticut, Lorraine was raised in Milford, Connecticut, where she graduated from Milford High School. Upon graduating, she became a military wife, which gave her the opportunity to travel the world. She loved sharing the many interesting and exciting stories from that time in her life.

After retiring from AT&T, Lorraine remained incredibly active. She was a member of the Cyclonauts Bicycle Club of Greater Springfield, and if she wasn't gardening, you could often find her out on a bike ride. When winter arrived, she enjoyed cross-country skiing and snowshoeing. She continued cycling well into her 80s.

Lorraine was an active and adventurous woman,

born in Burlington, Connecticut, Lorraine was raised in Milford, Connecticut, where she graduated from Milford High School. Upon graduating, she became a military wife, which gave her the opportunity to travel the world. She loved sharing the many interesting and exciting stories from that time in her life.

After retiring from AT&T, Lorraine remained incredibly active. She was a member of the Cyclonauts Bicycle Club of Greater Springfield, and if she wasn't gardening, you could often find her out on a bike ride. When winter arrived, she enjoyed cross-country skiing and snowshoeing. She continued cycling well into her 80s.

Lorraine was an active and adventurous woman,

born in Burlington, Connecticut, Lorraine was raised in Milford, Connecticut, where she graduated from Milford High School. Upon graduating, she became a military wife, which gave her the opportunity to travel the world. She loved sharing the many interesting and exciting stories from that time in her life.

DEATH NOTICES

Croke, Nancy
Died April 12, 2026
Services are private.
Beers & Story Funeral Home South Hadley

Toothill, Lorraine
Died April 14, 2026
Services are private.

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.

NOTICE

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

PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

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

Public notice deadlines are Friday at 3 p.m.

visit www.publicnotices.turley.com

B	A	T	A				L	E	U			E	L	F									
C	L	E	G	G			E	R	N			M	A	A	R								
E	A	G	A	N			T	M	V			A	G	I	O								
	S	U	S	U	S			T	I	E			G	L	U	E							
							A	M	E	N	I	T	I	E	S								
P	R	E	M	A	T	U	R	E	L	Y													
C	H	A	M	B	E	R			S	S	R												
T	O	T	E	R								A	P	P	R	O							
							A	D	S			A	M	N	E	S	I	A					
												D	E	C	A	P	I	T	A	T	O	R	
							C	A	M	E	R	A	M	E	N								
B	A	B	A				A	L	B			A	A	H	E	D							
E	B	A	N				N	I	L			A	O	T	U	S							
M	A	F	A				G	E	E			R	A	C	K	S							
A	L	T					E	R	R					R	H	E	E						

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.

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 of the Clapp Memorial Library 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.

Granby holding candidates night

GRANBY – The Town of Granby Communications Committee is hosting a Meet The Candidate's night at the East Meadow School

Cafeteria on Wednesday, May 6 at 6:30 p.m. All candidates running for local office will be given an opportunity to speak,

with Q&A from attendees. Childcare will be provided by the Granby National Honor Society.

~ **DORSEY MEMORIALS** ~

- Monuments & Cemetery Lettering •
- Civic Memorials & Custom Designs •

707 Main St., Amherst, MA • 413-253-5212
www.DorseyMemorials.com

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

haluch's MEMORIALS

Cemetery Memorials + Markers
Granite Benches
Religious Statuary + Outdoor Display

RAY HALUCH INC.
1014 Center St | Ludlow, MA | 583-6508

haluchsmemorials.com

THE
KITCHEN &
BATH CO.
DESIGN
BUILD
LIVE



Your Private Sanctuary

Start and end your day in a space designed for serenity and superior functionality at every stage of your life. We transform dated bathrooms into luxury spa retreats that evolve with your lifestyle. Using premium materials like Corian® and Wilsonart®, we create seamless, easy-to-clean surfaces that stand the test of time. From smart storage solutions to accessible walk-in designs, experience the perfect blend of elegance, safety, and long-term durability.

LOCAL.
FAMILY-OWNED.
IN-HOUSE CRAFTSMEN.

OUR FAMILY OF COMPANIES

