

# Belchertown, Granby & Amherst SENTINEL

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A TURLEY PUBLICATIONS I www.turley.com

Volume 108 • Number 8

www.sentinelturley.com

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THURSDAY,  
MAY 4, 2023

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## 'Stealth' candidate Steve Williams steals show

### DPW Director appointed next Town Administrator

BY MELINA BOURDEAU  
Correspondent

BELCHERTOWN – After interviewing three candidates last week, the Belchertown Selectboard unanimously opted for a fourth, Department of Public Works Director, Steve Williams.

He will become the town's first new Town Administrator in over two and a half decades, replacing long-time Town Administrator Gary Brougham. Brougham is retiring in early June.

The search for a new Town Administrator included a \$10,000 allocation to hire Community Paradigm Associates, a consulting firm, to help with the search.

A screening committee narrowed the search down from 20 candidates to three, each of whom



Steve Williams the unanticipated winner of the Town Administrator position for Belchertown.

was interviewed last Tuesday.

Scott Szczebak, Thomas Guerino and Brian Domina were each interviewed for an hour. At the end of the evening, the board opted to wait to decide until its meeting on Monday, May 1.

Szczebak currently serves as director of human resources in Wellesley, Guerino as the executive director of the Greenfield Housing Authority and Domina as the town administrator in Whately.

Beginning their deliberation, Selectboard member Ron Aponte reviewed each candidate's strengths and weaknesses.

He said Szczebak had good communication skills, contract experience and HR experience in general. Some negatives included that his experience wasn't a perfect fit for the town, due to experience in a city like Chicopee, which has a different municipal organization and demographic. Szczebak also has experience in Wellesley, which is a more afflu-

ent community than Belchertown, Aponte said. He also did not possess experience as a town administrator.

"One of the things I noticed is he was a finalist in East Longmeadow in Feb. 2022, and Spencer in 2021, so that's his third bite at the apple," Aponte said. "That makes me a bit nervous. You want to see if, he'll be looking to jump to something bigger and better than Belchertown."

Aponte said Guerino has experience as a town administrator with a strong skillset. He also knew characteristics and optics about Belchertown. Aponte said he found that Guerino was a finalist in several town administrator searches including Somerset, Middleton, Hadley and Longmeadow.

He said he was concerned that Guerino was "override happy" after he mentioned four debt exclusions and two overrides in

Please see **STEALTH**, page 13

## Food policy council looks at short, long-term needs

BY PAULA OUIMETTE  
pouimette@turley.com

WARE – Members of the Quaboag Valley Food Policy Council met for the second time since its formation, and began brainstorming the Council's vision and mission statements.

At the April 19 meeting, Project Coordinator for Community Health Emily Coderre had members break down into small discussion groups to come up with ideas for the statements, before coming back together as a whole to share their ideas.

"We will draft a vision and

mission and bring it back to everybody for further input," she said.

Coderre explained that a vision statement is what the Council wants to accomplish in a perfect world, and the mission is more action oriented.

"A mission statement is concise, outcome oriented and inclusive," she said.

The Council was divided into two groups; in-person attendees and remote attendees.

Coderre asked them to create a vision for where they see the Council in the next year, three years and even five years.

For the first year, members

## Beginning birding just in time for spring

BY MATTY ANDERSON  
Staff Writer  
manderson@turley.com

GRANBY – The Granby Free Public Library invited families to attend a "Beginning Birding" tutorial with Heather Simpson on a recent Saturday morning.

Heather Simpson is from Hands On Nature, an outdoor educational program that offers summer nature programs, after school classes, library presentations and more.

The purpose of her presentation was to encourage kids to start observing local birds, especially during the spring.

Simpson's presentation educated families about birds they could potentially observe in their own backyards. The 10 birds she chose to speak about were robins, cardinals, chickadees, crows, morning doves, goldfinches, tufted titmouses, blue jays, red-winged blackbirds and the white-breasted nuthatches.

Simpson provided tips and tricks on how to recognize each of the birds she introduced in her presentation.

She also taught kids about the unique songs that each bird sings, their color patterns, and even



TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTO BY MATTY ANDERSON

Heather Simpson provides answers to burning questions on nuthatches.

Please see **BIRDING**, page 10

## Drama Club presents musical 'Once' May 5-7

BELCHERTOWN – The Belchertown High School Drama Club presents the musical "Once," on Friday, May 5 at 7 p.m., Saturday, May 6 at 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. and Sunday, May 7 at 1 p.m.

Tickets are \$10 general

admission and \$8 for senior citizens and children under age 12.

"Once" is the story of a guy who gave up on love and music, and the girl who inspired him to dream again. Music and lyrics by Glen Hansard and Marketa Irglova.

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**COMMUNITY**

## Intro to outdoor skills offered for girls

Girls from Belchertown and Granby and their guardians are invited to free Intro to Outdoor Skills events offered by the Girls Scouts of Central and Western Massachusetts.

They will earn their first Girl Scout patch while learning basic campfire-building techniques, first aid, and jackknife safety.

Join and discover creative ways to form a new troop together.

Both events are from 5:30–6:30 p.m.

The first event will be held Thursday, May 11 at Hope United Methodist Church, 31 Main St., Belchertown. Please register by May 7 on the website: <https://bit.ly/osbelchertown>

The second event will be held Wednesday, May 31 at Camp Lewis Perkins, 9 Camp Perkins Road, South Hadley. Please register by May 27 on the website: <https://bit.ly/osshadleygranby>

The events are for girls going into kin-

dergarten or first grade in the fall, who are not currently Girl Scouts.

For information on the events or Girl Scouts in general, contact Hannah by email: [HLaprade@gscwm.org](mailto:HLaprade@gscwm.org) or phone: 413-584-2602, extension 3604.

### About GSCWM

Girl Scouts of Central and Western Massachusetts serve over 5,000 girls from kindergarten through grade 12 with the strong support of over 3,000 adult volunteers in 186 towns and cities in central and western Massachusetts.

The Girl Scout program allows girls to discover the fun, friendship, and power of girls together while building their personal leadership qualities.

GSCWM supports girls by giving them extraordinary opportunities to explore, experience, and learn about their world and helps girls recognize that they are vital members of their communities.

## Making Space for the Fiber-Curious returns to town

BELCHERTOWN — Making Space for the Fiber-Curious is a free fiber arts space in town for self-identified LGBTQ+ folks.

According to a press release, “this space is for folks who want to learn the basics of weaving, using a floor loom, knitting, crochet and other fiber crafts; and who are interested in working in community.”

Attendees are encouraged to share skills and knowledge with each other.

“Together we can problem-solve, cre-

ate and share the cool things we know about fiber,” the release states.

The space will be open 2-4 p.m. throughout the spring on the following dates: May 6, May 14, May 20 and June 3. Go to [tinyurl.com/fiber2023](http://tinyurl.com/fiber2023) for more information about accessibility, share interests and get updates.

This program is supported in part by a grant from the Belchertown, South Hadley, and Amherst Cultural Council, local agencies which are supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

## Belchertown Community TV Schedule Highlights



### Thursday, May 4

- 8 a.m. – Select Board – May 1 meeting
- 10 a.m. – School Committee – May 2 meeting
- Noon – Agriculture Commission – May 3 meeting
- 7 p.m. – Select Board – May 1 meeting
- 9 p.m. – School Committee – May 2 meeting
- 11 p.m. – Agriculture Commission – May 3 meeting

### Friday, May 5

- 8 a.m. – Conversation with Pakman
- 9 a.m. – Finance Committee – April 26 meeting
- 11 a.m. – Energy and Sustainability Committee – April 20
- 1 p.m. – Council on Aging – April 26 meeting
- 3 p.m. – Planning Board – April 25
- 5 p.m. – Conversation with Pakman
- 7 p.m. – Town Meeting Warrant Articles 2023
- 8:30 p.m. – Citizens’ Petition – Change State Flag Design
- 9 p.m. – Finance Committee – April 26 meeting
- 11 p.m. – Energy and Sustainability Committee – April 20

### Saturday, May 6

- 8 a.m. – Educational Crafting with Charlotte
- 8:30 a.m. – Town Meeting Warrant 2023
- 10 a.m. – Citizens’ Petition – Change State Flag Design
- 5 p.m. – Council on Aging – April 26 meeting

- 7 p.m. – Planning Board – April 25 meeting
- 7:30 p.m. – Town Meeting Warrant 2023
- 9 p.m. – Citizens’ Petition – Change State Flag Design

### Sunday, May 7

- 4:30 p.m. – St. Francis Romas Catholic Church
- 6 p.m. – Christ Community Church
- 7 p.m. – Hope United Methodist Church
- 8:30 p.m. – Town Meeting Warrant 2023
- 10 p.m. – Citizens’ Petition – Change State Flag Design

### Monday, May 8

- 8 a.m. – Conversation with Pakman
- 9 a.m. – Town Meeting Warrant 2023
- 10:30 a.m. – Citizens’ Petition – Change State Flag Design
- 5 p.m. – Conversation with Pakman
- 7 p.m. – Special Town Meeting – Channel 191
- 7:30 p.m. – Annual Town Meeting – Channel 191

### Tuesday, May 9

- 7 p.m. – Planning Board - Channel 191

### Wednesday, May 10

- 8 a.m. – Conversation with Pakman
- 5 p.m. – Conversation with Pakman

PAID POLITICAL ADVERTISEMENT

# DAN FITZPATRICK

*write in vote for Belchertown Selectman*

### EXPERIENCED!!! PROGRESSIVE

- SCOG (Select Committee on Goals) 1972-1974, Chairperson
- Planning Board, two terms, 1975-1980, Chairperson
- Belchertown School Committee, three Terms, 1980-1988 Chairperson
- Belchertown Selectman, two terms, 1992-1998, Declined Chairperson
- Other service: Council on Aging, 1998; EDIC (State School Reuse) 1992-2005; Three School Building Committees, 1994-2005; GIS System Development 1996; Helped establish Belchertown Cable TV; Three Major Search Committees: School Superintendent and two Town Administrators; participant in other committees.

### OBJECTIVES

- De-emphasize politics from the Board, restore respect for each other and town employees.
- Encourage residents to become involved in town government and fill open seats on boards and committees.
- Restore SCOG. Survey residents for their opinions and ideas for input to town government.
- Assist the School Committee in continued quality education for students...at a modest cost.
- Committees to submit semi annual public reports on achieving established goals & objectives.
- Re-establish “Open Meeting Requirements”. Every meeting should be open to viewing by residents with a few exceptions.
- Require annually updated public goals and objectives before budget season.
- Get the Board proactive again. They have been dormant for 15 years!!!

### WHO AM I?

- Born and schooled in Buffalo, NY. Loved and worked with horses, first job at 12!
- A farmer at heart! Worked dairy farms summers for 7 years, and loved it - 80 hours per week taught me strong work ethics.
- Earned a Bachelor’s degree and Master’s degree from Cornell University and grad degree in school of hard knocks.
- Married Janise Gabbie Fitzpatrick 1965. Three children and six grandchildren, married 57 years to a Realtor!
- Work experience - Worked at Cornell, University of Michigan, and UMass since 1969, retired Assoc Dean of Students.
- A vote for me is a vote for government transparency



*Please -  
I will need  
everyone’s support  
and write in vote  
for this  
contested  
election.*

# 18th century powder horn returns to Hardwick

BY PAULA OUIMETTE  
pouimette@turley.com

**HARDWICK** – This past Sunday, members of the Hardwick Historical Society and friends gathered in the Town House to unveil the newest addition to the museum's collection, an 18th century powder horn with direct ties to the early days of the town.

Belchertown resident and collector Don Madden shared the story of how he first discovered the powder horn, and how he eventually came to own it.

Back when Madden was a student in Amherst, he met a dairy farmer named Ray Kasinski. The two quickly hit it off with a shared interest in Revolutionary War items, particularly arms.

"He found the horn before I did, and he bought it," Madden said of the powder horn.

The powder horn is said to have come from a house located between the common and Gilbertville before it ended up in the Easthampton antique shop where Kasinski purchased it from.

Kasinski knew Madden had a fondness for the powder horn, and during one Friday night visit between the friends and their wives, he made him an offer.

"He gave me a price and I said 'yes,'" Madden said.

Kasinski's wife was shocked by the price of the powder horn, Madden said.

"Shirley [Kasinski's wife] said, 'you're going to give him that much for that?'" Madden recalled with a laugh.

But Madden knew the powder horn was one of a kind and worth every penny.

"There's three levels of decorated horns," Madden said, with the first being simple and utilitarian. The second level was made as a souvenir, rather than for use, and the third level is known as a "map horn," with intricate and detailed designs usually made as gifts for wives or girlfriends.

"Map horns were high end,"



Don Madden holds a New England flintlock fowler, a type of bird hunting gun used by 18th century militia. (TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTOS BY PAULA OUIMETTE)

Madden said, made by professional engravers, such as Paul Revere.

Horn was a popular material in the 18th century, being used to make combs, buttons, spoons and various types of storage containers.

"Lanterns were made from horns," Madden said. "Glass was expensive in the 18th century."

Resistant to mold and moisture, horn was used to keep things dry, like salt or black powder.

"It's a very interesting material because of its usefulness," he said.

The Hardwick powder horn falls into the second level of decorated horns, and it has quite a story to tell.

Carved with the initials "J.A." (with the "J" looking like an "I"), and decorated with a heart, deer, turtles, shad fish and more, the



Research indicates that this 1789 powder horn belonged to early Hardwick resident Joseph Allen. He was a church deacon, a housewright, a captain of militia, selectman, assessor, clerk and treasurer.

powder horn is dated "December 24, 1789."

With the owner's initials are

carved the words "Hardwick," along with "Liberty."

The powder horn is believed to

belong to Joseph Allen, an early settler of the town who moved here in 1736.

"He was a prominent citizen and long-time deacon of the church," Historical Society Curator Emily Bancroft noted in her research detailing the history of the powder horn.

The year 1789 was significant for Allen, as his wife Mercy died in March of that year; a new minister was ordained at his church; and he remarried in August.

Bancroft noted that Allen began writing a book titled, "Being Dead, Yet Speaketh" in which he referenced that in 1789 he was the last of the original members who organized the church in 1736.

Perhaps the most significant carving found on the powder horn is an image of Allen's beloved church, which used to stand where the First Universalist Church is today.

This carving is the only known image of the church, which was torn down and replaced by the church at the corner of Ruggles Hill Road that overlooks the common.

Sunday's program wasn't the first time Madden and the powder horn have visited Hardwick.

Madden made his way to town some time ago along with his friend Al, to research the Town Clerk's written records. Al was in possession of a highboy that was crafted by a Hardwick furniture maker.

The Town Clerk connected Madden and his friend with Ernest Ritter, the curator of the Historical Society at that time.

"Ritter said they knew where the first church was, but didn't know what it looked like," Madden said.

At Ritter's request, Madden had an artist friend draw a copy of the carving of the church for the Historical Society, followed by a second copy when the first was lost.

Please see **POWDER HORN**, page 9

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**GRANBY**

**ATM is May 8, election May 15**

GRANBY — Registered voters are eligible to participate in the Annual Town Meeting that will be held at 7 p.m. on Monday, May 8, in the gymnasium of the East Meadow School at 393 E. State Street.

Park in between the two schools near the softball fields. The doors will open at 6:15 p.m. for check-in and eligible voters will receive a card to use for voting during the meeting.

View the warrant at the following public buildings: Town Hall Annex, at 215 B West State Street, Select Board's office at the COA Building at 10 West State Street, the Granby Post Office, Public Library, Public Safety Complex, Florence Bank and Polish National Credit Union.

The warrant is also available on the town's website at our website at granby-ma.gov.

Town elections will be held 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Monday, May 15. Voting will take place in the gym at Granby Jr. Sr. High School. Park in the back by the gym and enter through the gym doors. Checking in for elections goes by Precinct number.

View the specimen ballot at the following locations: Town Hall Annex, C.O.A., Granby Public Library, Old Carnegie Building, the Granby Post Office and on the town's website.

**Early, absentee and mail voting**

The last day to apply for early, absentee and mail voting is by 5 p.m. on Monday, May 8. Any applications received after that day and time will be rejected. Download an application from the town website or by calling the town clerk's office at 467-7177. Email completed, signed applications

to townclerk@granby-ma.gov or drop it in the Election Drop Box outside the clerk's office at 215 B West State Street or send by U.S. mail.

Registered voters who will be unable to vote at the polls on Election Day due to absence from the town during polling hours, disability or religious beliefs may file for an Absentee Ballot by 5 p.m. on Friday, May 12.

For more information, go to the town's website.

**Town census**

Residents who did not answer their 2023 town census may be listed as an Inactive Voter and should contact the town clerk's office to verify voting status prior to the meeting and elections.

**Book and plants sales at the library**

GRANBY — A book and mixed media sale at the public library at 297 East State Street gets underway May 2 and runs until May 31 while a plant sale will be held later in the month.

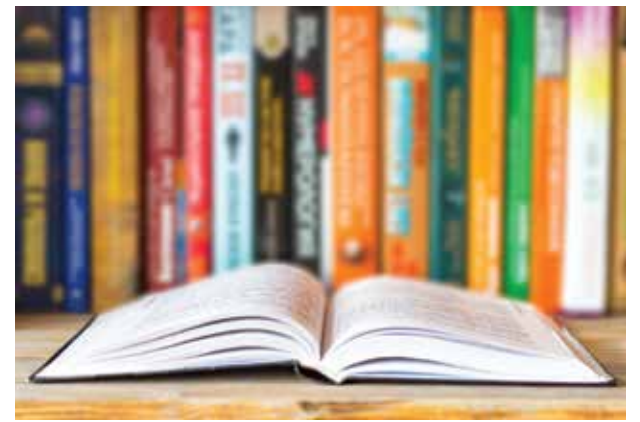
Both events help support library programs.

**Spring Book Sale**

Book lovers will be able to choose from a large assortment of used and like-new books in fiction and non-fiction. Used DVDs, video games, audiobooks and CDs will also be on sale. Stop in during the library's regular operating hours: 10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, 10:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. Thursday and 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Saturday.

**Plant Sale**

Stop by the Granby Free Public Library 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.



on Saturday, May 13, to purchase plants just in time for Mother's Day.

All proceeds from both events benefit the Friends of the Granby Library. For more information, call 413-467-3320.

**Send Us Your Photos!**

**sentinel@turley.com**



**FULL-TIME BUILDING CUSTODIAN – SENIOR CENTER**

The Building Custodian performs unskilled manual work in maintaining the cleanliness and neatness of the Senior Center buildings.

**Major Duties:** sweeping, mopping, waxing and buffing floors; vacuuming carpets and rugs; cleaning/sanitizing restrooms; emptying the trash; dusting and general cleaning of offices and furniture; and refilling rest room supplies; and cleaning windows. Steam cleans rubber mats on kitchen floors; cleans and maintains medical equipment. Maintains, or assists with maintenance of, the outside of buildings including shoveling snow off of stairs and walkways, and sweeping stairs and walkways. Cleans and maintains industrial kitchen appliances when needed; scrubs and washes kitchen utensils. Unpacks and stocks shelves with weekly food order, stocks home delivered meals in closet as needed. Sets up, breaks down and cleans the dining room after extracurricular activities.

**Recommended Minimum Qualifications:** Ability to read, write, and communicate in English; up to one year of experience in custodial work preferred; or any equivalent combination of education and experience. Ability to lift up to 60 pounds. Possession of a valid motor vehicle operator's license.

This is a grade 3 position, benefited, with a pay range of: \$19.01 - \$24.26/hour.

If you would like to join our team, please complete an application online at [www.belchertown.org/human\\_resources](http://www.belchertown.org/human_resources) or [emailjobs@belchertown.org](mailto:emailjobs@belchertown.org) for more information. Applications will be accepted until positions are filled.

**TEMPORARY DRIVERS NEEDED**

The Belchertown Senior Center is looking for drivers to deliver meals to homebound elders generally on weekdays between 10:30 am and 12:30 pm depending on the route. This temporary position starts at \$7.25/hour plus mileage reimbursement and could last through the summer. This is more than a job, it is an opportunity to be of service to people in need. In addition to delivering meals, you are an important daily contact for the elders.

A valid driver's license, reliable vehicle, a good driving record and reliability are required. If you would like to join our team, please complete an application online at [www.belchertown.org/human\\_resources](http://www.belchertown.org/human_resources) or email [jobs@belchertown.org](mailto:jobs@belchertown.org) for more information. Applications will be accepted until positions are filled.

Granby Preservation Society  
**ANNUAL SPRING CRAFT FAIR**  
 May 13th - 9-3pm  
 Rain Date May 20th

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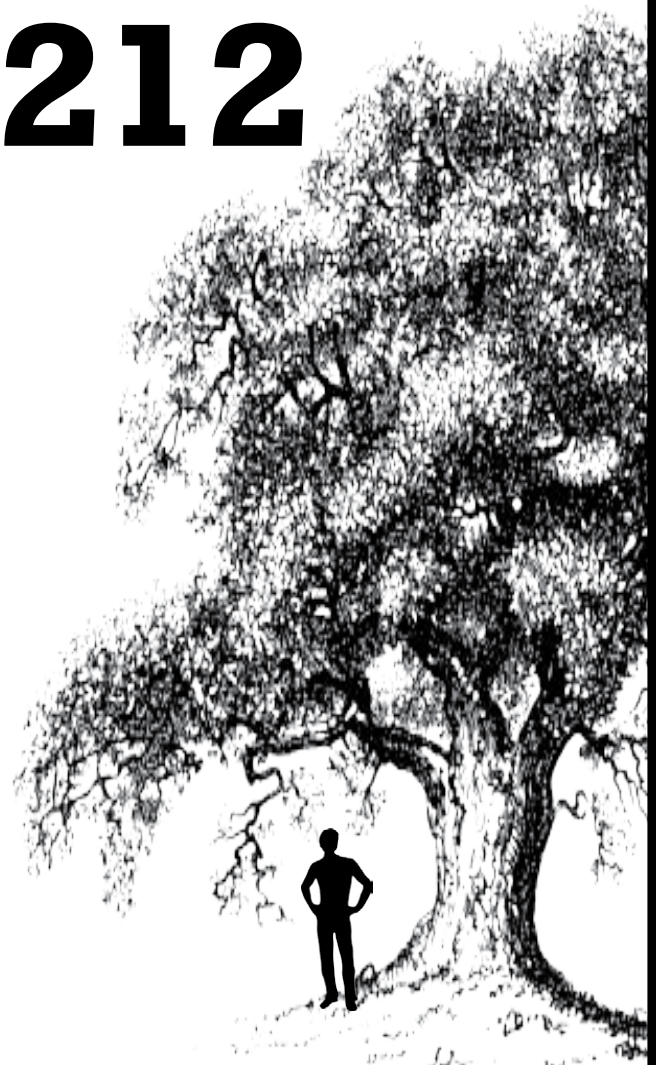
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## OPINION

### GUEST OPINION

# Waste Not, Want Not: Textile recycling in Massachusetts

BY THE BELCHERTOWN ENERGY AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

With the implementation of Massachusetts' new ban on the disposal of textiles and mattresses, it begs the question of how we as both residents and consumers should be responding with both sustainability and feasibility in mind.

The new law from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, which added textiles and mattresses to the list of materials banned from disposal or transport for disposal in the state, went into effect last November. According to DEP, textiles are defined as bedding, clothing, curtains, fabric, footwear, towels and similar items.

The motivation behind this ban is the fact that virtually any textile can be reused, repurposed, or recycled if clean and dry. Even worn, torn, and stained items have recovery value. Right now, about 85% of the textiles currently being thrown away could have instead been donated, reused, or recycled. Massachusetts residents alone throw away six times more clothing, shoes, and other textiles than they donate, recycle, or repurpose.

This level of waste has dire consequences for the environment.

For Belchertown residents who need to recycle their clothing, mattress, and/or box spring, you can visit the Department of Public Works page on the town's website at [belchertown.org/dpw](http://belchertown.org/dpw). The page includes their link to the Beyond the Bin Recycling Directory, which will inform you on different locations in the state that will take your items.

On another note, as the consequence of a new MassDEP statewide ban on throwing away mattresses, box springs, and foundations, the Belchertown DPW set a \$100 disposal fee per piece/any size at the Belchertown Transfer Station & Recycling Center.

If you do not live in Belchertown you can call your local DPW and find out what arrangements they have made for mattress/box spring disposal. If you have a private trash hauler, you should call the company and ask for the arrangements and cost of bulk pickup, or locate a private junk removal service.

Be sure to check that the junk removal service will properly dispose of the items.

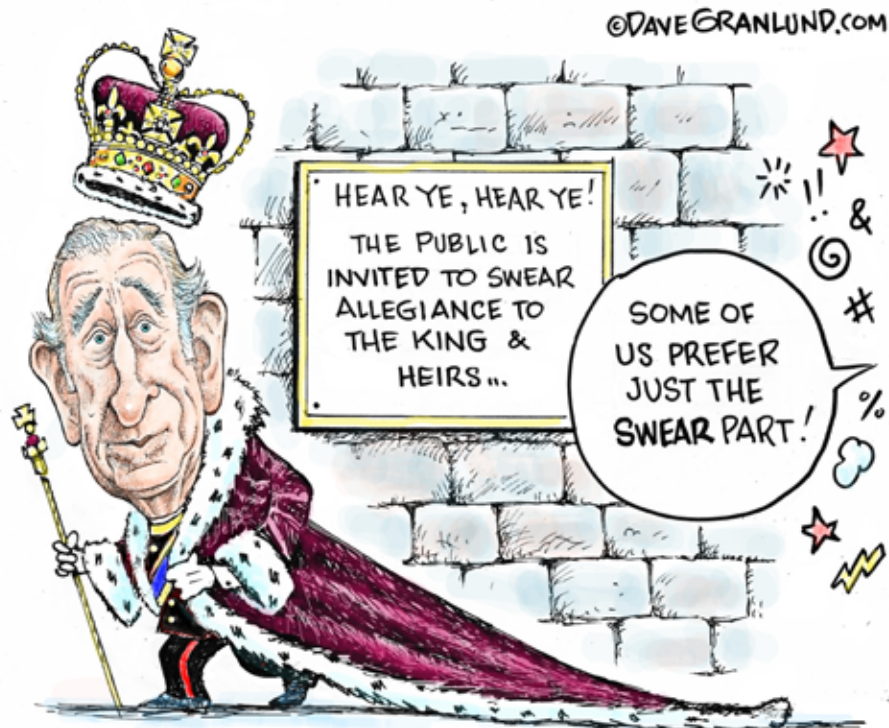
Aside from just complying with proper disposal, there are simple and practical steps that individuals can take to ensure that we are all being as sustainable as possible with our clothing. One of them is donation. As mentioned previously, MassDEP-supported Beyond the Bin Recycling Directory can also be a great resource to find nearby locations where you can drop off unwanted clothing, shoes and other textiles for donation to organizations that will resell, reuse, recycle or repurpose them. Certain clothing manufacturers and retailers have their own "take back programs," with brands including, but not limited to, Patagonia, The North Face, H&M, Levi Strauss & Co. and Nike.

You can also make sure that sustainable measures have been taken by the clothing companies to begin with. What we should be avoiding is the fast-fashion movement, a trend where consumers purchase affordable clothing, though cheaply made often by unethical labor practices, that quickly makes its way to the landfills.

Unlike those companies that show little regard for its purchasers, its workers, or the planet, there are well-known brands like L.L. Bean, Patagonia and North Face, that have a reputation for selling clothing made from recycled materials. While these brands come at a higher initial price tag, this alternative is also financially beneficial in the long term, as the longevity/durability of this clothing does not require you to replace them for years.

A more affordable hybrid option is buying those higher quality long-lasting goods from secondhand stores, where you can still get the benefits for a fraction of the price! For residents, all of these options can be found at retail stores in and around Hadley.

The textile disposal ban should be a wake-up call to us as consumers and citizens. It gives us an opportunity to look at new ways of recycling, donating, reusing, and shopping. In providing this information to you, we seek ways in which to create a healthier environment and economy for our town, our state, and ultimately our planet. As always, feel free to contact us at [energycmm@belchertown.org](mailto:energycmm@belchertown.org) to ask us questions and/or make suggestions.



## April showers make for great transplanting weather

It was a lot of fun to take advantage of the overcast days this week to get some transplanting done.

Do you wonder why it is advantageous to undertake this task when it is cloudy, or even drizzling out? If your guess has to do with less stress on the plants, you are right on target.

Read on for more about what kept me busy and why!!

I hope I am smarting up some when it comes to homegrown seedlings. This year, instead of growing 300 tomato plants (yes, I was a little kooky last year) I downsized to just under 70.

Still enough for me to share but not so many that we have to have a brigade to get the many trays into the house each night that temperatures dip in my unheated greenhouse.

The tomato seeds were sown in the third week or March and were transplanted into 6 packs the second week of April.

Recently, they started to show signs that they were ready to be potted into bigger containers. Height was one give-away. Secondly, was a root ball that was pretty filled out but not quite root bound (roots swirling in a tight mass).

I lifted each plant from the cell of its 6-pack and positioned the plant on the bottom of a 4" pot and filled in with new potting soil.

Tomatoes are unique in that they will make roots up the stem.

After all the transplanting was done, I gave them a drink or fish emulsion/sea-weed fertilizer to lessen any shock and provide them with a good boost.

Because it was overcast, I was able to do this right in the greenhouse and keep them in there without worry that the sun or heat would be too much for plants that recently had their roots disturbed.

On occasion, when I've been forced to get transplanting done during a sunny stretch, I would immediately water the plants then place the trays of plants in the shade to recover for at least a day or two.

Now, a mention on temperature. Cloudy is one thing, and today with my greenhouse doors closed, 50 degrees outdoors meant a few degrees warmer inside.

I would not keep tomato plants outside if temperatures were colder than fifty or they will start to show signs of distress. They are



much happier at 55 to 60 degrees.

So, for the next couple of weeks, (gasp) in and out they will go each day.

Without a greenhouse would mean moving them around your windows to catch the sun, or placing them back under the grow lights until temperatures moderate. At least I am not moving 300 this year.

Overcast skies were also helpful when it came time to re-do one of my perennial borders. I did a soil test on this particular garden last year and followed the recommendations to increase nitrogen (blood meal) and potassium (wood ashes).

It is neat that the wood ashes do double duty to get the pH a little higher as well.

Once the amendments were mixed in, I began lifting plants from the old garden, dividing them up and replanting them in the new garden. Some of the plants were overgrown, hence the need for division.

Using a sharp shovel, I simply sliced them down the middle of the clump and if needed, divided the halves into quarters. Now lots of roots were severed in the process, so cloudy skies and the rain that followed really helped to settle the plants into their new locale without shock.

The garden is a collection of plants that butterflies love. I have a butterfly bush in the corner that is 3 years old. That one really frigid night we had where temperatures dipped into the negative double digits killed off top growth, but I am hopeful that growth will return from the crown.

Hopefully, I will see that over the next two to three weeks. What did you accomplish over these cloudy days?

*Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 31 years she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to [pouimette@turley.com](mailto:pouimette@turley.com) with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.*

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# Candidate QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

## Benjamin Farrell Candidate for Town Moderator

My name is Benjamin Farrell, and I am running as a write-in candidate for Town Moderator. I have been an attorney for almost 14 years, and am currently a Staff Attorney at the Student Legal Services Office at the University of Massachusetts. My wife, my newborn son and I moved to Belchertown a few years ago, and we have loved living in this beautiful town – from the wonderful staff at the Belchertown Day School to the Community Band, we can't imagine raising our son anywhere else.



### What is the biggest challenge the board/committee is facing? How will you address it?

The biggest challenge that any Moderator of a Town Meeting faces is directing and facilitating a discussion of varying viewpoints and making sure the evening does not descend into chaos. The best way to prevent this from happening is to have an intimate knowledge of the rules of debate, and the ability to enforce them.

### Why are you running for this position?

I am running for Town Moderator because Town Meeting is the purest form of democracy we have in the world. It is the only form of government that allows every voting citizen in the town the right to show up, be heard, and have a direct say in how they are governed. The role of Town Moderator is vital to ensure that all voices are heard, and the exercise of democracy is done in a fair, orderly, efficient, and inclusive manner. I believe that I can use my experience as an attorney to make sure the rules are adhered to, and Town Meeting is an open and productive process.

### Discuss your commitment to transparency and openness in Belchertown municipal government. Do you have suggestions for improving either?

Transparency in local government is important to foster trust in local institutions. I believe the best transparency is making sure that the people most impacted by the decisions of local elected officials have the forum to make their voices heard and the opportunity to speak directly to them. As Town Moderator, I will ensure that every voter has the chance to express themselves and ensure that Town Meeting is an open and welcoming forum for all viewpoints.

## Lesa Lessard Pearson Candidate for Selectboard

My name is Lesa Lessard Pearson. On May 15, I am asking for your vote to serve as a member of the Belchertown Selectboard.

### Why are you running for Belchertown Selectboard?

I am concerned about the tax burden placed on Belchertown homeowners. I believe we can encourage economic development through a careful review of current zoning laws, grant writing and the creation of town amenities that businesses find attractive. It will require that leaders serving on Town Committees including the Finance, Planning and Economic Development Industrial Corporation (EDIC), fellow select board members and the incoming town administrator/manager all work together to ensure success. Broadening our tax base through business development will also provide new goods and services for town residents and create new employment opportunities.



false narrative. The truth is town government needs to make it a priority to get news and information out to community residents by employing a variety of cross channel communications. We need a dedicated town employee whose job responsibilities include working with the Communications Committee to gather, write and distribute town-related communications. There is no one channel that all people use to get information so in the long term, I propose building a new user-friendly town website while pushing news and events using all current available mediums such as cable television, print and social media and through improved town signage.

### How do you believe the town should address its structural deficit?

Belchertown has spent years creating a structural operating deficit that now hovers around 1.8 million dollars. A balanced budget was presented annually but it was achieved through draining the towns' reserves (rainy day fund) and also by using one time only American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding. Those funding sources are nearly depleted. As such, we face the very real possibility of homeowner tax hikes, a reduction in town programs and services and / or school budget cuts. Before we consider raising taxes, a careful analysis of the necessity to fill vacant spots in town government as well as within the school system along with a comprehensive review of the entire budget is needed.

### What are your goals moving forward as the town faces staff turnover in various departments?

It's normal to see staff turnover when a senior leader departs. I see this as a golden opportunity to engage in careful analysis of the need for replacement or revision of job responsibilities based on the needs and value proposition for the town. Belchertown is growing and changing like any healthy town does. There will be challenges, opportunities and missteps ahead, but I have great optimism about Belchertown. I'm proud to live here and look forward to the work ahead.

### What is the biggest challenge the Selectboard is facing? How will you address it?

There are multiple challenges ahead for the Selectboard. The pressing need for economic development, addressing the structural operating deficit and increasing transparency in town affairs all come to mind. That said, the leadership transition from a long-standing town administrator to a new town administrator/town manager is imminent. Each member of the Selectboard has a unique set of skills and experience that taken together will contribute to the successful leadership transition we are about to undergo. My experience in budget analysis, business partner development, cross channel communications and strategic planning will be helpful to the new town administrator and to the town itself.

### Discuss your commitment to transparency and openness in Belchertown municipal government. Do you have suggestions for improving either?

The standard response of "Well, if you want to know what's happening, you should have gone to the meeting," is a

## W. Daniel Fitzpatrick Selectboard Candidate

W. Daniel Fitzpatrick, 30 Tucker Lane, Belchertown, moved here from Michigan in 1969, served the town as an unpaid volunteer for 25 years, and has three children who graduated from Belchertown School. Janise, his wife/life partner, have been 50-year parishioners at St. Francis Church.



### Why are you running for Belchertown Selectboard?

I/we love Belchertown. During the "dark ages" (1969), we chose Belchertown, in which to achieve our future, and not Amherst, though advised not to settle in B'town. I/we have worked long and hard for the town over the years and have helped to achieve much (no one person – it takes three members to agree) and have invested in our lives here. I hadn't planned on running, but when I learned in Thursday's Sentinel, on short notice, that there was no one contesting the seat on the Board of Selectman, I ran to the Town Clerk's office, found I was too late for the ballot, and had to run as a write-in candidate. Very few win from that category, so I need a lot of help from fellow voters. There is no ego involved – I've been to the top of the mountain too many times before.

### What is the biggest challenge the Selectboard is facing? How will you address it?

According to Pogo (of comic book fame) "We have met the enemy, and they are us!" The Board has ceased to be effective, constant bickering, subterfuge, back-biting, no respect from/for employees who feel attacked by individual Selectmen. The Selectboard, above all others, must work as a team. When last I served, we could fight like hell in the open meeting, and occasionally very emotionally, then all go out, and have a "Rolling Rock" at a local establishment. In those six years, with Town Meeting approval, we rolled up the town debt to nearly \$100 million with voter approval. Solution: Get back to Selectmen respecting each other and their employees: Get back to a team.

### Discuss your commitment to transparency and openness in Belchertown municipal government. Do you have suggestions for improving either?

I came up the ranks under the

Commonwealth's then new "Open Meeting Law" and have observed for 25 years of active service. In 2010, the Commonwealth changed that law which now reads "the Chairman of the Committee decides." One example of difficulty was the Rail Trail Committee. We were an appointed town committee which placed us under the Commonwealth's Open Meeting Law requirements. Tied our hands. The opposition, not being a town committee, would come to our meeting, then go back to their closed meeting and make new plans to fight us.

But we did it. I would, if elected, work to get a town bylaw passed to return to the Open Meeting Law. The recent Search Committee for (Town Administrator Gary) Brougham's position was a travesty. No one was permitted to attend, no minutes were received by the Town Clerk, no one could find out anything about the search, which caused me to feel something nefarious was afoot.

### How should the Town address its structural deficit?

Simple. Let the employees in the Treasurer's Office examine the situation, identify solutions under Commonwealth Law, and produce for, and educate, the Board of Selectmen/Finance Committee with a recommendation. That is the legal procedure. All this running around by many uninformed people, does nothing. That is except worry all the voters that there will be a tax increase.

### What are your goals moving forward as the town faces staff turnover in various departments?

That's a simple one! I recently talked to many employees, some I have known for years, and they are honest with me. The single biggest, almost unanimous problem again is the Selectmen, or some of them. Universally, almost without exception, employees feel badgered, unappreciated, too many bosses, Selectman interference in the performance of their work, and undue pressure. In my experience, we all had a good relationship. People stayed on for years and were happy in their environment. It was a pleasant place for employees, townspeople and elected officers. That teamwork served the voters more effectively and with more loyalty than they could ever know. What ever happened?

## Bjorn Markeson Candidate for Planning Board

Originally from northern Minnesota, five years ago I moved to Belchertown with my wife, Darlene Sliwa, a third-generation resident, to raise our two daughters in this community. I currently work for IMPLAN Group, a developer of economic models in Huntersville, NC and I teach at the Brandeis University International Business School.



### Why are you running for this position?

I am eager to serve on the Belchertown Planning Board because I believe that it is important to balance the preservation of natural space and agricultural land with the growth of new and existing businesses that will improve quality of life and the town tax base.

My professional training is a Master of Urban and Regional Planning from Cornell University and a PhD in Agricultural and Applied Economics from the University of Wisconsin – Madison, where my research

focused on the drivers of rural small business growth and entrepreneurship.

### What is the biggest challenge the board is facing?

I see three key challenges facing the Planning Board:

Keep areas like the Town Common vital and active by supporting the development of new and existing businesses.

Promote effective and appropriate use of the former State School Complex.

Apply land use policy to improve affordability in Belchertown and preserve our agricultural heritage for the

next generation.

### Discuss your commitment to transparency and openness in Belchertown municipal government. Do you have suggestions for improving either?

The best way to instill confidence in municipal government is through transparency and openness in the decision-making process.

# Candidate QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

## Ken Elstein Candidate for Board of Health

I currently serve as Chair of the Board of Health, having previously served as Chair of the Select Board and before that as the first Chair of the Community Preservation Committee.

### Why are you running for this position?

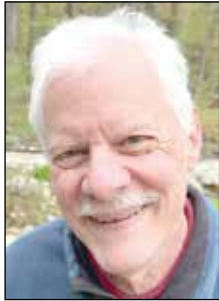
Three years ago, at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, I was a write-in candidate after no one filed papers for three vacant positions. It has been a difficult three years, in which our long-term Director retired, her successor resigned in the same year to enter the private sector, and the Quabbin Health District (QHD) needed to conduct a successful search for a third Director. Phew!

We have had several really important achievements, including approving a new Tobacco Sales Bylaw focused on enforcing sales to minors, joined the Pioneer Valley Tobacco Control Coalition, approved new private well regulations, and provided a new website for the three QHD member towns. All of this was done in the shadow of the pandemic, with all town departments requiring our support, from the schools to Town Hall to the Senior Center.

I look forward to serving with new member Dr. David Gottsagen, who also is running unopposed.

I would also like to thank retiring member Hope Guardenier for her six years of

service and effective leadership on the Board of Health.



### What is the biggest challenge the board/committee is facing? How will you address it?

Communication with the public of the best available science is critical, especially in view of the misinformation on cable news and the internet. Everyone is confused as science evolves, and public health priorities can be inconvenient. Recently, the focus

has been on pandemic response, but in previous years it was Eastern Equine Encephalitis or West Nile Virus or tick-borne diseases. Our staff is outstanding, and the board needs to give them the support they need.

### Discuss your commitment to transparency and openness in Belchertown municipal government. Do you have any suggestions for improving either.

The Quabbin Health District created a new website, which is a good improvement. But during the early days of the pandemic, the Board of Health, the Selectboard and the School Committee tried to coordinate appropriate responses to the moving targets of information and misinformation. We need to improve coordination with other town departments and with the general public before the next health emergency.

## Dr. David Gottsagen Candidate Board of Health

As a community pediatrician, issues of public health come up all the time, especially during the years of the Covid pandemic. As a resident of Belchertown since 1986, with two daughters who attended Belchertown schools, I would like to give back to the community using my skills and experience.

### Why are you running for this position?

I am a physician with 35 years' experience. I graduated from Brown University, earned my medical degree at SUNY at Buffalo Medical School. I went on to an internship in family practice in Duluth, MN, then to a residency in pediatrics at the University of Minnesota Hospital and Clinics in Minneapolis/St Paul. I have been a partner with Holyoke Pediatric Associates since 1993, serving a diverse population of children and families in our offices in South Hadley and

Holyoke. I am also the school physician for Chicopee. I have a special interest in the intersection of mind and body in pediatric healthcare, am a consultant for kids with chronic pain or habit disorders and am currently writing a book on the subject.

As a pediatrician and as a citizen who has always been very interested in protecting the soil, air and water on which we depend, local boards of health have a very important role to play. I would like to share my knowledge of communicable diseases and other health issues to benefit our town.

### What is the biggest challenge the board/committee is facing? How will

you address it?

The last three years have shown that one of the major challenges facing our Board of Health is to be at the forefront of recognizing emerging communicable diseases, as well as infectious illnesses known to us, and take the steps necessary to educate and protect our town's citizens— following expert scientific advice, and the MA Department of Health. As Belchertown continues to expand, a major challenge will be ensuring safe disposal of

waste, and helping to ensure clean drinking water. I have seen through my years as a pediatrician that good health also depends on housing that is free of hazards and toxic exposure, lead for example.

Finally, climate change brings special challenges: For example, rising temperatures increase the danger of algal blooms and bacterial contamination in the town's waters and town beach; we must help guard against the dangers of heat-related illnesses, especially among our elderly and our school athletes; extreme weather events bring dangers of flooding which can increase waterborne illness; and tick born illnesses like Lyme Disease which are on the rise.

### Discuss your commitment to transparency and openness in Belchertown municipal government. Do you have any suggestions for improving either.

I am committed to transparency in town government but have nothing specific to suggest increasing transparency for the Board of Health. I believe its meetings are open to all.

## Lamikco "Meka" Magee Candidate for School Committee

My name is Lamikco "Meka" Magee and my experience as an educator for over 20 years, educational background with a Juris Doctor, Master's in Education and Bachelor of Business Administration degrees, and role as an organizational leader with a strong commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion, make me the best candidate to serve our community. I am a USAF Veteran and have had ties to Belchertown for decades.



### Why are you running for this position? If you are seeking reelection what qualifies you to continue in this role?

I attended Cold Spring Elementary more than 40 years ago and my mother taught at Belchertown State School. Three of my children graduated from BHS. We are a growing community and great schools are foundational to the continued prosperity of our town. I am running for school committee because I want our community to maintain an excellent school system that values every student.

### What is the biggest challenge the board/committee is facing? How will you address it?

Our students have a right to be physically and emotionally safe at school. The school committee must focus on establishing anti-oppressive pedagogy, create affirming spaces for "othered" students and work against the many structural forms of social oppression. Our school community needs instructional resources made available to consistently and perpetually educate staff and students on how to interrupt behaviors that degrade others. We must value our educators, recognize that their working conditions are our students' learning conditions, and support them to improve educational experiences for all students.

When in physically and emotionally safe schools, students flourish. Our youth should be interculturally competent, global citizens with the academic preparation to succeed in whatever they choose to do and be engaged members of our thriving community. Opportunities to participate in extracurricular activities including sports, a

host of clubs that cater to a variety of interests and affinity groups, and when possible, to travel abroad to gain perspective through cultural immersion experiences, need to be

accessible to students regardless of socioeconomic circumstances. Students will be encouraged to participate in and lead community service projects. My children had these opportunities when they attended BHS and I want the excellent programming within our schools to continue.

### Discuss your commitment to transparency and openness in Belchertown municipal government. Do you have suggestions for improving either?

Transparency is fundamental in a democracy. Transparency implies that information should be accessible and understandable so that residents may hold elected officials accountable for their decisions. Every resident should be able to access the town's financial reports, and these documents have to be prepared in a way that laypersons are able to understand how the town spends our hard-earned dollars. I believe financial reports should be made available online to the public, and that a process should be in place to allow residents to get their questions about how we use funds answered quickly.

### What are the school's capital needs? What should the School Committee be doing in the next three years to address them?

Our students and staff need better learning and working environments. We have two school buildings that need to be replaced. Cold Spring was over 20 years old when I was a student there. The aged infrastructure at Jabish Brook and Cold Spring cannot support the technology necessary to provide optimal 21st century learning conditions for our students. Over the next three years the school committee has to tackle the issue of aged buildings and plan for new facilities in a fiscally responsible manner. The school committee will lead the way to pull our community together, gather input and keep all the stakeholders involved in the development of these new school buildings.

## Heidi Gutekenst Candidate for School Committee

My name is Heidi Gutekenst and I am a candidate for reelection to the School Committee in Belchertown. I work with children both in my professional life as well as a volunteer to the Girl Scouts of Belchertown.

### Why are you running for this position? If you are seeking reelection what qualifies you to continue in this role?

I have been a member of the School Committee for the past two terms. I not only find this a rewarding experience, but feel I make a difference for the students of Belchertown. In my tenure on the committee, I have made it a priority to educate myself in the role of a committee member, including trainings offered by the Massachusetts Associate of School Committees and organizing trainings for our district.

Although the past several years have been a challenge, I feel I have been able to navigate our current concerns with fairness and compassion. The ultimate concern for me is our students and their experiences in school. In all decisions, I welcome hearing all sides. Especially during our COVID conversations, I know there were many opinions. I appreciated hearing all of them and used what I heard in voting for a compromise in our COVID plans.



### What is the biggest challenge the board/committee is facing? How will you address it?

I think we have several challenges we are currently facing. The first, and most pressing is the recent cases of anti-Semitism in our middle school. This is part of the larger issue of racial inequality, prejudice and anti-bias behaviors in our schools. We have already begun addressing it, but the work is not over and must continue.

A large portion of response must include education of students and inclusion of families as partners to better our district.

We also have a budget deficit within our town. The School Department is the largest portion of the budget, and we must work with the town to address this deficit. The schools have made cuts regularly and must continue to do so while not impacting the strong education of students. This will require creativity, reorganization and sharing of resources amongst our schools.

### Discuss your commitment to transparency and openness in Belchertown municipal government. Do you have suggestions for improving either?

**BELCHERTOWN TOWN ELECTION**

**Monday, May 15 from 8 a.m. – 8 p.m.**

at Belchertown High School gymnasium  
142 Springfield Rd., Belchertown



# Candidate QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

## Matthew Jackson Candidate for School Committee

I'm a lifelong resident of Belchertown and a graduate from UMass Amherst Iseburg School of Business. I currently am self-employed and volunteer in town.



### Why are you running for this position?

When I referee and coach in town, I invest time with the kids and build relationships with them. I try and give back to the schools when I can, including teams, drama club, alumni day and an angel investor in the Swift River piano lab.

I am running for School Committee because I have two young children in the schools. One child has a diagnosed disability and is on an IEP and the other has just gone through testing and was placed on an IEP. The process to get proper help for children with IEPs is a confusing and grueling process. I believe these students as well as their teachers and paraprofessionals need someone representing them on the committee.

Another reason I'm also running is for student confidence. I'm nervous because of the lost years due to Covid and fake human interaction on social media. As a result, this generation will be lost. As a town we

want to be innovative on this as opposed to waiting for the bureaucracy. I'm very worried about teen suicide because of these and many other issues. We need to make this a top priority.

I also want our schools to be the hub-of-the-town, whether it's a sporting event, play, band or fundraiser. There seems to be a bit of a disconnect recently and less people are taking part in school activities.

### What is the biggest challenge the board/committee is facing? How will you address it?

I feel the biggest problems in the past have been not giving the superintendent the freedom to lead and show his capabilities. I'd have open dialogue with the superintendent and give parental feedback. We, as citizens, entrusted the superintendent to run the schools and that's what we should let him do. Also, the School Committee in the past was very quick to dismiss and ignore a whole segment of parents during discussions during Covid. I think they need to take parents' rights seriously and respect that they are trying to do what they feel is in the best interest of their child.

### Discuss your commitment to transparency and openness in Belchertown municipal government. Do you have suggestions for improving either?

I am very transparent and willing to have discussions even though we won't always agree. I'm not involved in any committees that would hinder my transparency or make me biased.

### What are the school's capital needs? What should the School Committee be doing in the next three years to address them?

Capital improvement #1 is Jabish Brook. I'd love to be innovative and try to mimic some of the principals UMass did when adding to the old business school building. We need to keep budget in mind for the sake of lifelong residents and their tax bills. #2 possibly a turf field, but with a recession looming, that could be out of the cards in my opinion. I'd use my connections in building, as well as keep an open line of communication with Mr. (Eric) LeBeau (school facilities manager).

I believe, as a member of the School Committee, I can help open the communication between the School Department and parents and keep education in Belchertown heading in a positive direction in the future.

### POWDER HORN from page 3

Years later and faced with costly chimney repairs, Madden consigned several pieces in his collection, including the Hardwick powder horn.

The collector that was trying to sell the powder horn contacted the Historical Society in an attempt to sell it to them.

"Because the horn had the town on it, he contacted them and gave a pretty stiff price," Madden said.

After this, Madden decided to work with the Historical Society to ensure the powder home went back to its roots. As luck would have it, Historical Society President Randy Noble is a mason and was able to complete Madden's chimney repairs.

"I said, 'let's make a deal.'" Madden said. "I'm a New Englander."

Madden said he is happy with his decision to return the powder horn to Hardwick, just a stone's throw from where its owner is buried in the cemetery on the other side of the Town House.

"It should go back here. I'm glad to see it come home," he said.

Currently on loan, the Historical Society is raising money to make this powder horn a permanent piece of the collection.

Hardwick Historical Society is a 501c3 nonprofit and your donations are tax deductible. Donations can be mailed to Hardwick Historical Society, P.O. Box 492, Hardwick, MA 01037.

The museum is open the second and fourth Sundays of June through October from noon-2 p.m. It will also be open May 20 and 21 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. during the plant and bake sale on the common and Aug. 18 and 19 during the Hardwick Community Fair.

### GUTEKENST from page 8

With thanks to BCTV, Belchertown Public Schools have been able to have meetings available for viewing outside of the official meeting time. I enjoy hearing from stakeholders and regularly communicate with people about a broad range of topics. I welcome all contributions and honor the process of deliberation in make decisions regarding our schools.

The committee has also continued to

conduct their meetings in a hybrid fashion. This is not always easy and sometimes technology fails, but we have seen a substantial increase in participation by community members. That makes all the challenges worth it.

What are the school's capital needs? What should the School Committee be doing in the next three years to address them?

The School Department needs to address

our middle school building within the next few years. We are in the middle of a feasibility study to determine if the building should be rehabilitated, renovated or replaced. The current building is lacking and does not allow for an efficient use of spending or provide a sufficient space for education. The plan on the table will allow our two most expensive buildings to close, not only assisting the long-range budget deficits, but allow a premier school in Belchertown to educate students.

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# Bright spot therapy dogs light up campus center

BY MATTY ANDERSON  
Staff Writer  
manderson@turley.com

AMHERST – Last Wednesday, UMass Amherst welcomed Bright Spot Therapy Dogs and their handlers to help students de-stress with finals on the horizon. April McNally, the health promotion specialist at UMass Amherst College, and Michelle Karb, the executive director of Bright Spot Therapy Dogs, collaborate every year before midterms and finals.

McNally said “This collaboration has been happening for 10 years. The goal of these events is to connect with students, offer a space where they can connect with therapy dogs and provide access to resources that support their wellbeing.”

Students like Swetha



(TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTOS BY MATTY ANDERSON) Marty and his handler, Marjorie Shearer.



Kodi, the dog-lama himself.

Baskaran did their part by promoting the event in order to make this resource more accessible to peers and assisting McNally in any way possible.

The collaboration proved to be a wonderful opportunity for members of Bright Spot Therapy Dogs to participate in a

Please see **DOGS**, page 13



TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTO BY MATTY ANDERSON

Ruby Stapert and Nathan Hicks showing off their freshly crafted bird feeders.

## BIRDING from page 1

elaborated upon how to recognize them on the basis of flight patterns.

She said that goldfinches can be identified by their bright yellow color, rollercoaster-like flight pattern and song. One child said “I like how goldfinches are yellow like a banana.”

The children also learned that when landing on the side of a tree, the nuthatch stands facing downwards while hunting for worms. The children all agreed that the nuthatch’s bird song sounded like “a funny clown laughing.”

To make the experience more immersive, Simpson brought an audio device that played a little of each bird’s song. One of the more interesting facts of the day was that in addition to their own song, blue jays can mimic the sound of a hawk to scare off rivals in addition to their normal song.

Blue jays play an important role as nature’s alarm system. They can sense danger from a mile away and warn all of the

other animals.

Many animals have adapted to recognizing a warning from a helpful blue jay to avoid danger.

Following her presentation, Simpson played each bird’s song one last time and had the children guess which bird it belonged to. The children did a great job remembering, thanks to Simpson’s tips.

After the presentation and bird song quiz, Simpson had a fun activity prepared.

Before leaving the library, everyone got to make two kinds of bird feeders, one with cereal and the other with fruit.

After a fun-filled morning Simpson said “Spring is a great time to be studying our local birds.”

One child, Ruby Stapert, said, “I enjoyed the crafts and learning about birds, I especially love barn owls.”

Ruby’s mother, Beth Stapert added, “We loved learning all of the details about the birds and hearing all of the bird songs, I really appreciate all of the programs that the library offers families.”



## BELCHERTOWN PUBLIC SCHOOLS SCHOOL CHOICE PROGRAM 2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR

The Belchertown Public School District is now accepting applications for the following School Choice openings for the 2023-2024 school year:

Grade K	2	Grade 7	10
Grade 1	4	Grade 8	10
Grade 3	4	Grade 9	5
Grade 4	4	Grade 10	5
Grade 5	1		

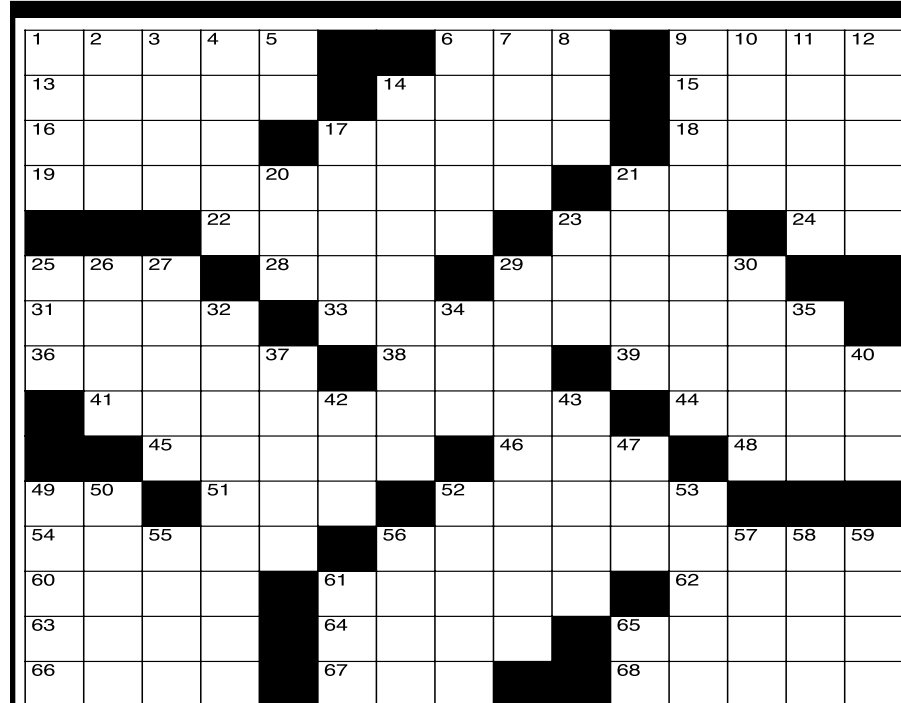
The Belchertown Public Schools combine innovation and tradition to provide positive educational experiences for all of our students through quality programs, dynamic teaching and healthy relationships.

The deadline for submitting a **complete** application is 4:00 p.m. on **Friday, June 2, 2023.**

The selection of non-resident students for admission will be in the form of a random drawing when the number of requests exceeds the number of available spaces. There will be two drawings for this purpose. The first will take place on June 2, 2023, and in the event of unexpected additional openings, a second drawing will be conducted on August 4, 2023.

The application and guidelines can be downloaded at **www.belchertownps.org** or picked up at 14 Maple St., Belchertown, MA 01007.

*The Belchertown School District does not discriminate in the admission of any child on the basis of age, sex, gender identity, race, religion, color, national origin, sexual orientation or ancestry, athletic performance, physical handicap, special need, academic performance, disability or proficiency in the English language in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.*



### CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Dull and flat
- 6. Baking measurement (abbr.)
- 9. Education-based groups
- 13. Not behind
- 14. Runners run them
- 15. Japanese ankle sock
- 16. Grave
- 17. Japanese industrial city
- 18. People of southern Ghana
- 19. Particular designs
- 21. Device fitted to something
- 22. Infections
- 23. Pirates’ preferred alcohol
- 24. Expression of sympathy
- 25. Rock guitarist’s tool
- 28. Neither
- 29. Ancient city of Egypt
- 31. You \_\_\_ what you sow
- 33. Ruined
- 36. Narrations
- 38. Body art (slang)
- 39. Fencing sword
- 41. Apartment buildings
- 44. Type of missile
- 45. Fathers
- 46. Extremely high frequency
- 48. Type of school
- 49. Incorrect letters
- 51. Two-year-old sheep
- 52. Nasty manner
- 54. One who accepts a bet
- 56. Indian prince
- 60. Asian country
- 61. Rhythmic patterns in Indian music
- 62. “Uncle Buck” actress
- 63. Detailed criteria
- 64. Son of Shem
- 65. Talked wildly
- 66. Discount
- 67. Not good
- 68. Growing out
- 2. A call used to greet someone
- 3. Part-time employee
- 4. Emaciation
- 5. “Westworld” actor
- 6. Gains possession of
- 7. Relaxing spaces
- 8. 23rd star in a constellation
- 9. Northern grouse
- 10. Monetary unit of Bangladesh
- 11. Manila hemp
- 12. Unites muscle to bone
- 14. Makes deep cuts in
- 17. 18-year period between eclipses
- 20. Member of a people inhabiting southern Benin
- 21. Synthetic rubbers
- 23. Unwelcome rodent
- 25. Expression of creative skill
- 26. Some is red
- 27. Seems less in impressive
- 29. Harry Kane’s team
- 30. Gland secretion
- 32. Action of feeling sorrow
- 34. Disallow
- 35. Deceptive movement
- 37. More dried-up
- 40. Crimson
- 42. Actress Ryan
- 43. Adherents of a main branch of Islam
- 47. Accomplished American president
- 49. Side of a landform facing an advancing glacier
- 50. Sheep breed
- 52. Appetizer
- 53. Broadway actress
- 55. Influential film critic
- 56. NY Giants ownership family
- 57. Type of script
- 58. Assist
- 59. London park
- 61. Bar bill
- 65. In reply indicator

### CLUES DOWN

- 1. Actor Damon

# CHESTNUT HONORS *Musicians of the Month*



BELCHERTOWN — Jason Mosall, band director at Chestnut Hill Community School, recently announced the list of students who were named Musicians of the Month:

LEFT: Chestnut Hill students Ethan Himes, alto sax; Ryan Black, percussion; Benjamin Dowling, percussion; Amelia Wilcox, flute; Brynn Wilcox, alto sax; Amelia Donovan, clarinet; Jacob Staples, baritone; Grant Biancomano, baritone; Collin Verrochi, baritone; Claire Silva, flute; Lurah Chaverri, alto sax; and Miranda Barrett, flute, were all named Musicians of the Month.



RIGHT: Recently named Chestnut Musicians of the Month are: Madelyn Murray, alto sax; Radha Grip, percussion; Kyla Moseley, Clarinet; Emily Calvanese, trombone; Camille Nycz, clarinet; Reid Charron, percussion; Bently Pope, trumpet; David Ting, percussion; Brayden Wakefield, trumpet; Caleb Pincine, trumpet; Samuel Leblond, trumpet; and Quinnton Parncutt, trumpet.



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**BUSINESS**

# Latour Wilson Septic serves region for over 30 years

**BY DALLAS GAGNON**  
Staff Writer  
dgagnon@turley.com

GRANBY – Located at 185 W State St, Latour-Wilson Septic provides a variety of services to meet your septic needs including septic pumping, maintenance and inspections.

With over 22 years of construction and utility service experience, owner Ryan O’Hala, offers high quality service to locals in the Western Massachusetts and Connecticut area. “We are family owned and operated,” said O’Hala.

An advantage customers have by relying on Latour-Wilson Septic is knowing they are dealing with a local company. “There are corporate companies that will hire anybody - and don’t care,” said O’Hala.

At Latour-Wilson Septic, a “core value” is providing a “quality product while being as competitive as we can pricewise,” said O’Hala. To ensure the highest quality product, O’Hala requires employees to complete a background check and participate in a training process if they do not have a background in septic services. O’Hala said “we have a checklist for every single house to make sure everything is done properly.”

Customers can also conveniently access any diagnosis or former records of services Latour-Wilson Septic has completed on their systems by utilizing a client portal. “Anything we notice or anything we may see as a potential problem... tank locations, records... [we] store everything online...” said O’Hala.

Latour-Wilson Septic was established over 30 years ago and was purchased by O’Hala directly from the Wilson family in 2021. Unlike “a lot of big companies that come in” and become further removed from the community, O’Hala said “that is not our intention.” With two additional offices based in Connecticut, O’Hala has established a reputation for running a professional, punctual and responsive operation.

Instead, O’Hala said the company intends to “be present in the community,” and do “anything we can to give back. We’re growing and continuing to grow,” said O’Hala.

Some of the company’s most recent growth is the addition of mobile restrooms with multiple stalls for events. Latour-Wilson Septic also offers commercial and municipal grease-trap services, such as pumping.

O’Hala said it is important to “stand by other small businesses and keep it local,” as this prin-



Ryan O’Hala, septic service pro, said: “We intend to be present in the community and do anything we can to give back.”

ciple is the “base of our company.” While Latour-Wilson Septic does not offer septic tank replacements, O’Hala said he is “very picky” about to whom he sub-contracts work. “Ultimately, it is our reputation. We do have very reputable contractors, plumbers...

an array of different trades,” said O’Hala.

Whether you are looking to have your septic system serviced, grease trap taken care of or in need of mobile restrooms, Latour-Wilson Septic has got you covered.

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**STEALTH** from page 1

regards to addressing particular financial issues in the municipality he was working for.

The third candidate, Aponte said, was also very skilled and had done his homework on the town.

“One of the things probably because of the way Whately is, not having a large staff, he had a great breadth of knowledge and experience. He probably wore 10 hats on any given day,” Aponte said. In the same vein, Aponte said he was concerned about whether Domina could delegate.

He said Domina also knew about the Chapter 30B question about procurement procedures and experience with grant writing.

Following his review of the three, Aponte said in the past when selecting a finalist from a group of candidates he typically knew which person he was strongly leaning toward, but did not have that feeling in the case of this town administrator search.

“Let’s be honest, this is the most important decision a board can make. Then I had an epiphany. There’s a fourth candidate, a stealth candidate if you will,” Aponte said. “He has the experience, the skill set, the proven leadership, and the exceptional work ethic. He knows the town like the back of his without a doubt.”

He proposed Williams be appointed to the position.

Selectboard member Jen Turner originally was shocked by the proposal, saying that she was speechless.

Selectboard Chair Jim Barry said he wanted to continue the conversation about the three candidates before contemplating Williams.

Selectboard member Ed Boscher said he did not see a standout candidate of the three, but he could live with Szczebak.

He said he wasn’t sure how he felt about

*He has the experience, the skill set, the proven leadership, and the exceptional work ethic. He knows the town like the back of his without a doubt.*

**RON APONTE,**  
Selectboard Member

Williams being a “stealth” candidate, but had faith in Williams’s abilities.

Similarly, Turner said she favored Szczebak for a number of reasons, including that he would be the best fit for the culture in the town.

“With the HR perspective, I think he could offer a lot, especially as we have a new HR department...I know the town of Wellesley is not exactly like Belchertown, but he lives in a surrounding community (Palmer) and familiar with out town,” she said. “Without direction from the town, he talked about economic development. I felt like he could handle our budget pretty well.”

Barry said he was between Domina and Guerinio.

“They had enough experience as town administrators to know what their job was and what they were getting into. I made notes about each of their answers to the questions and I reviewed the answers, then tried to put some scores to the answers,” Barry said, “What it came down to was that Brian was scoring higher than Tom on a number of issues. What struck me was that one of the first questions he talked about was his passion for government.”

He said he had experience in the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission as well.

Barry said something that struck him was that Domina said people who worked in municipal government make a difference and don’t just have a job. They’re being evaluated every day for what they’re doing to serve the public.

Barry added, however, that he was not 100% happy with any of the three candidates and was open to Williams as a fourth “stealth” candidate.

Selectboard member Peg Louraine said if she had to choose between the three candidates, she was leaning toward Domina.

“But if I had been offered Mr. Williams as a candidate,” Louraine said. “it would have been a no-brainer.”

When asked if he applied, Williams said he had, but did not get an interview with the screening committee.

Williams came before the board and spoke about his 30 years of experience in Belchertown, 25 of which has been spent as the director of the department of public works.

“I’ve managed departments bigger than a lot of small towns with a \$36 million budget, capital projects, a huge inventory of buildings and stock that we’ve managed,” he said. “I think my institutional knowledge of Belchertown is probably second to a very small group here.”

Williams said he knows the town is facing a lot of challenges, but he “has never turned his back to a challenge.”

When asked how he would close the gap on the town’s financial deficit, Williams said the town needs to be able to identify the town services it’s willing to cut should the budget need cuts.

“I think by any means we should close it one year. I think we need to have a plan and start to work towards that goal...We need to close that gap, but we need to maintain our services and make sure this is still a good

place to live,” Williams said.

He said he would have a difficult time shuttering departments if there was a possibility to take methodical steps to close the structural deficit.

Following the discussion, the board unanimously approved appointing Williams to the position, barring a background check and contract negotiations.

In an interview with the Sentinel, Williams said the experience was “surreal.”

As a life-long resident of the town and having served on numerous boards and committees that have selected previous police chiefs, fire chiefs, building committees and more, Williams said he takes great pride in the accomplishments of those he played a role in hiring and in the town itself.

“It’s still sinking in, even when it was first mentioned, I think that the idea was going to gain any traction,” Williams said. “I’m happy and certainly hope there will be a smooth transition and the employees keep doing the work they do and be supportive of me so we can continue to work together going forward.”

He said one of the first orders of business will be attending the Annual Town Meeting next week and making sure that there will be a seamless transition to the next DPW director as there is a lot of projects going on.

Williams said he plans to stay in the town for another decade and hopes he can accomplish what he sets out to do and leaves the town in a better place than when he starts.

“One advantage I have is that being here as long as I have, is that I know all the players and there will be a quicker transition,” he said. “I’m looking forward to working with the various town boards, committees, departments and, importantly, the town employees. I hope I will have their support and I will do the best in my ability to support them.”

**DOGS** from page 10

large group event. It is the largest college visit that Bright Spot Therapy Dogs organizes.

One student who has been working hard on his senior thesis told McNally, “This is literally the best thing that has happened to me in months.” Avery Kolenski, a junior majoring in geography said, “It’s nice to have dogs around after a long day of classes.”

Not all heroes wear capes, some wear disco-themed collars like Gwen, a six-year-old greyhound who reported for duty with her

handler Wayne Desroches. “I always love when people recognize Gwen, when some students talk about their college experience, a highlight for them is having dogs pay them a visit when they need it the most,” said Desroches.

Kodi, a 10-year-old all-star with a tennis ball made an appearance at the event alongside his handler Patty Cowden. “Kodi is very zen, he’s the calmest dog, people call him the doggy-lama,” said Cowden.

On the eve of his third birthday, Marty, a golden retriever, boosted students’ spirits alongside his handler Marjarie Shearer.

Shearer said, “He makes everyone happy wherever he goes, he raises my spirit and re-centers people in many ways.”

Winnie, a six-year-old poodle and her handler, Naomi Rosenberg, were the final pair to say goodbye to their UMass friends.

Rosenberg said, “She’s really special because she always seems to know exactly what someone needs. When playing with toddlers, she’s really gentle and rolls the ball to them slowly. My mom said, ‘she’s the calmest dog in the world,’ but as you see today she’s also energetic and loves to play with people.”

As Rosenberg left, she jokingly called Winnie to her side, saying, “Come on stinky,” which got a laugh from nearby students.

Junior, Sakshi L, said, “This was a huge burst of serotonin.” Another junior, Nina Balagula said, “This really brightened up my day.”

After reflecting on an afternoon well spent with her own faithful canines, Betty and Sophie, Karb said, “I think animals can do what people can’t. They love unconditionally and seem to know how to support us without any guidance.”



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# PUBLIC SAFETY

## Belchertown Police

*Editor's note: The following are brief explanations of select entries in the Belchertown Police log and arrests for the weeks of April 12 through April 18. 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. Of the 375 calls police responded to, there were 16 incidents, two accidents, seven arrests/summons and 55 citations.*

### ARRESTS/SUMMONS Thursday, April 20

9:23 a.m. – A 36-year-old man was issued a summons on charges with operating with a suspended license and speeding. An officer was doing traffic enforcement on Boardman Road when they saw a vehicle speeding at 46 in 30 mph. The officer stopped the vehicle and identified the operator. They told the officer they had a valid Vermont license, but their right to operate in Massachusetts was suspended. The operator was transported to the station where a criminal complaint was issued and the vehicle was towed.

### Friday, April 21

9:58 a.m. – A 22-year-old Milford man was issued a summons for unlicensed operation of a vehicle, a marked lanes violation and failure to notify registry of an address change. Officers and Belchertown Fire and paramedics responded to Franklin Street for a report of a two-vehicle accident with injuries. A vehicle facing northbound had front right-side damage and all airbags deployed. The officer asked the driver of the vehicle if they had a driver's license, they handed the officer their passport. They told the officer the alignment was off and that caused the car to pull to the left and go into the right lane where it collided with another vehicle traveling southbound. The driver of the second vehicle was evaluated, but declined transportation. The officer found later that the person hadn't lost their license, but that it was expired and non-renewable.

### Tuesday, April 25

9:36 p.m. – A 38-year-old Ware man was issued a summons for an uninsured motor vehicle, unregistered motor vehicle and failure to notify registry of address change. An officer was on Jabish Street when a vehicle estimated passed going 55 MPH and increased to 59 in a 30 MPH zone. The officer pulled the vehicle over and iden-

tified the operator. The information came back that their license was revoked because their vehicle was uninsured. A tow truck was contacted. The person said they bought the vehicle that day. It was determined they were the new owner of the vehicle.

### ACCIDENTS/INCIDENTS Wednesday, April 19

2:39 p.m. – An officer responded to assist a person in obtaining a 209A order.

7:29 p.m. – Officers responded to assist Belchertown Fire and paramedics with a juvenile in crisis.

### Thursday, April 20

10:17 a.m. – An officer responded to Amherst Road for a report of an erratic driver. The officer was approaching Federal Street when they saw a vehicle take a sharp turn, drive over the front lawn of a residence and over a driveway. The officer pulled the vehicle over. The person was yelling and crying. Belchertown Fire and paramedics responded to assist in the matter.

4:11 p.m. – An officer took a report from a Federal Street resident that over the past few weeks someone was coming and using their canoes without permission. The resident noticed the canoes were in different positions when they got home and there was also damage not there previously. No one in the area observed anything suspicious. The matter is under investigation.

7:05 p.m. – An officer responded to Park Street around the Town Common for a person who appeared to be unconscious. The officer located the person. They were transported home by a relative.

### Friday, April 21

9:20 a.m. – An officer spoke to a resident about neighbor issues.

### Saturday, April 22

10:01 p.m. – Officers and Belchertown Fire dispatched to a Michael Sears Road residence for a report of woman who suffered a fall and was reportedly unconscious. The matter is under investigation.

### Sunday, April 23

7:39 p.m. – An officer responded to Maple Crest Drive for a report of multiple gunshots in the area. The officer spoke with the reporting party who said they heard gunshots in which sounded close by. The officer heard two gunshots when they were having the conversation and spoke to occupants in an adjacent house. The resident said they took their animals inside because they heard the gunshots as well, but didn't see any activity. The officer then went to

a residence where they could see a make-shift target in the backyard. The officer was able to talk to the residents who admitted to using a firearm. The officer found that the weapon was unsecured and there was a shell in the chamber. The resident was advised they couldn't discharge a firearm within 500 feet of a dwelling. The firearms were seized and the person was charged with two counts of improper storage of firearms and unlawful discharge of a firearm.

10:54 p.m. – An officer monitoring traffic on Jabish Street and saw a vehicle going over 50 MPH and an increase in speed in a 30 MPH zone. The officer stopped the vehicle and found it was unregistered. The person tried to register the vehicle online, but had no active insurance policy. They were transported to a location in town. The vehicle was towed and a written warning was issued to the operator.

### Monday, April 24

5:49 p.m. – A resident called to speak with an officer about unwanted text messages.

7:06 p.m. – An officer spoke with a person about allegations of abuse.

### Tuesday, April 25

12:46 p.m. – An officer responded to an accident on Sergeant Street. A vehicle traveling east on Sergeant Street slowed and turned on their left signal to pull into a driveway. A vehicle traveling eastbound struck the first vehicle from behind. The operator of the second vehicle said they didn't notice the vehicle slowing to turn left. A person was transported to the hospital and a vehicle was towed from the scene.

10:03 p.m. – Officers responded to assist Belchertown fire and paramedics.

## Granby Police

*Editor's Note: The Granby Police Department responded to 153 calls for the week of April 21 through April 27. Those arrested are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law. The Granby Police Department provides all information.*

### Friday, April 21

7:17 p.m. – A resident came to the station to report that someone had opened an AT&T account and purchased a cell phone in their name. An officer completed an incident report and the matter is under investigation.

### Saturday, April 22

11:39 p.m. – A motorist reported that

they struck a deer after it ran out into the roadway. The vehicle only sustained minor damage and there were no injuries. The responding officer completed an accident report.

### Sunday, April 23

11:57 a.m. – A motorist reported a two-car accident. Granby Police and Fire responded. There were no injuries and responding officers completed an accident report.

6:06 p.m. – While on patrol, an officer conducted a random registration query and discovered that the vehicle registration was revoked for insurance and did not have a valid inspection sticker. The vehicle was stopped, and the operator was issued a criminal citation for operating a motor vehicle with a revoked registration, operating without insurance and failure to inspect.

### Monday, April 24

10:06 a.m. – A resident reported that a delivery driver struck their rock wall with their truck. An officer responded and completed an accident report.

4:21 p.m. – A manager at CVS reported a shoplifting had occurred earlier in the day. An officer responded and completed an incident report. The matter is under investigation.

4 p.m. – A resident came to the station to report that they were the a victim of identity theft. An officer completed an incident report and the matter is under investigation.

5:49 p.m. – The manager at Granby Liquor store reported a shoplifting incident had occurred earlier in the day. An officer responded and completed an incident report. The matter is under investigation.

### Tuesday, April 25

5:12 p.m. – A resident came to the station to report that someone filed an unemployment claim in their name. An officer completed an incident report and the matter is under investigation.

### Wednesday, April 26

6:53 a.m. – A motorist reported a minor two-car accident with no injuries. An officer responded and completed an accident report.

8:22 a.m. – Several callers reported a two-car accident. Granby Police and Fire responded. One operator was transported to the hospital with minor injuries.

2:55 p.m. – A motorist reported a two-car accident. Granby Police and Fire responded. There were no injuries and responding officers completed an accident report.

## POLICY from page 1

said they would like to identify the nutritional needs and food security issues people in the Quaboag Valley are faced with.

"Wouldn't it be great if we had a really good picture of food efforts going on?" asked Gail Gramarossa of the Quaboag Hills Substance Use Alliance. "Where are gaps?"

One member of the Council, Jean Smith, said she sees the need in the towns her food pantry services each day.

"Every day I have new families calling me because they are in trouble," Smith said.

Smith's food pantry covers three towns that are located miles from the nearest grocery store, limiting the availability of fresh and healthy food.

Not everyone has the means to travel either, she said.

"There's no public transportation, no public housing, or you're a senior living in a housing authority. There's one

bank and two stop lights in three towns. If they want to grocery shop, it's 11 miles one direction or 12 the other," she said. "I'm fighting every day to keep it going."

Government assistance, such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, can offer relief for people on fixed or low incomes, but many are unaware if they qualify or not.

The amount of SNAP benefits people receive each month has fluctuated greatly since the start of the pandemic as well, making it difficult to rely on.

One issue, Smith said, was giving too many SNAP benefits during COVID.

"It's a yo-yo," Smith said. "They cut it back so far [after COVID] that it's less than they were getting pre-COVID."

With the cost of groceries and other necessary items going up, along with the cost of utilities and medicine, seniors especially can't afford to meet their basic needs.

"They're living on what I'm giving them," Smith said. "The food pantry is supposed to supplement what they can't afford to buy. Now they rely on me...I've basically become their entire food budget and that's sad."

Smith shared some ways she has pushed back against this rising need in her towns, by contacting legislators, and also organizing a growing program with the local school along with a canned soup drive.

High school students grow plants in greenhouses and then give them out to bring home and plant. Whatever that plant produces, the grower gives to the food pantry.

"We get a lot of fruits and vegetables all summer long with that program," Smith said.

Smith has also sent postcards to legislators, advocating for change.

Group members also looked at creating connections between food sources and building a volunteer base in the coming years.

"We should have a good picture of what is available now," Council member and Senior Outreach Program Coordinator with the Quaboag Valley Community Development Corporation Carol Zins said.

Members also talked about hosting cooking classes that

focus on creating healthy and affordable meals, as well as increasing community dinners, similar to the Knights of Columbus's monthly meal delivery program.

The nutritional and food needs will need to be understood, as well as the barriers preventing people from access.

Farmers markets are another way to bring fresh food directly to residents.

For the mission statement, Coderre asked the members why the Council exists, who will it serve and how it will serve them.

Gramarossa said this is the first time this kind of group has been organized in the Quaboag Valley and she saw it as an opportunity to speak for the needs of the region.

"This is a chance to represent this often-overlooked area," she said. "They [the Council] can be the voice."

The focus of the mission would be to connect people to existing resources, access to healthy food, share best practices among food pantries and improve on what already works.

"We have both the urgent needs, as well as some longer term improvements to work on," Gramarossa said.

The next hybrid meeting of the QVFPC will be held on Wednesday, May 10 from 9-10 a.m. at E2E, 79 Main St., with Zoom access available.

### About QVFPC

The Quaboag Valley Food Policy Council is funded through a grant received by the Town of Ware in partnership with Quaboag Valley Community Development Corporation, covering the towns of Ware, Belchertown, Palmer, Monson, Wales, Holland, Brimfield, Warren, Brookfield, West Brookfield, North Brookfield and East Brookfield.

The Council is open to all, and everyone is welcome to join in the discussion.

For more information, people may email the Council Coordinator, Caitlin Geaghan at cgeaghan@townofware.com or Project Coordinator for Community Health, Emily Coderre at ecoderre@townofware.com.

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Noah Yankson gets the quick tip over the net.

## B-Town grabs second win

BELCHERTOWN – Last Thursday afternoon, Connor White had 13 kills and led the Orioles boys volleyball team to a 3-1 win over Athol. The Orioles improved to 2-9 on the regular season. Rainer Kristensen had 19 assists for the Orioles.



Nicholas Ibekilo makes an off-balance set.

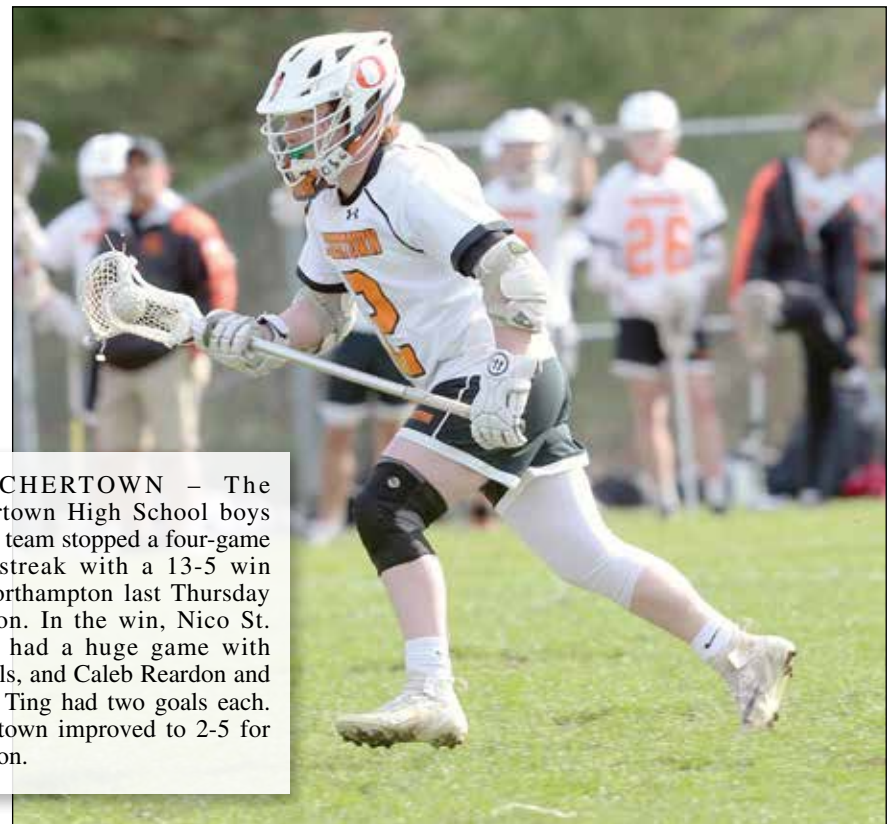


Connor White tries to score a point for his team.

## ORIOLES DEFEAT NORTHAMPTON



Rylan Queiros goes low for a pass.



Caleb Reardon advances up the field.

BELCHERTOWN – The Belchertown High School boys lacrosse team stopped a four-game losing streak with a 13-5 win over Northampton last Thursday afternoon. In the win, Nico St. George had a huge game with five goals, and Caleb Reardon and Vincent Ting had two goals each. Belchertown improved to 2-5 for the season.

PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM



Cody Samson makes the catch.



Landon Andrew gets ready to pass.



Brady Moreau eyes the field as he looks to pass.

## Orioles score win over division rival

BY TIM PETERSON  
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW—The Belchertown boys tennis team didn't have very much trouble defeating Valley Wheel Division rival Ludlow during the past several years.

The first meeting of this season between the two neighboring high schools was a much different story.

The Lions took over sole possession of first place in the Valley Wheel standings with a 4-1 home victory over the Orioles, who are the seven-time league champions, last Tuesday afternoon.

"It feels fantastic because we've never beaten Belchertown

before and the boys really wanted to win today's match," said first-year Ludlow boys' tennis coach David D'Agostino. "Everyone played very well."

D'Agostino, who's coaching a varsity sport for the first time this spring, was the Lions boys' junior varsity basketball coach and assistant varsity coach this past winter.

The Lions senior tri-captains are Owen Shea, John Goncalves, and Ryan Cruz.

"Our three senior captains have been very good team leaders so far this season," D'Agostino said. "I already knew them before the start of the tennis season because they played basketball."

The Lions boys' tennis team,

who hadn't scored a point in their previous four meetings with the Orioles, had a 5-3 overall record and a perfect 4-0 league mark following last Tuesday's home victory.

"This was a very big test for us," D'Agostino added. "I thought it would be a lot closer match than it was. We were ready to play today."

The Lions finished with an 8-7 overall record last season. It was the first time since 2010 that they finished the regular season with a .500 or better record.

The Orioles (2-7, 2-1), who have been one of the best boys' tennis teams in Western Massachusetts during the past decade, are in the rebuilding process this spring. They've also

played in the Western Mass. finals for the past seven years. That streak will probably end this spring.

"We're a really young team this year," said longtime Belchertown head coach Zach Siano. "We have mostly freshmen starters, but this was a very big league match for us. Our future does look very bright."

The Orioles, who graduated five players, won't be holding a senior day ceremony because there aren't any seniors listed on their roster. The only junior is Trevor Weiss, who starts at first singles. He's also the team's captain.

Please see **TENNIS**, page 16

## SPORTS



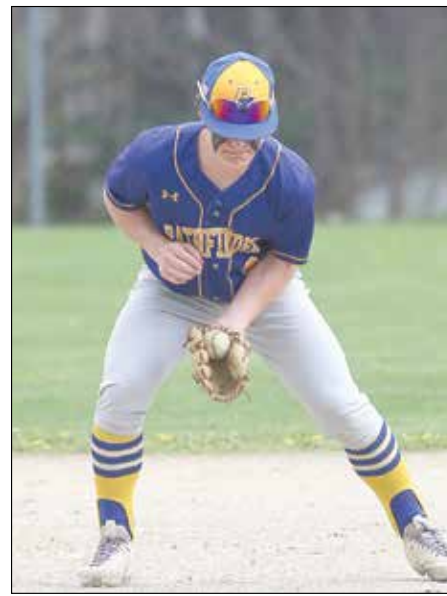
Tim Russell pitches for the Pioneers.



Ethan Nompoggi slides into third base.



Tage Valliere fields a slow roller.



Hunter Griswold smothering a ground ball.

## Pioneers fall in five to Ware

BY TIM PETERSON  
Sports Correspondent

WARE—Several members of the Pathfinder Tech varsity baseball team played for the Ware junior varsity team when they were in the seventh and eighth grades.

When the crosstown rivals battled each other at historic Memorial Field, it wasn't a very memorable homecoming game for the Pioneers players who reside in Ware.

The Indians, who overcame an early 2-0 deficit, scored nine runs in the fourth inning leading to a 13-2 non-league victory on Saturday, April 22. The only meeting of the regular season between the two squads ended after 4 ½ innings due to the 10-run mercy rule.

"I've known the Pathfinder players from Ware since they were little kids. They played on our j.v. team when they were in the seventh and eighth grades," said longtime Ware varsity baseball coach Scott Slattery. "We do wish that they were playing for our baseball team this year, but they decided to go to Pathfinder for the vocations."

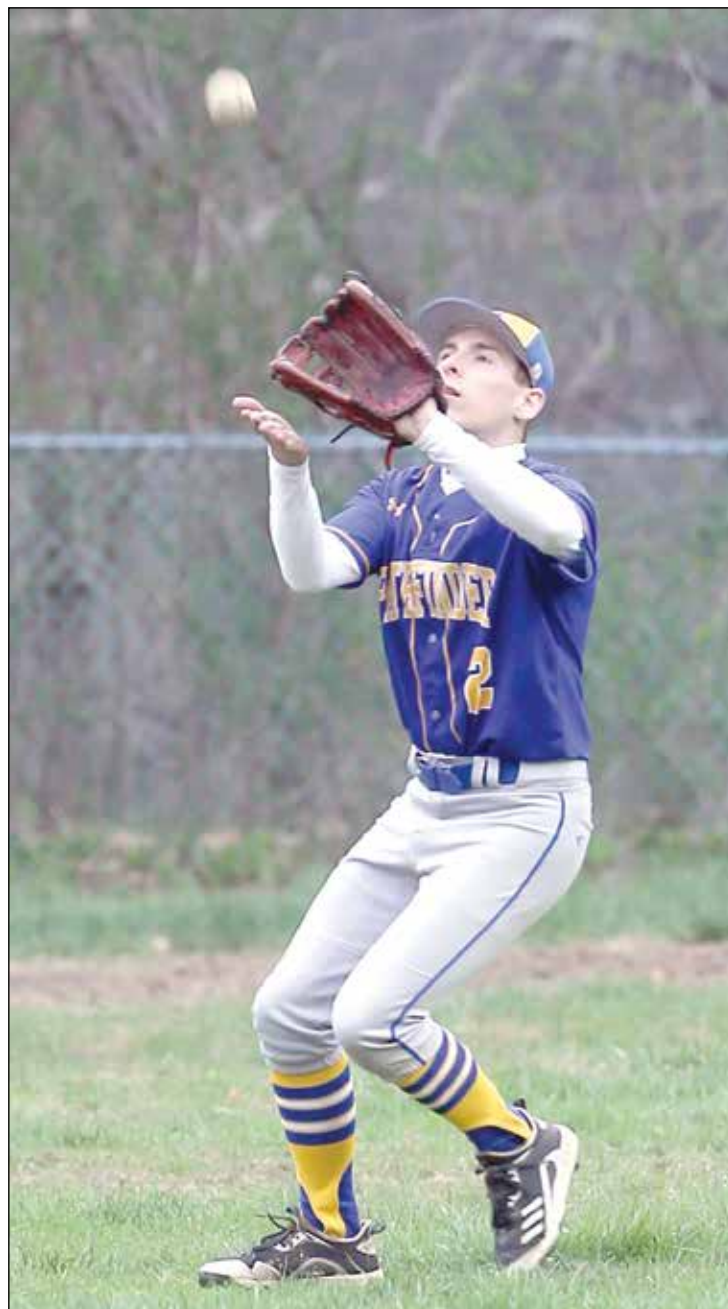
The Pathfinder Tech players, who live in Ware, are sophomore third baseman Trevor Millet, senior first baseman Jesse Cygan, and sophomore lefthander Tim Russell, who was the Pioneers starting pitcher against Ware.

The home victory improved the Indians overall season record to 5-2.

"I've never lost to Pathfinder in baseball since I've been the varsity coach," Slattery added. "We've been getting better in every game that we've played this season."

Six of the nine batters in the Indians batting order scored two runs.

The benefactor of the run support was junior righthander John Mumper, who was the winning pitcher for Ware. He allowed two runs on two base hits. He struck out ten batters and didn't issue any walks in 4 2/3 innings. The



Zander Auffrey makes the catch in right.

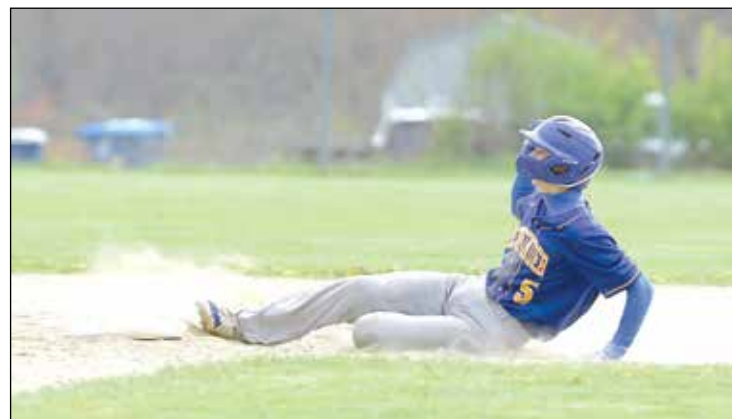
only reason why Mumper didn't pitch a complete game was because of the pitch count rule.

"We took John out at 70 pitches because he only needs three days rest before making his next start," Slattery said. "If he threw over 70 pitches, he would need four days of rest and he wouldn't be able

to pitch in the game at Palmer on Wednesday night.

Mumper left the game with two outs and two strikes on a batter in the top of the fifth inning. Freshman righthander Kyle Kaczuwka threw a first pitch strike, which ended the ballgame.

"I wish that I could've pitched



PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

Jarrett Skowrya slides into second.

the whole game, but I'm just happy that we got the win," Mumper said. "We fell behind in the first inning, but I settled down after that."

The Pioneers (5-3), who were missing four starters, took a 2-0 lead in the top of the first inning with a little bit of help from the Indians defense.

With one-out in the frame, Millet hit a flyball, which was misplayed by the leftfielder, and he wound up at third base. Then Russell hit a moon shot to right field for a triple. Millet scored easily and Russell also came home on the play following a throwing error.

Mumper retired the next two batters on a ground ball and a strikeout.

Pathfinder only had two more base runners during their final four at-bats. Freshman catcher Jarrett Skowrya singled to center with one-out in the third before being thrown out trying to steal second by junior catcher Dylan Sutkaitis. Sophomore shortstop Brayden Mega was hit-by-a-pitch with two outs in the fourth.

Ware took a 3-2 lead in the bottom of the first inning.

Mumper reached base leading off the frame following a throwing error by the shortstop. Then his younger brother, Jason, who's a sophomore right fielder, drew a walk. After the next batter hit a pop-up caught by Russell, Kyle Kaczuwka, who started at first base, and his older brother Nathan, who's a sophomore third baseman, tied the score with

back-to-back RBI singles. Then a bunt hit by senior leftfielder Owen Welsh scored the go-ahead run.

Two innings later, the Indians scored a controversial run.

Sutkaitis lined a base hit into left with one-out in the third. He tried stretching it into a triple but was initially called out by the home plate umpire after being tagged by Millet. Because the Pathfinder second baseman had interfered with Sutkaitis at second base, the base umpire called obstruction and he was safe at third base.

"I've never seen that called in a game before tonight," said Pathfinder head coach Paul Bouthiller. "My second baseman was just covering second base and the runner ran into him. It was a bad call by the umpire. We just didn't play very well after that."

Sutkaitis scored on a wild pitch that sailed to the backstop giving the home team a 4-0 lead.

The Indians put the game out of reach by scoring nine runs in the following inning.

The two biggest hits of that frame were two run singles by John Mumper and freshman shortstop Brady Guimond.

The Cougars are scheduled to make a visit to Memorial Field on May 17.

Nathan Kaczuwka also contributed with an RBI single during Ware's fourth inning rally. Kyle Kaczuwka had a sacrifice fly. The Indians other three runs scored on two wild pitches and a throwing error.

### TENNIS from page 15

"Trevor is the rock of our team this year," Siano said. "He normally takes care of business at No.1 singles. He has also been doing a very good job of helping the younger players on the team."

Belchertown's two sophomores are Dylan Laramie, who didn't play against Ludlow, and Michael DeMento, who started at third singles. The Orioles other starters are members of the freshmen class.

After winning both doubles matches, the Lions only needed to win one of the singles matches to

secure the victory.

"Our doubles teams have been playing very well so far this season," D'Agostino said. "Winning those two matches was huge because it gave the guys a lot of confidence. I'm impressed how quickly they got the job done."

The duo of John Goncalves and Cruz, who have known each other since they were in elementary school, gave the Lions squad an early 1-0 advantage in the first doubles contest. They posted a 6-0, 6-4 win over Belchertown freshmen Jake Gormley and Camryn Kaczowka.

"We crushed them in the first

set, but we letdown a little bit in the second set," John Goncalves said. "It feels awesome to beat Belchertown in tennis for the first time, especially doing it on our home courts. We have a talented team this year."

Two of Ludlow's younger hitters are sophomore Jonathan Goncalves and freshman Ben Goodreau, who dispatched Belchertown freshmen Tyler Burrows and Luke Dudek, 6-2, 6-1, in the second doubles match.

The Orioles kept their slim hopes of winning the match alive when Weiss posted a 6-1, 6-3 win over sophomore Ryan Gomes in

the first singles match.

"My match was very close, and it was a lot of fun" Weiss said. "I played against Ryan several times in the past at the Ludlow Tennis Club. This was the first time that I faced him in a varsity match. You can see the progression both of us have made."

Weiss was a member of Belchertown's Western Mass. championship tennis team as a freshman. The Orioles lost to Amherst in last year's Western Mass. finals.

Shea sealed the deal in the second singles match with a 6-0, 6-1 victory over freshmen Graham

Guardenfield.

"We've lost to Belchertown every time we've played them in the past, so it does feel good to finally beat them," said Shea, who played doubles a year ago. "Everyone has stepped up this year."

In the third singles match, Ludlow sophomore Chris Goncalves, who's a member of the Lions wrestling team, pulled out a 6-3, 6-2 victory against DeMento.

The young Orioles will be looking to split the season series when they host the Lions at 4:30 on Friday afternoon.



## SPORTS

## T-Birds make large donation to Rays of Hope

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Thunderbirds announced a donation of \$30,000 to the Rays of Hope as a result of proceeds from the live jersey auction during the T-Birds' 6th Annual Pink in the Rink game on March 11.

Thunderbirds President Nathan Costa and Vice President of Sales & Strategy Todd McDonald presented a check to the Rays of Hope earlier this week inside the MassMutual Center. This year's Pink in the Rink game set new records for total funds generated, and the MassMutual Center came out in full force with a sixth straight "Pink" night sellout crowd of 6,793.

Established in T-Birds' inaugural season in 2016-17, "Pink in the Rink" serves as a kickoff to the Rays of Hope fundraising efforts each March to shine a light on breast cancer awareness outside of the traditional October awareness month. Each year, the fundraising efforts culminate in the annual Rays of Hope Walk & Run in October. Since the establishment of this staple night, the Thunderbirds have generated more than \$100,000 for the

Rays of Hope Foundation, all of which stays local in Western Massachusetts in hopes of finding the cure.

Proceeds for this donation were raised primarily via the post-game live jersey auction, as every Thunderbirds player had his jersey sold to directly benefit the Rays of Hope. In addition, Chris Hayes, General Manager of Oak View Group Hospitality, the food and beverage partner for the MassMutual Center, contributed toward the sales of Pink Whitney beverages throughout the evening. "Pink in the Rink once again proved to be one of the most special nights of our historic season," said Costa.

"We share in the Rays of Hope Foundation's pride for our community and our fanbase for their steadfast support year in and year out. We want to congratulate the Rays of Hope on their 30th anniversary

and are proud to continue such a meaningful partnership that celebrates so many brave women and men in Western Massachusetts who have not only survived breast cancer but also thrived in generating awareness through their Rays of Hope family."

"We're sending our signature big pink hug to the Springfield Thunderbirds and their fans for illuminating HOPE in our community," said Kathy Tobin, Director of Annual Giving and Events for the Baystate Health Foundation. "As we kick off Rays of Hope's 30th Anniversary, we reflect on those who have helped us get to this moment. We may not have a cure for breast cancer yet, but we have made lifesaving breakthroughs in treatment and the research continues. Importantly we have a big extended family of support here in western

Massachusetts. Thank you to the T-Birds for lifting our survivors up!"

Since its inception in 1994, Rays of Hope has raised over \$16.6 million to support the women and men living in western Massachusetts touched by breast cancer. Funds also support vital research at the Rays of Hope Center for Breast Cancer Research.

The T-Birds Foundation was established in 2018 with a mission of serving the Springfield community and the Pioneer Valley beyond every win and loss through a focus on providing and supporting initiatives in the areas of health and wellness, youth enrichment, and civil service. During the 2022-23 season, the T-Birds Foundation raised more than \$131,000 for charitable causes in Western Massachusetts. This year's Rays of Hope Walk & Run Toward the Cure of Breast Cancer will be held on Sunday, October 22. For more information, visit [Baystatehealth.org/Raysofhope](http://Baystatehealth.org/Raysofhope) or call 413-794-8001.



## Youth football, cheerleading sign-ups open

BELCHERTOWN – The Belchertown-Granby Eagles is looking for youth residing in or attending school in Belchertown or Granby who are interested in playing football or cheerleading this fall. The Belchertown-Granby Eagles Youth Football Organization (BGEYFO) is a member of the Suburban Amateur Football League (SAFL) which provides youth in Hampden, Hampshire and Franklin Counties with a high quality and safe football experience.

In addition to youth residing in or attending schools in Belchertown or Granby, youth from neighboring towns are welcome to join as well.

Football is open to all children entering third through eighth grade this fall. Second grade players may be eligible to play with a

waiver; which the BGEYFO will assist in completing. Cheerleading is open to all children entering pre-K through the 8th grade in the fall.

For football, second, third, and fourth graders play on a PeeWee team. Fifth and sixth graders play on the Juniors team, while seventh and eighth graders play on the Seniors team. For cheerleading Pre-K, K and first grade students are on the Mini cheerleading squad. Second, third and fourth graders are on the PeeWee squad, fifth and sixth graders on the Junior squad and seventh and eighth graders on the Senior squad.

The registration fee for all teams and squads, except Mini cheerleading, is \$200. The registration fee for Mini cheerleaders is \$100. Any new player - football or cheerleader - at

the PeeWee level can play this season for 50% off by using the code NEWPEEWEE at registration check out. The BGEYFO also offers a multi-sibling discount - after the first player in a family has been registered each additional child may register for \$150. The BGEYFO offers a payment plan of \$50 a month starting June 1. In order to take advantage of this payment plan youth need to be registered by May 20.

Practice begins Aug. 1 - this date immediately follows the end of Belchertown's flag football season as well as Belchertown's football clinic, which is a joint venture between BGEYFO, BHS Orioles Football, and the Belchertown Recreation Department. Before school begins practice is typically four nights a week, and once school practices are held two to three

times a week, typically. The BGEYFO understands that student-athletes are just that - students first and athletes second. Football games begin Labor Day weekend and run for eight weeks. After those eight weeks a play-off schedule is announced. Games are typically held on Saturday evenings or Sunday early afternoon. Mini cheerleaders do not need to report to games. The cheerleaders also have cheer competitions during the fall season as well.

Uniforms are included in the registration fee. Additionally, football players are provided helmets and shoulder pads.

Players can be registered at [www.belchertownfootball.com](http://www.belchertownfootball.com). If you have any questions, you can reach out to the BGEYFO Registrar Kate Nadeau at [registrar@belchertownfootball.com](mailto:registrar@belchertownfootball.com)

## Run for Rice's 5K Road Race set for June 3

WILBRAHAM – The 11th annual "Run for Rice's 5K Road Race" will be held on Saturday, June 3 at 9 a.m. This popular, family-friendly 5K road race begins at Christ the King – Epiphany Church, 758 Main Street, Wilbraham, and winds through a flat, fast course in surrounding neighborhoods, ending at Rice Fruit Farm across the street from the start. Pre-registration fee for runners and walkers is \$20, while day-of-race registration is \$25. Ages 18 and under registration is \$15 including day-of registration. The first 150 registered runners by May 20 will receive our famous race t-shirt featuring the "Running Apple" logo, and all registered runners will receive a free Rice Fruit Farm ice cream with their bib number on day of race only. Cash prizes will be awarded in several categories, and all proceeds benefit the Rice Nature Preserve maintenance fund of the Minnechaug Land Trust. Race day registration will be open from 7:30 a.m. until 8:45 a.m. On-line registration now available at [RunSignUp.com](http://RunSignUp.com), and paper registration forms can be downloaded at the Minnechaug Land Trust website [www.minnechauglandtrust.org](http://www.minnechauglandtrust.org).

## Follow Turley Sports on Instagram

Turley Publications sports department has recently joined Instagram. You can find our account by searching "turleysports." We will regularly feature samples of photos that you will see in our publications on a weekly basis. Please follow and share with your friends and loved ones. We will be featuring photos from all 11 of our sports sections, but as always, you can see all the photos that appear by subscribing to your local paper or picking up a copy in your community.



## Roster spots remain open in Quabbin League

More players are needed for the Quabbin Valley Over-28 Baseball League as it seeks to infuse new talent into its league for the 2023 season.

The league recently held its open practice, but still has plenty of open roster spots remaining to fill for the 2023 season.

Registration for the 2023 season remains open and any interested players can go to [www.quabbinvalleybaseball.org](http://www.quabbinvalleybaseball.org) to get registered, or to seek more information or make inquiries about the league. The league website will also be updated over the next month with information about the upcoming season.

The season is scheduled to begin on Sunday, April 23. The league plays most Sunday from late April through late August with playoffs following that. The league plays a 15-game schedule and typically fields six teams each year. Games are usually played at 10 a.m. with fields in Easthampton and South Hadley normally used.

The Quabbin Valley league is an all abilities league and all are welcome to join. Eligibility is players who are age 28 and over. You must be 30 to be eligible to pitch in the league. Your age for eligibility is whatever age you will turn in 2023.

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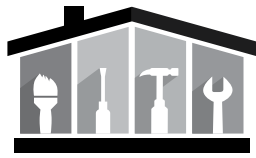
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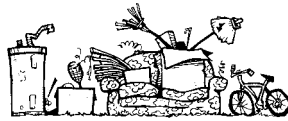
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### FOR RENT



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

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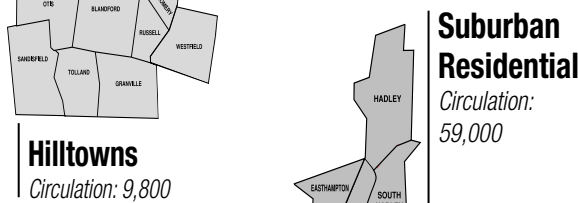
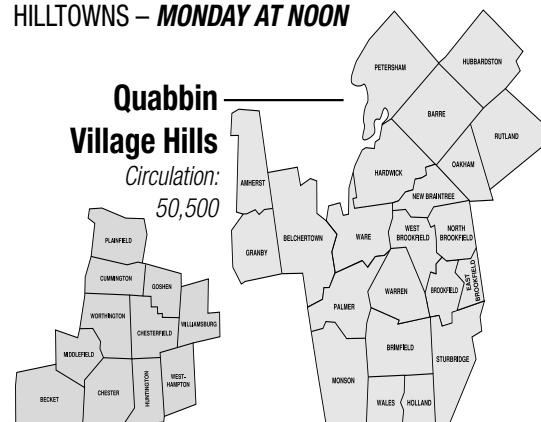
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**PUBLIC NOTICES**

**Public Hearing  
Special Permit  
Legal Notice  
Belchertown  
Planning Board**

In accordance with the Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 40A, Sections 9 and 11, the Planning Board will hold a public hearing to discuss a special permit application for an accessory apartment by Charly Oliva, for 49 Mountain View Dr., Map 263, Lot 146, Belchertown, MA.

A public hearing will be held both remotely and in person as follows:

Place: 2 Jabish Street, Belchertown

Date: May 23, 2023

Time: 7:00 PM

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The application is available for inspection during regular business hours at the Town Clerk and Planning Board office, 2 Jabish Street

Daniel Beaudette  
Chair, Planning Board  
05/04, 05/11/2023

**Belchertown  
Conservation Commission  
LEGAL NOTICE**

Pursuant to the authority of the Wetlands Protection Act (M.G.L. Ch. 131,

Sec. 40, its Regulations (310 CMR 10.00) and the Belchertown Wetlands Protection Bylaw (Chapter 139), the Belchertown Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on **Wednesday, May 10, 2023, 2023 at 7:00 PM in the Lawrence Memorial Hall Auditorium, located at 2 Jabish Street in Belchertown, MA 01007** to review a **Notice of Intent** permit application submitted by Matthew and Julianne Spafford c/o Fleetwood Environmental Solutions for the **proposed installation of a bridge to serve as a permanent stream crossing over Axe Factory Brook to support commercial agricultural activities at 50 Green Ave (Assessor's Map 266-19) in Belchertown.** Work is proposed to occur within Bank and Land Under Waterbodies and Waterways to Axe Factory Brook. Anyone interested in this matter should appear at the time and place designated. 05/04/2023

**Belchertown  
Conservation Commission  
LEGAL NOTICE**

Pursuant to the authority of the Wetlands Protection Act (M.G.L. Ch. 131, Sec. 40, its Regulations (310 CMR 10.00) and the Belchertown Wetlands Protection Bylaw (Chapter 139), the Belchertown Conservation Commission will hold a public meeting on **Wednesday, May 10, 2023 at 7:00 PM at 2 Jabish St, Belchertown.** The purpose of this meeting is to review a **Request for Determination of Applicability (RDA)** submitted by R. Levesque

Associates, Inc. c/o Nicholas and Timothy Drost for the proposed utilization of Lot O Oasis Drive (Assessor's Map 214-47.20) in Belchertown as a storage area for construction which is associated with permitted work on Lot G Oasis Drive. **Specifically, the applicant is requesting a Determination on: whether the boundaries of resource areas are accurately delineated; whether the proposed activity is subject to the Wetlands Protection Act and its regulations; and, whether the area and/or Activity is subject to the jurisdiction of the Belchertown Wetlands Protection Bylaw, Chapter 139, Belchertown.** Anyone interested in this matter should appear at the time and place listed. 5/04/2023

**THE COMMONWEALTH  
OF MASSACHUSETTS  
MASSACHUSETTS  
DEPARTMENT OF  
TRANSPORTATION –  
HIGHWAY DIVISION  
NOTICE OF A  
PUBLIC HEARING  
Project File No. 608466**

A Live Virtual Design Public Hearing will be hosted on the MassDOT website below to present the design for the proposed Resurfacing and Related Work on Route 202 From Kendall Street to School Street project in Granby, MA.

**WHEN:** 7:00 PM, Tuesday, May 16, 2023

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this hearing is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed Resurfacing and Related Work on Route 202 From

Kendall Street to School Street project. All views and comments submitted in response to the hearing will be reviewed and considered to the maximum extent possible.

**PROPOSAL:** The proposed project consists of improving the roadway condition of Route 202 by milling and resurfacing while retaining the existing horizontal and vertical roadway geometry. The proposed cross section will consist of two (2) 11-foot travel lanes, two (2) 2-foot shoulders and one (1) 10-foot shared use path following the latest design standards and in accordance with the Healthy Transportation Policy to increase pedestrian and bicycle trips. Where construction will impact the existing drainage system, alterations, and upgrades, including new structures, pipes, pipe extensions or trunk lines, will be evaluated and designed as needed. Most of the utility poles within the project area will be relocated and/or upgraded.

A secure right-of-way is necessary for this project. Acquisitions in fee and permanent or temporary easements may be required. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts is responsible for acquiring all needed rights in private or public lands. MassDOT's policy concerning land acquisitions will be presented in the hearing.

Project inquiries, written statements and other exhibits regarding the proposed undertaking may be submitted to Carrie E. Lavallee, P.E., Chief Engineer, via e-mail to [MassDOTProjectManagement@dot.state.ma.us](mailto:MassDOTProjectManagement@dot.state.ma.us) or via US Mail to Suite 7550, 10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116, Attention: Project

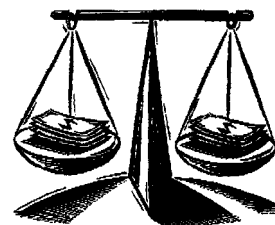
Management, Project File No. 608466. Statements and exhibits intended for inclusion in the hearing transcript must be emailed or postmarked no later than ten (10) business days (14 calendar days) after the hearing is hosted.

This hearing is accessible to people with disabilities. MassDOT provides reasonable accommodations and/or language assistance free of charge upon request (e.g. interpreters in American Sign Language and languages other than English, live captioning, videos, assistive listening devices and alternate material formats), as available. For accommodation or language assistance, please contact MassDOT's Chief Diversity and Civil Rights Officer by phone (857-368-8580), TTD/TTY at (857) 266-0603, fax (857) 368-0602 or by email ([MassDOT.CivilRights@dot.state.ma.us](mailto:MassDOT.CivilRights@dot.state.ma.us)). Requests should be made as soon as possible and prior

to the hearing, and for more difficult to arrange services including sign-language, CART or language translation or interpretation, requests should be made at least ten business days before the hearing.

This hearing will be hosted, or a cancellation announcement posted, on the internet at <https://www.mass.gov/orgs/highway-division/> events.

JONATHAN GULLIVER  
HIGHWAY  
ADMINISTRATOR  
CARRIE E. LAVALLEE, P.E.  
CHIEF ENGINEER  
05/04, 05/11/2023



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