

Women's Fund of WMass Awards \$195,000 in Grants

SPRINGFIELD – The Women's Fund of Western Massachusetts (The Fund) is pleased to announce \$195,000 in general cycle grant awards to 17 organizations serving women, girls, and gender-diverse people across Berkshire, Franklin, Hampden, and Hampshire counties in June.

The Fund's total fiscal-year grant cycle, between August 2025 and June 2026, awarded \$450,000 in community investment grants that were distributed throughout the 4-county region.

The Fund highlighted their 30-year anniversary of grant-making to reflect on decades-long partnerships throughout Western Massachusetts, while inviting new partners to expand its network. "This is an opportunity to reflect on 30 years of grantmaking," says Kelley Bryant, Director of Grantmaking and Impact at the Fund. "The Community Investments committee, board, and staff sought to invest in close partners and new partners that sustain local communities and fuel gender equity in

Western Massachusetts."

Julia Keosaian, Executive Director of Berkshire Nursing Families, adds, "This support strengthens our ability to provide free, compassionate perinatal and lactation care to families across our region during one of the most vulnerable and transformative times of their lives. Maternal and child health in the Berkshires depends on the kind of sustained, community-centered investment that the Women's Fund has championed—and we're proud to be partners in that work."

Turmoil in the national funding landscape is causing instability for organizations providing direct support in the region. "This investment in our organization comes at a meaningful time...flexible funding such as this allows us to remain responsive, innovative, and grounded in our mission of supporting and uplifting our community," says Jasarah Burgos, Executive Director, Enlace de Familias / Holyoke Family Network.

Grantees from this cycle

reflect The Fund's focus areas of leadership, economic security, and freedom from gender-based violence. The awarded organizations include: Amherst Survival Center, Arise for Social Justice, Berkshire Nursing Families, Community Action Pioneer Valley, Enlace de Familias/Holyoke Family Network, Flying Cloud Institute, Gardening the Community, Girls Inc. of the Valley, Girls on the Run, Neighbor to Neighbor, Northampton Survival Center, Planned Parenthood - Western Massachusetts Health Center of Springfield, Rites of Passage and Empowerment, Salasin Project, The Care Center, The Heartwing Center, and Volunteers in Medicine Berkshires.

Grant funding is provided by donors and foundations that rely on The Fund's knowledge of regional gender-equity challenges and expertise in identifying promising solutions. Support gender equity and become a donor at mywomensfund.org/give-now/.

OBITUARY

Nancy Charron McConnell, 69

BELCHERTOWN – Nancy Charron McConnell, 69, of Belchertown, passed away peacefully after a lengthy illness. She was born on January 18, 1957, in Ithaca, New York, to the late Ernest and Anne (Harrington) Charron.



in helping others discover the love of reading which meant so much to her.

Nancy was preceded in death by her parents; her first husband, Olin A. McConnell, in 2001; and her second husband, Norman Bronner, in 2018.

Nancy attended the University of Massachusetts Amherst and devoted her life to caring for and serving her community. Before beginning her nearly 30-year career as a librarian at the Clapp Memorial Library, she operated a home daycare, where she lovingly cared for many local children and became an important part of countless families' lives.

A lifelong lover of books, reading, and learning, Nancy brought that same warmth and kindness to the library, where she was a familiar and welcoming presence to generations of patrons. She found great joy

She will be deeply missed by her two sons, Joshua C. McConnell of Belchertown and Timothy O. McConnell of South Hadley; her siblings, Cindy Vogt, Andy Charron, and Joanne Lusita; her many beloved nieces and nephews; as well as her in-laws, extended family, and the many friends whose lives she touched.

A celebration of Nancy's life will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Breast Cancer Research Foundation or to The Friends of The Clapp Memorial Library, www.friendsofclapplibrary.org/ in Nancy's memory.

DEATH NOTICE

Nancy Charron McConnell
Died June 26, 2026
A celebration of life will be held at a later date.
Beers & Story Belchertown Funeral Home

The Sentinel OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries. One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place. The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$275, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice (with a word limit of up to 500 words) and may include a photograph.

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

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

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

SILK from page 10

The Monaco Modified Tri-Track Series rounded out Wednesday's racing program at Thompson Speedway with Noah Korner and Mike Christopher Jr. fighting hard for the lead in the opening laps. Content to ride it out, veterans Ronnie Williams and Ron Silk followed the leaders before slowly picking them off with the turn three slingshot underneath. After blowing the engine in his primary car in practice, Jon McKennedy ran home to Chelmsford to grab the back-up car and just made the tail of the starting field.

By the lap 19 caution for a single-car spin in turn two, McKennedy sat tenth on the grid.

It continued to be the Ronnie and Ron show out front with Williams leading Silk around the 5/8-mile oval until the lap 39 caution sent the field pit-side for fresh Hoosier rubber. Patrick Emerling would use the superior pit stop to take the restart lead but Williams, McKennedy and Silk stayed nose-to-tail behind him. One final restart with 14 laps remaining left this talented gaggle of cars to fight it out to the end. Ultimately it was Ron Silk who took down the

\$10,000 win with Patrick Emerling across the line in second followed by Ronnie Williams, Austin Beers and Jon McKennedy to round out the top-five.

Thompson Speedway is back in action in just two weeks on Wednesday, July 8 with Twisted Tea Winged Wednesday! The lightning fast New England Supermodified Series (NESS) visits the Thompson highbanks alongside the Thompson Sunoco Modifieds, Late Models, SK Light Modifieds, Street Stocks and Thunderstock Crown Vics with a 6 p.m.

BLUES from page 10

organization for what the future with St. Louis may hold. We look forward to welcoming St. Louis back into our Central Massachusetts hockey culture."

The Worcester Railers were founded in 2016 and served as the ECHL affiliate for the New York Islanders since beginning play in the 2017-18 season. The Railers have posted a .500 or better record in seven of their eight seasons, including a 35-30-7 record during the 2025-26 season, their second-best record in franchise history. The head coach and general manager of the Railers is Nick Tuzzolino.

The Railers play in the ECHL's North Division in the Eastern Conference and have seen five former players

make their NHL debut. A pillar of the Worcester, Massachusetts community, the Railers have received the ECHL's league-wide Community Service Award five times in their eight seasons.

The Blues helped introduce minor league hockey to Worcester from 1994-2005 when the Worcester IceCats were the team's top AHL affiliate. In addition to a series of successful playoff runs, the IceCats produced several players that went on to play prominent roles for the Blues, including Jim Campbell, Michael Handzus, Jamal Mayers, Tyson Nash, Darren Rumble, and Blues Hall of Famer Barret Jackman. After the IceCats were sold and relocated to become the Peoria Rivermen in 2005, the Worcester Sharks served as the AHL affiliate of the San Jose Sharks until 2015.



Send Us Your Photos!
sentinel@turley.com

NOTICES

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampshire Division
Docket No.
HS26P0398EA
Estate of:
Eileen Noel Praisner
Date of Death:
September 5, 2024
INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Scott Barry of Marlborough, MA**.

Scott Barry of Marlborough, MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve **without surety** on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.
07/02/2026

Visit us on the web
www.turley.com

PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

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

Public notice deadlines are Friday at 3 p.m.

visit www.publicnotices.turley.com

Haluch's MEMORIALS
haluchsmemorials.com

**Cemetery Memorials + Markers
Granite Benches
Religious Statuary + Outdoor Display**

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

~ DORSEY MEMORIALS ~

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

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

BUSINESS & SERVICE DIRECTORY

AUTO BODY

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

COMPUTERS

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

GUNSMITH

SWIFT RIVER GUNWORKS
Full service full time gunsmith. 40 Years experience. Located at 450 State St., Belchertown. 413-658-5690

HAIRDRESSER

COUNTRY STYLIST, 171 Federal St., Belchertown. 413-323-6012. Great cuts for men and women. A full service hair salon. Open Tue-Sat., evening hours available.

INSURANCE

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

OUTDOOR POWER EQUIPMENT

BOYDEN & PERRON INC. Sales and service, Toro, Wheel Horse, Scag, Jonsered, Residential and Commercial. 41 South Whitney St., Amherst, since 1956. Call today. 253-7358.

ROOFING

ROBERTS ROOFS CO., INC. Trusted name since 1982. Commercial, industrial, residential. Specializing in shingles, slate copper work, historical restoration, flat roofing. Snow Removal. Fully licensed. Free estimates. 413-283-4395 www.robertsroofsinc.com

WELDING

AMHERST WELDING, INC. Snow plows, sanders, sales & service, hydraulic hoses & repairs, trailer hitches, trailer repairs, welding, fabrication, lawnmower repairs. 330 Harkness Rd., Amherst. 413-253-4867

★★★★★
Let's Hear It for Our Best Local Businesses

TO ADVERTISE ON THE BUSINESS & SERVICE DIRECTORY PLEASE CALL 283-8393