

Pickleball enthusiasts gather for awards events

BELCHERTOWN – On Sunday, July 19, 35 Belchertown Pickleball Community (BPC) Pickleball enthusiasts assembled for a celebratory annual barbeque at the home of Denise Smith.

The enthusiasts celebrated the “75 Honors Club Golden Paddle award” recipients of the past and handed out the 2026 award to another person honored in the five year history of the award.

The first recipient in 2022 was Bonnie Strickland on the occasion of her 86th birthday. A once renowned tennis player, she applied her skills playing pickleball, perfecting a “dink shot” on the pickleball court that matched her expertise on the tennis court.

In 2023 the Golden Paddle was awarded to Dusty Miller. She and Dorothy Cresswell were the first to introduce pickleball to the Belchertown Recreation Dept. To date they continue to offer beginner and novice classes.

Jim Barry joined the 75 Honors Club in 2024 for his contributions as an advocate for financing the courts and fencing which resulted in the 4 courts now located in Belchertown. Jim insisted on handwriting thank you notes to all the donors who helped to create our wonderful facilities.

The 2025 award was given to one of our great founders and facilitators, Larry Davis, who sadly passed away December 29, 2025. His family accepted the Golden Paddle on his behalf at a BPC memorial event in March of this year. Larry will always be remembered for his enthusiasm on the courts and his advocacy and being one of BPC’s initial instructors. He was known for exclaiming “the net is your friend” when a good shot favored his opponent.

According to Wilbur Quirk, tournament organizer and long time BPC enthusiast: “This prestigious award is given annually to one individual who exemplifies continuous dedication to the Belchertown Pickleball Community.” Wilbur further addressed the gathering by sharing “All of us have so many friends because of the pickleball community. You are all wonderful. I have become friends with this one woman (pointing at Debbie) who has done so much for our pickleball community. You can’t believe the hours she has spent. It’s just great.”

Debbie has served on the Leadership Team since the birth of the Belchertown Pickleball.

Wilbur then congratulated Debbie Wood as the 2026



Great day for the BPC Annual Awards event.

Submitted photos

recipient of the “75 Honors Club Golden Paddle.” Debbie gracefully accepted the Golden Paddle and expressed her appreciation for the many friends and supporters she has made since first learning about pickleball in 2017. She then expressed her gratitude to Denise Smith for hosting this annual event at her lovely estate.

Members of the BPC are known for welcoming many people from around the area who come to play, learn to play, and just have fun and good times in Belchertown. All would not be as good if not for the Recreation Department, Selectboard, Community Preservation Committee, local sponsors and many other great people who have made BPC into what it is today.



Debbie Wood displays the Golden Paddle individual award and the legacy paddle.



Denise Smith of Belchertown hosts the awards event.

Legal Notices

**Town of Granby
Massachusetts
Conservation Commission**

The Granby Conservation Commission will hold Public Hearings pursuant to the Wetland Protection Act (MGL Chapter 131, Section 40) on **Tuesday August 12, 2026** *1 Library Lane- Carnegie Building-Top Floor to consider the following:

1. 7:30 pm “**RDA**” filed by John Myslinski, owner to see whether the area depicted on plan(s) referenced is subject to the Wetlands Protection Act, with regards to property located on 80R East Street and known as Map 5A-B, Lot 19 in the Town of Granby.

2. 7:30 pm “**RDA**” filed by Robert Hall, owner to see whether the area depicted on plan(s) referenced is subject to the jurisdiction of the Wetlands Protection Act, and to see whether the Activities depicted on plan (s) referenced is subject to the Wetlands Protection Act and its regulations property located on 11 Philip Circle and known as Map 4, E-14 in the Town of Granby.

3. 7:30 pm “**RDA**” filed by 185 W State St, LLC, (Marilyn Iannaccone) owner to see whether the area depicted on plan(s) referenced is subject to the jurisdiction of the Wetlands Protection Act, and to see whether the Activities depicted on plan (s) referenced is subject to the Wetlands Protection Act and its regulations with regards to property located on 185 West State Street and known as Map 3-D, 1/1 in the Town of Granby.

4. 7:30 pm “**RDA**” filed by Wayne Gaudrault, owner to see whether the activities depicted on plan(s) referenced is subject to the Wetlands Protection Act and its regulations, with regards to property located on 317 Chicopee Street and known as Map 16A, Lot 9-4 in the Town of Granby.

5. 7:30 pm “**RDA**” filed by Jonothan Szymonik, owner to see whether the Activities/area depicted on plan (s) referenced is subject to the Wetlands Protection Act and its regulations or any Municipal wetland ordinance or bylaw of the Town of

Granby with regards to property located on 193 Amherst Street and known as Map 2B, 3 in the Town of Granby.

Members of the public can attend virtually by phone at +1 (312) 757-3121 using **Access Code:** 282-289-421or by visiting <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/282289421>.

Anyone wishing information and/or to be heard on this matter should appear at the time and place designated. The complete materials (including text and maps) relative to this “RDA” are available for inspection during regular business hours at the Selectmen’s Office located in the Granby Senior Center Building, 2nd Floor, 10-B West State Street. Additionally, copies of the application may be inspected on the Conservation Commission’s web page at www.granby-ma.gov.

William Shaheen, Chair
Granby Conservation Commission

07/31/2026

Lions Club Car Show set for Aug. 8

BELCHERTOWN – The Belchertown Lions Club will be returning to the Belchertown Town Common on Aug. 8 (rain date: Aug. 9) for its 3rd Annual Memorial Car Show...and it promises to be even bigger and better than ever.

We will continue with our custom-made laser-engraved slate trophy plaques with leather hanging straps—no two the same. We hope that your ride will take home one of our very unique Top 20, four specialties, or the Best in Show presentations.

Burgers, dogs, meatball grinders, fries, and canned soft drinks are available—along with a raffle table and a 50/50 raffle.

All vehicles are welcomed (with specialty awards for best motorcycle, truck, paint, and engine.) Spectators get free admission! Participant parking on the grass: \$20

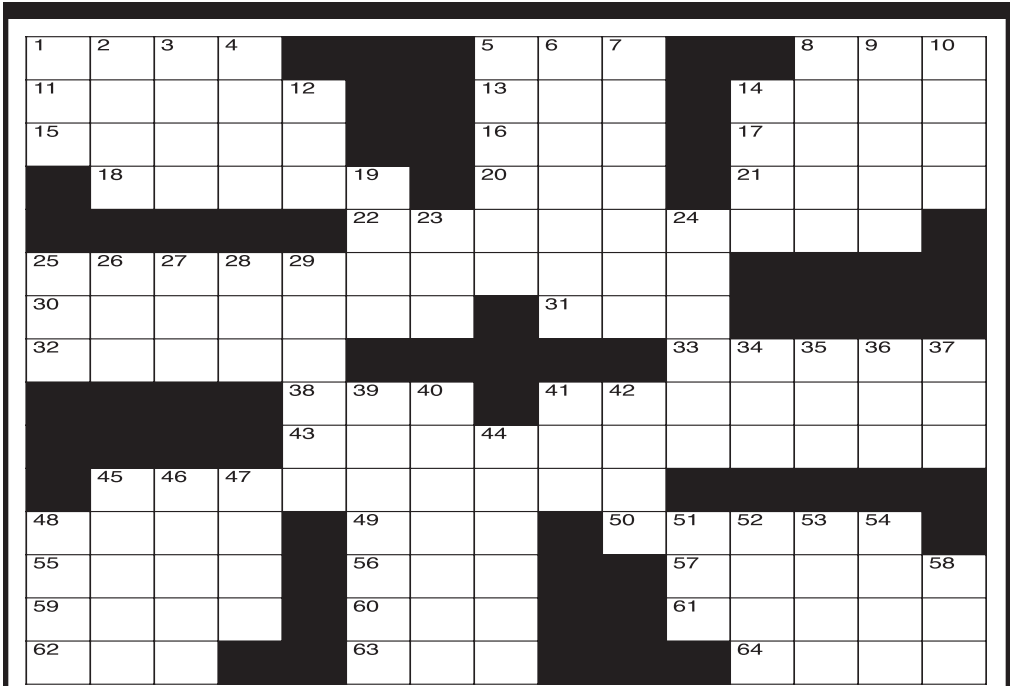
No pre-registration (So please don’t be a victim of online pre-show registration scams.)

Registration begins at 9 a.m. at 28 Park St. on the

Town Common. Judging continues until 1 p.m.—followed immediately by the raffle drawings and the awarding of trophies.

All proceeds will go to local charities including Veterans’ Affairs, Senior Center, fuel assistance, Girl Scouts, Scouting America, high school scholarships, food pantries, etc.

More information and possible rain date updates can be found at <https://www.belchertownlionsclub.com/car-show.htm>



- CLUES ACROSS**
1. Egyptian bull god
5. Romanian monetary unit
8. Santa’s helper
11. Fictional Pink Floyd corporal
13. Sea eagle genus
14. Broad volcanic crater
15. Minneapolis suburb
16. Actual commercial worth (abbr.)
17. Exchange rate
18. Ethnic peoples in Guinea
20. Men’s fashion accessory
21. Craft material
22. Offerings
25. Early
30. Large room
31. Soviet Socialist Republic
- CLUES DOWN**
1. Bridge building degree
2. Expression of sorrow or pity
3. Large, stocky, lizard
4. Rumanian river
5. Missive
6. Stout-bodied moths
7. Brings out
8. Bird of prey
9. King of Thebes
10. Cleaving tool
12. African antelope
14. Three are particularly famous
19. Satisfy
23. C. European river
24. Dictator
25. Portion of (abbr.)
26. The 17th letter of the Greek alphabet
27. Consume food
28. Woman (French)
- CLUES ACROSS**
32. One who hauls
33. Shorthand for accepting
38. Promotional materials
41. Loss of memory
43. One who beheads
45. Photographers
48. Small, rich sponge cake
49. White clerical vestment
50. Partner to “oohed”
55. Abba __, Israeli politician
56. Zero
57. Owl monkey genus
59. Lace bug genus
60. Mild expression of surprise
61. Storage devices
62. Keyboard key
63. Make a mistake
64. One-time Korean president
- CLUES DOWN**
29. Scrape or wear away by friction
34. Popular vegetable
35. Pacific Standard Time
36. Brazilian state capital
37. Paddle
39. Cause to become insane
40. Drier and flakier
41. Mimic
42. ESPN host Kimes
44. One who moseys
45. Secret political clique
46. Behind the stern of a ship
47. Supernatural force
48. Sanctuary in Orthodox churches
51. Swiss river
52. Grayish white
53. Engrave
54. UNC’s chief rival
58. Midway between south and southeast

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