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**SELECTMEN**

## Forest management continues

**STEPHEN C. HILL**  
Correspondent

BELCHERTOWN – Two town forests will see selective harvesting later this year, as both the woodlands and the town coffers continue to reap the benefits of the forest management project that began last year.

Anderson Timber Harvesting, a Westminster company, was awarded bids by the Board of Selectmen to harvest the Constantino forest, located north of the playing fields off Route 9 and stretching nearly to Allen Road, and the town land near Jabish Brook east of North Liberty Street. The Constantino lot is about 50 acres and the Jabish lot is about 40 acres, said Steven Williams, Department of Public Works director.

Anderson will pay the town \$23,220 for the Constantino lot and \$16,533.65 for the Jabish Brook lot.

Similar work will be performed at both locations, Williams said.

“This is more of a corrective cutting, essentially resetting the clock,” he said of the Constantino lot. Many trees in the forest were

See **FOREST**, page 10 •

## \$3M grant paves the way for redevelopment



Town Administrator Gary Brougham, center, and Claire O'Neill of MassDevelopment, left accept a \$3 million MassWorks Infrastructure Program grant from Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito, right.

**AIMEE M. HENDERSON**  
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BELCHERTOWN – Just 10 weeks after breaking ground for an assisted living facility at the former Belchertown State School property, now being

called Carriage Grove, a \$3 million MassWorks Infrastructure Program grant was awarded to the town for further redevelopment of the property.

Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito was joined by other state and local officials last week to announce

the grant, which will be used to create a new road, connecting Front Street and Jackson Street. Officials say the investment will unlock 37 acres of the redevelopable property.

See **GRANT**, page 8 •

**GRANBY**

## TM on marijuana moratorium bylaw OK'd

**WALTER HAMILTON**  
Correspondent

GRANBY – The Select Board Monday agreed to schedule a Special Town Meeting in December to consider a moratorium on the establishment of recreational marijuana retail and/or production facilities here.

The Select Board voted to begin the process following a presentation by Police Chief Alan Wishart, representing the local ad-hoc marijuana committee, on the town's response to the legalization of recreational marijuana by statewide vote in November 2016.

The decision to place the question of adopting a temporary moratorium on commercial recreational marijuana establishments follows a requirement by the state Attorney General's office that any moratorium bylaw be in place by April 1, 2018. Because the Attorney

See **TM**, page 5 •

**PLANNING**

## 72-lot subdivision plan approved

**WALTER HAMILTON**  
Correspondent

GRANBY – The 72-lot housing Munsing Ridge subdivision plan was approved by the Granby Planning Board last week, but the board, responding to the fire chief's concerns about “dangerous” and “scary” steep driveways, backed a new zoning bylaw that would force owners and builders to mitigate those hazards.

The board on Oct. 10 set 46 conditions on the plan. It allowed waivers from tree preservation and removal bylaws. It also defined the rights and responsibilities of the developer but and town officials



A map shows the plans for a 72-lot subdivision.

SENTINEL SUBMITTED PHOTO

See **PLAN APPROVED**, page 9 •

**EDUCATION**

## Parents raise questions on Summit Learning program

**LUIS FIELDMAN**  
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BELCHERTOWN – At last week's School Committee meeting, parents of sixth grade students expressed concerns over a newly implemented teaching program at Chestnut Hill.

The Summit Learning program, an online platform that encourages students to take ownership of their learning, is piloting for half of the sixth grade class this year. Prior to the start of the semester, Jennifer Champagne, principal at the elementary school, had described the program as “helping [students] to develop

the skills and knowledge they need to be in control of their own learning.”

Administration officials decided on the sixth grade to pilot this program because they said it would prepare students to be “self-directed learners,” according to Champagne. For the past two years administrative faculty and teachers at the school district planned and prepared on implementing this program.

This past summer, Champagne, Assistant Principal Jill Pelletier, and Director of Teaching and Learning Dr.

See **SUMMIT**, page 10 •



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**BUSINESS**

# SHE'S THE BOSS: Women in construction

**LUIS FIELDMAN**  
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At Integrity Development & Construction, Anna Cook started by pushing a broom around job sites and carrying lumber for contractors. Within 10 years she has become a co-owner of the company.

As a sophomore in college, Cook started working a part-time job at Integrity and she never left. Cook studied building materials and wood technology at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, graduated in 2004, and took co-ownership of the company over a three-year period beginning in 2012. Now Cook and co-owner Heidi Flanders oversee operations at Integrity.

Growing up in California during the late 1980s, Cook said she lived in a neighborhood being built up by construction. After school, Cook and her brother would roam the construction sites, climbing to the highest points of framed houses and jumping over three-foot holes with pools of water at the bottom.

"Things that I would not want to see kids doing on my construction sites now," Cook said with a laugh at the company's office in a recent interview. "We'd mess around with stuff and watch the progress of it. I always found that really fun to see things to go from a hole in the ground to a shell of a house."

These days Cook said the "bread and butter" of the business are residential renovations and remodeling. She has noticed a recent trend in concern for efficiency for homeowners.

"People are much more interested in how the house performs and what that life cycles is. The payback might be 50 years on something, but if they can afford it and it's the right thing to do environmentally, then people are still making those types of decisions," Cook said.

Flanders said clients often come in wanting a "green home," and as designer for the company, she helps clients figure out exactly what that may mean for homeowners.

"We are always looking at ways to



Heidi Flanders and Anna Cook are owners of Integrity Development & Construction.

improve all situations, whether for an existing home that we are remodeling or for a new home we are looking at. We are always making suggestions on better ways to insulate, better ways to air seal, and eco-friendly products to use," Flanders said.

Energy retrofits are a common job at Integrity, where homeowners will contract the company to bring energy levels in a home to a certain level of efficiency. Remodeling a kitchen or bath are still typical jobs but they could be the "baby steps" toward improving energy savings in a home, according to Cook.

**Male dominated field**

According to the National Association of Women in Construction, women account for 8.9 percent of the construction industry workforce.

"I don't see too many other women construction companies around here," Flanders said. "We do encounter it occasionally with people when they have grown up with it being male dominated and when two women show up they are surprised. But they get used to it, we're just as capable."

Although Cook said she was

vaguely aware of the gender disparity in her classes and at her part-time job during the mid-2000s, she said, "It's not something I spent my energy on."

"I showed up, worked, and kept my head down. I stayed busy and didn't complain about stuff. That's all they really cared about. A lot of those guys responded to your work ethic," Cook said.

Even though construction is a physically demanding job, Cook said she enjoys overcoming the challenges that come with remodeling and renovating.

"Every house is a little different so there's different challenges. We work with homeowner's dreams [of a renovation] to make it work with the space they have and the budget they have. Its fun and something I'm really proud of when it's done," Cook said.

Flanders also commented on the physical nature of the job.

"I think it's the construction piece that sways [the industry] to be more male dominated. It's a physical activity... you've got to be physically fit to some degree to do a lot of it. I think that has a little bit of an impact on it," she said.

## Valley Dentists welcomes new dental hygienist

BELCHERTOWN – Valley Dentists of Belchertown, located at 20 George Hannum Street, is thrilled to announce that Raven Towlson, RDH has joined their practice as a dental hygienist.

Towlson adds her rigorous training and a deep passion for dentistry. She has worked with Dr. Medaugh since 2015, providing exceptional customer service at the desk while she completed her dental hygiene degree at STCC.

"We are very excited to have Raven Towlson, RDH as a member of our clinical team. Raven is great with kids, thorough in her practice, and cares deeply about the people she serves. She delights in helping patients maintain their smiles for a lifetime. She has apprenticed with me on cosmetic and complex full rehab cases, she takes it upon herself to be highly skilled in all aspects of dentistry," Dr. Medaugh said.



SENTINEL SUBMITTED PHOTO  
Raven Towlson

## Get Movin' Zumba opens in Granby



SENTINEL SUBMITTED PHOTO

Get Movin' Zumba Fitness & More, located at 216 West State St., in Granby, had its grand opening celebration Sept. 1. The business brings a variety of fun, group exercise classes for children through seniors and everybody in between. It also offers personal nutrition coaching for weight loss and disease prevention. Drop in for a free consultation or to exercise. The studio is open seven days a week. With more than 25 years of experience, they are ready to help you. Contact April Marion at [www.aprilmarion.zumba.com](http://www.aprilmarion.zumba.com) or 413-255-0623.

## Halloween costume drive benefits Amherst Survival Center

HADLEY – UMassFive College Federal Credit Union is hosting a Halloween costume drive in its Hadley branch during the month of October. Items collected will be donated to the Amherst Survival

Center, where they will be made available for free to neighbors in need.

UMassFive welcomes new and gently used children's Halloween costumes, masks, and accessories.

Donations will be collected until Oct. 21, and can be dropped off during business hours to UMassFive's Hadley branch at 200 Westgate Center Drive.

Life revolves around the kitchen—it can become an art gallery, repair shop, therapist's office, makeshift home office, or party central, where guests tend to gather. With decades of experience, KraftMaid helps people choose a kitchen based on how they'll actually use it. **KraftMaid**. Kitchens for the real living room.



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