

# Chicopee Register

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COMMUNITY



TURLEY PHOTO BY KRISTIN RIVERS

Mary Lou Crowley, volunteer at New England Donor Services, Matt Boger, director of Government Relations at New England Donor Services, Mayor John Vieau and State Sen. Jake Oliveira (D-Ludlow) in a group photo during the event.

## Organ donation event highlights importance of giving life

By Kristin Rivers  
Editor  
krivers@turley.com

CHICOPEE - Residents, community members, local and state elected officials and more gathered inside City Hall Auditorium on December 23, 2024, for a Season of Giving Organ Donation event.

The event highlighted the importance of organ donation and how the gift of life can help save lives, with remarks provided by Mayor John Vieau, State Sen. Jake Oliveira (D-Ludlow), Hal Etkin, a heart transplant recipient, Glen Wiley, a liver transplant recipient and volunteer at New England Donor Services, Lauren Meizo, who received two heart transplants and a kidney

transplant, Matt Boger, director of Government Relations at New England Donor Services, and Mary Lou Crowley, a volunteer with New England Donor Services and whose late son, John, received a double lung transplant when he was 22 years old.

Vieau reflected on how, each year, “thousands of lives are saved due to the generosity of organ donors.”

“Currently, over 100,000 people in the United States are waiting for life-saving organ transplants, including many right here in our region. The need is urgent, but the solution is within reach,” Vieau said. “To give someone the opportunity of a second birthday is something very special.”

Oliveira reflected on his col-

league, State Sen. Adam Gomez (D-Springfield), who was a kidney transplant recipient in May 2023, later holding up his driver’s license to show a red heart, symbolizing his registration as an organ donor.

He also presented citations to Boger, the Department of Public Health and the Registry Of Motor Vehicles for their efforts in raising awareness for organ donation.

“He was on the list for a long period of time and wasn’t able to go to the State House as much as he would like to,” Oliveira said. “The more people we get on that list, the more of an opportunity people like State Senator Adam Gomez will have for a second chance at life.”

See **ORGAN DONATION** page 6

COMMUNITY

## Chicopee marks Kwanzaa in festive celebration



TURLEY PHOTO BY KRISTIN RIVERS

From the left, Maria Del Carmen Rodriguez, member of The Kwanzaa Collective, Ayanna Crawford, president of The Kwanzaa Collective, Renee Anderson, owner of Natural Taste, and Mayor John Vieau in a group photo after Anderson received the Community Impact Award. Anderson was one of three Chicopee residents recognized with the award.

By Kristin Rivers  
Editor  
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CHICOPEE - The city marked Kwanzaa in a festive celebration at City Hall Auditorium on December 27, 2024.

The festivities were hosted by The Kwanzaa Collective, with President Ayanna Crawford presiding, Mayor John Vieau providing remarks, The Kwanzaa Collective Member Maria Del Carmen Rodriguez leading a sound healing session, Kenneth Grimes and Trevor Pitts performing on the drums, a flag-raising and the lighting of the kinara.

Also, Johanna Maldonado, owner of Moda Mia, Lydia Rivera Early, owner of Lids Live Well, and Renee Anderson, owner of Natural Taste, were

recognized with Community Impact Awards for embodying community and the principles of Kwanzaa.

Kwanzaa, an African-American and Pan-African holiday, is observed for seven days from Dec. 26 to Jan. 1 celebrating African heritage and African-American culture.

Founded in 1966 by Dr. Maulana Karenga, Kwanzaa focuses on seven principles: Umoja (Unity), Kujichagula (Self-Determination), Ujima (Collective Work and Responsibility), Ujamaa (Cooperative Economics), Nia (Purpose), Kuumba (Creativity) and Imani (Faith).

On Dec. 27, Kujichagula--meaning self-determination--is celebrated.

See **KWANZAA** page 6

COMMUNITY

## Councilor-at-Large Tim Wagner will not seek reelection

By Kristin Rivers  
Editor  
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CHICOPEE - Councilor-at-Large Tim Wagner announced to the City Council on Jan. 7 that he will not seek reelection to a second term.

Wagner won the seat in November 2023, defeating then-outgoing Ward 1 City Councilor Joel McAuliffe and Sean Goonan, who were also vying for the seat. The seat opened up after the late Councilor-at-Large James Tillotson announced his retirement earlier that year.

Before joining the City Council, Wagner previously served on the School Committee, representing Ward 1, having been sworn into this position in January 2021 at 19 years old.

He also made history as the youngest person ever sworn in as Councilor-at-Large and is, also, the first Gen Z member and the

first member of the LGBTQIA+ community to serve in the role.

There are also political roots in his family, as Wagner is the son of former State Rep. Joseph Wagner (D-Chicopee), who retired from his role serving the state in 2022.

**Wagner's Reflections**

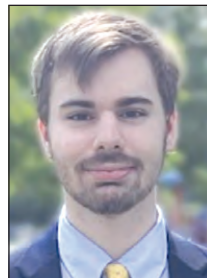
After a motion to suspend Rule 12D for the allotted three-minute time for public input was approved, Wagner shared that over the last year, he’s tried to serve and “represent the 50,000 people who call Chicopee home to the best of my abilities.”

“It’s been an honor and privilege of my lifetime and I’m thankful for the people for allowing me to serve them as a student member on the School Committee and, later, as the Ward 1 member, on several boards and commissions and, now, as their councilor,” Wagner said. “I’m honored to serve among such admirable and good people whose

roots in the community stretch back generations.”

Wagner said his successes include getting the Economic Development Director position recreated and put under the direct supervision of the mayor, answering all constituent calls and emails, putting forward rules changes “to give committees of the council more autonomy and bring their operations in line with the Commonwealth’s Open Meeting Laws” and proposing “some significant structural reforms that, while important, some perhaps are not yet ready for.”

“We have adopted a long-needed Master Plan for the city and made many important innovations and investments in our technology and in our education,” Wagner said. “The council’s progress in advocating for signifi-



Tim Wagner

cant and much-needed changes with its new and veteran members has been substantial. Yet, there is more to do. I will not be on the board long enough to see such changes through and the work continued, however.”

Then, Wagner officially announced he would not be seeking reelection.

“I thank the voters for placing their trust in me for this office and I am thankful to my colleagues both on the School Committee and in other branches of government for their friendship, for their partnership on the issues that are most pressing to the residents that we serve,” Wagner said.

**His Goals**

As he serves the rest of his term, Wagner shared what his plans would be.

“Over the next year, I do not

intend to be a lame duck councilor. I will continue my advocacy for my constituents and I will continue to make efforts to reform Chicopee’s operations where needed. That means that I will be renewing my effort to make our governmental offices less political and more professional,” Wagner said.

Elaborating on this, Wagner shared it means he will continue to advocate through ballot initiatives and signature drives “to put before the voters a question that would ask if its municipal finance official should be chosen based on professional qualifications rather than by popular whim.”

He noted how Holyoke will be voting “on just such a measure pertaining to its treasurer” later this month.

“Chicopee is one of the very few communities in the state to have a collector, assessor and

See **WAGNER** page 9

# Prime rib serves hundreds at the Elks' American Night dinner



Turley photos by Amanda Munson  
Dolly was happy to get her meal after patiently waiting in the food line.

By Amanda Munson  
Correspondent

CHICOPEE - Nationality Nights have always been a fan favorite for members and guests alike, but this American Night was special this year by serving prime rib, presented hot and fresh from the Elks Lodge #1849 on December 19, 2024.

With a 50/50 raffle, cash bar and good company, everyone had a blast and was satisfied with the delicious food served right before the holidays.

Lodge Trustee Jim Bennett, past Exalted Ruler and Club President of the Elks for over five years, has been a member of the Elks for 14 years and the selected chairman of American Night. When discussing how Bennett got in-



Eugene smiles with his prime rib meal that was paired with a baked potato, vegetables, and a bread roll.



Members like Diane Bovet were happy to get a slice of the prime rib that was made in house at the Elks Lodge.

involved in the lodge, he mentioned how he always wanted to continue to give back to the community.

"I was volunteering at an animal shelter in Westfield and the volunteers weren't needed so I was looking for some way to give back to the community. I loved the shelter and helping out. I mentioned something to my old boss about finding a place to get involved in the community again. He has been a member of the lodge for over 40 years and he suggested the Elks," Bennett said. "I went over a few times before I became a member, like helping them move tables around and helped them repair the roof a couple of times. I decided to join and afterwards they talked me into becoming an officer and that was it, it stuck."

American Night, also called Prime Rib Night in the past, always served prime rib, baked or mashed potatoes, vegetables, and a bread roll.

"For our nationality nights, we try to do food that's related to that nationality. On French Night we usually serve meat pie and pea soup," Bennett said.

Serving over 150 people that night, Bennett talked about the planning process and getting volunteers and members involved in helping out.

"Usually at the beginning of the year, the exalted ruler and trustees will pick all the dates for these events. They pick a chairman of each event, have someone print the tickets and the chairman hands them out to sell," Bennett said. "For the dining room, we usually have help with three or four people to set and clean up. Our Bar Manager Ryan has been cooking the food lately, I didn't know he cooked this good! For the past couple of years,



Guests dig in and enjoy their meals during the American Night event at the Chicopee Elks Lodge # 1849.

he's been cooking and we all wanted him to continue."

The 50/50 raffle prize baskets were mostly donated, located on the right side of the room, members and guests of American Night had a chance to browse the prize table before getting their hot meal. Occurring right before the holidays, many attendees used this night as an opportunity to reconnect with friends and family, rehashing old stories and memories with good company.

Reflecting on the 2024 year for the Elks Lodge, Bennett commented on the new events the lodge held and the want for more people to join the lodge.

"We tried a lot of new events this year, like the Touch a Truck event a couple of months ago. We want to get the word out there for families to show up and see what we do at the lodge. Our goal is to get more members this year, increase the numbers a bit. This lodge has become my extended family over these years. I want others to have that too," Bennett said.

Bennett ended by mentioning why he continues to be part of the Elks.

"My favorite part is having a voice in the community. I am able to find people that need help, assist them in doing so; that is all I ever wanted to do," Bennett said.

Coming up at the Elks, Polish Night is on Jan. 16 at 5:30 p.m. serving golumpki, pierogi, kielbasa and sauerkraut, rye bread and ice cream.

Visit [elks.org](http://elks.org) for more information.

Members of the lodge were happy to volunteer their time and create a successful night for everyone to enjoy.



Known as the "Elk in Training", Emma was excited to be part of the American Night and get together with her family for the holidays.



## CLIENT TESTIMONIAL

"My experience with Maureen was nothing short of amazing. Her communication throughout the whole process was perfect. I could always count on her if I needed a question answered, a quick response, or if I needed to vent. I was a client that was hoping to sell my condo and purchase a house. I have 2 young daughters so the process had to be done just right in order for it to be successful. It wasn't an easy process, but as my realtor she made sure I sold my condo, she made sure I got my house, and on top of it all, she made it a priority to actually care about how I felt during the whole process. She was not only my realtor but she became my friend! She is such an empathetic, caring, thoughtful, involved individual. She really showed me how much of a passion this is for her. I am now in my beautiful home. My daughters get to run around, scream, and play all they want; and my fiancé is so happy. I do not know how I would've gotten through the process without Maureen. It is not often where you get to experience someone who is extremely passionate about what they do. If anyone needs a realtor I HIGHLY will recommend Maureen. Thank you so much for our home."

- Kayleen W.



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# CPL offering free Red Cross Hands-Only CPR course Jan. 22

By Amanda Munson  
Correspondent

CHICOPEE - “Are you CPR certified?” On Jan. 22, the library will hold two CPR hands-only sessions starting at 3:30 p.m. and the other at 4:30 p.m.

Sitting down with Senior Reference Librarian Carol Lynne Bagley, she gave us a preview of what registered participants can expect when attending a CPR class at the library.

“This is a brief CPR class, this is not the full course with the certificate, it is only 30 minutes. There is a video component and hands-on experience. It’s to get people ready to do hands-only CPR if they’ve never done it before, or even if they want to review and just kind of get the basics on what to do if an emergency happens,” Bagley said.

From the library website, it reads: “Become a trained bystander that can help save lives by putting more cardiac arrest victims within a few steps of lifesaving assistance. The primary way of teaching this CPR (cardio-pulmonary resuscitation) technique is a 30-minute skill session, with participants learning to check for consciousness, call 911 (or the local emergency number), and perform chest compressions.”

When asked why it’s critical in offering a CPR class to the patrons of Chicopee, Bagley said this. “Well, a lot of people want to be knowledgeable about doing CPR but if there’s not a class locally, how are they going to learn the skills? Sometimes you can watch an instructional video but it’s not the same as being able to ask questions and interact with somebody. The instructor came last year and we hope it becomes an annual event that people who need a refresher can take it again the following year,” Bagley said. “It’s important to offer a reliable source like the Red Cross because if you are going to learn these skills, it’s coming from somebody

who’s professionally trained. And if you repeat this process in the future, you know you are getting the right and most updated information.”

CPR training certification is not provided through this course, but learning the skill is just as important. Chest compressions, chest compressions, chest compressions!

Teen and adults are welcome, contact the Reference Department for more information.

Reflecting on past programs and what she hopes to see in the new year, Bagley remarked on the familiar faces she recognizes at multiple programs.

“When I see people at multiple programs, it means they’re making connections with other people in the community, and I really like that. For example, we have a writing group and book discussion groups, and a lot of people are overlapping or attending the yoga class,” Bagley said. “We have programs that are weekly, like scrabble that is every Friday, yoga is varied depending on the time of day we schedule it. I like the programs that are on a regular schedule. We have some great events coming up that will hopefully become regular.”

Upcoming library events include: Jonathan Tetherly, author of “What’s Going On In There? A Jail Chaplain’s Story”. Tetherly worked as a Chaplain for Hampden County Jails for 30 years. He’ll be speaking at the library on Jan. 14 at 7 p.m. The talk is free and open to the public.

Next, Indoor Seed Starting with Blackstone Valley Veggie Garden is on Feb. 4 at 6:30 p.m. that is free and open to the public.

Poetry and the Spoken Word, meanwhile, begins at 7 p.m. on Feb. 11. Signups to read/share poetry begins at 6:30pm.

This program is hosted by local poet Donald Fisher, with a featured poet.

To learn more about upcoming events, visit [chicopeepubliclibrary.org](http://chicopeepubliclibrary.org).

## Japanese For Beginners Zoom Class

CHICOPEE - The Chicopee Council on Aging will offer Japanese for Beginners Zoom classes beginning Tuesday, Jan. 14 thru Tuesday, April 1 at 4:30 p.m. via Zoom.

Join Charlie Duquette, USMC/Retired, for this 12-week series on learning basic Japanese. You will need a valid email address and access to Zoom for this class as it will be virtual and in the comfort of your own home. Class will meet at 4:30 every Tuesday beginning Jan.14 thru April 1 via Zoom. A study group will be held at Chicopee Senior Center every Friday at 2 p.m. from Jan. 17 thru April 4. You must provide a valid email address at the time of registration.

## Volunteer Dishwasher needed

CHICOPEE – The Chicopee Council on Aging at RiverMills Center is looking for a volunteer Dishwasher for our congregate meal site. This volunteer position would be Monday thru Friday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

This position would be assisting with dishwashing for the congregate meal site after lunch service. If you are interested in this volunteer opportunity, please contact RiverMills Center’s Volunteer Coordinator Brandon Dumas at 413-534-3698 ext. 130 for additional information or stop by the reception desk to pick up an application.

## COPD Education

CHICOPEE - The Chicopee Council on Aging will offer a COPD Education Program on Wednesday, Jan. 15 at 10 a.m. at Chicopee Council on Aging’s RiverMills Center, 5 West Main St.

Fiona Cioch, Regional Public Health Nurse, will be at RiverMills Center to talk about COPD and what steps you can take to prevent developing the disease. You must register in advance at RiverMills Center.

## Laughs for Backpacks takes place Feb. 7

CHICOPEE – Faded Barber Lounge and Breaking Oppression will be hosting Laughs for Backpacks, a comedy fundraiser to benefit the Faded Barber Lounge’s annual giveaway for their Back to School event, on Friday, Feb. 7, at the Portuguese American Club at 8 p.m.

The doors open at 7 p.m. and the show takes place at 8 p.m.

Tickets are \$25 and there will also be BYOS—bring your own snacks—a cash bar, raffles, a 50/50 drawing and silent and live auctions.

The event is for those over the age of 18.

For tickets, to donate or sponsor, please visit [www.funny4funds.com/events](http://www.funny4funds.com/events).

For more information, contact Ricardo at 413-314-0863 or [cutsbyric@gmail.com](mailto:cutsbyric@gmail.com).



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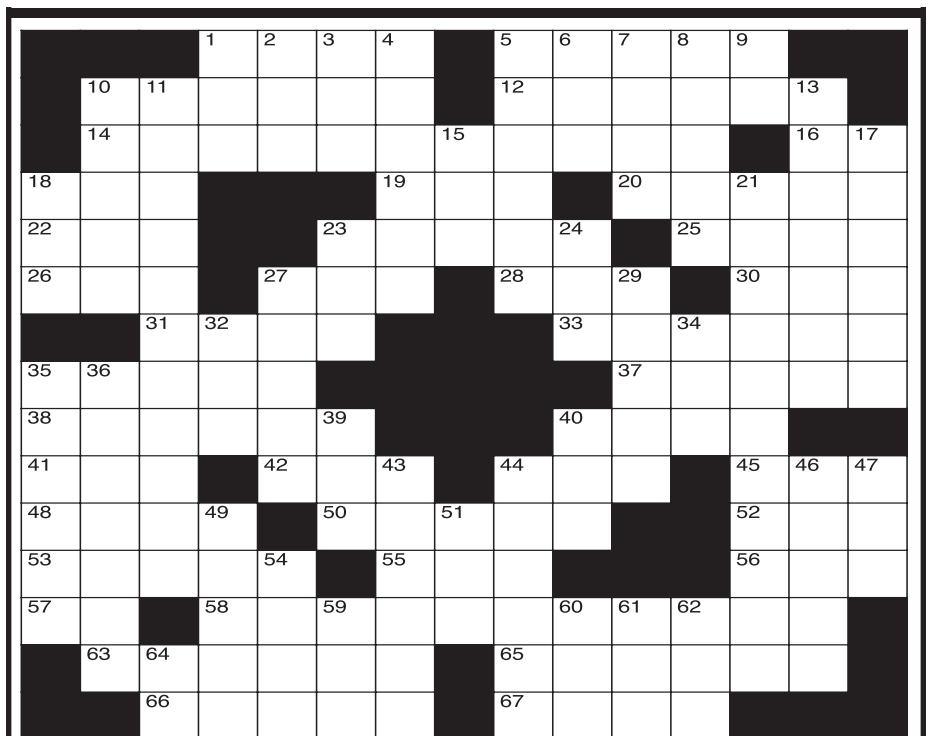
## Deputy Chief Eric Watson graduates from Policing Leadership Academy

CHICOPEE - Our department is thrilled to share that Deputy Chief Eric Watson graduated from the University of Chicago Crime Lab’s Policing Leadership Academy, an education program dedicated to reducing violent crime and improving police effectiveness.

The Police Leadership Academy is the only police management and leadership program in the country specifically designed to increase safety and fairness in America’s most violent neighborhoods. Deputy Chief Watson – along with 34 other police leaders from across the globe – completed a rigorous five-month program from July through November rooted in data-driven management, violence reduction, and building community trust. This

initiative was informed by University of Chicago Crime Lab research that found that changes in police department management can cause large changes in violent crime rates and police use of force.

As part of this course Deputy Chief Watson’s capstone project was to create a real time crime center camera technology program, and explain how it would benefit the City of Chicopee. We are happy to say that the Deputy Chief’s vision and hard work is coming to fruition. In the next couple of months we will be implementing the real time crime center. This center will allow for analysts to monitor cameras in real time to assist with police responses and provide crucial information to first responders.



### CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Hand (Spanish)
- 5. Siskel and \_\_, critics
- 10. Seaman
- 12. Chemical weapon
- 14. One who eliminates
- 16. They precede C
- 18. Baseball stat
- 19. Americans’ “uncle”
- 20. Cassia tree
- 22. Surround
- 23. Crisp and Pebbles are two
- 25. A sudden very loud sound
- 26. Affirmative
- 27. Disadvantage
- 28. Corpuscle count (abbr.)
- 30. OJ trial judge
- 31. New York art district
- 33. Become more bleak
- 35. Upstate NY city
- 37. Clarified butters
- 38. One who witnesses

- 40. Condemn
- 41. \_\_\_ juris
- 42. Natural
- 44. Prohibit
- 45. Swiss river
- 48. Greek war god
- 50. 5 iron
- 52. New Zealand mountain parrot
- 53. Scandinavian surname
- 55. Follows sigma
- 56. Doctor of Education
- 57. Spanish be
- 58. One that feeds on bugs
- 63. Tooth issue
- 65. Get into
- 66. Lumps of clay
- 67. Overly studious student

### CLUES DOWN

- 1. Variety of Chinese
- 2. Boxing’s GOAT

- 3. Japanese classical theater
- 4. Prayer
- 5. Inspire with love
- 6. Ballplayers’ accessory
- 7. Retailer payment system
- 8. More raw
- 9. Atomic #81
- 10. Fencing sword
- 11. Hostilities
- 13. Sea dweller
- 15. Resinlike substance secreted by certain insects
- 17. Businessmen
- 18. Rest here please (abbr.)
- 21. Loud devices
- 23. Make a soft murmuring sound
- 24. One point west of due south
- 27. Trout
- 29. Type of grass

- 32. South American plant
- 34. Letter of the Greek alphabet
- 35. Not secure
- 36. Traveler
- 39. Sweet potato
- 40. Period after sunrise and before sunset
- 43. Some are choppy
- 44. Asian country
- 46. Genus of mosquitoes
- 47. Cool!
- 49. Shriill, wailing sound
- 51. A baglike structure in a plant or animal
- 54. Within
- 59. Unhappy
- 60. Decorate a cake with frosting
- 61. Videocassette recorder
- 62. Largest English dictionary (abbr.)
- 64. It cools a home

ANSWERS ON PAGE 9

## GUEST COLUMN



By Ellenor Downer



Carolina wren

A Brimfield resident sent me a list of birds on Jan. 2 he saw in his yard.

On the list was a Carolina wren. He said in the email, “[The Carolina wren was] foraging in the leaves under shrubs and has been seen at the feeders more frequently recently.”

The Carolina wren is six inches long and has brown feathers above with buff below. It has a distinct white eyebrow and white barring in the tail area. It often holds its tail in an upward position.

The female lays four to eight creamy or pink white eggs with brown marks in a nest of mosses, twigs, rootlets, bark and sometimes snakeskins lined with finer materials. They nest in tree holes and many other locations; they will use birdhouses.

The Carolina wren expanded its range into the northeast especially with the milder winters. There song is a loud, repeated “tea kettle, tea kettle, tea kettle.” They inhabit forest understory, vines and woodlands in rural or suburban areas.

### Other Brimfield birds

Other birds seen by the Brimfield resident beside the Carolina wren were four mourning doves, 20 American robins, 12 dark eyed juncos, one white-throated sparrow and two Northern cardinals. He said of the robins, “I first noticed one bird on the ground in the yard and 3 in a crab apple tree eating fruit. More flew into the tree than four on the ground foraging. More perched in a nearby tree.” He also said, “We have ten crab apple trees in the yard and several of them have small fruit that is held on the tree into the winter.”

### Flocks of robins

In my travels last week, I saw flocks of robins on three occasions, twice in Barre and once in Oakham. The Oakham flock flew across the road and landed on the ground and in trees on the opposite side. The Brimfield resident reported his wife saw a flock of robins in the center of Brimfield eating crab apples near the post office twice in recent days. Christmas Bird Count

The Brimfield couple participated in the annual Christmas Bird Count in Ludlow. He said, “We had 31 species in Ludlow, lots fewer birds at the reservoir because there was about 90% ice coverage [Saturday] compared to 10% Friday.”

### Suet cakes

I put out my suet feeder last month. I waited long enough because I did not have a bear either break or run off with the feeder. The birds are busy eating suet especially during this cold weather.

### New Hampshire Loon Preservation Committee

The New Hampshire Loon Preservation Committee reported in 2024 they surveyed 498 occupied or potential loon territories on 327 lakes to assess presence/absence and breeding success of loons and the success of LPC’s management to help them. They documented the presence of 359 loon pairs and 126 unpaired adult loons. They also floated a record 156 nest rafts to help loon pairs displaced from their traditional nest sites by

See **BACKYARD** page 9

## GUEST COLUMN



### A New Year of possibilities

I spent last night curled up on the couch with a seed catalog in hand. It was a nostalgic few hours for me, in which I was transported back decades, to when gardening was new and my time and energy were boundless.

Regardless of it being the present day, I began circling this and that, and even curled a few pages too. All the fruit and vegetables I could grow, and store, and preserve, and eat, all year long.

Could my homesteading nature be bubbling back up to the surface? Perhaps. And wouldn’t that wonderful if it could be a reality? It surely would.

Talk about an admirable ambition for the New Year.

I started to think about what my family eats on a regular basis and what I would have to do to grow enough food to last throughout the year or at least seriously supplement what we typically buy. The most important considerations are taste and productivity.

If a variety is productive, but doesn’t taste great, then what is the point?

I have “plugged” Fedco Seeds a number of times through the years. The newsprint catalog is full of such great information; follow up by looking online ([fedcoseeds.com](http://fedcoseeds.com)) to get a color picture of what you will grow. I specifically enjoy reading the personal recommendations from the trialers in many of the descriptions!

The biggest problem I have growing tomatoes is with early blight. Last night I found a great disease resistant paste tomato called Plum Regal that will suit my needs well, hopefully yielding many quarts of sauce for the cupboards.

And what about that Little Dipper Butternut Squash? Disease resistance reigns true here, with taste and productivity ranking high

too. Twenty-two fruits from three plants? I’ll take it.

Succession planting is paramount if I want to grow lots of food consistently. This planting method is defined as “planting more than once.”

It can be planting lettuce, for example, every two weeks throughout the growing season or planting beets in the spot the peas vacated. Reading the catalog reminded me that not every variety is suited for successional sowing.

In other words, the lettuce I sow for an early spring sowing might not be best for planting in the summer, and summer lettuce definitely won’t be the best to extend my growing from fall into winter. I will definitely plan accordingly.

Likewise, I may love “Jade” green beans, but they wouldn’t be the best for my first sowing because they are white seeded and typically white seeded beans rot in cool soil. I’ll start with a dark seeded bean.

I am really looking forward to trying to grow a few new things this year, watermelon and cantaloupe to be exact. Less fruit to buy is a good thing, right?

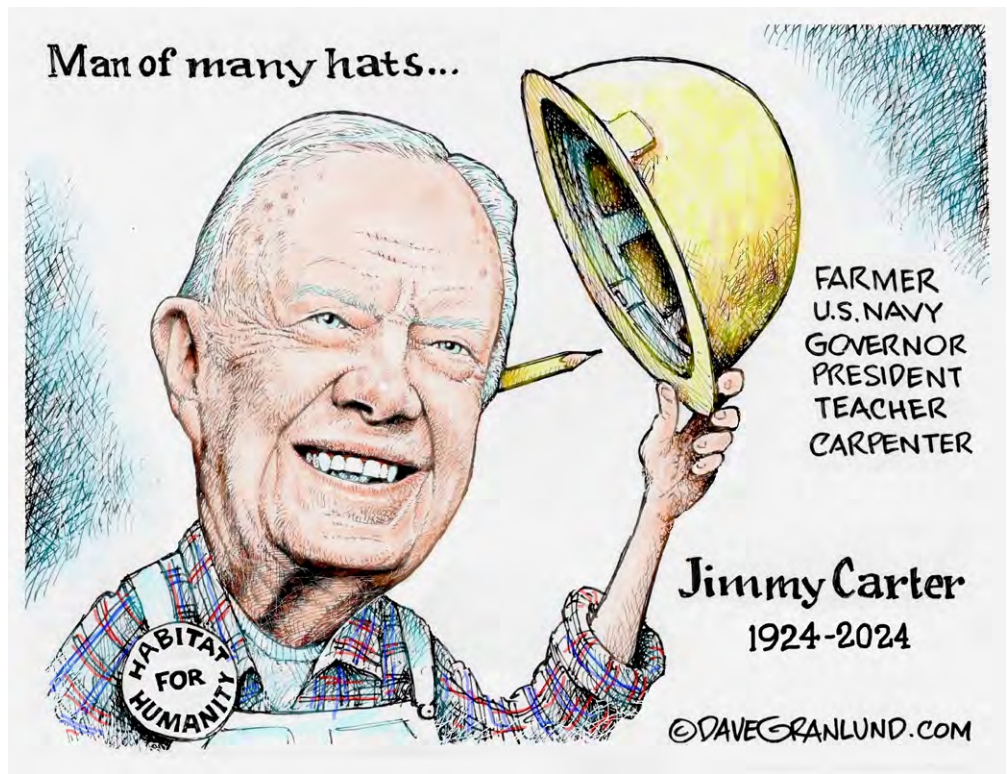
I learned some tips from the catalog. Namely, to start the melons indoors, then transplant at two or three weeks old, before the roots tangle, into soil that has been amended with lots of aged manure or compost and prewarmed with black plastic mulch.

Using row covers over the plants until flowers appear will keep off the cucumber beetles and provide additional heat. The catalog also provided some interesting tips on how to harvest ripe melons.

When I did manage to grow a plant to maturity, there is absolutely nothing worse than cutting into a melon notoriously unripe with no way to ripen it. Best to call it chicken food at that point.

So this year I will grow ripe melons, lots of lettuce and butternut squash along with gallons of tomato sauce. And more. A New Year of possibilities.

*Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 33 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.*



### Letters to the Editor

Letters to the editor should be 250 words or less in length. No unsigned or anonymous opinions will be published. We require letter writers to include his or her town of residence and home telephone number. We must authenticate authorship prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit or withhold any submissions deemed to be libelous or contain unsubstantiated allegations, personal attacks, defamation of character and offensive language. All unknown or alleged facts and quotations offered by the author need to cite credible, unbiased sources.

Send letters to: *The Chicopee Register*,  
24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069 or email [chicopeeregister@turley.com](mailto:chicopeeregister@turley.com).  
The deadline for submissions is Friday at noon.

## WE CARE ABOUT YOUR NEWS!

*The Chicopee Register* welcomes submissions of news in or related to Chicopee and its residents. Our “People News,” is filled with submitted engagement announcements, wedding announcements, birth announcements, your new baby or news about your 25th or 50th anniversary celebrations. Please e-mail correspondence along with a photo to [chicopeeregister@turley.com](mailto:chicopeeregister@turley.com) or send it to: Chicopee Register, c/o Turley Publications, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069.

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# Random Acts of Kindness

By Barb Turcotte

Cody Jaramillo asked me the same question I'm often asked, where do I find people to share their Random Acts of Kindness stories. I told him he was a prime example of how people cross my path.

I had a plumbing problem so called Fletcher Sewer & Drain. I was lucky to have Cody be on call and how I met him. He treated me with such respect and dignity I just knew he had stories to be told. Boy was I right, he's an incredible young man!

I'd asked Cody about the tattoos he sported on his arm and quickly found out he'd suffered more losses than someone his age should have had to endure. He's overcome some difficult situations from self-admitted bad choices.

After losing a best friend he considered a brother in 2014, he spiraled into a black hole of drinking causing him to gain approximately a hundred pounds. One day he woke up and knew that's not what his friend would have wanted for him, that's the day he turned his life around. He got sober, started making better choices and then in 2021 shed the extra weight!

Cody has a wonderful support system and though some were doubtful he'd be able to accomplish this transformation, there was always love. His dad and mom were incredible examples that shaped him into the kind and caring core person he is. He is a self-proclaimed Mama's boy but recalled how his dad, who he reiterated numerous times within our conversation was his hero, was at all he and his brothers sporting events always encouraging them. His mother who had served in the military when she was younger retired as head nurse for a VA hospital specializing in spinal cord injuries.

He shared that his mother actually introduced her mom and his Grandpa Charlie, then after six months they were married. Those grandparents were other excellent models. Grandpa Charlie, a thirty-five-year military man, was voted New England Marine of the year in 2024! He completed 15 years in the Army, 20 in the Marines and still continues work that supports veterans. He was even nominated for the National Marine honoree. Cody says he's the perfect example of everything and definitely a 'selfless man'.

When I asked Cody to tell me about his Random Acts of Kindness he shared how he'd helped a young woman whose car broke down in the middle of an intersection by pushing her to safety. Once he knew she was safe he left, never giving his name but knowing she'd be okay. He also reflected when younger how he always helped an elderly neighbor with her yard work and shoveling her driveway. His parents were always superior examples of this type of behavior.

As we chatted Cody told me about the wonderful woman he's shared his life with these past four years, describing her as not only beautiful but also his rock. He said though they come from very different backgrounds, they support each other and it works.

He also shared something quite unique, in 2017 he became a lottery winner. He said the money wasn't as important to him as the people in his life and he shared his good fortune with them. He was able to purchase a home for his parents, gave his four siblings a monetary gift as well as a very special aunt and uncle who had supported him through his troubled times. He also was able to help out some friends by giving them items after purchasing new things, such as a truck to one. He explained he was very happy this hadn't happened in his earlier years but rather in his sober and healthier time.

That night he'd been out with friends playing pool and ordered a pizza for everyone. Those who wanted to chip in fine and if not, he was okay with that too. Just another example of his generosity. After, he stopped at a store and was going to buy a \$30 lottery ticket but instead decided to purchase three ten dollar ones. Though on the first he won more than the purchase price, it was the second one that gave him the bigger winnings.

Cody still works, loves meeting the various people with his job and just one more thing that impressed me was, this never changed who he is. He's also now a youth wrestling coach in Wilbraham, kindergarten through eighth grade. What a wonderful mentor these kids have in Cody!

I know I've dreamed of what I'd do if I ever won the lottery and you probably have too, but what a wonderful story to be able share about someone this actually happened to. With your genuine lifetime of kindness, Cody you're an inspiration to others in so many ways, thank you!

If would like to share a Random Act of Kindness story please contact me at bdt514@aol.com or 413-575-9385. Who knows, you might see your story in this column, 'Just 'Cause' you witnessed, did or received something nice being done.

See you soon with another Random Act of Kindness!  
~ Barb

# Oreo's Rescue Story

CHICOPEE – On Jan. 2, Chicopee's Forestry Department proved they're not just tree experts—they're heroes, too.

After being stuck on a towering pine tree for three long days, Oreo the cat is finally safe and sound, thanks to the unwavering dedication and skill of our incredible forestry team.

The journey to save Oreo began when a concerned resident called the mayor's office on behalf of her neighbor, whose beloved cat was trapped high in the branches. The Chicopee Fire Department made a valiant attempt to reach Oreo, but the height, tricky location, and dense branches made the rescue impossible.

Enter Chicopee's forestry team, a group that truly knows its way around even the toughest trees. Armed with expertise, compassion, and a "never give up" attitude, they sprang into action. Special thanks to Josh—our very own "cat whisperer"—and Chris, along with the rest



PHOTO AND STORY COURTESY OF CITY OF CHICOPEE MAYOR'S OFFICE

of the team, who worked tirelessly to bring Oreo back to safety.

Oreo is now in the loving arms of his owner and being nursed back to health, thanks to the generosity of another caring neighbor. This rescue is a shining example of what makes Chicopee such a special

place: neighbors helping neighbors and city teams going above and beyond to make a difference.

This is the kind of community spirit that defines us. Thank you, Chicopee Forestry Department, for being heroes for both humans and animals alike.

# CPD receives flag donation



PHOTOS AND CAPTION COURTESY OF CHICOPEE POLICE DEPARTMENT

CHICOPEE – The police department received a flag donation from Rick Maggio on Jan. 3, sharing this thank you on Facebook: "Thank you to Rick Maggio for donating these beautiful flags to our department. We greatly appreciate your support and the craftsmanship on these flags are amazing."



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# IN THE CITY



The event brought together many local and state officials to raise awareness for organ donation, including Mayor John Vieau, State Sen. Jake Oliveira (D-Ludlow) and representatives from the Department of Public Health and the Registry of Motor Vehicles. Donor recipients also shared their stories.



A group photo of local and state elected officials and representatives from other government organizations with organ donor recipients and volunteers and members from New England Donor Services holding up signs to encourage the spirit of giving.

## ORGAN DONATION from page 1

Meizo shared that her organs came from two young mothers.

"Today, I stand in front of you six years out engaged, a homeowner and the only thing I want more is just to live a normal life now," Meizo said. "And because of two strangers checking a box, putting a heart on their license, I, now and in front of you, am able to celebrate my 11th Christmas with my mother Lynn, my fiance Mike and the rest of my family."

Etkin, who suffered from heart failure for almost 20 years, received his new heart in 2016 from Jack Teehan II, who was 26 when he donated his heart to him.

"Not only did I benefit, but he also donated his kidneys, his liver, his bone marrow, so a lot

of people benefited from Jack's decision to help others," Etkin said. "More amazing is I have become very close friends with his family. We just attended the Big E together--we're on vacation together at the Big E--so it was a side benefit of becoming an organ donor. In fact, you kind of make new family because Jack's heart beats in my chest and his relatives--he and I--we have the same DNA. So, it's an amazing story when you think about it from that perspective."

Etkin stressed how organ donation "is something that can be done and should be done."

"It's important to send that message because this is something we can cure. We can help lots of people if people just decide to register at the Registry and become organ donors," Etkin

said.

Wiley received his liver transplant in 2015 due to liver cancer and did not know who his donor was.

"As I was waiting for my transplant, my son and all of his friends were just becoming of age to get their driver's license and as they got their driver's license, they would all come over and show me the little heart on their driver's license that they registered," Wiley said. "That showed their desire and it's so important for anyone to discuss their feelings on organ donation with their loved ones."

Boger emphasized not only recognizing the donor recipients, but also the donor families.

"Something positive happened through that wonderful gift and those individuals, again, live

on through the legacy of their gift and through the recipients, they are living on behalf of those individuals having their best life because they had gotten that second chance," Boger said.

Boger's message was this: register as an organ donor.

"Give the greatest gift, the gift of life and register as an organ donor," Boger said.

To register as an organ donor, visit your local RMV.

To learn more about organ donation, visit [mass.gov/Organ-Donor](http://mass.gov/Organ-Donor).

To learn more about New England Donor Services, visit [neds.org](http://neds.org).

Mary Lou Crowley, volunteer at New England Donor Services, and State Sen. Jake Oliveira (D-Ludlow) pose for a photo.



## KWANZAA from page 1

Vieau said "it really is an honor" to celebrate the holiday and raise the flag.

"Those seven principles, they serve as guides not only for those who celebrate Kwanzaa, but for all of us who seek to build a more united, self-reliant and purpose-driven community, just like Chicopee. As a city, we are committed to supporting events like this that bring people together and honor the diverse cultures that make our city so special," Vieau said. "So, today, as we raise the Kwanzaa flag, let us be reminded of the unity, the strength and self-determination and the hope for a brighter future."

Vieau later presented the mayor's proclamation for the flag-raising to Rodriguez.

Showing the table to attendees, Crawford explained the items came from her home and were passed down by her mother.

"Everyone always has what we call a kinara. That is the base of where the seven principles lie.



Ayanna Crawford, president of The Kwanzaa Collective, provides opening remarks and the history of Kwanzaa.



Ayanna Crawford, president of The Kwanzaa Collective, explains the kinara and other items families use to celebrate Kwanzaa to attendees

Each evening, you light a candle. Red is for the blood that the people have struggled or to the fighting of wartime that's happened in Africa. Black, of course, is for the pigmentation of the people and green is for the land of the people of Africa," Crawford said.

Other items, Crawford said, are books and literature, fruit to represent the harvest time, gifts for the children, ears of corn to represent how many children are in your family, the kente cloths and special cards to send out to family members.

"We also do what we call the mkeka, the mat. This is one of the ones that we did this year with some of our children in Springfield at the museum and this was made by my aunt several, several years ago," Crawford said. "But, we always want to make sure we have something to represent your family whether it's a picture, the kinara, your fruit, literature, something that's significant for the family."

Rivera Early was honored to be recognized.

"It's been a journey. It's been one that I have embraced. I really try to embody this principle and try to really see others that I am servicing and working with and how I navigate, and I always like to tell people we are not perfect, we are a work in progress and we are in the journey together," Rivera Early said.

Anderson shared she knew Crawford and her son, Amir, through the salon.

"I'm just happy to be here," Anderson said. "To be part of something that's been here before me and after me and Natural Taste has been a big part of my family and people and connecting with everyone throughout the world, throughout years to come and many, many more. So, I'm just happy to be here."

For Maldonado, it was "a little bit of a surprise."

"I am truly honored to be recognized. So often, we do things that just come from the heart and we don't do it for recognition, but when you receive that it's the absolute best feeling



From the left, Maria Del Carmen Rodriguez, member of The Kwanzaa Collective, Ward 1 City Councilor Abigail Arriaga, Mayor John Vieau, Renee Anderson, owner of Natural Taste and pictured with family members/attendees, Lydia Rivera Early, owner of Lids Live Well, Johanna Maldonado, owner of Moda Mia, and Ayanna Crawford, president of The Kwanzaa Collective, in a group photo as the city of Chicopee marks Kwanzaa on December 27, 2024.

in the world because you understand that your passion or your dream is touching the lives of others," Maldonado said. "So, I really, really appreciate the recognition."

Maldonado was also thrilled about the city celebrating Kwanzaa and different heritages "espe-

cially in places where it may not seem like the norm."

"So, just very happy to be a part of the celebration and in the city of Chicopee where we can share those differences and come together," Maldonado said. "It's a really beautiful thing."



Maria Del Carmen Rodriguez, member of The Kwanzaa Collective, performs the sound healing during the Kwanzaa Celebration at City Hall Auditorium in Chicopee.

# Sports

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## Comp falls at home to South Hadley

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

CHICOPEE—If the South Hadley Lady Tigers continue to play the same way they did against Chicopee Comp, they'll be a very difficult basketball team to beat once again this season.

The Lady Tigers, who put together an impressive 18-1 run between the end of the first quarter and the start of the second quarter, began the new year with a 59-41 non-league victory over the Lady Colts before a large crowd inside Comp's Herbert H. Curry Gymnasium, last Friday night.

"This is a very big win because Comp is a higher division team and they have a winning record, which should help us in the power rankings," said long-time South Hadley head coach Paul Dubuc. "We were ready to play in tonight's game. Our depth also wore them down a little bit. We always enjoy playing on a bigger size court like this one."

A year ago, South Hadley beat Pittsfield in the Western Mass. Class B. championship game before losing to top-seeded Cathedral High School of



Ava DeBettencourt goes for a shot with the defense close by.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM  
Taryn Carriveau sends a pass away.



Eliza Burger eyes the hoop.

Boston in the Division 4 state finals at UMass-Lowell.

The Lady Tigers, who only lost one player to graduation,

finished with a 22-4 overall record.

After losing at home to Northampton by 13 points in the second game of this season, the Lady Tigers (4-1) won their

third game in a row against the Lady Colts (4-2), who's a Division 2 team.

Comp entered the home

See **COMP GIRLS** page 8



Jake Fournier heads up the ice.

## Offense struggles in losses



Nate Robitaille passes out of the side of the ice.

HOLYOKE – The Chicopee co-op hockey team, which won just one game last season, has been struggling of late after starting the season 1-0-1. The Pacers have lost their last three, falling to Southwick 5-3, then losing 4-1 to Agawam to close out 2024. The Pacers then went on the road to Oakmont, and suffered a 4-0 loss last Saturday afternoon. The Pacers are hoping to get back in the win column on Saturday, Jan. 11 against Easthampton at 2 p.m. at Fitzpatrick Rink in Holyoke.



Tyler Denison goes for the offensive zone.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM  
Mason Peters gets ready to shoot.

## Price scores 17 in Chicopee loss

CHICOPEE – Last Thursday night, the Chicopee High School girls basketball started the 2025 part of its schedule with a matchup against Longmeadow.

The Lancers were too much for Chicopee, defeating the Pacers 61-39. Though the offense struggled during the matchup, Kiyah Price was a bright spot with 17 points in the game. The Pacers are still in search of their first win of the season, and face Minnechaug on Monday, Jan. 13 at 6:30 p.m.

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## T-Birds suffer loss against Rochester

SPRINGFIELD — The Springfield Thunderbirds (13-15-2-1) felt the brunt of the top team in the North Division as the Rochester Americans (20-9-3-0) skated away 5-2 winners on Friday night inside the MassMutual Center.

The opening minutes would not go auspiciously for the T-Birds, as the North Division's top team flexed their offensive muscle early.

Just 3:02 into the action, rookie Riley Fiddler-Schultz used a defender as a screen and ripped a wrist shot through Vadim Zherenko's blocker arm to give Rochester a 1-0 advantage.

Things got no better for Springfield at 6:13 as Graham Slaggert threw a shot on goal from the right circle, generating a Zherenko rebound and a second-chance finish from Brendan Warren to extend the lead to 2-0. Unlike Tuesday night, though, the T-Birds offense had a rebuttal, and just 2:45 after Warren's tally, Drew Callin took a feed at the offensive line from Simon Robertsson and bull-rushed the net from the right wing before deking to the backhand and beating Devon Levi to cut the lead in half, 2-1.

Both teams were liberal with their

shooting opportunities in the opening 20 minutes, as each club launched 16 attempts at the opposition net. Rochester's potent offense did not let off the throttle in the middle stanza.

On their second power play in the frame, Brett Murray deflected home his league-leading ninth man-advantage tally to make it a 3-1 score at 6:28. Fiddler-Schultz piggybacked that goal with his second of the game at 7:36, which spelled the end of the night for Zherenko. Colten Ellis came on in relief and stopped the next seven Amerks' shots to close the period.

The 4-1 score held into the dying minutes of the third before a Tanner Dickinson power play marker got Springfield back within two, 4-2, with 5:01 remaining. That's as close as the T-Birds would get, though, as Lukas Rousek ended the goal-scoring with an empty-netter just over a minute later.

The T-Birds conclude their five-game homestand next Saturday when they host the Providence Bruins at 7:05 p.m. on Jan. 11 for the annual Throwback Night contest.

## HoopHall 2025 candidates announced

SPRINGFIELD — The Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame announced the list of eligible candidates for the Class of 2025, featuring several high-profile first-time nominees.

Candidates for the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame Class of 2025 include Carmelo Anthony, Sue Bird, Maya Moore, Dwight Howard, Doc Rivers, Billy Donovan, Sylvia Fowles, Chamique Holdsclaw, Mark Few, Lisa Bluder, Marc Gasol, and Micky Arison.

"The nominees on the official ballot for the Class of 2025 represent a broad cross-section of our game," said John L. Doleva, Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame President and CEO. "From Olympic Gold Medals to NBA and WNBA titles to collegiate championships, these nominees epitomize the career of a Hall of Famer."

The first look at the list of eligible nominees was provided by "NBA Today" on ESPN, hosted by Malika Andrews, with Brian Windhorst, Chinney Ogwumike, and Tim MacMahon. A complete list of eligible candidates can be found below.

Finalists chosen from the applicable Category Screening Committees for the Class of 2025 will be announced on Friday, Feb. 14, in San Francisco as part of NBA All-Star Weekend.

The entire Class of 2025 will be unveiled during a nationally televised broadcast at the NCAA Final Four in San Antonio on Saturday, April 5.

The announcement time and broadcast network for both the Finalist and the Class Announcement will be announced in the near future.

The Hall also unveiled an update to its eligibility requirements, reducing the waiting period for Player candidates from three full seasons out of the game to two seasons. The change was unanimously approved by the Hall of Fame's Board of Governors.

"Previously, our Guidelines for Nomination and Election required an individual to be retired from the game for three full seasons, which effectively equated to a four-year wait due to our internal process," said Jerry Colangelo, Chairman of the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame. "To better recognize the distinguished careers of potential first-ballot nominees in a more timely manner, the Board has appropriately shortened the waiting period. We are excited about this change and believe that honoring individuals while their contributions are still fresh in people's minds is both meaningful and impactful."

Enshrinement Weekend will begin at the Mohegan Sun on Friday, Sept. 5, with the Tip-Off Celebration and Awards Gala, followed by the Enshrinement Ceremony the next day at Springfield's historic Symphony Hall.

VIP Packages for the Hall of Fame Enshrinement Weekend will go on sale on Friday, Feb. 14. All single-event tickets to the Ceremony, Tip-Off Celebration, and Awards Gala, as well as other ancillary events, will go on sale on Saturday, April 5, at 12 noon. All packages and tickets will be available for purchase at [hoophall.com](http://hoophall.com).

The complete listing of events and pricing will be released on Monday, Feb. 3.

### COMP GIRLS from page 7

game riding a four-game winning streak since beginning the regular season with a 50-46 loss at Longmeadow.

"South Hadley is a very good basketball team, and we tried our best against them," said first-year Chicopee Comp head coach Alyssa Stefanelli. "We'll put this loss behind us and get ready for our next game now."

Comp and South Hadley battled each other at South Hadley High School a year ago. The Lady Colts squeaked out a 59-55 win in that contest.

"Last year was the first time that Chicopee Comp had beaten us in several years," Dubuc said. "We came here looking for a little bit of revenge. We played very well in tonight's game."

Seven of the 15 players listed on the South Hadley varsity basketball roster scored at least two points in the road victory. The three double digit scorers were sophomore Kate Phillips (13 points), senior Ava Asselin (12 points), and senior Caitlin Dean (11 points).

The other four scorers for the visiting team were sophomore Cara Dean (7 points), freshman Olivia Athas (6 points), senior CC Gurek (6 points), and sophomore Taylor Bullough (4 points).

The Lady Tigers head coach gave a lot of credit to Gurek, who's a starting point guard.

"Our offense starts with CC," Dubuc said. "She does a very good job of controlling everything for us."

The Lady Colts were led offensively by senior Taryn Carriveau with a game-high 22 points.

"Taryn is always a reliable scorer for us," Stefanelli said. "She handles the pressure very well."

Carriveau scored 23 points in last year's meeting against South Hadley. Comp's leading scorer in that game was senior Eliza Burger with 24 points. She finished with nine points in last Friday's home game. No other Lady Colts player scored more than four points.

In the middle of the first quarter, Carriveau hit a jumper in the lane giving her team an 8-5 advantage.



Walieris Pena goes for the layup in traffic.

Then Asselin buried a 3-pointer from the right side tying the score before a Phillips inside hoop gave the Lady Tigers the lead for the first time at 10-8 with two minutes remaining in the first quarter.

South Hadley entered the second quarter holding a 12-9 lead.

A little more than three minutes later, the Lady Tigers had a 21-9 lead following 3-pointers by Caitlin Dean, Phillips, and Cara Dean, who also hit a jumper from the top of the key capping off the 18-1 run.

"Our big run in the first half was huge," Dubuc said. "We hit a bunch of 3-pointers and played very well defensively during that stretch."

Overall, the Lady Tigers made a total of ten shots from beyond the 3-point arc in the game.

The Lady Colts responded with a 6-1 spurt. They closed the gap to 24-15 with 1:35 remaining in the first half following a Burger field goal.

The Lady Tigers, who held a 29-15 halftime lead, largest lead of the third quarter was 39-20 with 4:10 left after Asselin made back-to-back inside hoops.

Following a Burger lay-up, Carriveau scored the Lady Colts next nine points which sliced the deficit to 41-31 late in the third quarter. The home team couldn't get any closer than that in the fourth quarter.

"We were able to cut our deficit to ten points," Stefanelli said. "Then they hit another 3-pointer and managed to keep the double digit lead."

With 4:25 left in regulation, Caitlin Dean knocked down a 3-pointer from the left corner pushing the lead to 55-35.

While Chicopee Comp lost their first home game of the regular season, it was a nice way for South Hadley to start 2025.



Kaitlyn Gilhooly goes for a free throw.

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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

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## CFD receives special delivery from Buffalo Wild Wings



PHOTO AND CAPTION COURTESY OF CHICOPEE FIRE DEPARTMENT

CHICOPEE – The fire department received a special delivery from Buffalo Wild Wings on New Year’s Eve, thanking them on Facebook for dropping a meal to the crews working during the holiday.

## Narcotics Investigation leads to arrest

CHICOPEE - On Friday, December 20, 2024, the Chicopee Police Narcotics Unit along with the Hampden County Narcotics Task Force executed a search warrant at a home on Nelligan Dr in Chicopee. The home in question was the target of a lengthy investigation in which the occupant was known to have been dealing narcotics. The suspect identified as Michael Drost was home at the time of the search and was placed under arrest.

During the search of the home Detectives located 282 bags with a brown powder substance which they believed to be heroin, they also white rock substance which they believed to be crack cocaine, along with over \$700 in cash.

Michael Drost an 18-year-old male from Chicopee was arrested and charged with the following:

- Possess to Distribute Cocaine
- Possess to Distribute Class A Drug

### WAGNER from page 1

treasurer as elected officials without any means of removal or competency checks,” Wagner said. “We’ve been lucky with our current slate of elected officials, but now is the time to move beyond the mom-and-pop way of running a city with a budget over \$200 million and several million dollars in bonds and investments. Sooner or later, the bill will come due and it always does.”

Other goals include advocating for a monthly budget presentation “or at the very least, a website where these might be posted.”

“It’s crucial for this body and for the public to know where their hard-earned tax dollars are being spent. Through my efforts in forming the School Department Business Manager and the superintendent and the School Board Vice Chair Don Lamothe, the School Committee’s Finance Subcommittee has started receiving such quarterly reports at meetings that are open to the public. Many other councils and many other communities receive monthly budget presentations such as well and they also have a website,” Wagner said. “I think it’s time we start doing some of the same.”

Also, continuing to fight for “meaningful economic development within Chicopee.”

“For too long, we let business opportunities slip out of our grasp and find other communities nearby to reap the tax

revenue benefits. We need to do more to alleviate the strain that is the ever-growing tax burden on our residents and small businesses that keep Chicopee afloat. We must do better and we must encourage those in influential positions to be more aggressive and creative in pursuing meaningful business opportunities that will create good-paying jobs in the city of Chicopee,” Wagner said.

Another goal is encouraging state officials to “build a coalition of communities--particularly in the four Western counties--to tell the legislature that current aid levels are not sufficient.”

“Chapter 90 funding, in particular, has remained the same for years and years or is only marginally increased. Yet, the cost of critical infrastructure projects continues to climb and hinders our ability to fix roads, schools and bridges that our people use every single day,” Wagner said.

Wagner ended with these words.

“I look forward to working with the mayor and my colleagues on the council and constituents over the next years and beyond to achieving these goals and to serving the residents,” Wagner said. “I hope whoever stands for this position does so earnestly and in an effort to make Chicopee a better place to live, to work and to raise a family. It’s a privilege to be of service to people and I’ve been honored to be afforded this opportunity. I cannot have asked for better people to serve alongside.”


### BACKYARD from page 4

shoreline development, recreational lake use and water level fluctuations. They also installed signs and rope lines at 135 nesting loon pair locations.

They banded 57 loons and rescued 38 loons in distress and a result of illness or injury. The Loon Preservation Committee continued to expand their lead tackle buyback program. Ingestion of lost lead tackle by fisherman remained the cause of lead poisoning in the loon population.

There were six documented deaths due to lead poisoning, two loon deaths from trauma due to boat strikes and two loon deaths due to entanglement in fishing gear in 2024.

*People may report a bird sighting or bird related experience by calling me at 413-967-3505, leaving a message at extension 100, emailing mybackyard88@aol.com or edowner@turley.com or mailing to Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005.*



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[haluchsmemorials.com](http://haluchsmemorials.com)

# Events & announcements schedule

### Harmony House Needs Volunteers

CHICOPEE - The doors have opened at Harmony House of Western Massachusetts and potential volunteers are invited to explore the opportunity to help others in our communities.

Harmony House of Western Massachusetts is a social model home for hospice care located in Chicopee. After closing our original home in 2019 and purchasing a house in the Aldenville section of Chicopee for renovation, the organization is actively serving our residents with the help of volunteers and staff members.

Harmony House is currently in need of caregivers and people who would enjoy the opportunity to support our residents. Whether it’s a few hours a week or a few hours a month, Harmony House is a welcoming place for people looking to help people.

Harmony House is a local, non-profit organization whose mission is to provide a loving home offering compassionate care for people who are on hospice and are in need of care.

If interested in learning more or becoming a volunteer, please complete

the online volunteer application form at [www.harmonyhousewma.org/volunteer-1](http://www.harmonyhousewma.org/volunteer-1) or email us at [harmonyhousewma@gmail.com](mailto:harmonyhousewma@gmail.com).

### Holyoke Chicopee Head Start holding Raising A Reader Family Shared Reading Program

HOLYOKE – The Holyoke Chicopee Family & Community Program is currently hosting a “Raising A Reader” Family Shared reading program.

The program is for families with children from infant to five years old.

Let’s get together for fun activities that develop reading readiness and social emotional skills! Take home a red bag each week with books to borrow.

The program takes place on Wednesdays, 4 to 5 p.m. at HCS Head Start the first and third Wednesday of the month at 41 Commercial St., Holyoke.

Please call or email Shane at [ShaneW@headstart.org](mailto:ShaneW@headstart.org) or 413-310-1632.

This program is funded by the Coordinated Family and Community Engagement (CFCE) grant awarded to HCS Head Start by the Department of Early Education and Care.

## IN THE CLASSROOM

### STCC announces fall 2024 dean’s list

SPRINGFIELD, Mass. - Springfield Technical Community College celebrates the accomplishment of the 922 students who were named to the fall 2024 dean’s list.

The dean’s list is published each semester to recognize excellence in academic performance. To be considered, degree-seeking students must earn 12 or more college level credits in the current semester, or a total of 12 or more combined college-level credits earned during the fall and spring semesters, and achieve a 3.3 or above grade point average.

The following students from Chicopee made the Dean’s List:

Elsa Ademi, Tabarek Al Bakri, Saad Khalid Aljashaami, Owen Allard, Shkurte Bajrami, Tyler M. Beach, Alycia Katherine Boothe, John Victor Boryczka, Ethan Charles Boucher, Derek Colby Boutin, Emma Kathryn Brault, Megan F. Broga, Donna L. Bryant, Braden Chmura, Julian Colon, Rosa Yanira Colon, Shaudeah A. Cosme, Anagelis Cruz, Harris J. Davey, Haley Marie Denette, Matthew David Deni, Gracie May Deren, Amanda Nicole Diaz, Laina Marie Dion, Lee Dunn, Isabella Rebecca Dyurteyev, Julio Andre Estrada Valdez, Alishia Faber-Stowe, Carlos Yamil Garcia, Katrina Alora Gay, Julianna Maya Giec, Vanessa Gomez, Halina G. Gonzalez, Kalisto M. Gonzalez, Tressa Nicole Grady

Anthony Tyler Grande, Haneen Balsam Gshimawy, Pamela Michelle Gilbert, Karyna Gura, Megan Hafner, Farah Majed Hamad, Ryan James Hebert, Carlene L. Henriquez, Jordan Joseph Hiorns, Charleen Colon Irlanda, Shawntay Monique Kennedy-Cruz, David Kida, Tyler James Kirchner, Pavel Kiriukhin, Jordan Elizabeth Ladue, MacKenzie Land, Carson Langlois, Karyn M. Lawrence, Abigail Joyce Eliza Madden, Luz E. Marcano, Amber Rose Maslak, Nelson J. Mendoza, Saylamb Missick, Selena Mogan, Imari Rosalinda Morales, Kyle Andrew Moriarty, Serhii Nesterchuk, Yuliia Nesterchuk, Karina Nudnaya, Keith P. O’Brien, Ian Ogilvie, Daniel Padilla, Destiny Lianna Pagan

Courtney Marie Perez, Brandon Glenn Porter, Danielle G. Prost, Ziyu Qin, Tyler Jacob Quinn-Rosario, Jonathan Antonio Rivera, Edrien James Roman, Mathew Rzewnicki, Joshua Angel Saez, Jacinda Sanchez, Adrian Santiago, Hamad Sayeed, Brunilda Naysha Seda, Trevor S. Seidell-Poirier, Sabryna J. Solock, Alexander Richard Soto, Natasha Srinain-Powell, David Sroka, Shaunee K. St. Amand, Nicholas A. Starke, Victoria April Surreira, Abigail Kelynge Tait, Jackeline Taute, Wilfredo Torres, Hailey M. Vega, Yesenia M. Vega, Philip Alonzo-Crompt Willis, Olivia Wojtaszek, Richmond Bobby Wontota, William Vincent Wright

## NOTICE

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



## CPL announces upcoming programming

CHICOPEE - Here are some of our upcoming library programs.

The library is continuing our computer classes with TechHub. On Friday, Jan. 24 at 3 p.m. we will have the class "Career Search Skills". Register for one or both classes on the library website or call us at 413-594-1800x108.

**Tuesday, Jan. 14 at 7 p.m.**

### Book Talk with Jonathan Tetherly

Join us for a book talk with Jonathan Tetherly, author of "What's Going On in There? A Jail Chaplain's Story". Jon worked for the Hampden Correctional Center from 1988 - 2018. This book cov-

ers the last years with the Springfield big house to the new village in Ludlow. He writes about the people, their stories and their struggles. This talk is free and open to the public.

**Thursday, Jan. 19 at 6 p.m.**  
**Needlecraft Circle**

Meet with other crafters on the third Thursday of the month to craft and chat. No registration is required, just drop in.

**Wed, Jan. 22 at 3:30 OR 4:30 p.m.**

### Hands Only CPR

You can register on the library website or call us at 413-594-1800 x108. This free Red Cross Hands-Only CPR

course teaches people how to perform hands-only CPR. Having more trained bystanders can help save lives by putting more cardiac arrest victims within a few steps of lifesaving assistance. The primary way of teaching this CPR (or cardio-pulmonary resuscitation) technique is a 30-minute skill session. Participants learn how to check for consciousness, call 911 (or the local emergency number), and give chest compressions. CPR training certification is not provided through this course.

Teens and adults are welcome. For more information, please contact the Reference Department at 413-594-1800 x108

or [cpl@chicopeepubliclibrary.org](mailto:cpl@chicopeepubliclibrary.org)

For people wishing to work on genealogy, the computer lab is available to work on genealogy on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10am - noon and 6pm - 8pm. We are a FamilySearch Affiliate Library and have helpful databases such as Ancestry, American Ancestors and HeritageQuest to help you in your search.

If you need technology help, we offer one-on-one computer help on Mondays and Fridays at 2 p.m. or by appointment. For more information, email or call the Reference Desk at [cpl@chicopeepubliclibrary.org](mailto:cpl@chicopeepubliclibrary.org) and 594-1800 x3.

## PUBLIC NOTICES

### CHICOPEE CITY COUNCIL ZONING COMMITTEE LEGAL NOTICE

The Zoning Committee of the Chicopee City Council will hold a public hearing on **Wednesday, January 29, 2025 at 6:30 PM\*** in the Auditorium, 3rd floor, City Hall, 274 Front Street., Chicopee, MA 01013 to discuss the following:

Zone Change from Commercial A to Industrial for the entirety of acres/square feet of property for the purpose of creating one contiguous zoning district by extending the industrial zoning district and allowing for the continued use of the subject property located at 0 McKinstry Ave. (Parcel ID# 0362-00046). Applicant - Gramtad, LLC c/o Mr. Clark Wojtowicz, 295 Chicopee St., Chicopee, MA 01013.

The plans/application can be viewed on the City Council website <https://www.chicopeema.gov/880/Pending-Applications>

The January 29, 2025 Zoning Committee hearing shall be available to the public via zoom and in person. Zoom credentials are available upon request by calling (413) 594-1435 M-F 8:30 AM - 5 PM or by email at [aczarniecki@chicopeema.gov](mailto:aczarniecki@chicopeema.gov).

The petition and materials related to this proposal are on file in the Office of the City Council, Chicopee City Hall, 274 Front Street, (plans and applications are also available on the City Council website <https://www.chicopeema.gov/880/Pending-Applications>.) You may also call (413) 594-1435 or email [aczarniecki@chicopeema.gov](mailto:aczarniecki@chicopeema.gov) 1/10, 1/17/2025

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Special Permit application under Chapter 275-9 (L) (2) for the purpose of amending a Special Permit granted by the City Council on March 1, 2022 for the redevelopment of the Baskin parcel on

West Main Street. Waiver requested - From Code Sec 275-40(N) as authorized by 275-67(K)(3)(b) number of parking spaces - located at 75 West Main Street. Applicant - Brisa Development, LLC c/o Hammad Graham, 2009 Flatbush Ave., Brooklyn, MA 11234.

The plans/application can be viewed on the City Council website <https://www.chicopeema.gov/880/Pending-Applications>

The January 29, 2025 Zoning Committee hearing shall be available to the public via zoom and in person. Zoom credentials are available upon request by calling (413) 594-1435 M-F 8:30 AM - 5 PM or by email at [aczarniecki@chicopeema.gov](mailto:aczarniecki@chicopeema.gov).

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Special Permit application under Chapter 275-58 (C 7) for the purpose of operating a towing and storage business located at 78 West St. Applicant - Cruise Control Transportation, Inc., Joshua Roy, President, 210 Charton Rd., Sturbridge, MA 01566.

The plans/application can be viewed on the City Council website <https://www.chicopeema.gov/880/Pending-Applications>

The January 29, 2025 Zoning Committee hearing shall be available to the public via zoom and in person. Zoom credentials are available upon request by calling (413) 594-1435 M-F 8:30 AM - 5 PM or by email at [aczarniecki@chicopeema.gov](mailto:aczarniecki@chicopeema.gov).

The petition and materials related to this proposal are on

file in the Office of the City Council, Chicopee City Hall, 274 Front Street, (plans and applications are also available on the City Council website <https://www.chicopeema.gov/880/Pending-Applications>.) You may also call (413) 594-1435 or email [aczarniecki@chicopeema.gov](mailto:aczarniecki@chicopeema.gov) 1/10, 1/17/2025

### SALE OF MOTOR VEHICLES

**Under G.L. c.255 Sec. 39A**

Notice is hereby given by Interstate Towing, Inc. pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c. 255, section 39A, that on January 17, 2025 at Interstate Towing, Inc the following Motor Vehicles will be sold at private sale to satisfy our garage keeper's lien thereon for storage, towing charges, care and expenses of notices and sale of said vehicles.

2002 Saturn SL1  
VIN: 1G8ZH52862Z197040  
Jose Vega Custodio  
31 Davidson St.  
Springfield, MA 01108

2014 Volkswagen Beetle Turbo  
VIN:3VWVT7AT0EM624879  
Shannon Scott  
81Conz St., Apt. 415  
Northampton, MA 01060

2006 Chevrolet Trailblazer  
VIN: 1GNDT13S962193829  
Jonathan H Mikula  
61 Pachaug River Dr.  
Jewett City, CT 06351

1999 Toyota Carolla Ve/CE/Le  
VIN: 2T1BR12E8XC157787  
Josephine Reyes - Rodriguez  
10 Colony Rd., Apt. 2A  
West Springfield, MA 01089

2019 Ram 1500 Classic Tradesman  
VIN: 1C6RR7FG9KS620547  
Pat McDonagh  
1674 W Taylor St.  
Chicago, IL 60612

01/03, 01/10, 01/17/2025

### SALE OF MOTOR VEHICLES

**Under G.L. c.255 Sec. 39A**

Notice is hereby given by Interstate Towing, Inc. pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c. 255, section 39A, that on January 10, 2025 at Interstate Towing, Inc the following Motor Vehicles will be sold at private sale to satisfy our garage keeper's lien thereon for storage, towing charges, care and expenses of notices and sale of said vehicles.

1999 Honda Accord LX

VIN: 1HGCG554XXA086747  
Luis Beltran  
16 Middle St., Apt. 703  
Lowell, MA 01852

2015 Jeep Cherokee Limited  
VIN: 1C4PJMDB0FW704073  
Natalie Parer  
227 West Franklin St.  
Holyoke, MA 01040

2005 Honda Accord Ex  
VIN: 1HGCM56725A081623  
Malcolm Tiggett  
170 Sisson Ave., Apt. 16  
Hartford, CT 06105

2009 Honda Fit  
VIN: JHMGE88299S015665  
Lis Thomas  
91 Elm St., Apt. 307  
Westfield, MA 01085

2011 Audi A4  
VIN:WAUFFAFLXBN007685  
Damien Hart  
27 Bissell St.  
Springfield, MA 01119

12/27/2024, 01/03, 01/10/2025

### SALE OF MOTOR VEHICLES

**Under G.L. c.255 Sec. 39A**

Notice is hereby given by Interstate Towing, Inc. pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c. 255, section 39A, that on January 24, 2025 at Interstate Towing, Inc the following Motor Vehicles will be sold at private sale to satisfy our garage keeper's lien thereon for storage, towing charges, care and expenses of notices and sale of said vehicles.

2010 Hyundai Elantra GLS/SE  
VIN: KMHDU4ADXAU161640  
Zackary Michael Joubert  
232 Spikenard Circle  
Springfield, MA 01129

2018 Toyota Corolla L/Le/Xle/Se/Xse  
VIN: 2T1BURHE3JC002382  
Damaris Rodriguez Burgos  
125 Dorset St. #House  
Springfield, MA 01108

2010 Honda Accord Ex-1  
VIN: 1HGCP2F87AA001015  
James Bradley and Eliza Vargas  
303 Maple St. Apt. 358  
Springfield, MA 01105

2005 Jeep Liberty Limited  
VIN: 1J4GL58K55W595242  
Maria A Gagliardi  
28 Weybosset St.  
Shelton, CT 06484  
01/10, 01/17, 01/24/2025

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Division**

### Docket No. HD24P2640EA Estate of:

**William Raymond Mahoney**

### Date of Death: 05/09/2024 INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Maureen A Johnson of Springfield, MA.**

**Maureen A Johnson of Springfield, 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 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. 01/10/2025

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758**

### Docket No. HD23P2338EA Estate of:

**Thomas Raymond Pezda Also known as:**

**Thomas R Pezda**

### Date of Death: 09/16/2023 CITATION ON PETITION FOR ORDER OF COMPLETE SETTLEMENT

A Petition for **Order of Complete Settlement** has been filed by **Sharon L. Szady of Chicopee, MA** requesting that the court enter a formal Decree of Complete Settlement including the allowance of a final account

such relief as may be requested in the Petition.

### IMPORTANT NOTICE

**You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 01/31/2025.**

**This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.**

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M. Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.

Date: December 30, 2024

**Rosemary A. Saccomani**

Register of Probate

01/10/2025

### CITY OF CHICOPEE ELECTRIC LIGHT LEGAL NOTICE

Chicopee Electric Light is updating its rate tariffs effective February 1, 2025 as detailed below. The changes in the rates will more accurately represent CEL's costs to provide distribution, transmission and generation services to its customers while ensuring the necessary resources to provide reliable, high quality service. For updates, please refer to the rate section on Chicopee Electric Lights website at [celd.com/electric-service-rates](http://celd.com/electric-service-rates). Tariffs being modified are listed with their updated M.D.P.U numbers as follows:

M.D.P.U. No. 142 - Security and Contract Lighting

M.D.P.U. No. 143 - Residential Service

M.D.P.U. No. 144 - Residential Service - Off Peak Heating and Water Heating Service

**Filed - January 10, 2025**

City of Chicopee Municipal Lighting Plant 725 Front Street

Chicopee, Massachusetts 01020

(413) 598-8311

<http://www.celd.com>

01/10/2025

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Find a quick link to the state of Massachusetts' public notice web site to search all notices in Massachusetts newspapers.

VISIT  
[www.publicnotices.turley.com](http://www.publicnotices.turley.com)

Public notice deadlines are Mondays at noon, Fridays noon for Monday holidays.

# Classifieds

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**CRAFTSMAN WOOD LATHE**, 1/2 HP motor, 34" long, Model 101-06260. 8 piece turning tools, B.O.  
**SNOWBLOWER** for Cub Cadet tractor, 42" wide with tire chains and counter weight and all booklets. Paid \$2800 new - used twice. B.O.  
**413-238-5966.**

**MAXIMUM EFFICIENCY. EXTRAORDINARY** performance. Central Boiler certified Classic Edge Titanium HDX OUTDOOR WOOD FURNACE. Call today **413-296-4320.**

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**FIREWOOD**  
 Fresh cut & split \$200.00  
 Seasoned cut & split \$300.00  
 All hardwood.  
 Tree length available  
 \*Also have seasoned softwood for outdoor boilers (Cheap). Quality & volumes **guaranteed!!** New England Forest Products **(413)477-0083**

**MORE HEAT LESS WOOD.** Central Boiler Classic Edge HDX Outdoor Wood Furnace. EPA Certified. Titanium Stainless Steel. 26% Tax Credit. Call **(508)882-0178.**

## JUNK REMOVAL

**A Call We Haul FAST REMOVAL**  
 Junk, Appliance, Cleanouts.  
 We load it & take it.  
**413-531-1936**  
 CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

## WANTED

### WANTED TO BUY

#### ANTIQUES AND OLD STUFF WANTED.

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

## SERVICES

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

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 LICENSED & INSURED

Find archives of this local newspaper at [www.newspapers.turley.com](http://www.newspapers.turley.com)

## SERVICES

### HOME IMPROVEMENT

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

## LANDSCAPING

**A+ ROZELL'S LANDSCAPING & BOBCAT SERVICE**  
 Excavator Services  
 Overgrown property?  
 Extreme Brush Cutting!  
 Shrub, Stump, Tree Removal  
 Lawn/Arborvite Installed  
 Loam, Stone, Mulch, Sand  
 Storm Clean-up  
 Small Demolition/ Junk Removal  
 Insured  
**Josh Rozell 413-636-5957**

## MASONRY

### STOP WET BASEMENTS

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

## SERVICES

### PAINTING

**DUTCH TOUCH PAINTING**  
 Interior only \$199.00 for average 12x16 room. Very neat, references, prompt service call **(508)867-2550**

## PLUMBING

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

## RUBBISH REMOVAL

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

## TREE WORK

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

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

## SERVICES

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

## TUTORING

**TUTORING:** Literacy, all ages. Math K-8, online, your home or library. Call **978-799-9096.**  
**petedon151@live.com**

## STUMP GRINDING

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

## AUTO

**CASH FOR JUNK AND REPAIRABLE CARS**  
**FREE TOWING FAST SERVICE CASH PAID AS IS CALL OR TEXT 413-219-6839**

## HELP WANTED

Small church in West Brookfield seeking a **PART-TIME SECRETARY.** Approximately 5 hours/week. Candidate must have organizational and computer skills, social media experience, good communication and people skills a must. Starting paying \$16-18/hr. based on experience. Send resume to: **fccwbworship@gmail.com.**

## HELP WANTED

### TOWN OF BLANDFORD HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT

The Town of Blandford is seeking a qualified individual for the position of Highway Superintendent. Salary range starting at \$75,000-\$80,000+ negotiable based on experience/skills.

Please visit our website **TownOfBlandford.com** or email **Administrator@TownofBlandford.com** for more information.

## REAL ESTATE

### FOR RENT

**EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY**

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

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13	14	15	16
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# Chicopee Public Library hosts events for Kids and Families

CHICOPEE - Each month the Chicopee Public Library hosts a variety of free programs for children and families. The Youth Services Department seeks to provide opportunities for entertainment and enrichment that promote literacy and explore creativity. Here is the slate of events for January 2025.

**Little Movers** will be held in the children's program room on Fridays Jan. 17 and 31 at 11 a.m. Babies crawling to 24 months and their caregivers are invited to join us for free play followed by circle time exploring songs, fingerplays and movement!

**Saturday Playgroup** will be held at 1 p.m. on Saturdays, Jan. 11, 18, and 25. Come play at the library! The playspace will be open for families with kids of all ages to meet up and play.

This month, the Children's Room is starting a new program for two year olds and their caregivers called **Terrific Twos**. This program includes a short storytime and a rotating selection of crafts and activities. No registration is required. This program is just for 2-year-olds and their caregivers. It will be on Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m., Jan. 21.

On Wednesdays Jan. 22 at 10:30 a.m. in the community room, the li-

brary will have a **Little Kid Dance Party** geared for kids five and under and their caregivers. Older kids are welcome, as well. There will be songs, dancing and big movement! This is a new day for this program, which was previously held on Tuesdays.

Stop by for a **Kids Room Craft** on Tuesday, Jan. 14 at 4 p.m.

**Storytime** will be held in the children's program room on Wednesdays Jan. 15 and 29 at 10:30 a.m. Storytime is based loosely around the early childhood literacy skills: sing, talk, read, write and play. We read books, sing and move, and do a craft or activity. Recommended for preschool aged kids.

Come play a few rounds of **BINGO** for a chance to win some family DVDs on Thursday, Jan. 16 at 4 p.m. All ages welcome, no registration required.

The library will host a **Meet-up for Homeschooling Families** on Thursday, Jan. 23 at 11 a.m. Homeschooling families can meet each other and hang out. Chicopee's point person for AHM (Advocates for Home Education in MA) will be there. An activity will be provided.

**Read to a Dog** will return on Feb. 5!

The library will also offer some programs for teens in January. All

teen programs are for middle and high school students.

The **Anime Club** will meet on Wednesday, Jan. 15 from 3 to 4:30 p.m. to discuss anime fandom, watch episodes, make crafts and do other activities. This month's program theme is Isekai, also known as "That Time Anime Club Got Reincarnated with a Really Long Title."

The library is hosting a **Hands-Only CPR Class** offered by The Red Cross on Wednesday, Jan. 22 with two sessions, 3:30 and 4:30. This free course teaches people how to perform hands-only CPR. CPR training certification is not provided through this course. This program is open to teens and adults. Registration is required. Contact the Reference Department to sign up.

The library will host a **Breaker Space** for teens on Wednesday, Jan. 29 at 3 p.m. Ever wonder what the inside of a computer looks like or how a VHS tape works? The best way to find out is by taking them apart with your own hands! (And of course putting them back together again afterwards!) Registration is required, contact the Children's Room to sign up!

For more information about the library and all of the upcoming events, visit [www.chicopeepubliclibrary.org](http://www.chicopeepubliclibrary.org).



## CPD receives donation of flag drop off box



PHOTOS AND CAPTION COURTESY OF CHICOPEE POLICE DEPARTMENT

CHICOPEE - The police department would like to thank Jacob Payne, a Life Scout with Troop 303B out of South Hadley for constructing and donating a flag drop off box. Jacob decided to build the flag box as his Eagle Scout Project and we are honored that he was able to place it outside our station. Flags that are placed in the box will be collected and properly disposed of at a flag retirement ceremony.

## CPD seeks help identifying suspect

CHICOPEE - The police department posted a video to their Facebook page on Jan. 7 seeking the public's help in identifying a suspect as the Detective Bureau investigates:

"On Dec. 29, the individual in question broke into Frontera Grill and attempted to break into the ATM. We are hoping that someone may recognize

the clothing or distinct limp. If you recognize this person please contact our Detectives at 413-594-1740.

While the individual was wearing a Santa Hat, we are very confident that it was not Santa."

To view the video, visit the police department's Facebook page.

## COPD Education

CHICOPEE - The Chicopee Council on Aging will offer a COPD Education Program on Wednesday, Jan. 15 at 10 a.m. at Chicopee Council on Aging's RiverMills Center, 5 West Main St.

Fiona Cioch, Regional Public Health Nurse, will be at RiverMills Center to talk about COPD and what steps you can take to prevent developing the disease. You must register in advance at RiverMills Center.

## Scholarship Night takes place Feb. 6

CHICOPEE - Get ready for college! Chicopee Public School's High School College & Career Centers are bringing you the ultimate opportunity to unlock scholarships and gain insider knowledge directly from scholarship committee members.

Plus, hear from experts on college admissions and financial aid counselors who will guide you on making college an affordable asset! Don't miss out on this incredible chance to secure your future.

Register for the Virtual Scholarship Night on Feb. 6 at <https://forms.gle/aeDNiwjQr61bMis3A>.

## St. Cecilia Women's Club hosting Luncheon Card & Game Party

WILBRAHAM - The Saint Cecilia Women's Club is holding a Luncheon Card & Game Party, Thursday, Jan. 23, at the St. Cecilia Parish Center, 42 Main St., Wilbraham.

Come with friends to play any game of your choice and enjoy a delicious luncheon. Donation is \$10. Check-in begins at 11:30 a.m. with lunch served at Noon.

There will also be a raffle for many prizes and gift cards. Proceeds help to fund the club's scholarships and donations to other needy organizations in the area. For reservations, please call Sue Agnew, 596-9480.

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