

Chicopee Register

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

January 31, 2025 | Vol. 28, No. 39 FREE

www.turley.com

COMMUNITY



Director Laura Bovee, Assistant Director Anne Gancarz and State Sen. Jake Oliveira (D-Ludlow) pose for a group photo during the Library Legislative Breakfast.

TURLEY PHOTO BY KRISTIN RIVERS

CPL hosts Library Legislative Breakfast

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
krivers@turley.com

CHICOPEE - The library hosted a Library Legislative Breakfast with state legislators, library supporters and invited guests in the Bazan Community Room on Jan. 24.

Attendees also had the opportunity to check out the Bookmobile in the library's parking lot and watch a patrons and partners video highlighting the library's programming and staff.

The refreshments were provided by the Westover Job Corps Culinary Arts Program.

Library Director Laura Bovee, City Council President/Councilor-at-Large Frank Laflamme, Jason Reed, executive director of the Boys & Girls Club of Chicopee, Chicopee Academy Principal Lori Vaillancourt, CW-MARS Executive Director Jeanette Lundgren, Tim Cherubini, vice chair of the Massachusetts

Board of Library Commissioners, Sarah Sogigian, executive director of the Massachusetts Library System, Courtney Andree, executive director of the Massachusetts Center for the Book, Joe Rodio, vice president of the Western Mass Library Advocates and director at the South Hadley Library, and State Sen. Jake Oliveira (D-Ludlow) provided remarks during the breakfast.

State Sen. Adam Gomez (D-Springfield) and State Rep. Shirley Arriaga (D-Chicopee), also on the roster, were unable to attend.

For Vaillancourt, libraries were a safe space for her as she discovered queer fiction, connected with other moms in the community and had impacted her role as principal, as Chicopee Academy does not have a library and relies on the BookMobile.

She listed several students who use the BookMobile to check out materials, use computers for schoolwork and to stay connect-

ed or offer a rare moment of quiet and relaxation.

"Supporting libraries isn't just an investment in collections or in buildings, it's an investment in people. It ensures that every person--myself, my children, my students like William and Isabella and Jeremy and Malik--that they have the tools they need to be long and to grow. So, I thank you all for supporting libraries. Let's continue to champion for these faces where imagination, learning and community come alive," Vaillancourt said.

Cherubini highlighted the wins in FY25 for increases in local aid for regional libraries and public libraries local aid. For FY26, the needs include public library local aid, increasing funding for the Massachusetts Center for the Book and its programs and increasing funding for the Book of Library Commissioners for

See **LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST** page 5



COMMUNITY

1st Congregational Church holds Second Annual Chili Cook-Off

By Amanda Munson
Correspondent

CHICOPEE - "It's chilly outside, come eat some chili inside!" The First Congregational Church of Chicopee opened its doors to hungry guests, family and friends to taste test homemade chili during their Second Annual Chili Cook-Off on Jan. 25.

After walking down the long table holding all the contestants, attendees were able to vote for their favorite chili, while holding a mug that could be taken home.

Talking with Bev, a chili cook-off contestant and proud member of the church, she opened up about the sense of community she felt and why it was important to participate in an event like this. Attending the church every week, she discussed how it was to cook chili for the very first time.

"It was my first time! I used a chili starter, a chili packet, then I got the meat with a secret ingredient...hot sausage. I put that in there with green peppers and jalapeños, along with chili beans. I had Latin egg crackers on the side, it's something different that nobody else would have. I like having my chili with diced cheddar cheese," she said.

On coming to the church,



TURLEY PHOTO BY AMANDA MUNSON

The 2025 Chili Champ was Gayle Leroi, employee at the Brain Injury Community Center in Westfield, who was excited to show off the chili trophy to their fellow coworkers.

she said this.

"I've been coming to the church for over a year and everyone here is people I know. I signed up to be here because everyone else was, I wanted to give it a try. To those who haven't tried making chili, give it a go! You cannot go wrong and there's so many variations. It's always fun here," she said.

The chili contestant lineup

See **CHILI COOK-OFF** page 6

COMMUNITY

City Council rejects review for municipal financial policies, management structure

But, it could be revisited in the future

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
krivers@turley.com

CHICOPEE - City Council rejected a proposal to review municipal financial policies and financial management structure--for now--on Jan. 21.

The proposal, defeated in a 9-3 vote, would have given the Financial Management Resources Bureau of the Division of Local Services an invitation to conduct a review of the city's municipal financial policies and financial management structure. It was one of three finance proposals the councilors considered that evening.

Councilor-at-Large Tim Wagner explained the FMRB are the people who drafted the city's financial procedures and policies that the City Council had adopted back in 2016. To his knowledge, the document "really hasn't had a good look by this council since its adoption."

"I just think it would be a good idea to have the people who are the state's professionals in doing so come in and provide a little bit of assistance but, also, to take a look at Chicopee's governmental structure just to find out, 'Are we operating at the most efficient way possible?'" Wagner said.

Ward 9 Councilor Mary Beth Costello supported the proposal.

"I think that this is a good

idea. It's not out to make anybody look bad. It's just out to make sure that we become as efficient as possible," Costello said.

Ward 6 Councilor Samuel Shumsky noted the city's financial status "is very, very good compared to other surrounding towns and communities."

"We also have \$16 million left in the Stabilization Fund, so, financially speaking, I think we are in good shape," Shumsky said.

Wagner stressed the proposal "wasn't filed in order to make anyone look bad or to say Chicopee is in poor financial shape."

"I'm just saying that the means of how we do business and how business is conducted is ever-changing. Particularly,

in the last decade, the Commonwealth has passed some very, very strict and stringent financial regulations," Wagner said. "I just want to have us take a good look at our financial policies and just say, 'Hey, are we where we should be? Is there any way that we can, perhaps, improve upon them?' This document should be kept as up-to-date as possible to make sure that our municipal finance officials have as good and as modern a guide as any to follow when they're always handling city financials. I always think that that's one of the most important things that this council can do is just make sure that we know where the money's going and that we are spending it responsibly."

While Wagner agreed Chi-

copee's financial shape was excellent, he again stressed having the policies in its structure and to "have an external look at and see if there's any sort of way or any sort of feedback for us to improve."

President/Councilor-at-Large Frank Laflamme shared he would vote no, explaining he spent the day in city hall "going over a lot of this stuff" and how, back in May 2016, Zack Blake and Tara Lynch reviewed the city's books and looked over everything, making their recommendations.

"Which is a good thing. But, at the same time, when they did this I met with Sharyn (Riley) and the mayor and a couple others. When they looked at

See **CITY COUNCIL** page 6

City Council rejects proposals for sharing, posting budget reports

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
krivers@turley.com

CHICOPEE - City Council rejected two proposals regarding sharing and posting year-to-date budget reports on Jan. 21.

Both proposals were defeated in 7-5 votes.

The first proposal concerned the auditor or auditor's representative presenting a quarterly year-to-date budget report to the City Council every fiscal year quarter going forward and any appropriation necessary to comply with this order made by the mayor and transmitted to the council for approval.

The second proposal, meanwhile, was to have the Auditing Department of the City Council and M.I.S. Department establish a webpage on the city website to publish year-to-date budget reports, the auditor or auditor's representative publish one current year-to-date budget report to the webpage per month and any appropriation necessary to comply with this order made by the mayor and transmitted to the council for approval.

The Discussion

Councilor-at-Large Tim Wagner explained he looked at what other communities do and noted in Chicopee, he hadn't received a report for most accounts except for one for the meeting that evening, one for a meeting in November 2024 and "prior to that, I haven't really seen any of those reports."

Wagner said other communities and major cities including Holyoke, Springfield, Westfield and Greenfield hold monthly budget presentations and the city's School Committee had started receiving quarterly year-to-date budget reports.

"So, I don't think it would be a bad

idea to have this. To have somebody from the auditor's staff or the auditor herself come in and present at the beginning of our meetings. Just a little, 'Hey, how's our budget doing?'" Wagner said. "I think that it's a good way to start getting back in compliance with the Mass General Law requiring a monthly budget report and I think it would be good for the public to see it as well."

Ward 9 Councilor Mary Beth Costello supported the proposal.

"I agree with Councilor Wagner that the School Department is doing its very best to make sure those numbers are out there. We should follow the same," Costello said. "We should follow the same so that the public hears what the money is we're talking about in regards to the budget."

Costello also noted under Mass General Law, it's the law to give monthly budget reports, which Wagner confirmed was correct.

"So, we would be following what the law says and I appreciate the work and the research Councilor Wagner has done on this in regards to what the law says and what's happening in other communities and what's happening in our School Department," Costello said.

After Ward 6 Councilor Samuel Shumsky asked what law this was, Wagner went through the papers and noted it was Chapter 41, section 78.

"And just to clarify as well, Massachusetts General Law makes very little distinction between the role of the accountant and the auditor. Essentially, the only difference between them in Mass General Law is cities have an auditor, towns have an accountant," Wagner said.

President/Councilor-at-Large Frank Laflamme said the budget report has always been available and that City Auditor Sharyn Riley agreed, moving forward, to

send out the reports, including ones for the General Funds, Wastewater and Water in the future.

Laflamme would be voting no to give Riley the chance to do it.

"I get what he wants to do, but she's started doing it. It was brought to her attention," Laflamme said. "Again, I asked her how many councilors come out and talk to her about these issues: two. That's it."

Laflamme stressed the importance of the councilors reaching out to the department heads to give them an opportunity to share their information with them and, at the end of the day, the councilors are getting the reports.

"We got to give the opportunity to department heads. Please reach out to them and talk to them because they'll give you their answer. If you don't like it, I'll be glad to send to Finance for my vote or Rules. But, I cannot do that if people are not going out there and do their due diligence and requesting information," Laflamme said. "I'm going to look at 4178 which is what he's saying--I don't disagree with what he's saying--but at this time, I think what she's doing is enough for me to do. The report's going to be there moving forward, so this is, to me, not necessarily needed at this time."

Wagner responded he went to Riley about this at the start of his term.

"I did and you know what the auditor told me? Because now I am going to say it and I've been refraining from saying it. The reason why she hasn't been sending out those reports is because a majority of the councilors complained it was too much paper. That's why we haven't been getting these," Wagner said.

When Laflamme was going to respond, Wagner replied he was not done.

"I tried to do something for the good

of the community. I am trying to have the public have a little bit of insight as to what's in our financials. I do go to department heads on stuff. Half the time, the department heads don't get back to us. This is a struggle that all of us know," Wagner said. "And you know what? Pardon me for wanting what's best for my community. Pardon me for wanting to do something to make a difference, Mr. President, pardon me. If you assume I didn't go to the auditor then that's on you. Sharyn should have told you I went to her about this months ago, last year."

Wagner then said he was going to vote on all of his orders and leave the meeting "because I'm done now."

Laflamme then responded, "Come on Mr. Wagner, we all have our opinions," which led Wagner to reply no several times.

"We can have opinions, Mr. President. You can have your opinion, but to assume that I haven't gone to the auditor about this and that I'm not acting in good faith here and that I'm trying to just put Sharyn through an ordeal--or put her through an ordeal--it's absolutely, frankly, ridiculous," Wagner said.

Laflamme said he did not mention anybody by name.

"I just said two people came to see her. You may have been the second one, I didn't ask who they were. Just for the clarification, I did not say you never went there. Did I ever say that? I said two people went to see her," Laflamme said.

Wagner argued what Laflamme said was "that you wish councilors would go to the department heads beforehand."

"Well, I did and I filed this order before and you all told me to come back and do it later like always. So, it's later. When are we going to get it done?" Wagner said.

Gomez announces FY25 Firefighter Safety Equipment Grants for Hampden district

BOSTON- Senator Adam Gomez (D-Springfield) joins Governor Maura Healey and Secretary of Public Safety and Security Terrence Reidy in announcing FY 2025 Firefighter Safety Equipment Grant funding for the fire departments of the cities of Chicopee and Springfield.

"Firefighters across Massachusetts are often times faced with a unique set of circumstances when combatting man-made or natural fires," said Senator Gomez. "In order to execute technical rescues and treat injuries in addition to fighting fires, our local fire departments need valuable grant dollars to ensure the safety of our firefighters and our communities. I am thankful to Secretary Reidy and the Healey-Driscoll administration for these life-saving investments in the Hampden district."

The fire departments of the cities of Chicopee and Springfield will receive \$14,162.68 and \$35,521.67, respectively. Fire departments will use this funding to purchase a wide variety of equipment that



will make impactful improvements to the safety of their personnel. Many will be outfitting their firefighters with new protective gear, while others will be acquiring important tools such as thermal imaging cameras, portable radios, hazardous gas detectors, and personnel accountability systems.

For more information, please contact Senator Gomez's office by email at Adam.Gomez@MASenate.gov.

VOC offering free tax preparation for eligible residents through VITA Program

Free Tax Preparations are available to Massachusetts and Connecticut residents with low- to-moderate incomes at three convenient locations

CHICOPEE - Valley Opportunity Council (VOC), which manages the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program that provides free tax preparation to those of low- and moderate-income, began offering tax preparation and filing appointments on Tuesday, January 21.

VITA tax preparation appointments are available through April 30 at three VOC locations: 20 Lathrop Street, West Springfield, 516 Chicopee Street, Chicopee; and 300 High Street, Holyoke.

To schedule an appointment, call (413) 612-0206. Those eligible for the VITA program must live in Massachusetts or Connecticut with an income of up to \$67,000. Appointments are available on weekdays, evenings and weekends.

Certified volunteer tax professionals help qualified individuals prepare and file basic state and federal tax returns and prior year returns. VOC also offers free electronic filing (e-filing) of tax returns,

allowing for individuals to receive their refunds much quicker than paper filings and save up to hundreds of dollars in filing fees.

The core mission and goal of VITA is to assist low- to moderate-income taxpayers in satisfying their tax responsibilities and minimize financial hardships, in turn saving taxpayers thousands of dollars in filing fees. The VITA program is sponsored by VOC and the Internal Revenue Service (IRS).

In 2024, VOC helped 861 individuals file their state and federal tax returns through the VITA program. VOC has been providing the VITA program for 25 years in the communities of Chicopee, Holyoke, and as of last year, Westfield.

The Valley Opportunity Council is the largest and most diverse Community Action Agency in Western Massachusetts with an annual budget of \$45 million. With this Federal designation, the VOC has established a powerful network of support and collaborative services intended to encourage community members to actively achieve self-sufficiency for themselves and their families. VOC employs over 250 staff members and has 150 local vendors, providing a significant economic investment in the community.

To advertise in the Chicopee Register contact Wendy Delcamp wdelcamp@turley.com



We Have News For You

Turley Publications, Inc.

24 Water Street
Palmer, MA 01069
413-283-8393
www.turley.com

From local events to regional developments, we have the news you want in print and online anytime, plus a whole lot more...

Don't miss out on free local activities, concerts, entertainment, restaurant specials, school events, sports recaps, new business openings, community meetings and more.

RiverMills holds its first-ever Lunar New Year Dinner

By Amanda Munson
Correspondent

CHICOPEE - “The food was delicious!” The wood snake will bring new opportunities for growth and change, with many celebrating with dinner catered by Kiyomi in Chicopee at the senior center for the First Annual Lunar New Year Dinner on Jan. 29.

Beginning the night with a speech about the history of the Lunar New Year, Program Coordinator Casey Conroy touched upon a brief summary of the significance of the new year and interesting facts about the Year of the Snake.

“Welcome to our first Lunar New Year, also known as the Chinese New Year, dinner and event. It’s great to have you all here and thank you to Kiyomi for catering. I wanted to give you all an overview of what Chinese New Year is all about. Roots tracing back to 3,500 years ago to ancient China, Lunar New Year signifies the end of winter and the arrival of spring. The festival holds deep importance in Chinese culture and is observed with various traditions and festivals,” Conroy said. “This year celebrates the year of the wood snake, which marks a period of transformation, wisdom and adaptability. The snake is known for its intelligence, strategy, and charm, while its wood element brings flexibility and creativity. This symbol rotates every 13 years.”

Conroy talked further about the planning that goes into an event like this and what guests were presented at the dinner. On the menu, guests and members were served General Tso’s chicken, chicken fingers, lo mein, pork fried rice, wontons and fortune cookies.

“Everyone at their tables got a little scratch-off fortune card to get their fortune for the year. Then we’ll play a game of bingo and then show a video of a traditional dragon dance that goes more into the



TURLEY PHOTOS BY AMANDA MUNSON

Jim and Mary Dougherty said that they love coming to the RiverMills for the entertainment, food, and social environment.

history of the dance. I learned more about Lunar New Year when planning this dinner. It’s a year of prosperity and good luck and fortune, there’s a lot that goes into the food and traditions. It’s nice to see other cultures and what their celebrations are,” Conroy said.

She stressed the importance of celebrating different cultures and traditions through the events.

“We are always trying to celebrate different things here at the center when it comes to culture and diversity. We have Oktoberfest this year, we had a Polish dinner for the very first time a few years ago, we’re actually having a St. Patrick’s Day Dinner coming up in March to celebrate Irish heritage,” Conroy said. “So, we’re really wanting to celebrate and welcome all cultures and backgrounds here at RiverMills. We go through the national calendar days and all the holidays throughout the year. We look through the calendar and find things that we know people would re-



The events that happen at the RiverMills Senior Center wouldn’t have been possible without the hardworking staff, pictured here.

ally enjoy and will bring back for another year.”

President of the Friends of the RiverMills Senior Center Michael Wilk talked about the Friends involvement in funding a dinner like the Lunar New Year.

“The events have been great and everyone has had a good time. The Friends are here to give back and continue to raise money for things like this to happen. The Tree of Life fundraiser is a great cause, it’s for our seniors that have the programs and everything provided for them to use. I want to make sure that continues,” Wilk said. “My aunt actually joined because of me, she’s been to a couple of events and she’s loving it. She comes with her girlfriends and has a good time.”

More fun events are to be had heading into February: the Valentine’s Day Dance will be held on Feb 14 at 1:30 p.m., with music by DJ Luis, and Dinner and Comedy with Johnny Pizzi will be held on Feb 19



Program Coordinator Casey Conroy spoke about the brief history of Lunar New Year in front of the dinner crowd.

at 4:30 p.m., beginning with Guitarist Lori Brooks to kick off the evening.

To learn more, check out the senior center newsletter or call 413-534-3698.



A wide shot of the Lunar New Year dinner, decorated with lanterns and tablescapes.

Girl Scouts of Central & Western MA to host Free Science of Snow Event

CHICOPEE – The Girl Scouts of Central & Western MA will host a free science of snow event for girls in Chicopee.

Girls and their guardians are invited to a free Science of Snow event on Monday, February 10, 2025, from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Participants will learn about the different types of snowflakes, learn why it snows, and even make their own!

The event will be held at Chicopee Public Library on 449 Front Street in Chicopee, MA 01013.

This event is for girls in grades K-3, who are not currently Girl Scouts. RSVP by February 6 at <https://go.gscwm.org/ScienceOfSnowChicopee>

For information on Girl Scouts contact info@gscwm.org or call 413-584-2602.

An Evening Celebrating Mary, Mother of Hope at St. Stanislaus Basilica

CHICOPEE - As part of the Jubilee Year of Hope 2025, the Basilica of St. Stanislaus located at 566 Front St. in Chicopee, MA, invites everyone to a special evening celebrating Mary, Mother of Hope on Tuesday, February 11, 2025, the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes.

This inspiring event will begin at 6 p.m. with a Scriptural Rosary reflecting on The Joyful Mysteries, followed by a Marian presentation by Fr. James McCurry, OFM Conv., and a selection of Marian hymns.

Light refreshments will be served. Sponsored by the Basilica of St. Stanislaus Rosary Society, this event is open to all. For more information please contact Parish Office or send e-mail to Basili-caofssrs@gmail.com

Chicopee adopts Situation Table Program to Aid At-Risk individuals

CHICOPEE - A proposal adding a program which will identify and provide assistance to individuals at risk had been proposed by City Councilor Bill Courchesne and requested by the City Council. Mayor John Vieau, with approval of the City Council, has adopted the program. Using Opioid Settlement funds Chicopee engaged Cordata to implement the program.

The Situation Table program has been successful in Chelsea, Springfield, and Holyoke bringing resources to at risk individuals suffering from drug abuse, mental issues, and other difficulties. The Situation Table is a risk-based, rapid triage group that brings together multiple service providers to address situations where individuals and families have an identified threshold of “Acutely Elevated Risk.” It addresses those who often face the highest levels of risk in the community and too often fall through the cracks in the human services system.

While the Police Department may coordinate the discussions and outline the implementation process, the at-risk individual’s needs will determine the services and will differ in each case. It is a collaborative initiative driven by multiple human service providers in the community working together. Together the program brings a coordinated plan to an individual directed and working together to resolve the issues facing an at-risk individual.

The Chicopee Police Department is the agency charged with organizing the program here and will be a vital part of our successful Situation Table. The Police will be supportive and bring together individuals from agencies to determine the recommended course of action for an individual, considering all the challenges an individual faces and services used to

provide support through any crisis or near crisis. The Situation Table is not about enforcement, this is an opportunity for Police to work alongside their community partners to improve community safety and well-being. Our First responders are frequently the ones who first encounter situations where at risk individuals are initially identified. The Situation Table is about finding creative ways to assist those in need before an incident. Mayor John Vieau stated, “If we can identify individuals before a crisis occurs, we will save lives and protect our community.”

The program will be spearheaded by Police Sergeant Tom Gazda working with Cordata professionals who have established similar programs throughout the country and in Canada. Cordata provides guidance and training for those who volunteer for the program. They explain key aspects of the program and how to address the needs of repeat and addicted individuals. Getting them the resources to address the root cause of the issue in a coordinated effort. Ward Seven City Councilor Bill Courchesne indicated, “The training and establishment of this pre-incident intervention program has been successful in other communities and will save lives here.”

This represents a critical opportunity for Police to continue building trust among their partners and the community. Police Chief Patrick Major, Fire Chief Dan Stamborski, and School Superintendent Dr. Marcus Ware had investigated the program and felt this was something we could add to our services to help prevent emergency situations and address the issues faced by our residents and students. Chief Major stated, “Our department

See **SITUATION TABLE** page 8

GUEST COLUMN



When to claim Social Security and taxation of benefits

Dear Rusty:
I am 65 and currently working full-time. Can I apply for and start receiving my Social Security benefit? I'd expect to have to pay income tax on it if/when I do.
Signed: Curious Worker

Dear Curious Worker:
If you are working full time, you should likely delay claiming Social Security at this time. At age 65, you haven't yet reached your SS Full Retirement Age, so you will be subject to Social Security's "annual earnings test" which limits how much you can earn from work while collecting early benefits. The earnings limit for 2025 is \$23,400 and if you earn more than the annual limit, SS will take away \$1 in benefits for every \$2 you are over the limit.

If you earn significantly over the limit, you may even be temporarily ineligible to collect SS benefits. FYI, the annual earnings limit goes away when you reach your full retirement age, which for you is 66 years and 10 months, or March 2026.

As you obviously already know, a portion of your Social Security may be subject to income tax after you start collecting. The threshold for taxation of SS benefits depends on your IRS filing status – if you file your taxes as a single and your combined income from all sources (including half of the SS benefit you received during the tax year) exceeds \$25,000 then 50% of your received SS benefits are taxable.

But if you file taxes as "married/jointly" and your combined income is over \$32,000, then up to 85% of your received SS benefits are taxable. Thus, whenever you claim SS, you may wish to consider having income tax withheld from your SS benefit. This is optional, and you can do this by submitting IRS Form W-4V to your local Social Security office, or you could choose to increase your income tax withholding at work or, alternatively, pay estimated income taxes quarterly.

So, whether you can claim Social Security now depends entirely on how much you will earn from working full time prior to your FRA. If you exceed the annual earnings limit before your FRA, SS will take away some of your benefits or, if you greatly exceed the earnings limit, you may even be temporarily ineligible to get benefits until you either reach your FRA or earn less. But note, if you decide to claim early and any SS benefits are withheld because you exceeded the earnings limit, you will get credit for that in the form of a slightly increased benefit after you reach your full retirement age.

The Association Mature Citizens Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. This article is intended for information purposes and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the Association Mature Citizens Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association. To submit a question, visit amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org. Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.

CHECK OUT ALL THE

Turley Publications

www.newspapers.turley.com

GUEST COLUMN



Catching up on questions for the Garden Lady

This column will be used to play catch-up. I received a couple of questions a few weeks back on Christmas plants and then another looking forward to the new gardening season.

Read on as I do my best to answer them!
Connie is the keeper of her mother's poinsettia and it's become tree-like! "We read your article about poinsettias in the Country Journal. I have been caring for my mother's poinsettia she purchased three Christmases ago. She is hoping you can help us as I never cut it back because I didn't know to do that. Now it is a small tree. There is bark on it. I had one red bract last Christmas but no yellow center. I did try to put it in a dark room but as you can see, it is too big now to do that. Any suggestions?"

Many years ago when I joined my brother on a trip to St. Thomas, I became fully aware of the poinsettia and its true, tree-like form. It looks like you are well on your way to replicating that in your house!

First, congratulations, from the picture you provided you are clearly growing a healthy specimen. The leaves are a beautiful shade of green. I would recommend that, if you want to make it more manageable in size, you do try to cut it back.

It looks as if there is a lower "tier" of leaves. If you can cut it back to those stems, I think that is a good place to start. Do that in April when it will be in active growth.

At that time, I would also transplant it into a container one size bigger. So, if it's in a six inch pot now, try one that is seven or eight inches, but not any bigger.

Fertilize with an all purpose houseplant fertilizer once a month. New growth should appear by the end of May.

After the danger of frost has passed, move the plant outdoors. Continue to water but increase fertilization to every two weeks. Pinch plants in late June or early July to promote bushy growth. Bring the plant indoors as temperatures fall in September.

The poinsettia is photoperiodic, and long nights of uninterrupted darkness encourage it to bloom. Bracts will turn red and the small yellow flowers in the center will form. Most people get on a 5 p.m.-8 a.m. schedule beginning on Oct. 1 and continue it for eight-10 weeks until color shows on the bracts.

Placing the plant in a closet or basement

with no light interruption will work fine. It is a commitment, that's for sure. Night temperatures should be no higher than 70 degrees or flowering may be delayed.

Good luck; I bet you will be successful this year!

Beverly has me stumped!! She wrote in with this question: "After my Christmas cactus has bloomed, I get very tiny buds (like pimples) all over the plant. However, they quickly fall off so no more blooms. Can you explain what to do about this?"

This is a tricky one, Beverly! I am wondering if this is a newer breed of Christmas Cactus that is expected to bloom over a longer period of time than the old-fashioned types.

Usually buds fall off if there is a change somehow. Overwatering, underwatering? Perhaps a change in location whereby the plant is now near a heater when it wasn't before. Or maybe a change in fertilization practices?

That's about all I can come up with. I do hope that once blooming is over your plant remains healthy and provides many flowers for years to come!

This came to the Garden Lady from Gary: "I enjoy reading your articles.

Is there value or harm mixing old coffee grounds into your flower or vegetable gardens? Thanks!"

Thank you for your compliments on the column! My dad used to sprinkle coffee grounds around our blueberry bushes when I was a kid.

It was his theory that the acidic grounds would be good for blueberry bushes which by nature are acid-loving. Well, it turns out that most of the acid from the coffee grounds is leached into the water when the coffee is brewed, leaving a near neutral product that aligns with pH of most common vegetables and flowers!

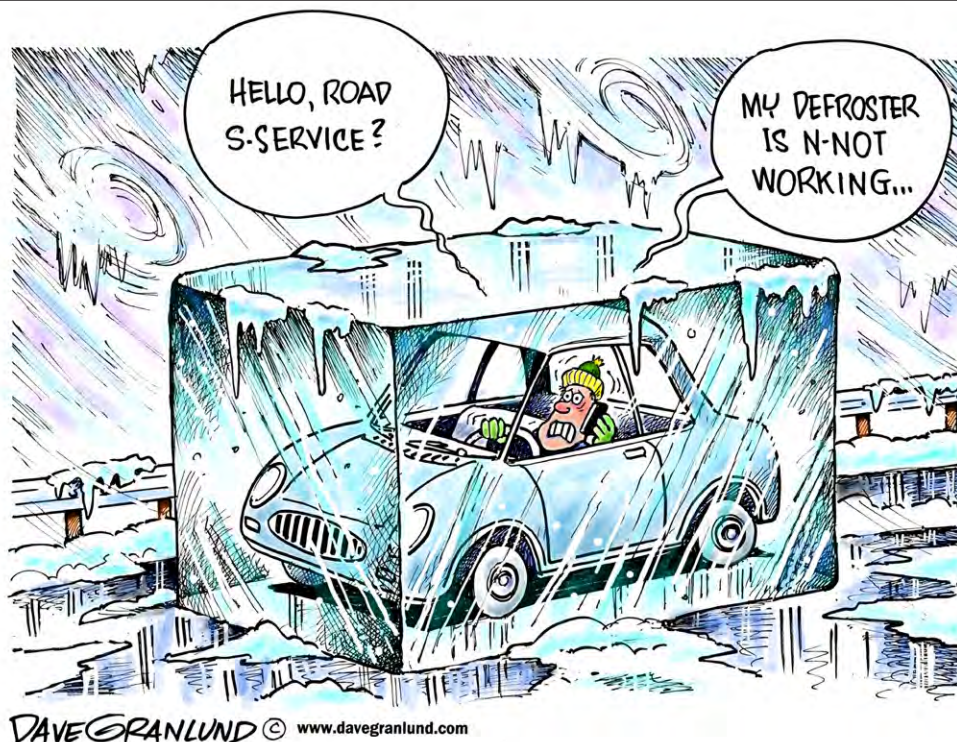
Coffee grounds are high in nitrogen and have lesser, but still respectable amounts of the other two major nutrients, phosphorus and potassium, as well as many of the micronutrients. The nitrogen is "tied up," however, and not readily available to plants.

It must be composted first to make it available. So, I would recommend you either add it to a compost pile or mix it in with other mulches you may be using on top of the soil.

It can be combined with wood chips, grass clippings or chopped leaves to make a great and fertile mulch, that, as it breaks down, will add organic matter to the soil and be a nutritious food for your plants and the earthworms. In fact, folks who vermicompost (keep a worm bin) notice just how much the worms love coffee grounds mixed in with other food waste.

You've encouraged me to get a bit more serious about putting our household coffee grounds to good use!

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. Have a question for her? Email it to pouimette@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.



DAVE GRANLUND © www.davegranlund.com

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 or send it to: Chicopee Register, c/o Turley Publications, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069.

Chicopee Register TEAM



EDITOR
Kristin Rivers
krivers@turley.com



ADVERTISING SALES
Wendy Delcamp
wdelcamp@turley.com



SPORTS EDITOR
Greg Scibelli
sports@turley.com

The Chicopee Register is published every Friday by Turley Publications, Inc., 24 Water St., Palmer, Mass. 01069. Telephone (413) 283-8393, Fax (413) 289-1977.



@ Chicopee Register

WEB

www.chicopeeregister.turley.com

PATRICK H. TURLEY
CEO

KEITH TURLEY
President

DEANNA SLOAT
Graphics Manager



Turley Publications, Inc. cannot assume liability for the loss of photographs or other materials submitted for publication. Materials will not be returned except upon specific request when submitted.



FOR ADVERTISING

413.283.8393
Fax: 413.283.7107
Subscriptions: 413.283.8393

EMAIL

Advertising Sales
Wendy Delcamp
wdelcamp@turley.com

Editor

Kristin Rivers
krivers@turley.com

WEB

www.chicopeeregister.turley.com



@ Chicopee Register

The Chicopee Register is published by Turley Publications, Inc. • www.turley.com

Chicopee Public Library hosts events for Kids and Families

CHICOPEE - Each month the Chicopee Public Library hosts a variety of free programs for children, teens 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 February 2025, including lots of fun programming during February School Vacation Week.

Sensory Play Saturday will be held at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 1. Come let your babies socialize and explore sensory play! We will have our play area set up with some sensory activities and other play opportunities. For babies 0-24 months and their caregivers.

Saturday Playgroup will be held at 1 p.m., on Saturdays, Feb. 1, 8, 15, 22. Come play at the library! The playspace will be open for families with kids of all ages to meet up and play.

Terrific Twos will be on Tuesdays, Feb. 4 and 18 at 10:30 a.m. This program includes a short storytime and a rotating selection of crafts and activities. No registration is required. This program is just for two-year-olds and their caregivers.

On Wednesdays Feb. 5 and 19 at 10:30am in the community room, the library will have a Little Kid Dance Party geared for kids 5 and under and their caregivers. Older kids are welcome, as well, especially during school vacation week. There will be songs, dancing and big movement! This is a new day for this program, which was previously held on Tuesdays.

Read to a Dog on Wednesday, Feb. 5 at

4 p.m. Meet Lina, a two-year-old chocolate lab trained as a pediatric therapy dog. She will be here to listen to kids practice reading. Therapy dogs are good listeners with calm energy and can help kids who struggle with reading aloud. For ages five and up. Space is limited, contact the Children's Room to Sign up.

Build with LEGO on Thursday, Feb. 6 at 4 p.m. Freeform building time with our big pile of LEGO! Recommended for ages six and up, teens welcome!

Stop by for a Kids Room Craft on Tuesday, Feb. 11 at 4 p.m. This month's craft is a heart collage for Valentine's Day. For all ages.

Storytime will be held in the children's program room on Wednesdays Feb. 12 and 26 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.

The library will host a Meet-up for Homeschooling Families on Thursday, Feb. 13 at 11 a.m. Homeschooling families can meet each other and hang out. Chicopee's point person for AHEM (Advocates for Home Education in MA) will be there. This month's activity will be Valentine themed.

Little Movers will be held in the children's program room on Fridays Feb. 14 and 28 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!

Teen Programs

Teen Wayback Wednesday, the program often known as Throwback Thursday, will be on Wednesday, Feb. 5 from 2:30 to 4 p.m. Join us for an afternoon of "kid" programming just for teens. Play with toys, do a craft, and enjoy activities with the giant parachute! Teen programs are open to middle and high school students.

Teen Anime Club will meet on Wednesday, Feb. 26 from 3 to 4:30. This month's theme is Pokémon arts and crafts. Teen programs are open to middle and high school students.

February School Vacation Week Programming

The library will host three ukulele programs with music teacher Julie Stepanek Murray on Tuesday, Feb. 18. Ukulele Storytime for kids ages seven and younger will be at Noon. Kids will learn about the ukulele and hear some songs and stories. Kids ages eight to 12 will learn some ukulele basics at a Kids Ukulele Lesson at 1:30 p.m. Registration is required. Julie brings several ukuleles with her to the program. Kids can also bring their own. There will be a Ukulele Lesson for Teens and Adults at 3:30. Folks who have never played ukulele before are welcome! Registration is required. Ask about ukulele availability when signing up. This program is supported by a grant from the Chicopee Cultural Council, a local agency, which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

Make a Torn Paper Collage on

Wednesday, Feb. 19, at 2 p.m. Rip up some paper and make a collage! All ages welcome, no registration required.

Learn Some Games! on Thursday, Feb. 20 at 2 p.m. Did you know the Kids Room has board games and card games you can play at the library? We want to teach you how to play some of them! Choose between learning SET or Disney Codenames. Geared towards school aged kids and their families.

SET, "The Family Game of Visual Perception®" challenges players to race to find as many SETs as they can! A SET is three cards where each individual feature (color, shape, number and shading) is either all the same OR all different!

In Disney Codenames two clue-masters give one-word clues to help their teammates identify the Disney characters, locations, and items from a grid of cards. The clue-master might say princess, and team members would choose pictures of Moana, Elsa, and Ariel.

Work together in small groups to solve building challenges with different materials at a Buildwave Workshop on Friday, Feb. 21 at Noon. Buildwave's immersive hands-on enrichment programs expand creativity and resilience! If you like building with LEGO, you'll love Buildwave. Learn more about Buildwave at <https://www.buildwave.com/> Geared towards school age kids in grades K-6. Registration is required. Contact the Kids Room to sign up!

For more information about the library and all of the upcoming events, visit www.chicopeepubliclibrary.org

LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST from page 1

their support to services and programs.

"Beyond the budgets, our efforts for this session will also focus on support for legislation defending our right to read and leveling the digital marketplace. Last year, there were two pieces of legislation that were broadly known as the Freedom to Read and Ebook Bills. They made progress in committees but failed to make it to a final vote. But I'm happy to report that these bills have been reintroduced recently for this legislative session," Cherubini said.

Other legislation in the works includes an act regarding free expression to protect school and public librarians by requiring "the adoption of collection development and book challenge policies and protecting library staff from harassment and job loss resulting from the following of those policies" and an act addressing challenges facing public libraries and digital resource collections by implementing state consumer protection laws to inhibit publishers of e-content from overcharging libraries and imposing restrictive licensing.

"As the legislative breakfast session heats up, now's the time to connect with your legislators and your local municipal officials to let them know the importance of this funding and these pieces of legislation," Cherubini said.

Oliveira noted how bipartisan support for local aid for regional libraries passed unanimously as an example of the State Legislature recognizing the importance of public libraries as "centers of democracy," whether it's for community meetings, office hours with legislators or community forums.

"We are proud of the fact that libraries continue to be beacons of democracy and through the legislative agenda that we previewed today, we want to continue to make sure that our public libraries are beacons of democracy," Oliveira said.

Reflecting on the attempts in the last several years to limit the freedom of people to read and get materials, Oliveira said "it's severely troubling to our democracy as a whole."

"Might not know this, but here in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, we're ranked as one of the highest states in the country of attempts to ban books, and many of those books that are being attempted to



Attendees meet with Community Services Librarian Rachel Zarvis to learn about the Chicopee Public Library's BookMobile.

ban that focus in on communities of color and the LGBTQ+ community," Oliveira said. "That is just simply un-American. It is wrong and we need to protect our librarians and empower you to make the decisions about what materials are in our libraries and are in our school libraries."

Jean Canosa Albani, assistant director for Public Services at the Springfield Public Library and board member of the Western Mass Library Advocates, was among the attendees and said, "It's a great way for library workers in neighboring towns and cities to get together" to form partnerships, share books and ideas and expand networks.

Canosa Albani stressed events like this also get information out to the legislators.

"We'd like to think that people know what's available at libraries and how important that funding for libraries and good legislative support is, but there's a lot going on in the world," Canosa Albani said. "So, just being able to share the stories and that the impact of libraries have on residents really helps legislators when they make those important decisions they have to make."

Bovee hopes attendees got a better understanding of what libraries do in their respective communities, adding the library was honored to host the event.

"I hope that people just get a better understanding of what libraries do, the place that we have in our patrons' lives and the things everywhere from programs to materials to computer access," Bovee said. "That knowing that we are here for people is a really important thing to remind us of."



A shot of attendees during the Library Legislative Breakfast at the Chicopee Public Library on Jan. 24.



TURLEY PHOTO BY KRISTIN RIVERS
Chicopee Academy Principal Lori Vaillancourt reflects on the impact of the library and its services.



Jason Reed, executive director of the Boys & Girls Club of Chicopee, shares how the library supports the children who are part of the club.

WE'RE ALL EARS

Questions? Comments? Story Ideas?

Let us know how we're doing.

Your opinion is something we always want to hear.

Contact chicopeeregister@turley.com

Chicopee Register, 24 Water St., Palmer • 413-283-8393

CPD receives grant funding for pedestrian safety

CHICOPEE – On Jan. 7, the police department announced on Facebook they received \$59,790 in grant funding to focus on distracted driving, impaired driving and pedestrian safety.

The police department has partnered with Baystate Medical Center as well as Chicopee TV to produce a Public Service Announcement to discuss pe-

destrian safety and the effects of distracted driving.

“We realize that pedestrian safety and traffic related issues continue to be a hot topic in the city and we are actively working on ways to address some of those issues. Over the next few months officers will be deployed to enforce crosswalk violations, failure to stop for a pedestrian in a crosswalk is a

\$205 fine,” the department said. “As a reminder to operators if a pedestrian is in the crosswalk on your side of the road you are expected to stop for them and allow them to cross. If the pedestrian is crossing from the other side of the road you are required to stop for them once they are four feet from the center line. Stay Alert and Stay Safe.”

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.

For more information, contact Ricardo at 413-314-0863 or cutsbyric@gmail.com.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY AMANDA MUNSON

The Second Annual Church Chili Cook-Off contestants pose in front of their pots and slow-cookers before guests arrive at the First Congregational Church of Chicopee on Jan. 25.

CHILI COOK-OFF from page 1

had Lee Parks with a regular chili and beef chips mixed in with hamburger, Nicole McKinstry with a turkey chili, Gail Boudreau with a creamy white chicken chili, Kay Laudon with chicken and corn chili, Gayle Leroi with a beef and turkey chili, Linda Gauthier with a basic chili, Linda Kaczmariski with a spicy chili, and Bev with a regular chili. With variations of white bean, chicken to a spicy chili, everyone was excited for the taste test and anxiously waited to see who voted for who.

Catching up with Nicole McKinstry from McKinstry Farm, she explained her strategy on how to win this contest and how the Chili Cook-Off came to fruition.

“I am here with a turkey chili and this is our second year doing this, it’s a great fundraiser for our church and it’s something new that we started,” McKinstry said. “Karen is the one that started this fundraiser. The strategy on how to win is you may not have the best chili, but it really depends on how many people you invite and who votes for you. That’s what it comes down to, how many votes

you get for the chili.”

Walking down the chili line contestant line, Boudreau commented on why she picked a white chili.

“I’ve never made this recipe before, it’s something different. I picked a white chili since I thought it would stand out but Kay brought a white chili! My favorite chili is venison, it was incredible!” Boudreau said.

Laudon brought her chicken and corn chili.

“I have to be honest, my wonderful wife made it but I helped out a bit,” Laudon said.

Leroi talked about the chili she made for her and Laudon.

“When I have my chili I like onions, sour cream, cheese and cornbread. With the chicken, there are broken up chips to break it on top! The chilis were easy to do and at work, I do the cooking. I work at the BICC and make chili over there too,” Leroi said.

When asked why they attend an event like this, the other contestants shared this.

“I come here to hang out with the best people. I’ve been here for 10 months now after I lit a candle for someone. Of course, Nicole



Bev shows off the commemorative cup that guests received to taste test all the chili.

told me about the church she goes to and I found myself coming back ever since. We have the best pastor! My chili is basic, I just put it together and added beef,” Gauthier said.

“I’ve been coming here for a little more than a year and a half. I came here for companionship and friendship, this is a wonderful community. I love helping the people here and again, our Pastor Gary is marvelous along with the people here. We do good for the neighbors,” Kaczmariski said.

CITY COUNCIL from page 1

some of these back in 2016--and to this day--they’ve done, not a lot, they implemented six of them--of their requests and ideas--they’re working on some more,” Laflamme said. “Yes, it’s back in 2016, it’s almost 10 years ago, but right now, I don’t think it’s the time to do this.”

Laflamme elaborated on how City Auditor Sharyn Riley is leaving her position and the city got her to stay on year by year for now and there is, also, one person missing in that office.

“Many offices have challenges in the city and to have these people come in and look at our books they’ve already looked at, they didn’t come up with nothing over extrand that we had to change,” Laflamme said. “I just think it’s not the time right now. As it was mentioned, the city’s doing well and good. Is there changes? I’m just going to say this: throughout the whole city, every department is looking as well as us...”

Laflamme added Riley would need to work on training with her staff along with putting people in the office.

“As you all know, the HR Department is a big challenge right now. We have people in there. Well, that’s a domino effect with the auditor’s office, the treasurer’s office and other departments,” Laflamme said. “So, talking with Sharyn, it’s not something that I’m willing to do right now and down the road, absolutely I would look at it.”

Wagner responded, “Not much of that made any sort of

sense to me whatsoever.”

“What all of that said to me--and I appreciate that Sharyn and her office is very overworked--as our most municipal finance officials, we have to adapt and grow as a city and there are things that we need to keep a better eye on,” Wagner said.

After noting the free cash for this fiscal year has not been certified yet, Wagner reiterated his earlier points and said this.

“I don’t think that there’s ever going to be a good time because these people are always going to be busy, no matter what the time of year is,” Wagner said. “It’s just never ever going to be a good time for anyone, but saying that inherently, somehow, we’re not supporting our municipal finance officials by requesting this in as was the implication, I find that just to be a tad strange.”

After Wagner finished his thoughts--including how the council has always supported the city’s municipal finance officials with anything they needed and it’s worth having people “come in and take a look at how things are running”--Laflamme agreed that “There is a time and place to do this,” but the timing, for him, was not right now.

He also wondered if councilors called or spoke with department heads to ask them if the timing was right for them, reiterating his earlier points on staffing.

“You can say all you want that there’s never a right time,” Laflamme said. “There may not be a time right now. In the future, I would vote for it, but unfortunately, the time is not now.”

CLIENT TESTIMONIAL

I wanted to let you know that it has been a pleasure working with you. I couldn't be happier with the experience of you guiding me while I purchased my dream home.

From start to finish, you were professional, knowledgeable, and incredibly attentive to my needs. What stood out the most was your dedication in doing everything you could to get the perfect home for me. You were always available to answer any questions, no matter how big or small. You guided me through every step of the process, from viewing the home to making an offer, and finally, closing the deal.

One of the things I appreciated the most was your ability to make the entire process feel smooth and stress-free. You went above and beyond to ensure everything was handled efficiently and effectively. I always felt like I was top priority, and that level of care made all the difference.

Thanks to you Maureen, I am now in my dream home and I couldn't be more grateful. If anyone is looking for a realtor who is knowledgeable, trustworthy, and truly cares about their needs, I would highly recommend you. You will make their home-buying experience a positive and memorable one, just like you did for me!

- Cheryl S.



GALLAGHER
REAL ESTATE

Maureen McGarrett Hall

REALTOR®

MA 9585138 | Member MLS | Equal Opportunity Housing

maureen.gogallagher.com
413-364-4994
realtybypmaureen@gmail.com



Sports

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

SEND US YOUR SPORTS SUBMISSIONS

www.sports.turley.com

Falcons prevail in dual meet over Chicopee

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

WILBRAHAM—After starting the regular season with several tournaments and dual meets on the road, the Minnechaug wrestling team faced Valley League rival Chicopee High School without having to board a bus for the first time this winter.

The dual meet was tied a couple of times before the Falcons managed to pull away for a 55-24 victory over the Pacers in front of a large crowd inside the Minnechaug Gymnasium, last Wednesday night.

“It was very nice to celebrate a win in front of our fans for the first time this season,” said Minnechaug head coach Taylor Pfaff. “The kids felt the energy that was in the gym tonight. They really needed the extra boost, especially after we’ve been competing on the road during the past couple of months.”

A year ago, the Falcons captured the Division 2 state championship title for the first time in school history. They’re looking to repeat as state champions this year.

“We’ve wrestled against some of the top programs in the state so far this season,” Pfaff added. “We also went to a tournament outside of Albany, New York at the beginning of the season We competed against some of the top New York wrestlers at that tournament. I want my guys to enjoy the regular season, but we’re preparing for the postseason tournaments. That’s

See **WRESTLING** page 8



Jahdiel Aviles locks up at 150 pounds.,

TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI



Jeremiah Delgado is ready to attack.



Nathyn Penn holds the advantage at 175 pounds.



Khalil Verdejo tries to stay on his feet.

Pacers co-op suffers loss to Easthampton

HOLYOKE – It ahs been a struggle for the Chicopee co-op ice hockey team once again. Though the Pacers, which co-op with Granby, South Hadley, Chicopee Comprehensive, and PVCIC, have improved this season, they have one win in their last five games. That win

was Jan. 18 against Montachusett Regional.

The Pacers would tie Southwick 3-3 on Monday, Jan. 20, then suffered a one-goal loss last Friday night at Easthampton.

In the Easthampton loss, Chicopee got goals from Jake

Fournier and Chris Walczak. The Pacers are 3-7-2, but likely need a .500 record to make tournament as they currently rank No. 42 in Division 4 hockey in the state.

Chicopee next faces East Boston at home on Saturday, Feb. 1 at 2 p.m.



Leilanie Andujar readies a shot.



Kiyah Prices goes for a shot.

Colts prevails for second time in rival matchup

CHICOPEE – Last Monday night, Chicopee Comprehensive High School girls basketball defeated rival Chicopee High 47-37. It was the eighth win of the season for the Colts, who need

just one more to qualify for the state tournament. The Pacers are still winless on the season. The Colts are in action against Pope Francis on Wednesday, Feb. 5 at 7 p.m.



Ava DeBettencourt goes for a low pass.



Taryn Carriveau makes a line for the basket.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM



Miley Sanchez looks for an open shot.



Eliza Burger fakes, then makes a pass.

T-Birds fall in shootout against Bruins

SPRINGFIELD — The Springfield Thunderbirds (18-17-2-2) got a combined eight points from their top line but ultimately fell in a shootout by a 4-3 score to the Providence Bruins (23-13-3-1) last Saturday night before a seventh sellout crowd this season at the MassMutual Center.

T-Birds captain Matthew Peca got the capacity crowd energized just 3:48 into the first period, taking a slip pass from Matt Luff in the high slot and wiring a shot over Brandon Bussi's blocker to give Springfield the 1-0 advantage.

Springfield carried over their strong special teams night on Friday by dispatching the Bruins' lone power play of the first period, but the Providence attack kept pressing the issue. Georgii Merkulov evened the slate at 13:35 with a one-touch finish from just outside the blue paint,

beating Vadim Zherenko upstairs to tie the score 1-1.

Neither team generated much offense in the closing minutes of the period, and the tie game carried into period two, with Providence outshooting Springfield 10-6 in the opening 20 minutes.

The Bruins vaulted to their first lead just 1:59 into the second period when Frederic Brunet found a home with a point shot off a faceoff play, making it 2-1. The T-Birds had a golden chance to get back in the game as they went to a 4-on-3 power play shortly after the Brunet tally, but Bussi and the Providence penalty killers held the fort.

Later in the frame, with Providence on a power play, Ian Mitchell rocketed a one-timer past Zherenko, and the visitors' lead grew to 3-1 at 11:04 of the frame.

In desperate need of a spark, Peca and the top line provided one at 15:32 when the captain entered the zone and lifted a shot over the net. Fortunately enough, the puck careened right to the side of the goal, where MacKenzie MacEachern jabbed it through Bussi to bring Springfield back to within a goal, 3-2. With the good fortune, the veteran winger picked up his fifth goal in his last nine games.

On the very next shift, MacEachern and Peca were at it again, with the captain spotting MacEachern behind the net, and the winger blindly throwing a perfect pass in front of the goal to Luff, who mashed it home before Bussi could position himself and, thanks to two goals in just 18 seconds, the game was tied, 3-3, heading into the third.

Springfield kept pressing in the final period, but Bussi and the top defensive

squad in the AHL kept the home side from gaining the advantage. Zherenko was also up to the challenge, stopping five shots in the third, including a dangerous close-in chance for Fabian Lysell in the dying minutes.

3-on-3 overtime proved to be a showcase of the two netminders' skills, as Bussi and Zherenko traded spectacular saves during the frenetic five-minute frame. Each team had four chances to ice the game, but thanks to the goalies, a shootout would be needed.

Merkulov ultimately made the difference, beating Zherenko in the opening round of the skills competition, while Bussi turned away Tanner Dickinson, forced Luff to hit a post, and then stonewalled Dalibor Dvorsky to earn the extra point for Providence.

Worcester's point streak ends in loss at Maine

PORTLAND, Me. — Worcester's eight-game points streak, second-longest in team history, ended here Friday night via a 4-2 loss to the Maine Mariners. The Railers fell behind very early, eventually trailed by 3-0, and were never able to summon the energy to come all the way back.

"I thought they were flat," coach Nick Tuzzolino said. "I thought they were emotionless in the first period. It was not my favorite game with that group."

The defeat was part of a bad standings night for Worcester. Two teams trailing them in the battle for the fourth playoff spot both won. Maine closed to within five points of Worcester and has three games in hand. Reading, suddenly very hot, also won.

The Royals are 5-0-1 in their last six games. They are just one point behind Worcester. Both teams have played 40 games.

Griffin Luce and Jordan Kaplan had the Worcester goals. Luce's was his fifth of the season, extending a career high.

Jacob Hudson, Tristan Thompson, Owen Pederson and Nick Jermain scored for Maine. Hudson made it 1-0 a mere 67 seconds into the game as the Railers got

off to a tentative start.

Once again a Railers game was stagnated by goal reviews. There were two. Both went against Worcester. One was an overturn of a floating shot by Kaplan that went over goalie Maine goalie Ryan Bischel's glove with Griffin Loughran in front in the first period.

Right after that, Thompson scored a power play goal that looked like Michael Bullion was interfered with. That goal held up.

It was a game of hard feelings. There were 23 penalties called good for a combined total of 84 minutes, a season high.

Luce's goal came at 6:07 of the third period. It cut the Maine lead to 3-1 and was scored only 21 seconds after Pederson's goal. Kaplan scored on a pretty wraparound at 14:40 for the game's final goal.

Bischel got the win as he stopped 27. Bullion made 28 saves for Worcester.

Recent Railers games have been overrun with goal reviews and it really takes away from the flow and momentum. Worcester's last eight games have averaged 2 hours, 37 minutes. That is well above standards from past seasons.



Josh Maldonado looks to work his way out of trouble.

WRESTLING from page 7

when we want to be peaking."

Every wrestling team qualifies for the Western Mass. tournament. The top four teams in each division advance to the state tournament.

The Falcons didn't have very much trouble dispatching the Pacers during the past three seasons.

The only dual meet of this season between the two squads was very competitive.

"We do have a lot of new wrestlers this year, and they've come a long way so far this season," said Chicopee head coach Tiana Roy. "We just need to keep improving in every meet."

In the first varsity match of the evening, Mason Howard posted a pin with 1:10 remaining in the first round of the 106 weight class giving the home team a 6-0 lead.

The Pacers tied the score for the first time when Aidan Costa won the 113 weight class by a forfeit.

Chicopee took a six point lead when Nevaeh Santiago, who competed at 120, won his match by disqualification in the final seconds of the first round.

In the 126 weight class, Minnechaug's Jordan Dietz recorded a pin with 11.4 seconds left in the first round tying the score of the overall match for the second time at 12-12.

The Falcons quickly retook the lead when Kai Ly won the 132 weight class by a technical fall with 1:30 remaining in the



Raymond Alvarez attempts the takedown.

second round. Ly, who held a 15-3 advantage after the first round, built a 15 point lead in the second round, which ended the match giving his team five points.

The Falcons added six more points to their lead (23-12) when Ryan Ice posted a pin with 40 seconds left in the first round of the 138 weight class.

Chicopee first pin of the evening was recorded by Michael Jenkins in the middle of the first round in the 144 weight class.

That win sliced the Pacers deficit to 23-18, but they wouldn't get any closer than that the rest of the match.

The Falcons built a 41-18 advantage following three straight pins by Lincoln Stiles (150), Vinh Nguyen (157), and Hunter Gormally (165).

One of the best matches of the evening took place in the 175 weight class.

The score was tied at 6-6 entering the third round before Chicopee's Nathyn Penn pinned his opponent with 59.7 seconds remaining on the scoreboard clock.

At that point, the Pacers still had an opportunity to make a comeback, but the Falcons wound up winning the final three matches.

Just like Ly did, Matt McPhail won the 190 weight class by technical fall in the second round.

Then Ryan Jacobson squeaked out a 12-7 decision over Raymond Alvarez in the 215 weight class.

In the 285 weight class, John Bermudez only needed a minute to record a pin which made the final score 55-24.

Jack Baldwin to take part in modified tour this season

Tommy Baldwin Racing announced Wednesday that Jack Baldwin will pilot the historic 7NY in over 20 Tour-Type Modified events during the 2025 season.

The bulk of the races will come on the SMART Modified Tour - as Baldwin will compete in the full 14-race calendar driving the 7NY. Jack has two SMART Modified Tour starts to his credit, scoring 5th and 8th place finishes in 2024.

Jack will also compete in the Tour-Type Modified events at New Smyrna Speedway's World Series of Asphalt Stock Car Racing from February 10-14, along with end of the season events at Riverhead Raceway (Islip 300) and Wall Stadium Speedway (Turkey Derby). Additional events may be announced at a later date.

Jack is the reigning 602 Modified champion at New Smyrna and has multiple

602 Modified wins. In 2025, he will chase his first career Tour-Type win.

"Jack has run select events the last few years but we're excited to have him a full season in the Tour-Type Modifieds to continue to gain experience and refine his skills behind the wheel," team owner Tommy Baldwin Jr. said. "He will be running against stout competition in every race he runs."

"I'm definitely excited to get the chance to race on the SMART Modified Tour full-time," Jack said. "Watching the series the last few years, you can tell the racing is tight and the competition is unlike anything else when it comes to Modified racing in the south. Driving the 7NY and working with our family team all year will be special. Excited to kick it off with Speedweeks at New Smyrna."



SEND US YOUR SPORTS PHOTOS

Have you taken photos at a local sports event and want to see them published in this paper?

Email your image(s) with description to:

sports@turley.com

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.

SITUATION TABLE from page 3

continues to be proactive in addressing the needs of our community, engaging with our at-risk population, and collaborating with our local stakeholders to keep Chicopee moving forward in a positive manner."

The Situation Table team is hosting a two-day training session for those interested. The training will be February 19th

and 20th from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm at the Chicopee Police Department, 110 Church Street, Chicopee. Registration is required. For more information, please call the Police Department or the Mayor's Office.

Meetings of the Situation Table are planned to start after the training is completed. The table participants will help to identify those in need and begin their work. Sergeant Tom Gazda said, "Together we can save lives."

PUBLIC NOTICES

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampshire Division
Docket No. HS24P0741EA
Estate of:
Bernadine Jeanne Cooper
Date of Death:
September 12, 2024
INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE**

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **William M. Payne of Chicopee, MA**

a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

William M. Payne of Chicopee, MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve **without surety** on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner. 01/31/2025

**NOTICE OF CYBERSECURITY INCIDENT
Chicopee - Massachusetts
- January 31, 2025 -**

Mental Health Association Inc. ("MHA") is writing to inform you of a recent data security incident that may have resulted in unauthorized access to some individuals' personal information. While we are unaware of any fraudulent misuse of personal information at this time, this notice is intended to provide details about the incident, steps we are taking in response, and resources available to help protect against the potential misuse of personal information.

What Happened? On December 2, 2024, MHA discovered that its systems were potentially compromised by an unauthorized actor. Upon discovery of this incident, MHA promptly worked with their Managed Service Provider (MSP) to secure their systems and engaged a specialized third-party cybersecurity firm to conduct a forensic investigation of its network environment to determine the nature and scope of the incident. MHA is still analyzing the results of the forensic investigation; however, out of full transparency, MHA is providing notice about the potential access to sensitive information by an unauthorized actor. MHA is working to identify all the specific individuals

and the type of data that was potentially accessed in order to provide sufficient notice to individuals. MHA will mail formal notice letters to those impacted individuals once they are identified.

What Information Was Involved? The investigation is still ongoing. However, if sensitive information is found to have been potentially compromised, a formal notice letter will be sent to those who have had their sensitive information impacted, and the letter will identify the types of information involved. As of this writing, MHA has not received any reports of related identity theft since the date of the incident (December 2, 2024 to present).

What We Are Doing? MHA is committed to ensuring the privacy and security of all personal information in our care. Since the discovery of the incident, MHA has taken and will continue to take steps to mitigate the risk of future issues. Specifically, MHA has engaged a specialized cybersecurity firm to conduct a forensic investigation to determine the nature and scope of the incident. Also, MHA disconnected all access to our network, restored operations in a safe and secure manner, enhanced our security measures, and took steps and will continue to take steps to mitigate the risk of future harm.

What You Can Do: We encourage you to remain vigilant against incidents of identity theft and fraud, to review your account statements, and to monitor your credit reports for suspicious or unauthorized activity. Additionally, security experts suggest that you contact your financial institution and all major credit bureaus to inform them of such a breach and then take whatever steps are recommended to protect your interests, including the possible placement of a fraud alert on your credit file.

Other Important Information:

We recognize that you may have questions not addressed in this notice. If you have any questions or concerns, please call 888-802-9364 (toll free) Monday through Friday, during the hours of 9 a.m. and 9 p.m. Eastern Standard Time (excluding U.S. national holidays).

MHA sincerely regrets any concern or inconvenience this matter may cause and remains dedicated to ensuring the privacy and security of all information in our control.

Sincerely,
Mental Health Association Inc.
01/31/2025

**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 31, 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.

2014 Jeep Grand Cherokee Laredo
1C4RJFAG2EC237548
Timothy Cosenzi
8 Dalton St.
Wilbraham, MA 01095

2008 Mitsubishi Outlander Es
JA4LT21W78Z019861
Angel Feliciano Domenech
18 Country Club Dr., Apt 22
Manchester, NH 03102

2013 BMW 328XI
WBA3B5G51DNS04012
Jason Morgan
22 Chipmunk Rd., Fl 2nd
Springfield, MA 01108

2009 Honda Civic Hybrid
JHMFA36249S012122
Burhan Maras
28 Franklin St., Apt. B
Ludlow, MA 01056

1999 Toyota Corolla VE/
Ce/LE
2T1BR12EXXC104251
Lillian Claudio
497 E Pleasant St., Apt. 96
Amherst, MA 01002

2017 Freightliner Cascadia
125
3AKJGLDR4HSHZ6594
Camino Freight Inc
21003 66th Ave.
Kent, WA 98032

01/17, 01/24, 01/31/2025

**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 February 7, 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.

2008 Saturn Astra Xe
W08AR671485055828
Alexander Deleon-Llinas
19 Saab Ct., Apt. 807
Springfield, MA 01104

2009 Volkswagen Jetta
3VWRM71K99M153116
Asante Roman
207 Westford Cir.
Springfield, MA 01109

2005 Utility Trailer
2SWUW11A85S018835
Edwin Rogriguez
21 Bernard St.
Chicopee, MA 01020

1998 Jeep Cherokee
1J4FJ68S0WL136212
Lenny Church
15 Ballard St., Apt. 0
Easthampton, MA 01027

1996 Saturn Sw1
1G8ZH8288TZ321134
Richard Holmes
146 Pleasant St.,
Dracut, MA 01826

2017 Hyundai Accent
KMHCT4AE4HU248578
Keonda Lashay Bradley
4015 Scarlitt Ln NW,
Kennesaw, GA 30144

2011 Honda Civic Lx
2HGFA1E56BH02352
Zadrian Correa
38 Beauchamp St.
Springfield, MA 01107

2002 Jeep Grand Cherokee
1J4GX48S82C132796
Kaylin Macneil
226 Beech St., Apt. B
Holyoke, MA 01040

2024 Coleman Bike 196cc
L9NLTNBR4R1814240
Unknown Owner

2003 Infiniti G35
JNKC51E73M005956
Kayla Villanueva
60 S 2nd St., Apt. 6C
New Bedford, MA 02740
01/24, 01/31, 02/07/2025ww

**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 February 14th 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, care and expenses of notices and sale of said vehicles.

2023 HONDA CRF450R
JH2PE073XPK600854
UNKNOWN OWNER

2014 INFINITI Q50
JN1BV7AR7EM680675
TAYNA ANN GARAFALO
902 FRONT ST APT 1
CHICOPEE, MA 01013

2006 ACURA TSX
JH4CL96806C026920
LITZMARA RANGEL-VALENTIN
45 RICKWAY AVE
STRATFORD, CT 06615

2007 HONDA FIT
JHMGD38497S020398
WILLIAM MICHAEL
OCONNOR
126 UNION ST BLDG 11
APT 4
WESTFIELD, MA 01085

2007 PONTIAC VIBE
5Y2SL65877Z413007
TRISTAN M SOYBEL
571 HIGH RD,
KENSINGTON, CT 06037

01/31, 02/07, 02/14/2025

**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. HD25C0026CA**

**In the matter of:
Skye Przystas
CITATION ON PETITION
TO CHANGE NAME**

A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed by Skye Przystas of Chicopee, MA requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:

**Skye Belle Przystas
IMPORTANT NOTICE**

Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: **Hampden Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 02/26/2025.**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.

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

Date: January 24, 2025
Rosemary A Saccomani
Register of Probate
01/31/2025

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street**

**Springfield, MA 01103
Docket No. HD25P0045GD
In the interests of
Javion Justus Rivera
of Chicopee, MA
Minor**

**NOTICE AND ORDER:
Petition for Appointment
of Guardian of a Minor
NOTICE TO ALL
INTERESTED PARTIES**

1. Hearing Date/Time:
A hearing on a Petition for Appointment of Guardian of a Minor filed on **01/10/2025** by **Jorge O Rivera** of Union, NJ will be held **02/12/2025 01:45 PM Guardianship of Minor Hearing**. Located: **Hampden Probate & Family, 50 State St., 4th Floor, Springfield, MA 01103.**

2. Response to Petition:
You may respond by filing a written response to the Petition or by appearing in person at the hearing. If you choose to file a written response, you need to:

File the original with the Court; and

Mail a copy to all interested parties at least five (5) business days before the hearing.

3. Counsel for the Minor: The minor (or an adult on behalf of the minor) has the right to request that counsel be appointed for the minor.

4. Counsel for Parents: If you are a parent of the minor child who is the subject of this proceeding you have a right to be represented by an attorney. If you want an attorney and cannot afford to pay for one and if you give proof that you are indigent, an attorney will be assigned to you. Your request for an attorney should be made immediately by filling out the Application of Appointment of Counsel form. Submit the application form in person or by mail at the court location where your case is going to be heard.

5. Presence of the Minor at Hearing: A minor over age 14 has the right to be present at any hearing, unless the Court finds that it is not in the minor's best interests.

Date: January 13, 2025
Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
01/31/2025

**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. HD25C0027CA**

**In the matter of:
Eliana Shelby Santiago
CITATION ON PETITION
TO CHANGE NAME**

A Petition to Change Name of Adult has been filed

by **Eliana Shelby Santiago of Chicopee, MA** requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:

**Eliana Shelby Colón
IMPORTANT NOTICE**

Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: **Hampden Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 02/21/2025.**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.

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

Date: January 24, 2025
Rosemary A Saccomani
Register of Probate
01/31/2025

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Division
Docket No. HD25P0140EA
Estate of:**

**Timothy Gary Welch
Date of Death:
November 18, 2024
INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE**

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Joanne E Welch of Holyoke, MA.**

Joanne E Welch of Holyoke, MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve **without surety** on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner. 01/31/2025



PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

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

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

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

Classifieds

12 WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS | SERVING 50 LOCAL COMMUNITIES

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

COMMUNITY MARKETPLACE

Call us at 413.283.8393

FOR SALE

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

FOR SALE

SEASONED CORDWOOD
All hardwood. Cut & split to your length \$300 a cord. No delivery charge on two cord orders.
Call or text **413-668-7858**

JUNK REMOVAL

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

SERVICES

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

SERVICES

HOME IMPROVEMENT

HANDYMAN RESIDENTIAL REPAIRS. Powerwashing, home repairs, interior/exterior painting, ceiling/wall repairs and chimney repairs. Fully licensed/insured. Lic. #105950CSL. Call **413-566-5596/413-433-5073**.

SERVICES

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**

FIREWOOD

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**

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

A B Hauling and Removal Service

2***A & B HOUSEHOLD REMOVAL SERVICE*******
Cellars, attics, garages cleaned, yard debris. Barns & sheds demolished. Swimming pools removed. Cheaper than dumpster fees and we do all the work. Lowest rates. Fully insured. **(413)283-6512, cell (413)222-8868**.

ELECTRICIAN

NEED AN ELECTRICIAN?
Look no further!
PJ's Electrical offers fast and reliable electrical services for your home or business.
Call now for a FREE estimate!
(413) 366-1703
LICENSED & INSURED

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

PAINTING

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

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

CLASSIFIED DEADLINES
MONDAY AT NOON

CLASSIFIED DEADLINES
MONDAY AT NOON

CLASSIFIED DEADLINES
MONDAY AT NOON

INSTRUCTION

FADER'S FITNESS
"We can always work something out."
Offering tailored exercise and nutrition services for adults, specializing in active and static exercise. Fully certified in personal training and nutrition and insured in the state of MA. Call **914-708-7849** or send inquiries to **faderci@gmail.com**

ROOFING

JENKINS ROOFING specializing in residential roofs & repairs, chimney repairs. Hampden, MA - **413-566-5596/413-433-5073**. Lic. #105950CSL. Fully insured.

2025 TAX TIME

CHANTEL BLEAU ACCOUNTING SERVICES
For Full Accounting & Tax Service
Registered Tax Return Preparer
228 West St., Ware, MA 01082
413-967-8364
Call For An Appointment
The IRS does not endorse any particular individual tax return preparer. For more information on tax preparers go to irs.gov.

Personal & Small Business Federal & All States

FAST TAX USA TAX PREPARATION SERVICE
413-348-2279
IRS Certified Tax Preparers
Independently owned and operated. Over 25 years experience.
1622 B North Main Street, Palmer, MA 01069
www.FastTax-MA.com
Free E-File & Direct Deposit

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

RUBBISH REMOVAL

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

Call Your Local Turley Publications Sales Representative For Information And Rates On Advertising Your Tax Service Here
CALL 413-283-8393 TO PLACE YOUR AD TODAY!

Find archives of this local newspaper at **www.newspapers.turley.com**

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**.

FILL OUT AND MAIL THIS MONEY MAKER

MAIL TO: Classifieds, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069 DEADLINES: **MONDAY AT NOON**
or call: 413-283-8393

CATEGORY:			
1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20 Base Price \$26.00
21 Base Price \$26.50	22 Base Price \$27.00	23 Base Price \$27.50	24 Base Price \$28.00
25 Base Price \$28.50	26 Base Price \$29.00	27 Base Price \$29.50	28 Base Price \$30.00
29 Base Price \$30.50	30 Base Price \$31.00	31 Base Price \$31.50	32 Base Price \$32.00
33 Base Price \$32.50	34 Base Price \$33.00	35 Base Price \$33.50	36 Base Price \$34.00
37 Base Price \$34.50	38 Base Price \$35.00	39 Base Price \$35.50	40 Base Price \$36.00

Quabbin Village Hills
Circulation: 50,500

Hilltowns
Circulation: 9,800

Suburban Residential
Circulation: 59,000

All Three ZONES for \$26.00 for 20 words plus 50¢ for each additional word.

Name: _____ Phone: _____
Address: _____
Town: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Number of Weeks: _____ X per week rate = \$ _____
Credit Card: MasterCard VISA Discover Cash Check# _____
Card #: _____ Exp. Date _____ CVV _____
Amount of charge: _____ Date: _____

GREAT VALUE!
ALL 3 ZONES NOW FOR THE PRICE OF ONE!

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**

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

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

Post your job openings in our classifieds.
We get results!
Call **413-283-8393**

General Nutrition with the Foodbank of Western Mass

CHICOPEE - The Council on Aging will host a General Nutrition Workshop on Tuesday, Feb. 18 at 10 a.m. at Chicopee Council on Aging's RiverMills Center, 5 West Main St.

The Food Bank of Western Massachusetts will be at RiverMills Center for a general nutrition program and healthy food demonstration. Registration is required.

The Republic of Dance at RiverMills

CHICOPEE - The Council on Aging will host The Republic of Dance on Thursday, Feb. 27 at 2 p.m. at Chicopee Council on Aging's RiverMills Center, 5 West Main St.

Take a tour around the globe by experiencing dances and music from America, Africa, the Celtic Nations, Greece, India, Spain and the Middle East. Each performance is different. This program is performed by The Small Planet Dancers in Westfield, MA.

This program is sponsored by the Chicopee Cultural Council, a local agency sponsored by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency. Registration is required.

Open Swim

CHICOPEE - Open Swim will be hosted at Chicopee High School from Noon to 2 p.m., having kicked off on Jan. 12 and will be running through March 2.

The cost is \$3 for residents and \$5 for non-residents. To learn more, contact the Parks & Recreation Department at 413-594-3481.

Black History: Women's Civil Rights

CHICOPEE - The Council on Aging will offer a Black History Month Program on Tuesday, Feb. 4 at 1:30 p.m. at Chicopee Council on Aging's RiverMills Center, 5 West Main St.

Educator and Author Ayanna Crawford will be at RiverMills Center for a program in honor of Black History Month. This program will take a walk into the lives of black women and their significant contributions to Black History.

Not only will you hear these remarkable stories, you will also hear poems and will be able to write your own. You must register in advance.

Dream Designers

CHICOPEE - Join us for exciting and interactive STEM activities designed to ignite curiosity, creativity and critical thinking in children 2.9 to five years old and their families.

Explore, experiment and discover the wonders of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math through hands-on experiences!

Location: Tuesdays at H.B. Lawrence Elementary School, 156 Cabot St., Holyoke

Thursdays at Szetela Early Childhood School, 66 Macek Dr., Chicopee
Time: 4 to 5 p.m.

Dates:
Tuesdays: Jan. 28 through March 11
Thursdays: Jan. 30 through March 13

Children must attend with an adult. To learn more, call Shane at 413-310-1632.

Gerald LaVerne Paist September 7, 1939 - January 24, 2025

Gerald LaVerne Paist ("Gerry") passed away peacefully at Harrisburg Hospital on January 24, 2025. He was a resident of Country Meadows Mechanicsburg since April 2024.



Born in Williamsport, PA, Gerry was the son of Thomas Holland Paist, Jr. and Ethel Ann (Hubbell) Paist. He grew up in Willow Grove, PA and attended the Upper Moreland School District, where he graduated Valedictorian of the class of 1957.

Gerry was very active in Scouting and attained the rank of Eagle Scout. During his senior year, Gerry was selected to tour Europe with the World Friendship Organization. While there, he visited 18 European countries and received the Queen's Scout Badge, the highest award in English Scouting.

Following high school graduation, Gerry earned a B.S. in Mathematics from Lafayette College and Masters and Doctoral Degrees in Educational Administration from Harvard University.

After teaching Mathematics at Stoneham and Framingham School Districts, Gerry served as Assistant Dean of Westfield University in Massachu-

setts. He then became the Superintendent/Director of Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical High School, where he served for 47 years. Currently he is the longest running School Superintendent in the United States.

Gerry will be remembered lovingly by his sister, Susan Hubbell Whyte

(Howard) of Carlisle, niece, Kimberly Eshbach Barger (Chad) of Mechanicsburg and grand nephews, Alec Barger and Chase Barger. Burial will be private at West Laurel Hill Cemetery in Bala Cynwyd, PA.

The family would like to thank Country Meadows Mechanicsburg and UPMC Harrisburg for the excellent care given to Gerry. Also, the family would like to express their gratitude to Greg Salois, Eric Duda, Jim Jyz, Dan Whaley, Scott Moynihan, Mark Moynihan and Tim Moriarty for their ongoing support and friendship.

Memorial donations can be sent to: Pathfinder Vocational Technical High School, 240 Sykes Street, Palmer, MA 01069.

Services will be private and at the convenience of the family.

Cemetery Memorials + Markers
Granite Benches
Religious Statuary + Outdoor Display

RAY HALUCH INC.

1014 Center St | Ludlow, MA | 583-6508

haluchsmemorials.com

Classifieds

12 WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS | SERVING 50 LOCAL COMMUNITIES

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

Call us at 413.283.8393

HELP WANTED

ACTIVITIES COORDINATOR

Council on Aging for the Town of Oakham is seeking an experienced Activities Coordinator. Miscellaneous duties to include supporting current programs and developing new programs to increase attendance and participation of the growing aging population in the Oakham Senior Center. Up to 12 hours per week (flexible) \$20.00/hr. depending upon experience. Resume should be sent to Admin@Oakham-Ma.gov, or mailed to **Board of Selectmen, Town of Oakham, 2 Coldbrook Road, Oakham, MA 01068.**

COA COORDINATOR for Town of Westhampton. Description available online at www.westhamptonma.gov. Applications accepted until position filled.

HAMPDEN POLICE DEPARTMENT is now accepting applications for a **FULL-TIME police officer.** Review of applications begins immediately. Visit www.hampdenpolice.com for more information. EOE

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR Middlefield, MA.

Part-time, ~960 hrs/yr, \$36-40,000 range. Email resume+ cover letter highlighting strengths/ flexibility to Administrative Assistant: middlefield.assistant@gmail.com

HELP WANTED

TOWN OF BARRE

Cemetery Clerk

The Town of Barre is seeking qualified applicants for the part-time position of Cemetery Clerk. This position is approximately 10 hours per week and the minimum hourly rate is \$15.00/hour and the maximum hourly rate is \$18.02/hour. A full job description is available upon request. Applicants must have HS Diploma or GED, with a minimum of two to three years' experience in office setting, or equivalent combination of education and experience.

Interested applicants should submit a letter of interest to: **Tammy Martin, Town Administrator, 40 West Street, Suite 697, Barre MA 01005** or townadmin@townof-barre.com.

For further information, please contact the Board of Selectmen's Office at (978) 355-2504 x135. A.A. / E.O.E.

WILBRAHAM UNITED CHURCH is hiring a sexton three evenings, 7-10 hours per week, \$16 per hour. Additional compensation for hours needed for weddings and funerals.

Please send resume to admin@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org

More information found at www.wilbrahamunitedchurch.org/about-us-2/

REAL ESTATE

FOR RENT

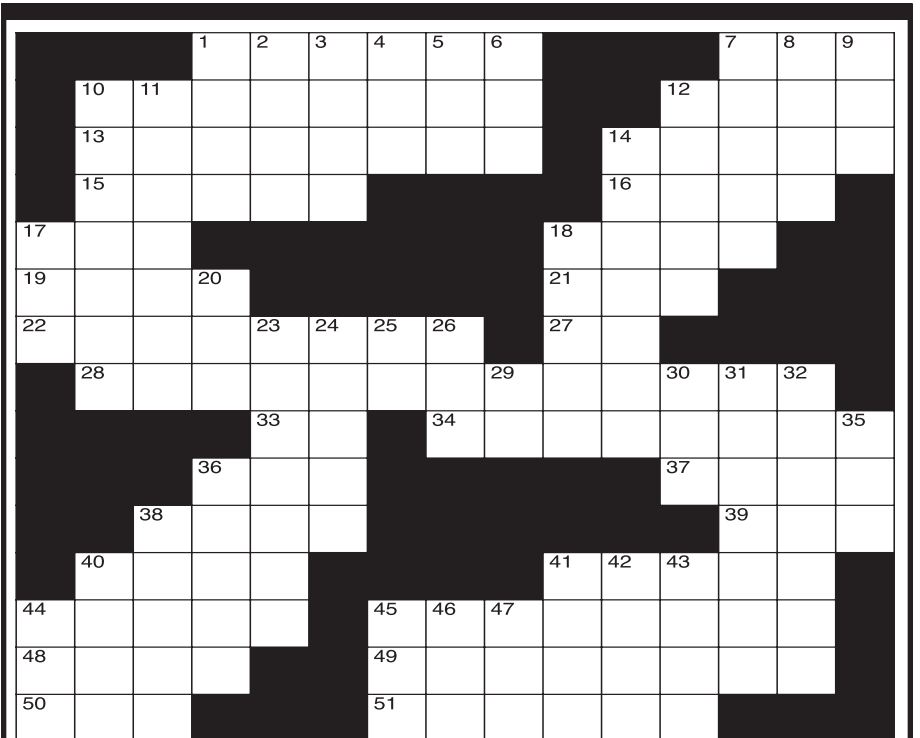


EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

ALL REAL ESTATE advertise 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.

BRIGHT SPACIOUS 2 BED ROOM IN INDIAN ORCHARD 3RD FLOOR. \$1,100. LARGE KITCHEN-LIVING ROOM COMBO. ELECTRIC HEAT. NO SMOKING. NO PETS GOOD CREDIT. **413-543-3062**

GREEN STREET, PALMER Newly renovated 1 bedroom apt. porch off-street parking, coin-op laundry \$1,500/ mo includes heat. No Pets Call Tom **413-896-1555**



CLUES ACROSS

1. Where entertainers perform
7. Miller beer variety
10. Ageless
12. River in SE Europe
13. Able to be repaired
14. Type of wrap
15. Atomic #54
16. Type of tent
17. U.S. Treasury position
18. Opposed to
19. Protective covering
21. Bridge building degree
22. Clouding of the lens
27. Priestess of Hera loved by Zeus
28. Unacceptable
33. Mr. T's "The A-Team" character
34. American national

park

36. One point south of due east
37. Assist in a crime
38. Greek mythological personification of Earth
39. A major division of geological time
40. German courtesy title
41. English family dating back to Norman times
44. Discounts
45. South American nation
48. Former Milwaukee Buck Michael
49. Hostile
50. Passports and drivers licenses are two
51. Discourages from doing

CLUES DOWN

1. Supreme god of ancient Egyptians
2. Nevada city
3. Energy, style and enthusiasm
4. Bird's beak
5. Language
6. Midway between south and southeast
7. Punjab village
8. Small biting flies
9. Sportscaster Patrick
10. A way to get around
11. Repeat
12. A way to cook with fat
14. Temporary loss of consciousness
17. Reciprocal of a sine
18. Fir tree genus
20. "Transformers"

director Michael

23. Criminals who steal
24. Genus of leaf-footed bug
25. Music product
26. "Talk to you"
29. Santa says it three times
30. Doctors' group
31. African nation
32. Ageless
35. When you hope to get somewhere
36. Worn
38. Deprives of vigor
40. Used to have (Scottish)
41. Where you live
42. Muslim ruler title
43. Basics
44. Type of drug (abbr.)
45. Spanish soldier
46. It precedes two
47. Illuminated

Chicopee Parade Committee to Honor 2025 President and VIP's

CHICOPEE - The St. Patrick's Parade Committee of Chicopee is hosting its annual President's Dinner at the Portuguese American Club, 149 Exchange Street, Chicopee on Saturday, Feb. 1, beginning at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$50 each and are available from any committee member, or by contacting Aly Sliwa at 413-348-3053 or Meghan Balakier at 413-335-9769. Tickets must be purchased in advance.

The following individuals and one business will be honored:

Kathy Sliwa, 2025 President, who is responsible for leading the activities of the committee throughout the season and on the upcoming parade day.

Sliwa has been an active committee member for nearly 20 years, serving on numerous subcommittees including the 60th and 70th Anniversary, Nominating, Membership and By-Laws. She has co-chaired the Board of Directors, served as Treasurer for 3 years, and most recently, Vice President. She was the 2023 recipient of the Woods Award, given for long term exemplary service.

Sliwa received degrees from Hartwick College (Bachelors) and Elms College (Masters). She has been employed as a senior financial analyst at Health New England for 18 years. In 2016 she was a participant in the Leadership Pioneer Valley program.

Sliwa was born in California and was raised in Enfield, CT. She married Dan Sliwa in 1993, and they now reside in Chicopee. They are the parents of Alyson (also a committee member and current Vice President) and Christopher.

Parade Marshal, Billy Stetson. He will lead the entire Chicopee contingent through the streets of Holyoke in the parade on March 23.

A well-known member of the business community and Chicopee native, Stetson has owned and operated the Rumbleseat Bar and Grille for 23 years, where his community activities include fundraising for sports teams and other charitable causes. His Annual Golf Tournament has raised over



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Left to Right: George A. Balakier, Billy Stetson, Kathy Sliwa, Kevin Culloo, and Brady Procon.

\$100,000 for current or former Chicopee residents and families. He has been a member of many different nonprofit committees and organizations, and is currently serving on the Boys and Girls Club Teen Center building committee.

Stetson is familiar with the activities of the St. Patrick's Committee of Chicopee. He was a past member and served as its president in 2014. Still, he was surprised when President Sliwa called to tell him he was selected as the 2025 Marshal. "(It) is an honor that really hasn't hit me yet and probably won't until parade day; I thought my marching days were over!" he reflected recently. "I am so looking forward to marching again with my family - my kids (Sophie and Adam) were very young the last time we marched so this time will be a different perspective for them, and of course for my wife Urszula who is the real marshal in my life. They are all excited to be a part of it!"

George A. Balakier, Woods Award Recipient. This award recognizes a committee member for long-time, exemplary service.

A life-long city resident, Balakier has been an active member of the St. Patrick's Parade Committee of Chicopee since 2009. He has served in a

number of leadership positions during his tenure, including the following: Co-Hosting the Colleen Ball, Fundraising Committee, Board of Directors, Colleen Event Chauffeur, Mayoral Political Liaison, and Scholarship Chair.

After graduating from Boston College, Balakier worked in the family business, Balakier's Clothing Department Store. Later he entered a new career path for the next 35 years, eventually becoming a Supervisory Bank Examiner with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Division of Banks. He retired in 2019 after a distinguished banking career.

Balakier has been passionately and actively involved in local politics. He has been a member of the Chicopee Democratic City Committee for over 20 years, working on local, state, and federal campaigns for many candidates. In 2013, he received the "Chicopee Democrat of the Year Award." He was elected as Ward Four Chicopee City Councilor in 2017, where he currently serves.

Balakier is married to Kathleen (Ryan), 2017 Chicopee Parade Marshal, and they have a daughter, Meghan, who was the 2024 Chicopee Parade Committee President and 2008 Colleen Court Member. He enjoys traveling the world with his family, reading, spending time

at the beach, and is especially looking forward to marching with them in the upcoming St. Patrick's Parade.

Corridan Funeral Home, Atkinson Award Recipient. This award recognizes a person or organization in the community that has supported the committee, but is not an active member. **Accepting the award will be owner and director, Kevin P. Culloo.**

This local business has had a long association with the Chicopee Parade Committee. It was established in 1951 when Donald J. and Madeline Corridan purchased the Haggerty Funeral Home at 333 Springfield St., Chicopee. For many years they demonstrated a deep devotion to the City of Chicopee and its citizens, being active members in organizations such as the Knights of Columbus, The Elks, and the Chicopee Savings Bank Board of Trustees. In 1975, their son, Barry Corridan, joined his father in the family business, followed in 2017 by his nephew, Kevin P. Culloo, grandson of Donald and Madeline Corridan. Throughout the years, they continued to carry on the values and traditions of service to others through partnership with many local organizations, including the Chicopee Parade Committee.

Culloo is the current owner and director of the Corridan

Funeral Home. A native of Chicopee, he is the son of Kathy and the late Patrick Culloo. He received his funeral director's license after graduating from the former Lincoln College of New England, in Southington, CT. He is a graduate of Chicopee High School and also holds a Bachelor's Degree in Communications from Marist College in Poughkeepsie, NY.

Culloo lives in Chicopee with his wife, Jessica and their children, Norah, Gabriel, Bridget and, most importantly, his dog Ava. Through the Corridan Funeral Home, he carries on the family's tradition of service to the citizens of Chicopee and surrounding communities that his grandparents and his uncle established. He will proudly accept the Atkinson Award on behalf of the family business, and looks forward to representing them on parade day.

Brady Procon, Meara Award Recipient. This award is presented to an individual who has performed heroically to come to the aid of others.

In July 2024, the then 17-year old Procon intervened to prevent a tragic accident on Lake Winnepesaukee, NH, by jumping from a jetski onto a rogue boat to stop it from spinning uncontrollably after its captain was knocked off during a sailing lesson.

A native of Ludlow, Massachusetts, Procon is preparing to serve as a Navy Sailor specializing in Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD). In the coming weeks, he will begin his rigorous training at Navy Boot Camp in Chicago, taking the first steps toward a challenging and rewarding career in one of the Navy's special forces. Outside of his military aspirations, Procon enjoys playing guitar, piano, working at Interstate Towing in Chicopee, and spending time with family and friends.

The President's Dinner is the first event in 2025. Other upcoming events and fundraisers to which the public is invited will be posted on the group's website at www.chicopeesp.com or on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/chicopeesp/>. Applications for the 2025 Colleen Contest are also available on the website.

LOWER PRICES TO BOOST YOUR BUDGET!

INFLATION

PRICE BUSTERS

PRICES IN RED ARE AT OR BELOW LAST YEAR'S PRICES!

<p>USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS CENTER CUT PORK LOIN CHOPS or ROAST \$2.91 lb</p> <p>USDA INSP. SMOKED SHOULDER PICNIC..... \$1.99 lb</p> <p>USDA INSP. FRESH PORK SIRLOIN CUTLETS \$1.99 lb</p> <p>SLICED IN OUR DELI GENOA SALAMI..... \$4.44 lb</p> <p>SLICED IN OUR DELI PROVOLONE CHEESE..... \$4.99 lb</p> <p>SOUP'S ON!</p> <p>USDA INSP. FROZEN BEEF OXTAILS \$9.99 lb</p> <p>USDA INSP. FRESH SOUP CHICKEN (FOWL) ... \$1.49 lb</p>	<p>USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF RIB EYE \$9.77 lb CUT FREE WHOLE OR HALF</p> <p>USDA INSP. FRESH BONE-IN BEEF SHORT RIBS \$7.99 lb</p> <p>USDA INSP. GROUND FRESH DAILY DIET LEAN GROUND BEEF \$4.99 5 LB BAG</p>	<p>USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF SIRLOIN SPOON ROAST \$6.49 lb</p> <p>USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS & SKINLESS CHICKEN BREAST 10 LB BAG..... \$1.91 lb</p> <p>USDA INSP. FROZEN CHICKEN DRUMSTICKS TRAY PAK 49c lb</p> <p>USDA INSP. FROZEN CODINO'S MANICOTTI WITH RICOTTA 40 OZ \$4.99 ea</p> <p>USDA INSP. IQF FROZEN MAHI MAHI FISH FILLETS..... \$4.99 lb</p>
---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

90 Meat Outlet

HOURS: Mon. - Wed. 8-4
Thurs. 8-6 • Fri. 8-6 • Sat. 8-3

90 Avocado St. Springfield
413-737-1288
www.90meat.com

We reserve the right to limit quantities.

	A	R	E	N	A	S			M	G	D				
T	I	M	E	L	E	S	S		S	A	N	A			
A	T	O	N	A	B	L	E		S	A	R	A	N		
X	E	N	O	N					Y	U	R	T			
C	I	R						A	N	T	I				
S	C	A	B					B	C	E					
C	A	T	A	R	A	C	T	I	O						
B	E	Y	O	N	D	T	H	E	P	A	L	E			
				B	A		Y	O	S	E	M	I	T	E	
				E	B	S				A	B	E	T		
				G	A	E	A					E	R	A	
				H	E	R	R			H	E	A	R	N	
S	A	L	E	S				C	O	L	O	M	B	I	A
R	E	D	D					I	N	I	M	I	C	A	L
I	D	S						D	E	T	E	R	S		

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.