

Chicopee Register

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

May 10, 2024 | Vol. 26, No. 4 | FREE

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COMMUNITY



TURLEY PHOTOS BY KRISTIN RIVERS

A group photo comprised of state legislators, Chicopee Comprehensive High School staff, members of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and members of ChicopeeFRESH during the state legislators' tour of Chicopee Comprehensive High School's Farm to School program.

State Legislators tour CCHS Farm to School program

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
krivers@turley.com

CHICOPEE - State legislators visited Chicopee Comprehensive High School on May 2 to tour the high school's Farm to School program.

The tour included stops in the cafeteria, the greenhouse and the high school's compost machine to learn how the high school provides fresh, healthy and locally grown food to its students.

The Massachusetts Farm-to-School program is an initiative to help food service directors, farmers, parents, teachers, and distributors increase local farm produce served in the state's schools.

After Melanie Wilk, director of food service at Chicopee Public Schools, welcomed the legislators, Bri Jackson, farm-to-school coordinator for ChicopeeFRESH, stressed the importance of the program, especially in the Western Massachusetts area.

"It's important to know that

there's a huge presence with this stuff and we really care about it out here. A lot of the farms are located out here. There's tons of farmland," Jackson said. "One thing that ChicopeeFRESH does really well is we order a lot of local food, we network with local producers. We have our own driver that goes out to different farms and either picks stuff up or brings it to all of the schools."

Jackson explained they are looking for funding from the Mass-

Please see **SCHOOL**, page 5

'Stars Shine Tonight' at RiverMills



John Arthur, co-president of the Rotary Club of Chicopee, sings into the microphone as Amanda Meli as Dolly Parton smiles for the camera during the "Stars Shine Tonight" concert at the RiverMills Senior Center.

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
krivers@turley.com

CHICOPEE - The senior center was a packed house on May 3 for the "Stars Shine Tonight" concert, an extravaganza filled with nostalgia and rousing entertainment.

The evening show was presented by the senior center and the Friends of RiverMills Center.

The performers for the show were Amanda Meli as Dolly Parton, Lisa Carter as Cher, Charlie Lask as Neil Diamond and Robert Black as Elvis.

Throughout the evening, the performers entertained the crowd with many covers of classic songs, while attendees enjoyed snacks and a cash bar, singing along to favorites as the performers left the stage at varying points and walked through the crowd to interact with them.

At some points, attendees got to put on wigs and perform as backup dancers with Carter's Cher during "The Shoop Shoop Song (It's in His Kiss)" and get out on the dance floor as Black's Elvis and Lask's Neil Diamond

Please see **STARS**, page 16

Chicopee officials reject increasing local control for school budget

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
krivers@turley.com

CHICOPEE - Officials rejected a proposal to increase local control for the annual school budget on May 6.

The order would have had the City Council and the city adopt Chapter 329 of the Acts of 1987.

Michael Pise, the chief of staff for Mayor John Vieau, explained he did legislative research to learn more information about the act, sharing his findings with the committee.

"I can tell you back in 1985 when that reform was passed, there was a lot of contention between the executive branch and the School Committee. A lot of times, the mayor would say

the reason why police and fire weren't getting raises (was) because the school salaries were increasing and the school budget was going up," Pise said. "And the school budget was how we were saying we never have enough funds to do our programs because the mayor's not appropriating the money because he's funding other cityside projects."

Pise said the contention back in 1985 led to the reform in 1987 being passed, leading to net school spending.

He added how other communities put in the mayor as chairman of the School Committee to try and resolve conflict and disagreements between the different branches.

"So, by making the mayor responsible for the School Committee and the budget, I think



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE MAYOR'S OFFICE AND THE PANDA DRONE

that resolved all the issues in Chicopee. We really haven't had a lot of problems since then that I know of that I would view as a problem," Pise said.

Councilor-at-Large Tim Wagner, who presented the proposal, explained how there were

times a budget was proposed "substantially less than what the School Committee asked for," citing the city of Greenfield as an example of this action.

Wagner thought the act would be "a good tool" for the City Council to have "to be able

to have a little bit more financial control within the City of Chicopee rather than just voting up or down whatever the mayor puts in front of us."

"I just thought it could be an interesting tool for the City Council to use if we ever deemed it necessary. Although there's no pressing matter that would require it at this time," Wagner said. "Just having additional tools in our belt, I think, could be a good idea."

Ward 5 Councilor Frederick Krampits reviewed the act and said, "It is an interesting tool, but I can see the potential problems with that."

Krampits shared how the City Council can either pass, deny or reduce the School Committee budget, but "you can't re-

Please see **BUDGET**, page 15

Mars pleads guilty to involuntary manslaughter

In 1966 West Springfield homicide of Betty Lou Zukowski

SPRINGFIELD - Donald Mars, 75, of Bedford, Ma, plead guilty at a change of plea hearing to a charge of manslaughter after being indicted in November 2022 by a Hampden County Grand Jury for his involvement in the 1966 homicide of Betty Lou Zukowski.

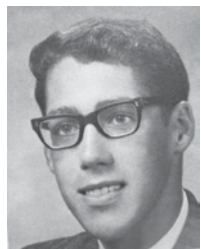


Donald Mars

Hampden District Attorney Anthony Gulluni stated, "Sadly, Betty Lou's parents are deceased, and are not able to see Donald Mars answer for the brutality he inflicted upon their daughter. While neither solving this case nor any punishment of the perpetrator will give Betty Lou a chance to live the life that she deserved, I hope today represents a significant step for her family in their mourning and how they are able to memorialize her, so many years later."



1966 Suspect Composite Sketch



Mars H.S. Year Book

District Attorney Gulluni went on to say, "I would like to thank the Massachusetts State

Police and, specifically, Colonel Jack Mawn, for his dedication to these cases and his leadership that prioritizes service to victims and the betterment of our communities. I also thank the West Springfield Police Department, especially, Chief Paul Connor, who never forgot about Betty Lou and her family, and never gave up on justice. Paul persisted and passionately pushed for a focus on this case, with the belief that Betty Lou's killer could be brought to justice. Further, I would like to highlight the intensive investigative efforts in 1997 of the late Captain Daniel Murray, retired Sgt. Paul Finnie, and Detective Thomas Caney of the West Springfield Police Department, whose diligence and commitment to Betty Lou developed strong evidence that allowed this case to be brought forward today by more recent investigators in the last couple years; Assistant District Attorney Beth Farris, Massachusetts State Police Detective Thomas Sullivan, and West Springfield Sergeant Tom Svec.

Almost 58 years ago, on Thursday, May 26, 1966, Betty Lou Zukowski left her family's home on Front Street in Chicopee around 6:00 p.m. after receiving a phone call that she told her mother was from one of her girlfriends. That was the last time her family saw her. Later that evening, Stanley and Mildred Zukowski reported their 10-year-old daughter, Betty Lou Zukowski, missing to the Chicopee Police Department after she failed to return home.

This resulted in the Chicopee Police Department issuing an "All-States Alarm" in their attempt to locate her. Tragically, four days later on Memorial Day, May 30, 1966, Betty Lou's beaten and mud covered 4' 7",

75 pound body was found just off shore by young boys fishing in the Westfield River in West Springfield. The section of the Westfield River where she was found, near the intersection of Westfield and Dewey Streets, runs next to Robinson State Park.

The cause of death was determined by the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner to be multiple blunt force injuries to her head, a skull fracture, and terminal drowning. Upon the discovery of Betty Lou's remains, a joint homicide investigation led by the West Springfield Police Department and assisted by the Chicopee Police Department commenced. Both departments initially assigned their entire detective bureaus to the case. In addition, both the Hampden County District Attorney's Office and the Massachusetts State Police assisted as well.

The case remained unsolved over the ensuing five decades, despite the initial joint investigation conducted in 1966 and a renewed investigation by the West Springfield Police Department in 1994 through 2001, primarily led by then-Captain Daniel Murray with the assistance of then Sergeant Paul Finnie.

In June 2021, the Hampden District Attorney's office's Unsolved Homicide Unit, led by Assistant District Attorney Beth Dunphy-Farris and Trooper Thomas Sullivan, along with Sergeant Thomas Svec of the West Springfield Police Department's Detective Bureau, actively resumed the investigation into the death of Betty Lou Zukowski.

In 1966 media reports describe an intensive search along the shore where Betty Lou's body was found, as well as divers searching the river for any clues. Detectives interviewed



Betty Lou Zukowski

family, friends, and classmates to determine who Betty Lou may have met up with at the time of her disappearance. Investigators believed Betty Lou knew the person who killed her, otherwise she would never have left her home after receiving the phone call on Thursday night. They theorized she met up with this person and ended up in West Springfield after riding in a vehicle operated by someone she knew.

Approximately a week after her remains were found, police developed a composite sketch from two witnesses, one of whom was thought to be the last person to have seen Betty Lou alive in the mid-evening hours of May 26, 1966. He also confirmed the suspect as having worn a "college-type" ring with a blue stone. The sketch was released and was highly publicized in local newspapers at the time. The release of the sketch led to investigative tips, but none led to the identity of her assailant. From there the case went cold.

Since re-igniting the case, Trooper Sullivan and Sergeant Thomas Svec reviewed all witness statements and, where possible, re-interviewed individuals who gave statements at the time. Most notably, investigators re-interviewed several key witnesses; one thought to have been the last person to see Betty Lou alive, the defendant's ex-wife, and Donald Mars's mother.

The current investigation realized that in November 1997, investigators of the West Springfield Police Department received information from multiple sources that linked Donald Mars to Betty Lou's killing. Although several witnesses were interviewed, their investigation did not lead to the arrest of a suspect.

In 1997, detectives of the West Springfield Police Department showed a witness approximately thirty yearbook photographs that had been copied from the 1967 edition of the Chicopee Comprehensive High School yearbook. The photographs included a picture of the Defendant, Donald Mars. The witness selected two photographs that reminded him of the individual last seen with Betty Lou. One of the two photographs selected was the Defendant's senior yearbook photograph.

When speaking with investigators, Ms. Marilyn Mars, the Defendant's mother, then aged 95, relayed that the defendant, her son Donald, admitted to her years ago that he had thrown a

Please see **MARS**, page 15

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School Comm. receives latest information on absenteeism rates, MCAS data

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
krivers@turley.com

CHICOPEE - The School Committee received the latest information on absenteeism rates and MCAS data during their May 1 meeting.

Jennifer Bellville, assistant superintendent for instruction and accountability, explained attendance rates have been the district's biggest focus this year, with only 90% of students attending in the last five years.

Last year, Bellville said 33.7% of students were chronically absent 18 or more days out of the school year.

"So, if students aren't here, we can't teach them," Bellville said. "So, we need to get them in our doors first so we can address their learning and their learning needs."

Bellville explained there's been a push to address this including family and community engagement officers, principals making phone calls, incentives and more.

"If you notice the absenteeism rate for 2022-2023 and 2023-2024, you'll notice a decrease in many of those of numbers by 10%. That's huge," Bellville said. "Our students are coming more and we want to continue to push that because our absenteeism is still high and it's something that we want to continue to address. But we are getting them here more frequently."

For MCAS scores, Bellville explained for grades three through eight, 29% of students are meeting or exceeding expectations.

tations.

"That's an alarming number and we're lower than the state average," Bellville said.

For grade 10, Bellville reminded the committee that passing the MCAS is a graduation requirement for high school and there is help available.

"We do provide opportunities for our students who do not meet expectations in grades 11 and 12 to retake the MCAS as well as to have an educational proficiency plan," Bellville said. "So, we do everything we can to make sure that they meet this requirement for the state so that they are able to receive their diploma."

After reviewing the curriculums for each grade level, Bellville shared additional data for grades three through eight.

"As you see, mathematics is no different than English Language Arts. Only 26% of our students are meeting or exceeding expectations against state standards," Bellville said.

Bellville stressed the MCAS data is "a snapshot in time" and "can tell us a lot about the curriculum we use, the implementation of the curriculum we use," but "it's not live data that we can make significant impact on for students."

"We use our benchmark assessments for that. So, our benchmark assessments that are done multiple times during the year," Bellville said.

For last year's MCAS, Bellville said on accountability, 8 schools made substantial progress towards targets, four schools made moderate progress and one school made significant progress.

"So, though I know that data is not what any of us in this room want it to be as far as our students meeting or exceeding state standards, we're making progress. There was movement," Bellville said.

When Ward 7 School Committee member Donald Lamothe asked if the data is broken down to review subgroups, which focuses on students with disabilities and English Language Learners, Bellville responded yes.

"None of those populations are larger than three percent in meeting or exceeding expectations. All of them are partially meeting or not meeting expectations. They are significantly behind and it needs to be a huge area of focus for us," Bellville said.

Lamothe next asked about demographics and if they match up.

"If you're a high-needs person in Bowie, do you match up to the high-needs person in Bowe?" Lamothe said.

Bellville said yes.

"It's across the entire district that those populations are struggling. It does not matter which elementary school you're in or which middle school or which high school," Bellville said.

Lamothe elaborated on his thoughts.

"Just looking at the raw data, I look at it, like Stefanik, and I know that's a high needs population, but they seem to be doing better than the other schools," Lamothe said. "That's why I was curious."

Bellville replied, "There are pockets of movement," but "our subgroups are stagnant."

Ward 3 School Committee member Jason Dout expressed praise on the absenteeism decrease, noting every single school in the district the attendance rates have gone up from the previous year.

"We're doing something right where the kids are coming and we're giving kids a reason to come and, whatever we're doing, we're trending in the right direction and, so, I don't think we can stress that enough," Dout said. "Every single school is making these improvements with getting the kids there and that's step one to addressing all these other concerns."

Ward 1 School Committee member Deanna Rousseau sought more information on the word "target" in relation to accountability data.

"This is all really great data, so I just want to make sure I'm understanding how the targets are established. I think, on the same page, you had mentioned that the MCAS data is not live data," Rousseau said. "So, I just wanted to make sure that there is multi-factors incorporated in the word 'target' or who's setting that."

Bellville replied how the state sets a target every year for improvement.

"What happens is, is that the

state looks at where you are and says, 'We want you to improve. So, this is your target for next year.' They know we're not going to suddenly turn around everybody and make them meeting expectations next year," Bellville said. "It's about making sure our projectory is up, so we make to make sure we're moving it in forward movement up that hill and, so, it's that target that the state set that we made significant progress on. So, right now, the state is setting our new targets for this year of what we'll be tested on and they'll let us know the progress towards those targets when the results are given to us in September."

After Rousseau asked if the calculation is just MCAS data or multiple factors, Bellville said it's many factors including achievement and growth.

"So, there's a lot that goes into that formula across the board, but when they calculate what our growth is, they look at it and say that they use the same formula to calculate where we are next year," Bellville said.



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GUEST COLUMN



Can I claim Social Security and still work?

Dear Rusty

I will be turning 63 soon. Can I apply for Social Security and continue to work?

Would I be limited to how many hours or how much I could make? I know my monthly SS amount would be cut by 30% or somewhere around there, but how would working affect me? I was trying to read up on this, but the \$1 and \$2 thing confused me. I have an offer to take a work-at-home position and need to decide soon, but it is a cut in income. The cut would be okay if I could draw my Social Security too.

Signed: Wanting Work at Home

Dear Wanting

If you claim your Social Security to start in the month you turn 63, you'll be claiming 4 years before your Full Retirement Age of 67, which means your monthly benefit at 63 will be about 25% less than it would be if you claimed SS at age 67. And if you are working before your FRA, you'll be subject to Social Security's "earnings test."

The 2024 earnings limit for those collecting early Social Security benefits is \$22,320 (this limit changes annually). If your annual earnings exceed the limit, Social Security will assess a penalty of \$1 for every \$2 you are over the limit. They will recover that penalty amount by withholding future benefits until they recover what you owe.

If your work earnings are under the annual limit, you will get all your monthly SS benefits. But if you exceed the limit, they will find that out after you submit your income tax return (the following year) and issue you an overpayment notice, telling you how much you owe for exceeding the limit last year.

They will then withhold your benefits until they get back what you owe or you can repay them in a lump sum. To avoid the overpayment notice, it is best to inform Social Security in advance that you will exceed the annual earnings limit and they will simply withhold your monthly SS benefits during the year for enough months to avoid overpaying you.

So, what you should do depends largely on how much your earnings from your new work-at-home position will be. If your earnings are below the annual limit, no penalty will be assessed. If you only exceed the annual limit by a little bit, then you can still work and earn and simply repay them what is owed for exceeding the limit or have your SS benefit temporarily withheld.

If you only exceed the earnings limit by a little, you'll still get benefits for most months of the year. But if you significantly exceed the annual earnings limit, you could even be ineligible to receive SS benefits until you either earn less or reach your full retirement age, the earnings limit goes away at your FRA.

So, what you should do depends on what "a cut in income" means in terms of your expected annual earnings amount. If your total annual earnings will be under the annual limit, your SS benefit won't be affected. If you only exceed the limit by a little bit, then you will get SS benefits for most months of the year. But if your annual earnings are significantly over each year's annual earnings limit,

Please see **SOCIAL SECURITY**, page 6

GUEST COLUMN

Great blue heron on nest

Last week, I finally saw a great blue heron on a nest located in a dead tree on the beaver pond, which abuts my hayfield. It built the nest two years ago and this year will be its third season on the well built stick nest. At first, I saw it perched on a branch near the nest. For the last few days, it has been in the nest.

The great blue heron is 50 inches tall and is the largest and most widespread heron. The body is grayish-blue, has a white head and a black stripe over the eye. The immature heron is similar the the adult except its head has a solid black cap, which turns to white after two years. There is also a rare white morph of this heron, but it is limited to Southern Florida. Its legs and bill are orange yellow rather than dark like the more common dark morph.

Fortunately, I can see the bird in the nest from the road so I do not disturb it when I watch it. I hope it is successful in rearing its young. It takes 28 days to incubate the eggs and 55 days for them to fledge. The female lays three to seven eggs in a large, platform nest of sticks lined with finer twigs and vegetation. The nest is placed in a tree 30 to 70 feet above ground. Herons raise their young in either small colonies in isolated areas or singly like this pair.

Great blue herons feed in shallow water by standing or walking slowly, then grabbing mall fish, frogs, birds and aquatic insect with its bill. They can feed in deeper water by plunging or swimming. They also hunt on land for small animals.

They inhabit marshes, swamps, river and lake edges, tidal flats, mangroves and other



water areas. They make a guttural "frahnk" or short "rok, rok" given during aggression. Both sexes do bill clacking.

Mass. Audubon sightings

Berkshire County sightings included a sandhill crane in New Marlborough, nine long-tailed ducks at Lake Pontoosuc in Pittsfield and 11 at Stockbridge Bowl in Stockbridge, a northern goshawk at Bridges Pond

Please see **BACKYARD**, page 8



Pointers for happy plants

I read somewhere that the new frost free date for our area is May 8.

In discussing this finding with a fellow gardener, she said, "I still wait until Memorial Day. It just seems way too early to put peppers or tomatoes into the garden." I wait too.

It is more than just the frost free date, it's also about how sufficiently the soil has warmed up. With temps hovering in the mid 40's today, I can't imagine our tropical loving

plants would be very happy dealing with that.

Besides choosing an appropriate planting date, there are a few other pointers at this stage of the game will help to get your garden off to a good start.

Whether you purchase plants at a local garden center or grow your own on windowsills or under lights, it is important that they be hardened off before being set into the ground.

Please see **GARDEN**, page 12



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.



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PATRICK H. TURLEY
CEO

KEITH TURLEY
President

DEANNA SLOAT
Graphics Manager

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Advertising Sales
Wendy Delcamp
wdelcamp@turley.com

Editor
Kristin Rivers
krivers@turley.com

WEB

www.chicopeeregister.turley.com



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IN THE CITY



Melanie Wilk, director of food services at Chicopee Public Schools, welcomes the state legislators and other guests during their tour of Chicopee Comprehensive High School's Farm to School program on May 2.



State Sen. Jacob Oliveira (D-Ludlow) tries a sample as he and other state legislators tour Chicopee Comprehensive High School's Farm to School program.



Brendan Myers, horticulture teacher at Chicopee Comprehensive High School, shows guests the greenhouse on campus during the state legislators' tour of Chicopee Comprehensive High School's Farm to School program.



A close-up shot of crispy chicken drumsticks, seasoned potato wedges and a fruit veggie medley the state legislators and guests enjoyed during the state legislators' tour of Chicopee Comprehensive High School's Farm to School program on May 2.



State Rep. Shirley Arriaga (D-Chicopee) tries the crispy chicken drumsticks, seasoned potato wedges and a fruit veggie medley the state legislators and guests enjoyed during the state legislators' tour of Chicopee Comprehensive High School's Farm to School program on May 2.



State Rep. Pat Duffy (D-Holyoke) and Bridget Healy, district aide for State Sen. John Velis (D-Westfield) try the crispy chicken drumsticks, seasoned potato wedges and a fruit veggie medley the state legislators and guests enjoyed during the state legislators' tour of Chicopee Comprehensive High School's Farm to School program on May 2.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY KRISTIN RIVERS

SCHOOL from page 1

Fresh program and funding sources to develop the education side of the program.

"Where our program really shines is the actual food procurement, which is kind of rare. It's usually the other way around where there's passionate teachers and school presence for this stuff. We do have that, but there's 15 schools in the district and it's really inconsistent," Jackson said.

During the tour, State Sen. Jacob Oliveira (D-Ludlow) credited the Massachusetts State House for taking the lead on, also, making universal school lunch permanent in the state last year.

Oliveira said the legislature was happy to be at the high school for the tour, noting how the high school is next to McKinstry Farms, a local farm in Chicopee.

"When you think of Chicopee, you think of more urban centers. It's not. There are working farms that are here in the city and working farms across Western Massachusetts and, so, that proximity and connection that we can have, makes this program even more of a model, I think, statewide," Oliveira said.

Jonathan Duff and Brendan Myers, the high school's horticulture teachers, showed the legislators the greenhouse and provided information on the horticulture program.

Duff hopes to get the younger schools involved in the food programs, having already begun conversations with Jackson.

"We're doing a lot of the gardens, raised planters at a bunch of the schools that grow food. We're doing the middle schools and elementary schools to see if we can get some more interest as they come up," Duff said. "We're hoping that if we

can get started out younger and see the importance of it, we can maybe do some better introducing in that sense as they come up here to Comp."

Myers also hopes to get more students interested in horticulture, sharing with the legislators about a self-sustainability course he's been teaching this year crossing over horticulture and culinary to encourage students to grow their own food, use it and cook it.

"It's nice to see them kind of come around once they get engaged and get to try these things," Myers said.

After touring the greenhouses, Wilk emphasized how she wants the food program to, also, get out in the community.

"We want to be more than a school food services department. We want to be part of the community, more so than just in the schools," Wilk said.

Upon the tour's completion,



Denise Courtney, nutrition education and school wellness training coordinator, for the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, shares her thoughts during the state legislators' tour of Chicopee Comprehensive High School's Farm to School program on May 2.

the legislators and other guests enjoyed a lunch of crispy chicken drumsticks, seasoned potato wedges and a fruit veggie medley.

To learn more about this initiative, visit www.massfarm-to-school.org/.



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Events & announcements schedule

Tactile Art Exhibit coming to Chicopee Public Library

CHICOPEE - The Chicopee Public Library is hosting a tactile art exhibit called Seven Art Movements, which is accessible to patrons who are blind or low-vision in the Henry J.

Bazan Community Room from May 11 – May 25 during library hours.

Visit the library to experience various works of art in touchable 3D including: Mona Lisa by da Vinci, Girl with a Pearl Earring by Vermeer, the Scream by Munch and others from various periods in art.

Laura Bovee, director of the Chicopee Public Library, said, “I’m so thrilled that the library can bring this exhibit to Chicopee. This is a uniquely accessible and museum-quality exhibit, and I hope that everyone - whether blind, low-vision, or fully sighted - will come see it. I think it will be a great opportunity to explore the different ways people take in information or a way to begin a conversation about differences with kids, grandkids, and students.”

The artwork is created by Tactile Images from Chatham, NY. The company is committed to providing tactile experiences for the blind and disabled. Images designed for touch provide the opportunity to acquire visual information independently, without relying on recorded descriptions or the interpretation of a sighted companion.

Anne Gancarz, assistant director of the Chicopee Public Library said, “We strive to make the library and its resources accessible to as many people as we can. The fact that we are able to bring touchable art of this quality to our community is amazing and very exciting! Please stop by to enjoy this exhibit while it’s here.”

If you have any questions or would like to plan a group visit please email Anne Gancarz at agancarz@cwmar.org or call Anne at 594-1800 Ext. 106.

Senior Medicare Patrol at RiverMills

CHICOPEE - The Chicopee Council on Aging will host the Senior Medicare Patrol on Monday, May 13 at 9:30 a.m. at Chicopee Council on Aging’s RiverMills Center, located at 5 W. Main St.

A representative from Senior Medicare Patrol will be at RiverMills Center for an information session to raise awareness about protecting, detecting and reporting healthcare errors, fraud and abuse. You must register in advance.

Blue Zones of The World

CHICOPEE - The Chicopee Council on Aging will offer the program “Blue Zones of The World” on Tuesday, May 14 at 10 a.m. at Chicopee Council on Aging’s RiverMills Center, located at 5 W. Main St.

How would you like to blow out 100 Birthday candles? Join Deputy Liz DePaula with the Hampden County Sheriff’s Dept. to learn the secrets of Centenarians and which healthy habits can keep you going strong. You must register in advance.

Ladies Night at RiverMills

CHICOPEE - The Chicopee Council on Aging will host Ladies Night on Wednesday, May 15 from 4 to 6 p.m. at Chicopee Council on Aging’s RiverMills Center, located at 5 W. Main St.

Join your friends at RiverMills for a Ladies Night! There will be DIY crafts, appetizers, cash bar (beer, wine, mocktails and non-alcoholic beverages) vendors and wellness services such as manicures (\$2.00) and massage (\$2.00). Tickets are \$10 and include which DIY crafts you choose and appetizers, as well as chances for some raffle prizes. If you would like to add on a service, such as a manicure, you must register and pay at the time you purchase your event ticket. Space is limited. You must register in advance at RiverMills Center. Registration opens May 1.

Pedestrian Safety with Chicopee PD

CHICOPEE - The Chicopee Council on Aging will host the Chicopee Police Department on Thursday, May 16 at 10 a.m. at Chicopee Council on Aging’s RiverMills Center, located at 5 W. Main St.

Join the Chicopee Police Dept. for a workshop on pedestrian safety. During this presentation, you will learn about pedestrian safety and ways to stay visible while walking and how vehicle operators can look out for certain things while driving on congested areas. At the end of the workshop, Chicopee PD will be handing out safety vests and light-up bracelets. You must register in advance.

Mobile Vet Clinic takes place at RiverMills May 21

CHICOPEE - The Chicopee Council on Aging will hold a Mobile Vet Clinic on

Tuesday, May 21 from 9 a.m. to Noon at Chicopee Council on Aging’s RiverMills Center, located at 5 W. Main St.

Second Chance Animal Shelter will be at RiverMills on Tuesday, May 21 for a Mobile Vet Clinic. This is a free clinic and services such as wellness exams, yearly vaccines, nail trips and other services will be provided. Walk-in appointments are not available. You must register in advance as space is limited. To schedule an appointment, please call Casey Conroy at 413-534-3698 ext. 118.

RiverMills Center Transportation Services available to seniors

CHICOPEE - The Chicopee Council on Aging’s Transportation Department provides rides to the senior center, doctor’s offices, supermarkets, pharmacies, etc. for Chicopee older adults.

Transportation service is available Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Reservations must be made at least five business days in advance by calling 413-536-5733.

A \$7,875.00 grant from WestMass Eldercare has allowed the senior center to expand its transportation offerings. Shopping Trips are funded in part by a Title III/Older Americans Act grant from WestMass ElderCare, with support from the Mass. Executive Office of Elder Affairs and the Federal Administration for Community Living. There is no charge for this service, but participants are welcome to make a voluntary, confidential donation for a shopping ride.

To learn more, contact Nicholas Wosko at 413-536-5733 or NWosko@Chicopeema.gov.

VOC kicks off 2024 Tax Assistance Program

Offering free tax preparations to eligible residents

CHICOPEE - Valley Opportunity Council, which manages the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program providing free tax preparation to those of low- and moderate-income, began its 2024 tax preparations on Monday, Jan. 29.

VITA in-person tax preparation appointments are available from Jan. 29 through May 15 at 35 Mt. Carmel Ave., Chicopee, 300 High St., Holyoke and new this year, 20 Lathrop St. in West Springfield.

To schedule an appointment, call 413-612-0206. Those eligible for the

VITA program must live in Massachusetts with an income of up to \$60,000. Appointments are available on weekdays, evenings and Sundays.

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.

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.

In 2023, VOC helped 743 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 more recently, Westfield.

VOC is the largest and most diverse Community Action Agency in Western Massachusetts with an annual budget of \$45 million. With this Federal designation, 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.

Chicopee Comp Class of 1974 plans 50th Reunion

CHICOPEE - It’s the time to renew friendships and share memories with high school classmates. The Chicopee Comprehensive High School Class of 1974 will be holding its 50th reunion on Sept. 13 at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 460 Granby Rd. in Chicopee. The reunion party will begin at 5:00 p.m. with cocktails and dinner. Committee members are planning details for the festivities and also working hard to track down classmates and reach out to as many as possible. If you think you have contact information for long-lost friends, please send it to Linda Parlengas at lparlengas@hotmail.com; Mona Marciel Friberg at tinker245@aol.com, or Lynn Provost Larrabee at penrose43@comcast.net. We will be sending out details soon and would like to include everyone. Information can also be shared on Facebook at Chicopee Comp Class of 1974 Reunion Page or at [Classmates.com](https://www.facebook.com/ChicopeeCompClass1974).

FCU collecting donations to provide a ‘Bed for Every Child’

SPRINGFIELD - “Good night, sleep tight...” Freedom Credit Union believes every child deserves a great night’s sleep, every night. That’s why it is again holding its annual “Month of Giving” campaign to provide A Bed for Every Child throughout the Pioneer Valley. The community is invited to stop by any Freedom branch throughout the month of May to support this worthy endeavor with cash donations.

“We appreciate the commitment of our members, staff and community in supporting this important an-

nual initiative,” said Freedom Credit Union President Glenn Welch. “With ongoing support, we can help make sure all children have a warm, cozy place to dream every night.”

This effort began in 2011 when the Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless learned that many public-school students were not getting enough sleep because they did not have their own beds. In response, they launched A Bed for Every Child in 2012 with a mission to help children get the restful sleep they need to learn and succeed.

Partnering with schools, healthcare institutions and nonprofit community partners, each child receives a brand-new mattress and a sturdy custom wooden bed frame. On average, A Bed for Every Child receives more than 200 referrals for beds each month statewide. To date, more than 1,598 children have been helped.

Freedom Credit Union has partnered with the Pioneer Valley Chapter of the Cooperative Credit Union Association to support this initiative annually since 2017.

SOCIAL SECURITY from page 4

then you won’t get SS benefits for most months of the year and may even be temporarily ineligible to receive benefits.

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.

Council approves public hearing on unhealthy trees

Also, update on public input time allotment

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
krivers@turley.com

CHICOPEE - City Council unanimously approved on May 7 for a public hearing to be held for amending the city's code around the removal of unhealthy trees

The amendment would state that any tree on public property cut down or removed by the city must be replaced by one tree if the diameter of the removed tree trunk is less than one foot or two trees if the diameter of the removed tree trunk is greater than or equal to one foot.

The replacement tree must, also, be planted within one year of the removal of any tree.

The order would be received and sent to the Ordinance Committee for a public hearing.

Ward 9 Councilor Mary Beth Costello explained the order was presented after

people had been coming to the council with their concerns.

"I just want to have a discussion," Costello said.

Ward 4 Councilor George Balakier asked Costello this question.

"Was there any discussion with the tree warden, Chris Scott, with this?" Balakier said.

Costello replied no.

"The reason why I didn't is I figured that at the Ordinance Committee that I would ask that he would come in and give his opinion and maybe it's good and maybe it isn't, but I know people were concerned about it," Costello said.

Councilor-at-Large Tim Wagner shared how he tried to contact department heads and the Law Department to "see what's up with this."

"Like what the rules and regulations are and it's sort of been in a departmental conversation because there's no, you know, specific contact info on the city website for some of these positions," Wagner said. "So, it was a little bit difficult to find who is who. But, the discussion

sort of just tapered off at the end with no resolutions and, unfortunately, it's been a common thing that I've been finding is that I'll ask something, someone will get back to me and following up doesn't even get me a response. So, maybe it is best to have a hearing on this."

Vice President/Councilor-at-Large Robert Zygarowski shared he's worked with Scott "for numerous trees in the city."

"I think it's good that he shows up and he'll give you an honest opinion. Because he just got, if I'm not mistaken, he just received some big award from the state for what he does. So, I think his input will be very important to the Ordinance (Committee)," Zygarowski said. "It's a good idea, but you have to make sure that he's there."

Ward 5 Frederick Krampits said he has Scott and Department of Public Works Superintendent Elizabeth Batista listed to be invited for the hearing.

The motion was approved 12-0.

Another item to note is an unfavorable Rules Committee report ordering the amendment for public input to be changed

from three minutes to five minutes.

The motion was to receive the report and defeat it.

Zygarowski explained the Rules Committee held a meeting "and there was some good things said."

"There's some public input on it. But, after review we all agreed that the current situation of three minutes will stay," Zygarowski said.

Wagner then pointed out this.

"If this council deems it absolutely necessary, we can with a two-thirds vote suspend the rules to allow more public input on particularly busy nights or if it's just deemed necessary for some reason," Wagner said. "So, there is a mechanism for us to have people talk longer if we want to let them."

President/Councilor-at-Large Frank Laflamme asked for clarification.

"If we want someone to talk for a reason," Laflamme said.

Wagner replied, "Correct."

The motion was defeated 10-2.

Chicopee Public Library announces upcoming programming

CHICOPEE - Here is a list of some of our upcoming library programs.

Thursday, May 16 at 6 p.m. Needlecraft Circle Do you want a place to work on your needlecraft projects while you chat with other crafters? Join us in the Conference Room on the third Thursday of each month to work on your projects.

Tuesday, May 28 at 6:30/7:00 p.m. Join us for Poetry and the Spoken Word at 7pm in our Community Room. The featured guest reader for May will be V.Jane Scheeloch. V.Jane Schneeloch has been writing or encouraging others to write for most of her life. She's led workshops for youths, senior citizens, and incarcerated women. Her poetry has appeared in numerous journals and two collections: *Turning Over Leaves* (Antrim House Books, 2015) and *Climbing to the Moon* (Finishing Line Press, 2009). Her plays, *In Hiding* and *The Test*, were produced at the Drama Studio in Springfield, MA. You can find her blog at *Musing Over My Oatmeal*. Registration to share your own poetry or readings starts at 6:30 p.m. The program begins at 7 p.m. Teens and adults are welcome.

This program is hosted by local poet Don Fisher. Registration begins at 6:30 p.m. The program starts at 7 p.m.

This program is supported in part by a grant from the Chicopee Cultural Council,

a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

Monday, June 3 at 6:30 p.m. Are you nearing retirement? Do you want to learn the best strategies for maximizing the lifetime Social Security benefits you receive? Join us for an educational seminar "Making the Most of Social Security" with Susan Allen of Susan Allen Financial.

Some of the topics covered will include:

- Changes to Social Security filing strategies
- How married couples can help enhance their combined monthly and lifetime benefits
- How the "do over" and "start, stop, restart" strategies work
- How to claim retroactive benefits as a lump sum
- The effect of remarriage on survivor benefits for widowed and divorced spouses
- Five factors that could reduce the actual payments you receive

To register for this seminar, stop by the Reference Desk, call us at 413-594-1800x3 or email us at cpl@chicopeepubliclibrary.org.

Thursday, June 6 at 6:30 p.m. Join us for a book talk with local author Katherine Anderson. Her latest book "Murder at the Alma Mater" takes place at Elms

College. Set against the backdrop of Elms College, Murder at the Alma Mater promises an unforgettable journey into the heart of academia, cozy mystery and suspense. Explore the hidden corners and untold stories of the campus that inspired the setting and get a glimpse into the author's creative process, revealing the inspirations and influences that shaped her writing journey from her earliest sparks of imagination to the meticulous research that breathed life into her characters and plot. This talk is free and open to the public. No registration is required.

Monday, June 10 at 6:30 p.m. Join us for an informational talk "Current Financial Fraud Scams and How to Protect Yourself and Your Money." Learn how to protect yourself and your loved ones from fraud with Lisa Pandolfi from Freedom Credit Union will share hot to protect yourself and loved ones from some of the most popular scams including

- Imposter/Grandparent scams
- Mail theft/Check washing
- Online Romance/Friend Scams
- Online Shopping
- Phone Scams
- Computer Scams

This program is free and open to the public. Please register for this informational session at the Reference Desk, 413-594-1800x3 or cpl@chicopeepubliclibrary.org

library.org.

Tuesday, June 11 at 7:00 p.m. Decoupage Oyster Shells Learn how to paint, decoupage and shellac large oyster shells that can be used as jewelry dishes and ornaments. All supplies will be provided. You will go home with a beautifully decorated oyster shell designed by you!

Registration is required for this art class for adults. Register at the Reference Desk (413-594-1800x3, cpl@chicopeepubliclibrary.org).

This program is supported in part by the Chicopee Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

For those interested in exploring their Family History, the Chicopee Library computer lab is available to work on genealogy Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 a.m. to Noon and 6 to 8 p.m. We are a FamilySearch Affiliate Library and have helpful databases such as Ancestry, American Ancestors and HeritageQuest to help you in your search. We have also recently added Newspapers.com to our genealogy resources available in the library.

If you need technology help, we offer one-on-one computer help on Mondays and Fridays at 2 p.m. or by appointment.

For more information, email or call the Reference Desk at cpl@chicopeepubliclibrary.org and 594-1800 x3.

Chicopee Public Library Hosts Programs for Kids and Families

CHICOPEE - Each month the Chicopee Public Library hosts a variety of free programs for children and families. The Youth Services Department seeks to provide opportunities for entertainment and enrichment that explore literacy and promote creativity. Here is the slate of events for May 2024.

LEGO Zone will be held in the community room on Thursday May 2 and May 30 at 4 p.m. It is an hour of open building time with a big pile of LEGO bricks for ages 6 and up.

The Library's All Ages Playgroup will be held in the children's room each week on Saturday from 1 to 2 p.m. While the children's room playspace is always available to kids and families visiting the library, during playgroup there are extra toys to explore. It is a great time for families to meet up and play.

On Tuesday, May 7 at 4 p.m., the library will host a Kids Room Craft. We'll be making seed bombs from construction paper pulp and wildflower seeds that participants can plant in their gardens. These also make a great Mother's Day gift. Kids and teens are welcome to attend.

Storytime will be held in the children's program room on Wednesdays, May 8 and 22 at 10:30 a.m. Storytime is based loosely around the early childhood literacy skills: sing, talk, read, write and play. It is a great way for preschool aged kids to practice skills they will need for school. It is also fun for younger elementary aged students. Library staff lead a circle time where they read picture books and lead the children in song and movement, afterwards they do a craft or activity.

Little Movers will be held in the children's program room on Fridays, May 10 and 24 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!

Camp Ani-May, three weeks of Anime fun for grades 3-5, will be held on Tuesday afternoons from 4 to 5 p.m., May 14, 21 and 28. Registration is required.

Kids ages 6-9 are invited to come to the Maker Zone for projects, crafts, and experiments focused on Science Technology Engineering and Math. Maker Zone will be held on Thursday, May 16 at 4 p.m. in the children's program room. This month's project is fabric looms.

The library will host two programs just for middle and high school students in May. The second annual Paper Horse Derby will be held after school in the Teen Space on Thursday, May 2, beginning around 2:30 p.m. Stop by the Teen Space after school to cut out and create your own tiny paper horse! These little friends will then compete in their own Kentucky Derby to see who made the fastest one. Best part? No skill is required and they'll race entirely on their own! All brought to you by the power of PHYSICS!

The Teen Anime Club will be held on Thursday, May 23 from 3 to 4:30 p.m. This month's theme is Koinobori Day. Have you ever seen large, koi fish windsocks and wondered what they were for? Join us as we learn a little about these iconic decorations and then get to make our own colorful koi!

For more information about the Chicopee Public Library, go to www.chicopeepubliclibrary.org

Nancy Z. Cavin, 1933-2024

DEATH NOTICES

Nancy Z. Cavin, 90
Died on March 2, 2024
Services May 9, 2024
Ludlow Funeral Home

Nancy Z. Cavin, 90, passed away peacefully on March 2, 2024 in Springfield, MA. She was born in 1933 in Ludlow, MA to parents Frederic Theodor and Maria Zajczkowski. She was the youngest of five children. She grew up in a very tight-knit community and graduated from Ludlow High School in 1952. Nancy went on to a fulfilling career with the Telephone Company, eventually retiring from there after more than 30 years. She was the beloved



wife of Lonnie A. Cavin for 61 years and they made their home in

Chicopee, MA. He preceded her in death in 2019, as did both her parents, and her siblings Steve, Rose, Ann, and Walter precede her. Nancy was very proud of her Ukrainian heritage and enjoyed traveling with her husband, friends and family. She is survived by three nieces - Marjorie, Renee & Denise, one nephew- Peter, multiple grand nieces and many close friends.

A service will be held on Thursday, May 9, 2024, at 3:00 p.m. at the Massachusetts Veterans Memorial Cemetery, 1390 Main St., Agawam, MA 01001. A celebration of her life will follow at 4:00 p.m., at Tony & Penny's, 18 Canterbury St., Ludlow, MA 01056. In

lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to the: Catholic Relief Services in Ukraine. <https://www.crs.org/our-work-overseas/where-we-work/Ukraine> The family would like to thank the hospice staff at Baystate Medical in Springfield for their kindness & peaceful care. More importantly, Thanks to all friends who visited her and the wonderful staff and administration at Keystone Commons. They generously provided a warm, activities filled, loving environment which she called home for the last 6 years. We can never fully express our gratitude to everyone there for their friendship, compassion and attentiveness. Ludlow Funeral Home has been entrusted with her services for more information please visit ludlowfuneralhome.com.

Chicopee Register
OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$225, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

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

BACKYARD from page 4

in Williamstown and 20 American pipits at Ashley Falls.

Franklin County hosted small flocks of red crossbills including 24 at the Montague Sandplains Wildlife Management Area in Montague, nine at gate 29 at Quabbin Reservoir in New Salem and eight at Satan's Kingdom WMA in Northfield.

Hampshire County had a Say's phoebe at the Quabbin Reservoir Visitor's Center in Belchertown, four common goldeneyes at the Windsor Dam in Belchertown, 22 glossy ibises on Old Ferry Road in Northampton, an American bittern on Moody Bridge Road in Hadley, 21 red crossbills at the Podick and Cole Conservation Area in Amherst, a Lapland longspur in the Northampton East Meadows and an American coot at Great Pond in Hatfield.

Hampden County

spotting were five upland sandpipers at Westover Air Base in Ludlow, nine red-necked Grebes at the Congamond Lakes in Southwick, 15 chimney swifts at the Stebbins Wildlife Refuge in Longmeadow and a green heron in Holyoke.

Worcester County included a black-headed gull, two glossy ibises, a solitary sandpiper and 20 red crossbills at the Bolton Flats WMA in Bolton, two sandhill cranes at the Winimuset Meadows WMA in New Braintree, two black vultures at Adams Farm in Athol and an orchard oriole at Crane Swamp Conservation Area in Northboro.

The most unusual sighting on Friday, April 19 was a black-capped petrel in Cape Cod Bay spotted from a whale research vessel. This species is everywhere quite rare and in relatively inshore waters it is even more unusual.

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

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Congratulations Carrie Smith
We are so very proud of you and your accomplishments.
Good luck at Springfield College.

Love Dad. Mom & John

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Pacers outlast Mustangs for seventh win



TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM
Nyeira Wilson sends a long pass away from the goal.



Cassidy Pytel makes her way up the field.



Sophia Moreira tries to get around an opponent.



Lauren Cross tries to balance the ball with one hand.



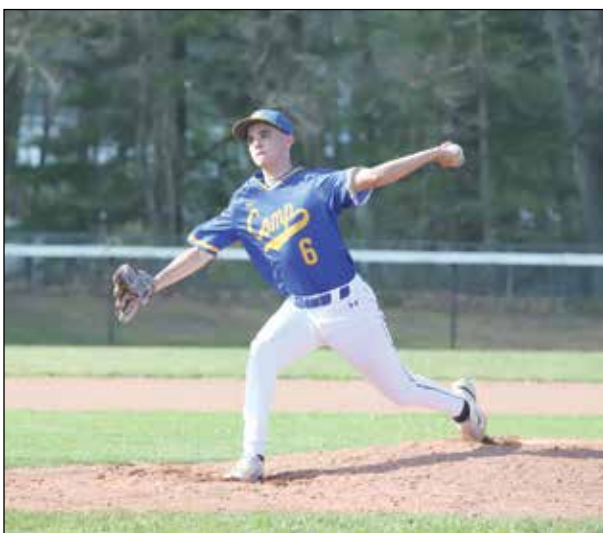
Avery Placzek looks to get through to the offensive end of the field.

CHICOPEE – Last Monday afternoon, Chicopee girls lacrosse scored a 12-9 win over host Monson. The Pacers got a great effort from

Madison Thibault with four goals, and two goals each from Autumn Seymour, Cassidy Pytel, and Sophia Moreira. Chicopee is out to a 7-2

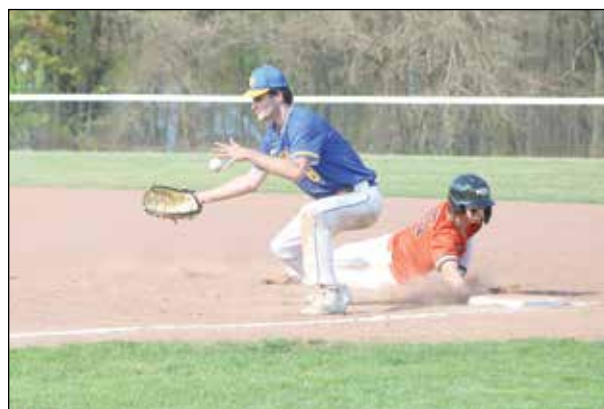
start on the regular season and has almost qualified for the state tournament.

Colts score six in extra innings for win

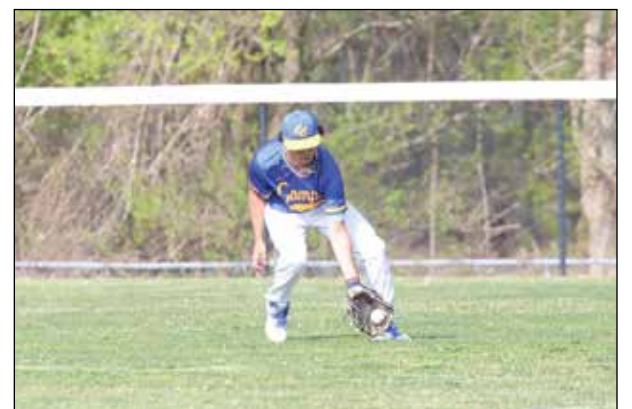


TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI
Daniel Sciarretta pitches for the Colts.

AGAWAM – Last Monday afternoon, Chicopee Comprehensive baseball scored the win 8-2 in extra innings over Agawam. After being tied 1-1 at the end of seven innings, each team scored a run in the eighth and remained tied 2-2. The Colts then took advantage of fielding mistakes and scored six times in the top of the ninth inning. Gavin Williams got the win in relief after Daniel Sciarretta went the first seven innings, allowing just one run. Gianni Renaud and Adrian Gonzalez had two hits each in the game.



Gavin Williams tries to coral a throw to first.



Gianni Renaud fields a base hit to right.



Adrian Gonzalez connects and hits a triple to right-center.



Bryce Trumbull attempts to steal second.

Boys volleyball gets fourth win



Alex Garcia tries to tip the ball over the net.



John Centeno looks for the spike.



Jeniel Nazario sets up a play



TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM
Demien Ottero returns the ball over the net.

CHICOPEE – The boys volleyball team had suffered a four-game losing streak to fall below .500. But the Pacers recently rebounded with an win over South Hadley, a new program in the region. The Pacers are now 4-7 this season.

T-Birds front office members wins award

SPRINGFIELD - The Springfield Thunderbirds earned their second-ever Howdy Award recognition on Monday night during the 27th annual event inside the MassMutual Center. T-Birds Manager of Brand Development and Merchandise, Drew Supenor, earned the Howdy in the "Attractions" category, one of 10 local hospitality workers spotlighted on Monday.

The Greater Springfield Convention and Visitors Bureau presents the Howdy Awards annually to recognize the outstanding service hospitality industry employees provide. Supenor's award victory marks the second time the Thunderbirds organization has taken home a Howdy. Team mascot "Boomer" captured the same honor in 2018.

"We want to thank the GSCVB for recognizing Drew and Lauren Blanchard from our staff as finalists for their category," said Thunderbirds President Nathan Costa. "As someone who has been with our franchise since our first day in 2016, Drew has embodied what it means to be a service champion to his customers. On top of that award-winning trait, he has been instrumental in creating some of the best merchandise lines of any team in the American Hockey League, and we could not be prouder to have him represent our organization for this much-deserved honor."

During the T-Birds' immensely successful 2023-24 season, the box office records also translated into the brand and merchandise space. Supenor's team was instrumental in generating a 10% increase in online and in-arena sales compared to the prior season. The store's full rebrand on specialty nights led to big crowds looking to stock up on T-Birds gear, including the single-game record for merchandise sales on the club's annual Ice-O-Topes Night this past February.

Since their inception in 2016, the Thunderbirds' merchandise sales have grown in each of the team's first seven seasons of play. Total merchandise sales for the Springfield AHL franchise have grown 6x from the final year of the Falcons organization in 2015-16 to today.

"Merchandise plays a vital role in representing your brand in the area and is not just a means of generating revenue," explained Costa. "When you visit downtown Springfield on game nights, you can see T-Birds gear everywhere. People of all ages wear it proudly, which speaks volumes about Drew and his team's ability to bring in products that people genuinely want to wear and show off."

Benjamin's Star Speedway mastery continues with Spring 100 checkers

EPPING, N.H. - Travis Benjamin won two of last year's Granite State Pro Stock Series stops at Star Speedway. With only one visit to the popular bullring on the schedule in 2024, the reigning GSPSS champion made it count.

The Belfast, Maine, veteran withstood challenges from Ryan Green and Casey Call to win Saturday night's Spring 100, opening his title defense the same way he started off last year's title chase.

"I've got a wicked good car here," Benjamin told series announcer Marco Thomas in Star's winner's circle. "I can't thank my crew enough."

Benjamin and Green flexed their muscle early, winning their respective heats to lead the field to the first green flag of the new season. Green,

sporting new colors and with former GSPSS champion Joey Doiron in his pit stall, worked the outside line to take the early lead, with Benjamin haunting in second.

In a mad scramble for the lead after a lap-34 restart, Benjamin got the better of Call and Green, retaking the top spot as the field slowed for a competitor's tire trouble. Call settled into second on a long green-flag run, with Green threatening for second.

Jamie Wright's spin on lap 82 erased Benjamin's advantage, with Green and Call poised to make it exciting in the final laps. But Benjamin cleared himself of Green, driving away from the pack to post his fourth career GSPSS win and his third Star win in the last four series races held at "The Place to Race."

Call, last July's GSPSS winner

at Star, settled for second, with Green matching his best career GSPSS finish in third. Dan Winter was fourth in his first series start since 2017, while Speedway 95 winner and Wiscasset Speedway veteran Josh St. Clair managed a fifth-place run despite spinning twice early.

Title hopeful Evan Beaulieu was 11th at the finish, leaving the Durham, Maine, driver at a deficit, as Benjamin sits atop the points standings with eight races to go.

The next race on the GSPSS calendar is at Claremont Motorsports Park, as the series returns to its long-time home venue after a year's absence. On Sunday, May 26, Key Auto Group presents the GSPSS 100 with a \$5,000 share going to the race winner of the Memorial Day show-down.

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ValleyBike Share to restart with new vendor

NORTHAMPTON – The City of Northampton, as the lead community for the regional ValleyBike-Share program, is thrilled to announce that it has selected Drop Mobility as the new vendor and will roll out the program by the end of May.

A year ago, the previous operator for ValleyBike Share, Bewegen, notified Northampton that it was initiating bankruptcy proceedings in its home country, Canada, to dissolve existing contracts with its bike-share communities around the world.

To the extreme disappointment of all the member communities within the ValleyBike Share system, Springfield, West Springfield, Holyoke, Chicopee, Easthampton, Northampton, South Hadley, Amherst, and the University of Massachusetts Amherst, the system had to shut down. In the intervening months, representatives of these communities established an understanding of costs and developed a plan to commit to getting ValleyBike Share back up and running. Following this commitment, Northampton issued an RFP for a new services contract to operate the system. Drop Mobility was selected by the communities for their deep understanding of micro-mobility as an important component of our transportation system and their experience in rescuing and operating e-assist bike shares around the country.

“We are so excited to be able to relaunch this transportation system in the Valley for all communities and we look forward to forging new and expanded partners who will join the system and participate in its success!” said Carolyn Misch, Director of Planning & Sustainability. “Participating communities have worked hard both in this selection process as well as in engaging our regional legislators to help us brainstorm about funding options for the future.” All communities have found a variety of grants and other one-time sources of funding to relaunch the system and will continue the process of working with regional, state, and federal partners to establish sustainable funding for future years.

Last year Mayor Gina-Louise Sciarra shared, “We are not ending bike share, we are merely severing our contract with the current vendor so that we can pivot toward another operational vendor to provide this important transportation service.” Today, Mayor Sciarra shared, “We are ecstatic that we have found a vendor that shares our commitment to making bike share a successful transportation mode which will further our sustainability goals to encourage options for people to travel and commute. I am so grateful to Director Misch for her tireless commitment to restarting the program and for the collaboration with our partner communities. We look forward to this next phase of ValleyBike Share, and to expanding to more communities.”

“Drop Mobility is excited to work with the communities within the Pioneer Valley to relaunch and expand the ValleyBike Share system, where we plan to both revive existing bikes and equipment and bring in the latest Drop hardware and software solutions,” shared Dipesh Dar, co-founder and COO of Drop Mobility. “Building long-term and sustainable bike share is at the core of what we do, and we are proud to power the next chapter of e-bike share in the Pioneer Valley.”

For more information, contact Carolyn Misch at 413-587-1287 or cmisch@northamptonma.gov

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Chicopee Register

CFD, CPD conduct water rescue along Front Street canal



PHOTO AND CAPTION COURTESY OF CHICOPEE FIRE DEPARTMENT

CHICOPEE -The fire department, with assistance from the police department, conducted a water rescue on May 7 for a person in the water.

The fire department detailed the rescue in their Facebook post:

“Yesterday just after 7: p.m., the Chicopee Fire Department and Chicopee Police Department were dispatched to the canal along Front Street for the person in the water. The Chicopee Police Department arrived and threw a “Manny Tube”

on a rope to the individual who was clearly struggling.

The victim was very difficult to reach due to fencing and high cement walls surrounding the canal. A ladder was lowered to the victim by the arriving fire crews and one of our members descended into the water to aid the victim.

Other members were simultaneously inflating our boat to prepare for rescue. The water level was high, with a strong current, making paddling to the victim extremely diffi-

cult. The Police Department was able to throw a rope while our member was holding the victim and our crews pulled the inflatable boat to the victim who was then lifted into the boat and then raised up and over the cement wall with the assistance of the Police Department. We are grateful to the members of both departments for their excellent work during this extremely challenging rescue.”



PHOTOS COURTESY OF CHICOPEE FIRE DEPARTMENT

CFD practices long lug out drills

CHICOPEE – Members of the fire department took part long lug out drills at a local park.

The regular training scenarios are created by the department’s training and safety officer, with the photos taken by Capt. Benjamin Dusza.

PUBLIC NOTICES

CHICOPEE CITY COUNCIL ZONING COMMITTEE LEGAL NOTICE

The Zoning Committee of the Chicopee City Council will hold a public hearing **Wednesday, May 29, 2024 at 6:30 PM*** in the Chambers, 4th floor, City Hall Annex, 274 Front Street., Chicopee, MA 01013 to discuss the following:

Zone Change application from Business A & Residential A to Residential B with Mill Conversion and Commercial Center Overlay for the entirety of property located at 0 Chicopee St. & 445 Chicopee St. (Parcel ID 0442-00091 & 0442-00090) for the purpose of creating one contiguous zoning district by extending the Residential B zoning district to the entirety of both parcels and adding the Mill Conversion and

Commercial Center Overlay for the purpose of a proposed residential development. Applicant – Chicopee Property Management, LLC c/o Risa Teall, 112 East St., Granby, MA 01033.

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

The May 29, 2024 Zoning Committee hearing shall be available to the public via zoom and in person. Zoom credentials are available upon request by calling (413) 594-1435 M-F 8:30 AM – 5 PM or by email at aczarniecki@chicopeema.gov.

The petition and materials related to this proposal are on file in the Office of the City Council, Chicopee City Hall, 274 Front Street, (plans and applications are also available on the City Council

website <https://www.chicopeema.gov/880/Pending-Applications>. You may also call (413) 594-1435 or email aczarniecki@chicopeema.gov. 05/10, 05/17/2024

CHICOPEE CITY COUNCIL ZONING COMMITTEE LEGAL NOTICE

The Zoning Committee of the Chicopee City Council will hold a public hearing **Wednesday, May 29, 2024 at 6:30 PM*** in the Chambers, 4th floor, City Hall Annex, 274 Front Street., Chicopee, MA 01013 to discuss the following:

Zone Change application from Residential A to Residential B for 13,620 SF of property located at 0 Montgomery St. (Parcel ID 0230-00033) for the purpose

of constructing a duplex. Applicant – Erik Govoni, 94 Montgomery St., Chicopee, MA 01013.

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

The May 29, 2024 Zoning Committee hearing shall be available to the public via zoom and in person. Zoom credentials are available upon request by calling (413) 594-1435 M-F 8:30 AM – 5 PM or by email at aczarniecki@chicopeema.gov.

The petition and materials related to this proposal are on file in the Office of the City Council, Chicopee City Hall, 274 Front Street, (plans and applications are also available on the City Council website <https://www.chicopeema.gov/880/Pending-Applications>. You may also call (413) 594-1435 or email aczarniecki@chicopeema.gov. 05/10, 05/17/2024

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 May 17, 2024, at Interstate Towing, Inc the following Motor Vehicles will be sold at private sale to satisfy our garage keeper's lien thereon for storage, towing charges, care and expenses of notices and sale of said vehicles.

2002 Ford Ranger
VIN: 1FTYR10D82TA55430
William Hauser
550 S Quarter Rd.
Russell, MA 01071

2003 Saturn Vue
VIN: 5GZCZ63B83S862201
Fernando Tomas Cruz
DeJesus
479 West Main St. Apt 4B
Waterbury, CT 06702

2004 Honda Odyssey
VIN: 5FNRL18944B018323
Leonor Ramos
59 Rice St.
Marlborough, MA 01752

2004 Jeep Liberty
VIN: 1J4GL48K14W210199
Luis Valentine
67 Colonial Ave.
Springfield, MA 01109

2006 Honda Civic
VIN: 2HGFG11847H510858
David White
44 Hillman St
Chicopee, MA 01020

2010 Ford Taurus
VIN: 1FAHP2EW5AG108135
Jose Vargas
108 Belvedere Dr.
Yonkers, NY 10705

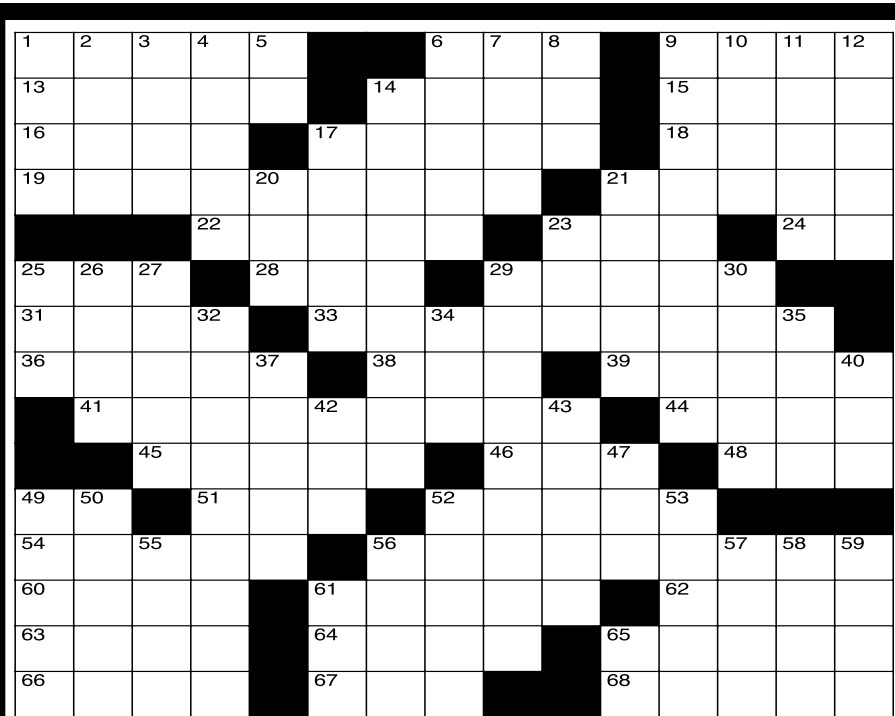
2012 Infiniti M37 X
VIN: JN1BY1AR8CM390415
Myron Meyers
46 Allen PL. Apt A1
Hartford, CT 06106

2012 Jeep Grand Cherokee
VIN: 1C4RJFAG6CC218501
McLaughlin & Moran Inc
BX 2017
Cranston, RI 02920

2018 Infiniti Q50
VIN: JN1EV7AR3JM438098
Francisco Martinez
64 Sanford St. Apt 64
Chicopee, MA 01013

22018 Infiniti Q50
VIN: JN1EV7AR6JM432151
William Hobby
52 Mountainview St.
Springfield, MA 01108

05/03, 05/10, 05/17/2024



CLUES ACROSS

1. It wakes you up
6. A place to sleep
9. Czech village
13. Appetizer
14. African country
15. Dark brown or black
16. Parent-teacher groups
17. Saturates
18. ESPN personality Kimes
19. Songs to a lover
21. Cavalry-sword
22. Begat
23. Patriotic women
24. Famed Princess
25. One who does not conform
28. Neither
29. Nigerian monetary unit
31. Body parts
33. Hit Dave Matthews Band song
36. Depicts with pencil

38. Make into leather without tannin
39. Plants grow from them
41. Alias
44. Fingers do it
45. More dried-up
46. Clod
48. Senior officer
49. A way to listen to music
51. The bill in a restaurant
52. Historic center of Artois region
54. Cyprinid fishes
56. Poisonous perennial plant
60. Scottish Loch
61. Heads
62. Extra seed-covering
63. Wings
64. Britpop band
65. Forearm bones
66. Small immature herring
67. Female sibling

CLUES DOWN

1. Vipers
2. Not on time
3. Resembling a wing or wings
4. Tears down
5. Professional designation
6. Noise a sheep made
7. Type of lodge
8. Speak poorly of
9. Ties the knot again
10. Apron
11. Studied intensively
12. City in Finland
14. One who monitors
17. 18-year astronomical period
20. Trent Reznor's band
21. Takes to the sea
23. Split pulses
25. Valentine's Day color
26. Wyatt ___
27. Type of rail

29. One from the Big Apple
30. Asteroids
32. Made more sugary
34. Change in skin pigment
35. Mild yellow Dutch cheese
37. Koran chapters
40. A place to relax
42. Young woman ready for society life
43. Female horses
47. Half of Milli Vanilli
49. Icelandic poems
50. Indiana town
52. Golden peas
53. Closes tightly
55. It's mined in mountains
56. Cliff (Hawaii)
57. Ribosomal ribonucleic acid
58. Monetary unit
59. Primordial matter
61. TV station
65. Rise

GARDEN from page 6

Some nurseries take care of this for you by removing them from the greenhouse and placing them on benches outdoors where they get accustomed to wind, rain, fluctuating temperatures, and hot sun. If the plants you purchased came from inside the greenhouse hardening them off at home is relatively easy.

Introduce seedlings to the outdoors gradually, by placing them in a protected location, safe from whipping winds and scalding sun, for a small amount of time each day. Water frequently but withhold any fertilizer.

Over the course of a week to 10 days the amount of time spent outdoors should increase until plants have spent a full day outside. Once they have, they can be considered "tough enough" to be planted in the ground.

Transplanting is best done on a cloudy, drizzly day. Early evening is another option should nice days persist.

Under these circumstances roots will be allowed some recovery time before having sustain the plant in the sun and wind. Seedlings should be watered well prior to transplanting.

On occasion I have even kept a bucket of water with me in the garden in which I submerge six packs of plants for a few seconds to moisten them thoroughly before planting in dry soil.

The planting hole should be dug slightly larger than the container in which the plant was growing. Depending on the type of plant, compost and fertilizers can be added to the hole and mixed with the surrounding soil to insure adequate fertility.

Plant the seedlings at the same depth they were growing in their containers, no deeper. One exception to this rule is tomatoes, whose stems sprout roots!

For less leggy tomatoes, plant them deeply, even in trenches with only a few sets of leaves above ground.

Examine the root ball of seedlings carefully. If the roots are tightly woven together, they may need to be "butterflied," or gently pulled apart to encourage future rooting in new soil.

After planting, firm soil around roots, and water well. If water drains away from the seedling make a basin of soil a few inches from the plant's stem to keep water where it is needed.

If sunny days and warm temperatures are expected soon after transplanting it is a good idea to shade plants for a few days with overturned pots, tree branches, or other devices. Again, less transplant shock means less time spent on recovery, and more time spent on making fruits and flowers!

Continue to water well and deeply for the first week or two. Deep watering will encourage deep rooting, and deep roots will best withstand summer droughts.

Taking good care of your plants in the early stages will certainly insure a summer of productivity.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 31 years she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to pouimette@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

CHICOPEE CITY COUNCIL ZONING COMMITTEE LEGAL NOTICE

The Zoning Committee of the Chicopee City Council will hold a public hearing **Wednesday, May 29, 2024 at 6:30 PM*** in the Chambers, 4th floor, City Hall Annex, 274 Front Street, Chicopee, MA 01013 to discuss the following:

Special Permit application under Chapter 275-58 (C)(4) for the purpose of a liquor license located at 108 West St. Applicant – DingBin Chen, 1 Edward St., Wilbraham, MA 01095.

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

The May 29, 2024 Zoning Committee hearing shall be available to the public via zoom and in person. Zoom credentials are available upon request by calling (413) 594-1435 M-F 8:30 AM – 5 PM or by email at aczarniecki@chicopeema.gov.

The petition and materials related to this proposal are on file in the Office of the City Council, Chicopee City Hall, 274 Front Street, (plans and applications are also available on the City Council website <https://www.chicopeema.gov/880/Pending-Applications>). You may also call (413) 594-1435 or email aczarniecki@chicopeema.gov. 05/10, 05/17/2024

**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. HD24P0988EA**

**Estate of:
Mary M Blain
Date of Death: 04/09/2024
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION**

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Ronald R LaRocque of Chicopee, MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Ronald R LaRocque of Chicopee, MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 06/03/2024**. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED

ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration

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

Date: May 06, 2024
Rosemary A Saccomani, Register of Probate 05/10/2024

**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. HD24P0963EA**

**Estate of:
Judith K Hickman
Also known as:
Judith Kay Hickman
Date of Death: 10/10/2004
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION**

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Late and Limited Formal Testacy and/or Appointment** has been filed by **Edward G Hickman of Chicopee, MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 05/31/2024**. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First

Justice of this Court.

Date: May 02, 2024
Rosemary A Saccomani, Register of Probate 05/10/2024

**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. HD24P0982EA**

**Estate of:
Rita Ann Howie
Date of Death: 03/07/2024
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION**

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Joshua D. LaPorte of Hampden, MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Joshua D. LaPorte of Hampden, MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 05/31/2024**. This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration

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

Date: May 03, 2024
Rosemary A Saccomani, Register of Probate 05/10/2024

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 May 10, 2024, 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.

2003 Honda Accord
VIN: JHMCM56653C084392
Bonnie Santa
78 Alexander St Apt 1
Springfield, MA 01107

2003 Volvo S60
VIN: YVIRS61T232274087
Maryjane Mason
5 Hale Dr.
Windsor, CT 06095

2004 Jeep Wrangler
VIN: 1J4FA49S84P779416
Austin & Andrew O'Toole
3 Celtic Circle
Uxbridge, MA 01569

2005 Nissan Altima
VIN: IN4AL11D45C337527
James & Linda Gryszkiewicz
82 Saw Mill Park
Southwick, MA 01077

2005 Toyota Prius
VIN: JTDKB20UX50122535
Luis Robles
772 Page Blvd.
Springfield, MA 01104

2006 Honda Accord
VIN: 1HGCM66316A014709
Christopher Martinez
29 Pelham St.
Springfield, MA 01109

2008 Chevrolet Equinox
VIN: 2CNDL23FX86038211
Madelyn Perez
79 Hanmer St.
Hartford, CT 06114

2009 Nissan Altima
VIN: IN4AL21E19N450909
Kathrine Vannostrand
Po Box 125
Woronoco, MA 01097

2013 Nissan Murano
VIN: JN8AZ1MW0DW305133
Derrick Jackson
221 Bay St Apt 206
Springfield, MA 01109

2014 Haulmark
PPT7X14DT2
VIN: 575PB1425ET256425
Brent Borgman
4766 Calle De Nubes
Las Cruces, NM 88012
04/26, 05/03, 05/10/2024

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield MA, 01103
Docket No. HD21P0843PM**

**In the matter of:
Loretta Kenz
Of: Worcester, MA
Protected Person/Disabled Person/Respondent
CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF CONSERVATOR'S ACCOUNT**

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, you are hereby notified pursuant to Mass. R. Civ. P. Rule 72 of the Supplemental Rules of the Probate & Family Court, that the **First, Second and Third and Final** account(s) of **Jean Dempsey of Fairfield, PA** as Conservator of the property of said Respondent has or have been presented to the Court for allowance.

You have the right to object to the account(s). If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this court on or before **10:00 a.m. on the return date of 06/11/2024**. This date is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to object to

the account(s). If you fail to file the written appearance and objection by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you, including the allowance of the account(s).

Additionally, within thirty days after said return day (or within such other time as the Court upon motion may order), you must file a written affidavit of objections stating the specific facts and grounds upon which each objection is based and a copy shall be served upon the Conservator pursuant to Rule 3 of the Supplemental Rules of the Probate & Family Court.

You have the right to send to the Conservator, by registered or certified mail, a written request to receive a copy of the account(s) at no cost to you.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.

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

Date: May 06, 2024
Rosemary A. Saccomani, Register of Probate 05/10/2024

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Division
Docket No. HD24P0927EA**

**Estate of:
Gerald John Podsiadlo
Also Know As:
Gerald J Podsiadlo
Date of Death: 02/27/2024
INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE**

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Judith M Raby of Chicopee, MA**

a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

Judith M Raby 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.
05/10/2024

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05/10, 05/17/2024

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

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Kenneth Arroyo sentenced to 12-13 years in prison

Found guilty of raping multiple children

SPRINGFIELD - On April 23, Kenneth Arroyo, 41, of Chicopee was sentenced by a Superior Court Judge to 12-13 years in state prison, followed by three years of probation after guilty findings stemming from charges of: Aggravated Rape of a Child (two counts), Indecent Assault and Battery over 14 (two counts), Indecent Assault and Battery under 14 (two counts). The sentencing came after a Hampden Superior Court Jury found him guilty on the aforementioned charges on April 9 in Hampden Superior Court.



Kenneth Arroyo

case centered around two survivors, who were known to the defendant and were between 10-15 years old at the time of the abuse.

Hampden District Attorney Anthony D. Gulluni stated, "Acts of violence on children will be met with our most diligent efforts and the full force of the law. We will do all that we can within the law to protect this community's children and punish those who seek to hurt them. I thank the Chicopee Police Department, in particular Detective Matthew Costa, and retire Springfield Police Detective Eugene Dean, along with Assistant District Attorney Elizabeth Vasiliades and the members of my Special Victims Unit for their skillful work and steadfast effort to secure justice and protect the vulnerable."

Assistant District Attorney Elizabeth Vasiliades represented the Commonwealth in this case.

The charges stemmed from an investigation by the Hampden District Attorney's Office's Special Victims Unit and Chicopee Police Department. The

Jalal Williams charged with murder in Chicopee homicide investigation

CHICOPEE- Jalal Williams, 32, of Chicopee has been arrested and charged with murder in connection with the investigation into the February 3, 2024 homicide on Springfield Street in Chicopee. He was arraigned today in Chicopee District Court and held without the right to bail. His next scheduled court date is on June 7, 2024.

On Saturday, February 3, 2024 at 10 p.m. officers with the Chicopee Police Department responded to a shooting in a parking lot in the 0-100 block of Springfield Street.

Officers arrived on scene and discovered an adult male suffering from a gunshot wound. He was transported to Baystate Medical Center where he passed away two days later.

The victim has been previously identified as Mr. Marquis Newson, 34, of Chicopee.

This is an open investigation being conducted by the Chicopee Police Department, Massachusetts State Police Detective Unit assigned to the Hampden DA's Office, and the Hampden District Attorney's Murder Unit.

MARS from page 1

rock and killed a little girl.

The defendant's ex-wife confirmed the defendant suffered several nervous breakdowns that required hospitalization during their marriage. Sometime around 1987, as the defendant was either experiencing or in initial recovery from a nervous breakdown, he told her that he had to be "honest" with her. The defendant's admission included that he and an unnamed friend killed Betty Lou; that she was killed with a rock and then "dumped" in the area of Robinson State Park. He repeated the contents of this private conversation with her to his parents, in her presence, a couple years after he told her. She said that his parents did not seem surprised by the information.

Donald's ex-wife also confirmed that the class ring for Chicopee Comprehensive High School had a blue stone, as she also owned one. The defendant told her that he had one from the class of 1967 but had lost it.

In 2022, detectives learned that the Defendant, who had briefly served in the United States Navy, was living in the Veteran's Administration Building in Bedford, Massachusetts. On July 18, 2022, investigators spoke with the defendant in the community day room of the veteran's facility. The defendant walked into the room with the assistance of a walker. Detectives conducted a recorded interview with the defendant, after the appropriate legal rights and warnings were furnished, that lasted nearly two hours.

The Defendant's demeanor shifted on occasion during the interview, and, at times, he became emotional. The defendant was responsive to some questions, but he would change the subject on other occasions or simply not respond to certain questions. When investigators asked

the defendant about Betty Lou Zukowski, initially he said that he did not know who she was and did not do anything to her. He then became emotional and began to cry. The defendant said, "I'm not crying because of Betty Lou. I'm crying about my whole life". He then told different versions of the killing involving several different locations. When investigators told the Defendant that he had previously told investigators the location of Betty Lou's head injuries, he denied doing so.

During the interview his mood changed considerably, and he said, "that she hurt him more than he ever hurt her". The defendant, without prompting from the investigators, acted out the crime. He stood up, hunched over, and made a striking motion downward four times with his left arm, and then admitted that he hit Betty Lou with a rock. He sat down again and was very emotional, sobbing loudly. Investigators asked the defendant whether the rock was "a little bigger than a softball," and the defendant replied, "Yes".

The totality of these facts supports a finding that on May 26, 1966, the Defendant, Donald Mars, aged seventeen, while acting alone, caused the death of ten-year-old Betty Lou Zukowski when he repeatedly struck her with a rock to the right side of her head, causing multiple blunt force injuries, both externally and internally, and when disposing of her body in the Westfield River would cause terminal drowning.

His guilty plea was accepted by a Hampden Superior Court judge and was sentenced to 2.5 years in prison followed by 2 years of probation and registration as a level 3 sex offender.

Assistant District Attorney Elizabeth Dunphy-Farris represented the Commonwealth.

BUDGET from page 1

duce certain sections of the budget."

"I understand why this was filed and it's an interesting concept, but I guess I just worry about the potential for good intentions going awry that we say we're going to do this, we're going to appropriate money because something didn't work out and then that money doesn't go to what we initially intended because we can't specify where we want it to go to the budget," Krampits said. "So, those are really my concerns at this point."

Ward 6 Councilor Samuel Shumsky echoed Krampits' concerns, noting "It's a checks and balances system we have already," citing when the School Committee went before the City Council years before for their budget requesting an additional \$1.25 million.

"I believe at the time the council said they would be willing to grant that money to the School Department if they needed it," Shumsky said. "I feel like that's kind of the same thing that the language is wording tonight, what was said two or three years ago."

Wagner clarified there is line item authority when a School Department budget is passed.

For his concerns, Wagner said if a mayor down the road thinks the School Department needs less money, "there is no recourse for this council being able to get that money back."

"I understand there are concerns about this, but I think that, if this council wanted to, and the School Committee had good reason for it, I think that we ought to adopt this and ought to reappropriate some money if we see fit," Wagner said.

Superintendent Dr. Marcus Ware said he's in favor of what the City Council would like to do, adding, "Any support that the City Council would like to provide the School Committee is greatly welcomed and appreciated."

"But, I don't have any information to provide at this time because from what I read, it's similar to what's been discussed this evening," Ware said.

The motion was defeated 7-2.

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City of Chicopee's Memorial Day Activities

CHICOPEE - "As Memorial Day approaches, it is time to pause and consider the true meaning of this holiday. Memorial Day represents one day of national awareness and reverence, honoring those Americans who died while defending our Nation and its values. While we should honor these heroes every day for the profound contribution, they have made to secure our Nation's freedom, we should honor them especially on Memorial Day."

The Chicopee Veterans' Memorial and Patriotic Committee and the Chicopee Department of Veterans' Services ask that all Americans come together to recognize how fortunate we are to live in freedom and to observe a day of remembrance for those who have died in our nation's service. Stephanie Shaw, Director of Veterans' Services says, "The last Monday in May has held the traditions for Memorial Day for nearly 51 years now. From putting up flags, attending family picnics, and making speeches. People have been coming together in community spirit and national unity for all generations of loved ones lost in service to be remembered on this very special day since 1868 and is no different in 2024, 156 years later. I am proud to be

a part of the planning and organization of this year's events and look forward to sharing with all of you who will be joining us to celebrate here in Chicopee."

Prior to May 27, 2024 we have successfully flagged all of our cemeteries with the help of many gracious volunteers.

Friday, May 24, 2024 beginning at 8:30, local veteran organizations will be visiting Chicopee grammar and middle schools, with a Memorial Service, a brief history of Memorial Day and placing of a wreath at school flag poles, followed by the pledge of allegiance and National Anthem.

On Sunday, May 26th at the Vietnam Veterans' Plaza on Chicopee Street there will be a Candle-light Ceremony at 7:00 pm hosted by the Vietnam Veterans of Western Massachusetts Chapter one-eleven.

On Monday May 27, 2024 at 11:00 am, we will host our Annual Memorial Day Ceremony at our Veterans Memorial Plaza located at 650 Front Street, Chicopee, MA 01013.

The public is invited to the 2024 Memorial Day activities with the exception to school visits

CCHS Lacross Team washes Chicopee PD cruiser



PHOTOS COURTESY OF CHICOPEE POLICE DEPARTMENT

CHICOPEE - Members of the Chicopee Comprehensive High School Colts Lacrosse Team washed a police department cruiser on April 27. The police department shared this thank you message to them on Facebook: "Thank you to the Chicopee Comp Colts Lacrosse Team for washing our cruiser today," it read.



From the left, Lou Arasate, co-president of the Rotary Club of Chicopee, Stan Walczak, president of the Friends of RiverMills Center, and John Arthur, co-president of the Rotary Club of Chicopee, smile for a group photo during intermission at the "Stars Shine Tonight" concert on May 3.



Lisa Carter as Cher performs during the "Stars Shine Tonight" concert at the RiverMills Senior Center on May 3.



Charlie Lask and Amanda Meli perform the classic Neil Diamond and Dolly Parton duet "You've Lost That Lovin Feeling" during the "Stars Shine Tonight" concert at the RiverMills Senior Center on May 3.



Attendees have fun with wigs and dancing as backup dancers with Lisa Carter as Cher during the "Stars Shine Tonight" concert at the RiverMills Senior Center on May 3.



Robert Black as Elvis serenades an attendee during the "Stars Shine Tonight" concert at the RiverMills Senior Center on May 3.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY KRISTIN RIVERS

A wide shot of the large crowd in attendance for the "Stars Shine Tonight" concert at the RiverMills Senior Center.

STARS from page 1

crooned the hits.

Meli, sans Dolly Parton persona, also came back out on stage to perform with Lask on "You've Lost That Lovin Feeling," a duet between Dolly Parton and Neil Diamond.

Stan Walczak, president of the Friends of RiverMills Center, was elated with the show's success.

"It was a star-studded success. The audience was treated to an evening of remarkable music, some laughter and the opportunity to reminisce (and enjoy) their favorite songs," Walczak said.

Walczak explained how the concert is one of many events the Friends puts together for the seniors, saying how they are happy to sponsor them.

He added the turnout is, also, promising for future events like this.

"The Friends are always trying to put out a good product when sponsoring a new activity or event for our seniors. The response to having an evening show was well received and we were pleased that many seniors attended. It's promising that future events like these can be as rewarding," Walczak said.

On how the concert came

together, Walczak credits the Rotary Club of Chicopee for their support and collaboration, having seen a show they put together previously and consulting with them for their input.

"The Friends had attended a previous show by the Chicopee Rotary. I met with Lou Arasate and John Arthur, co-presidents, about the show and thought that we could do this at the senior center. Lou arranged the performers and I began the promotion part back in January. Together with others, we put the final program in motion," Walczak said.

For Walczak, providing opportunities for events like this for

seniors to enjoy is important for the affordability, familiar setting and to enjoy their favorite artists.

"We wanted seniors to enjoy a 'Las Vegas type event.' Ticket prices were affordable. The senior center was a familiar host. The light show and sound system was an added addition to the program. The real stars were the artists; who doesn't enjoy Elvis, Neil Diamond, Cher and Dolly Parton?" Walczak said.

Walczak wants the community to know how vital the senior center is to the city and to stop by and support it.

He added events like this also help support senior center

programming and activities.

"The Rivermills Senior Center is a jewel of the city. Having an event like this helps raise money for the senior activities and it gives the residents the opportunity to see what else the center has to offer for their benefit," Walczak said.

Walczak thanked the attendees for coming out, glad they had a great time.

He also expressed gratitude to the performers.

"We were pleased to see so many happy faces. The message was simple-- Keep these types of shows coming!" Walczak said.