

Chicopee Register

Xander Padilla sworn in as honorary police officer



Xander Padilla, with his honor, poses with members of the Chicopee Police Department and Mayor John Vieau after being sworn in as a honorary police officer at City Hall Auditorium on Aug. 6. Padilla, who battles cystic fibrosis, loves the police and wants to become an officer when he grows up.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY KRISTIN RIVERS

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
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CHICOPEE - Seven-year-old Xander Padilla was sworn into the police department as an honorary police officer on Aug. 6.

The ceremony took place at City Hall Auditorium, where it was presided over by Mayor John Vieau and Police Chief Patrick Major.

After reporting to the Holyoke Police Academy earlier that day for training and receiving a certificate of completion from Academy Director Michelle Lyons, Padilla

arrived in style at city hall with an escort by the police department, with Capt. Douglas Lambert walking alongside him.

From there, he completed a variety of tasks including flying drones, traffic response, patrolling the Connecticut River with the Underwater Response Team, patrolling Ray Ash Park with the Bicycle Unit, a call to Westover Air Force Reserve Base to assist the state police with preparing for a helicopter mission, visiting the Detective Bureau to learn about fingerprints and joining the Special Response Team to assist in a high-risk traffic stop,

making an arrest.

He, also, received a custom Chicopee Police Department bike from Bob "The Bike Man" Charland.

The day concluded with a retirement party in the police department's training room.

Padilla, who battles cystic fibrosis, and his family also received a special escort from the police department and officers on July 10 to Raymour & Flanigan in West Springfield for a surprise Disney-themed jungle party and

See **XANDER** page 5

City Council approves funding for city hall phase two renovations

By Kristin Rivers
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CHICOPEE - City Council unanimously approved on Aug. 1 a \$21 million municipal bond authorization and a \$4 million appropriation to the Capital Projects Special Account for phase two of city hall renovations.

The renovations would include the reconfiguration and renovation of office suites, ADA/MAAB accessibility upgrades, hazardous materials abatement, emergency generator replacement, a new IT data server room, data, AV systems, complete electrical system replacement and complete lighting replacement, mechanical systems updates, building security and access systems, foundation waterproofing, interior finishes for ceilings, floors, walls, window treatments and more, FF&E--which stands for furniture, furnishings and equipment--replacements and secure, high-density file storage.



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

The City Council approved funding to support phase two of renovations to city hall on Aug. 1.

Phase two rehabilitation for city hall began in March 2021 and continues today.

Mayor John Vieau explained how moving forward with phase two is "one of the most critical and important decisions that's going to be made by the City Council this year, if not for many years to come,"

adding how there haven't been any capital improvements to city hall from 1980 to 2014, comprising approximately 34 years.

Vieau added "There would be savings to the taxpayer" and would address other concerns including

See **CITY COUNCIL** page 6

Dance students heading to Poland to represent Team USA at IDO

Chicopee Comp student part of foursome

By Kristin Rivers
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CHICOPEE - Four local dance students, including an incoming senior at Chicopee Comprehensive High School, are headed to Poland this November to represent Team USA in the IDO Dance and Acrobatics World Championships.

IDO is known as the International Dance Organization, which has been around for 40 years and is a nonprofit organization World Dance and Dancesport Federation with over 90 members and contact nations, representing more than 500,000 dancers from all six continents.



From the left, Thea Cosgrove, Karielys Rivera, Paig Bordeaux and Madisyn Vasquez, who will be heading to the IDO Dance and Acrobatics World Championships in Poland in November to represent Team USA.

Recently, after a bid process, the girls were in Atlantic City, New Jersey for a nine-hour audition to make the cut for Team USA. They will now be part of teams for Jazz, Contemporary Dance, Acro and Lyrical.

The foursome are Comp student Paige Bordeaux, Madisyn Vasquez, who attends Minnechaug Regional High School, Thea Cosgrove of Suffield, Connecticut and Karielys Rivera who attends Longmeadow High School.

They are, also, students, at Dazzle Studio of Dance in Agawam.

A Designer Purse Bingo fundraiser event to support the girls' trip to Poland will take place on Sept. 20 at Ste. Rose de Lima Church, with a \$40 donation including 10 games, a bingo marker, a door prize ticket and light refreshments.

Anyone interested in attending the fundraiser can reserve their tickets at cbordeau13@gmail.com or call 413-534-5657 and sponsors are being sought.

The girls are, also, thankful, to Father Gentile from Ste. Rose de Lima Church and Kurt LaPlante and Chris McDaniels from Saint Rose Bingo for their support of their goals.

Bordeau got into dance through her mom and started her first class at three years old, currently in her sixteenth year of dance.

She also competed and won Miss Acro United States during her recent trip to New Jersey to participate in the competition, a feat completed only one other time over eleven years earlier by her dance teacher--and role model--Brooke Attanasio.

"It's definitely exciting that I not only get to represent just Chicopee, but Western Mass. I feel very honored to do it because dance is a very big part of my life," Bordeaux said.

Bordeau's advice for future and aspiring dancers was this.

"The advice I would give is to not hold back and really just go for it," Bordeaux said.

See **DANCE** page 9

Chicopee Public Library Hosts Summer Events for Kids and Families

CHICOPEE - Each month the Chicopee Public Library hosts a variety of free programs for children and families. The summer months, when kids are out of school, are among the busiest times at the library and the Youth Services Department seeks to provide even more free opportunities for learning and fun! Here is the slate of events for August 2024.

The Summer Reading Challenge is on! This year, the library is asking, «Chicopee, did you read today?» If you're already signed up, keep reading. If you haven't yet, there is still time to join. The challenge runs from June 24 until Aug. 16 and is open to all ages - kids, teens, adults!

Little Movers will be held in the children's program room on Fridays, Aug. 2 & 9 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.

Storytime will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 13. Enjoy books, rhymes and songs along with a craft or activity. Geared towards families with kids 2-8.

Wind down with an Evening Storytime, Mondays at 6 p.m., Aug. 19. Books, rhymes, and songs, along with a craft or activity. Geared towards kids ages 2-8 and their families.

Move and groove at a Summer Dance Party on Tuesdays, Aug. 20 at 10:30 a.m. Songs, dancing and big movement geared for kids 5 and under, but older kids are welcome!

Support our Pollinators! Learn about local pollinators, featuring bees, bats, hummingbirds, beetles, dragonflies and butterflies. Then stay for a t-shirt craft. This fun, educational program will be presented by Jerry Schneider, The Butterfly Guy on Wednesday, Aug. 14, 6 p.m. For Ages 5-11. Registration is required. Sign up in the Kids Room!

Eat Ice Cream with the Mayor! Mayor John Vieau will be at the library to host an ice cream party on Wednesday, Aug. 21 at 2 p.m. Come cool off with a tasty treat in celebration of your summer reading achievements! All are welcome!

The Chicopee Fresh Curbside Cafeteria will be in the library parking lot on weekdays from 1:30-2 p.m., through Aug. 18 to provide free meals for kids 18 and under

Meet up with the Bookmobile for StoryWalks in the Parks this summer. A StoryWalk is a picture book that has been taken apart and mounted on yard signs. You can take a walk and read a book at the same time. August's book is Hike by Pete Oswald. It will be available displayed in both English and Spanish in the parks on Friday afternoons from 2:30-4:30.

August 16 - Szot Park

August 23 - Sarah Jane Park

August 30 - Lincoln Grove Park

Visit the Chicopee Public Library all summer long for storytime, art projects, performances, concerts and more! For more information about the library and all of the upcoming events, visit www.chicopeepubliclibrary.org

Center Fresh Farmers Market celebrates National Farmers Market Week 2024

Featuring free samples, facepainting, giveaways and an increased SNAP match

CHICOPEE - Center Fresh Farmers Market joined markets across the country in celebrating National Farmers Market Week (Aug. 4-10) on Thursday, Aug. 8 from 1 to 6 p.m. at Wisniewski Park in Chicopee Center. In addition to its weekly diverse vendor mix, this special Center Fresh market featured giveaways at the Market table; live music by Super Whack Jazz Trio; an increase in the SNAP Match to \$20 for every \$10 used; free facepainting by Brittany from Girl Time Nails; and free samples from food trucks Cote's Cooks and Paris & Ty's.

Farmers markets foster shared values between community members and farmers which can work to create a more fair and sustainable food system. This community focus has been most visible during recent times of crisis and uncertainty as market managers innovate to continue essential operations for the farmers and shoppers who depend on them.

National Farmers Market Week is an annual celebration of farmers markets proclaimed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and coordinated by the Farmers Market Coalition (FMC), a membership-based nonprofit organization that supports farmers markets nationwide through training, technical assistance, and network-building. Each year, FMC's National Farmers Market Week Campaign highlights the vital role farmers markets play within our nation's local food systems. For more than fifty years, farmers markets have influenced the way Americans eat, shop, and connect to their food, their farmers, and one another. Farmers markets are more than marketplaces, they are places where neighbors learn, grow, and work together.

Center Fresh Farmers Market began in 2021, and currently hosts up to 10 farmers per week selling a wide variety of products, including fresh produce, baked goods, microgreens, honey, maple syrup, flowers and more. In addition to farmers, Center Fresh boasts a diverse mix of retail food, artists, artisans, and craft vendors as well. Center Fresh is a program of the Greater Chicopee Chamber of Commerce which has significantly contributed to the economic vitality of Chicopee Center by creating a vibrant weekly event in the district. Beyond its role as a farmers market, Center Fresh

plays a key part in supporting its vendors as businesses as well, helping them establish themselves within the city and has been catalyst to several businesses expanding in the city.

"If it wasn't for Center Fresh Farmers Market, and the farmers market community in general, I wouldn't be here today in front of my own storefront," said Carrie Desmarais, owner of Botanica Blends and founder of The Center Alternative Cooperative, which recently opened at 264 Exchange Street in Chicopee Center.

Since its formation, Center Fresh Farmers Market has accepted SNAP and matches each transaction dollar-for-dollar up to \$10 each week thanks to SNAP Match sponsor Holyoke Medical Center. On August 8, however, the match will be bumped up to two dollars for every dollar, meaning individuals could receive \$30 in SNAP tokens to use for only spending \$10 of their benefit.

"Across the country, farmers markets are defining their role in our communities," said Willa Sheikh, Executive Director of the Farmers Market Coalition. "Markets are designed in partnership with the people they serve and are a place where market operators, farmers, shoppers, and neighbors can collaborate to meet the evolving needs of their community. As we look to the future, farmers markets will play a key part, as they always have, in leading efforts to adapt, respond, innovate, and advocate for our local food systems. National Farmers Market Week is a chance to celebrate all the ways farmers markets show up for us!"

Center Fresh Farmers Market is hosted every Thursday from 1 to 6 p.m. at Wisniewski Par located at 14 Spruce St, Chicopee, MA 01013. The current outdoor market season runs through Thursday, Oct. 31, 2024 and indoor bi-weekly winter markets will begin in December at RiverMills Senior Center.

Center Fresh Farmers Market is supported by MassDevelopment TDI's Creative Catalyst Grant; City of Chicopee Community Development Block Grant; Massachusetts Department of Agriculture Farmers Market Sustainability Grant; Chicopee Cultural Council & Massachusetts Cultural Council Grants; Farm Credit East Farmers Market Grant; and sponsors Holyoke Medical Center, Greenfield & Northampton Cooperative Bank, PeoplesBank, The Polish National Credit Union, Valley Opportunity Council, Westfield Bank, The Republican, and Florence Bank.

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Chicopee Comp Class of 1974 Plans 50th Reunion

CHICOPEE - The Chicopee Comprehensive High School Class of 1974 will be holding its 50th reunion on September 13, 2024 at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 460 Granby Road in Chicopee. The reunion party will begin at 5:00 with cocktails and dinner. The Reunion Committee has worked to locate as many classmates as possible. Invitations have been mailed or emailed. If you have not received either, please contact Linda Parlengas at lparlengas@hotmail.com; Mona Marcil Friberg at tinker245@aol.com, or Lynn Provost Larrabee at penrose43@comcast.net. Information can also be shared on Facebook at Chicopee Comp Class of 1974 Reunion Page or at Classmates.com.

Happiness For Seniors at RiverMills Center

CHICOPEE - The Chicopee Council on Aging will offer the program "Happiness for Seniors" on Tuesday, Aug. 27 at 1:30 p.m. at Chicopee Council on Aging's RiverMills Center, located at 5 W. Main Street.

Join Henry Quinlan as he chats about how to build a life that has meaning to us and is rewarding in our senior years. This is a presentation that starts with defining happiness and we soon discover there is no one definition that everyone agrees on. You must register by stopping by RiverMills center or by calling 534-3698.

The Center Alternative Cooperative opens in Chicopee Center

By Kristin Rivers
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CHICOPEE - The Center Alternative Cooperative, an apothecary, local goods, event and education center focused on whole health and wellness, officially opened its doors on Aug. 1.

Located on Exchange Street, The Center is owned by Carrie Desmarais, who also runs Botanica, and has other vendors including Wicked Woman Herbals, Hobbit Hollow Herbals, DMS Creations, Sugar Shack Farm and more.

During the grand opening, The Center held an open house for attendees to check out the space and meet Desmarais, with a ribbon-cutting ceremony making the opening official.

Desmarais was also presented with a citation from the Massachusetts State Senate to recognize—and celebrate—the occasion.

The Center is currently open Thursdays through Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Outside The Center ahead of the ribbon cutting, Mayor John Vieau explained how Desmarais reached out to him about taking over the space previously occupied by the Herbarium, which closed in December 2023, with something similar while taking it “to a whole other level, a whole new dynamic that’s going to help bring people downtown.”

Vieau added how Desmarais recog-



Carrie Desmarais, owner of Botanica and founder of The Center Alternative Cooperative, celebrates after cutting the ribbon for the center’s grand opening on Aug. 1.



An interior shot of some of the products available at The Center Alternative Cooperative on Exchange Street in Chicopee.



An exterior shot of the sign for The Center Alternative Cooperative. The location is where the Herbarium used to be.

Desmarais explained the center is all about the vendors, having started Botanica nine years ago and taking part in farmers markets, working her way up to a mocktail bar in Thornes Marketplace in Northampton.

During the pandemic, she closed that down and wondered what to do next, as she

wanted to open an apothecary but did not want to take away business from the Herbarium.

When she learned the Herbarium was closing, she started brainstorming.

“I started thinking, ‘Why couldn’t I bring everyone together? Why couldn’t I create a space that would fulfill people, not only the vendors but the community, the people?’” Desmarais said. “So, it’s an education center, a resource center, questions, thoughts, ideas. If you have a dream and your product fits in here and it’s handmade...then I’ll sell it for you.”

Desmarais sees potential in reviving the Chicopee Center area, sharing fond memories of going to the former Central Library, the Elms College library and Woolworth’s when she was growing up.

“It’s just become left kind of by the wayside for so long that I know people wanted to revive it,” Desmarais said. “This is just a great opportunity for everyone to kind of revitalize the center of Chicopee because it’s beautiful downtown and it’s underutilized.”

Desmarais was touched by the turnout and support.

“I can’t even believe this. How do I feel about it? I’m in shock and in awe,” Desmarais said.

Desmarais wants the community to know she’s ready to grow and get to work, saying she will also stay beyond her hours to accommodate people and will add more hours in the future.

She thanked everyone for coming to the grand opening, humbled by the support, community spirit and collaboration.

“It means everything to me and I’m just so honored and happy,” Desmarais said. “I couldn’t do all of this without everyone cooperating together.”

To learn more, visit The Center Alternative Cooperative’s Facebook page.



Jennifer Pickering, district director for State Sen. Jake Oliveira (D-Ludlow) reads the citation from the Massachusetts State Senate recognizing the grand opening of The Center Alternative Cooperative. Pickering was joined by Bridget Healy, district aide for State Sen. John Velis (D-Westfield), and Chris Gongora, communications director for State Sen. Adam Gomez (D-Springfield).

nizes the importance of “being creative and thinking outside the box” to serve the public.

“This space has the potential to, again, thrive and it’s because of visions of people like Carrie,” Vieau said. “And I always say, ‘There’s a will, there’s a way, and in Chicopee, if there’s a need, a cause or a reason, we come through every single time.’ So, I’m excited for your new opportunity.”

Desmarais, who grew up in Chicopee, was grateful for the support from her vendors to the farmers market community, where she’s been a vendor with Center Fresh Market at Wisniowski Park.

“I couldn’t be here doing what I’m doing without all the people that have helped me and supported me and all my vendors,” Desmarais said. “The shop wouldn’t be the shop without all my vendors and the farmers market community that brought me to where I am. I would be nothing without that community spirit.”

Her main goal, she added, is to raise the community’s spirit.

“Raising the spirit, raising the vibes, supporting each other, bringing community back together and I can’t thank everyone enough and I’m here for everyone,” Desmarais said.

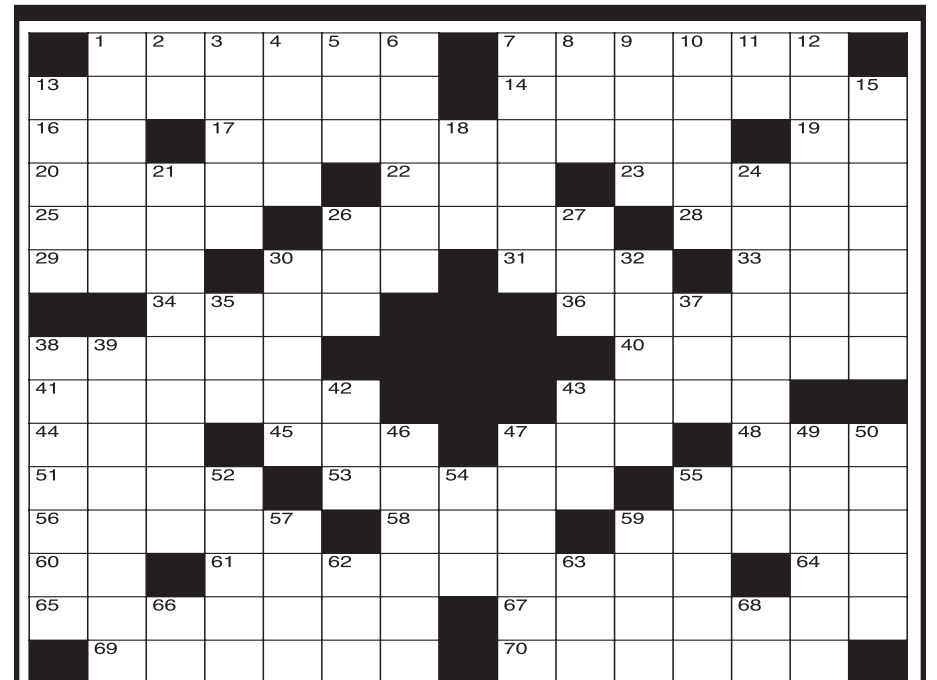
Willimansett Heights Improvement League hosting neighborhood yard sale

CHICOPEE - The Willimansett Heights Improvement League will host a neighborhood Yard Sale on Saturday Aug. 24, 2024, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Participating residents in the Willimansett Heights section of Chicopee (adjacent to Dale Street) will display signs on their front lawns for easy identification. The public is invited.

The Willimansett Heights Improvement League is a nonprofit organization that has served the area since 1949. It has organized social events for adults and children, hosted the Mayor’s neighborhood meetings,

joined in the Chicopee “clean sweep” days, and advocated for quality-of-life issues for neighborhood residents. The group annually awards a scholarship to one or more residents of the neighborhood. The club’s hall at 118 Mt. Vernon Road can be rented for weddings, parties, meetings and other functions, and now has Wi-Fi available.

Information on the Yard Sale can be obtained by viewing the club’s Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/Willimansettheightshall> or by calling 413-206-9574.



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Spiritual leaders
- 7. A solution
- 13. Fortified wine
- 14. Edible mollusk
- 16. Blood group
- 17. A way to compare
- 19. Gov’t lawyer
- 20. Actor Ciaran
- 22. Calendar month
- 23. Very willing
- 25. ___ ex Machina
- 26. Satisfies
- 28. Type of berry
- 29. Distinctive practice
- 30. Popular pickup truck model
- 31. Dekagram
- 33. Naturally occurring solid material
- 34. Company officer
- 36. Villains
- 38. Cricket frogs
- 40. German founder of psychology
- 41. Endured
- 43. A female domestic
- 44. A situation you can be in
- 45. Cigarette (slang)
- 47. Fiber optic network (abbr.)
- 48. Belgian composer Walter
- 51. Employee stock ownership plan
- 53. Belonging to the bottom layer
- 55. Musical or vocal sound
- 56. Yankees’ great Judge
- 58. Dickens character
- 59. Beloved late sportscaster Craig
- 60. South Dakota
- 61. Naturally occurring human vice or folly to ridicule
- 64. Atomic #79
- 65. Former Braves pitcher Julio
- 67. Humor
- 69. Shawl
- 70. Hospital unit

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Animal disease
- 2. Commercial
- 3. Arts and crafts supplies
- 4. Containers
- 5. Investment vehicle
- 6. A way to greet in a friendly way
- 7. Bulged downward
- 8. “A Day Without” singer
- 9. Lay about
- 10. Intestinal
- 11. Negative
- 12. Caused to be loved
- 13. Prominent in Islamic eschatology
- 15. Sincere
- 18. Not in
- 21. Number above the line in a fraction
- 24. Bill Murray chased one
- 26. Pouch
- 27. Swedish krona
- 30. Start over
- 32. Wild white or yellow flower
- 35. Fourteen
- 37. Visual way of interacting with a computer (abbr.)
- 38. Up-to-date
- 39. Campaigns
- 42. Touch lightly
- 43. “Boardwalk Empire” actress Gretchen
- 46. Violent seizure of property
- 47. One who supports the Pope
- 49. Malaise
- 50. Body fluid
- 52. Inauthentic person
- 54. Title of respect
- 55. Chilean city
- 57. Central Japanese city
- 59. Garment
- 62. Draw from
- 63. Automobile
- 66. The man
- 68. Top government lawyer

GUEST COLUMN

Seeing how Habitat influences the public makes the GSHFH mission worthwhile



Marketing and Communications Manager,
Greater Springfield Habitat for Humanity

By Brandice J. O'Brien

WEST SPRINGFIELD - Working in the nonprofit industry isn't easy. It can often be compared to an actor trying to make it in Hollywood or a country musician strumming their guitar in Nashville with dreams of performing at the Grand Ole Opry. There are more "no" replies than "yeses," more challenges than benefits, and a clichéd thick skin is required. So, why do people stay?

Greater Springfield Habitat for Humanity (GSHFH) Marketing and Communications Manager Brandy O'Brien said she stays because she enjoys seeing how Habitat affects the public. People who had no prior association with the nonprofit organization are so inspired and empowered by the mission, they have to get involved. They want to see the organization and its partner families do well.

"Since I've been here, almost four years, I've worked with several young adult interns and met numerous youth volunteers, and their dedication is constant," she said. "Even though they won't directly benefit from the fin-

ished product, they want give all they can and they do."

Greater Springfield Habitat is a medium-sized affiliate with a tiny staff. There are just four full-time employees and two part-time staffers who serve 13 cities and towns in Hampden County. In addition to the homeownership program, which builds one to three houses a year, GSHFH has a home preservation program. The home preservation program provides micro-loans to qualifying homeowners who need accessibility modifications, home weatherization, general home repairs, yard cleanup, and landscaping. Since opening its doors in 1987, Greater Springfield Habitat has built or repaired 129 homes in Hampden County.

This past winter, GSHFH welcomed two interns from a local high school to help plan and execute a county-wide summer read-a-thon. The freshmen came in with little understanding of the nonprofit and are now working tirelessly, beyond the scope of their project, to raise money and awareness for the nonprofit.

"They've brought in countless pounds of empty, clean aluminum cans for a recycling effort and have increased the reach of social media by getting their friends and family to 'follow' Greater Springfield Habitat," Brandy said. "They're now asking what other projects they can help with after the read-a-thon project ends this month.

"I have never seen two kids so in-

centivized to do something for a nonprofit when they have nothing to personally gain from it," Brandy said. "Yes, they get bragging rights and that feeling of doing good for the community, but it's not like they'll personally pocket the money. They're really something incredible."

In another instance, a local church's youth group of seventh to twelfth graders recently built a standing planter for Greater Springfield Habitat for its summer mission-related project and had it delivered to the nonprofit. The seven teenagers worked with a church member, who is also a handyman, to complete the task. The planter will be given to the newest homeowner family when they move into their home.

"The goal was for the teens to have a hands-on heart change where they would be involved personally and collectively in these community projects. Our theme came from Micah 6:8 'To act justly and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God'," said Pastor Peter Yoon, who leads the youth group at Second Baptist Church in South Hadley. "It was a challenging experience for the teens but also a powerful one. They could see that their lives can be connected to a much bigger vision and bigger things going on in the world around them."

To learn more about GSHFH, visit habitatspringfield.org

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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.

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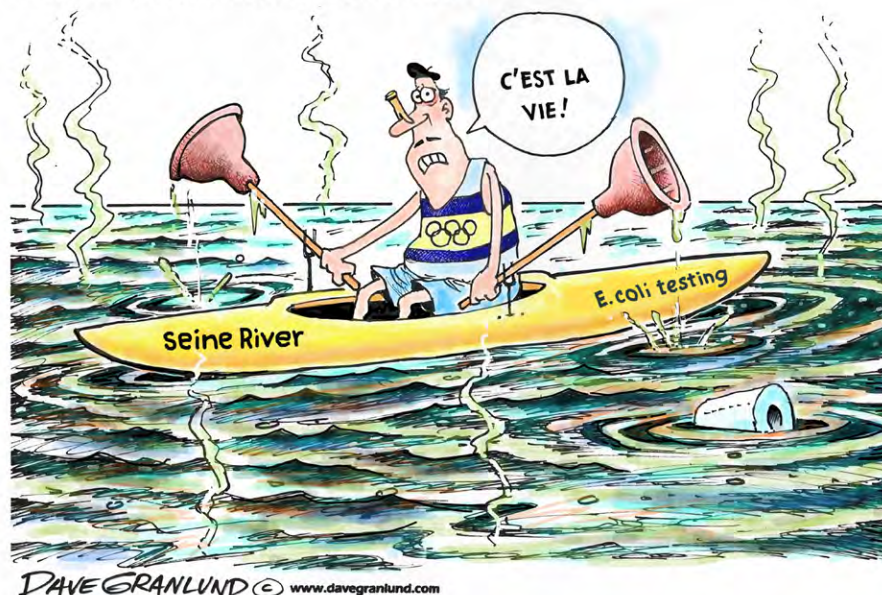
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Xander Padilla takes the cop for a day oath alongside Police Chief Patrick Major as Mayor John Vieau reads the oath.



Xander Padilla watches as Police Chief Patrick Major addresses him with words of wisdom during Padilla's swearing-in ceremony as an honorary police officer at City Hall Auditorium on Aug. 6.

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wish-granting party. The party at the time came ahead of a trip to Disney World, a wish granted through the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

During the trip, Padilla visited the Animal Kingdom, Magic Kingdom, Universal Studios, The World of Avatar and more.

Vieau told Padilla how being a new police officer "comes with a lot of responsibilities" and he is "very brave."

"I'm excited for you because you know what's happening is you're joining a family. When you work for the Chicopee Police Department, it's not just a job, it's a career. So, I'm excited for this opportunity for you," Vieau said. "You're going to have a fun-filled day."

Major shared how "policing these days is not easy."

"The caliber of person we need for our department is very high, and what we need from somebody is loyalty to our community, integrity, being true to yourself and your performance as a police officer, and above all else, strength and courage," Padilla said. "I can assure everybody in this audience today that Officer Xander Padilla has all of those traits that we're looking for. Welcome to the Chicopee Police Department, Xander, and I'm looking forward to having you join us today and get right into your work."

State Sen. Jake Oliveira (D-Ludlow) issued a citation to Padilla on behalf of the Massachusetts State Senate, recognizing his achievement.

"Congratulations Xander. I know you're going to have an awesome day in the city and I know--I know--that the streets will be much safer with you working them," Oliveira said.

Vieau then read the oath for police officer for a day, with Padilla raising his right hand alongside Major, and presented an honor from the police department.

Padilla's mother, Autumn, shared the community support--especially from the police department--"is a blessing."

"It's an absolute blessing, especially because Xander really wants to be a police officer when he grows up. So, for him to experience this and to have that support and the friendship and someone to look up to, it's going to change his life forever," she said.

She explained her son was diagnosed



State Sen. Jake Oliveira (D-Ludlow) and Xander Padilla pose for a photo with a citation recognizing Padilla's swearing-in as an honorary police officer to the Chicopee Police Department on Aug. 6.

with cystic fibrosis at birth and requires medication twice a day, different machine uses such as chest palpitation and affects various areas including the lungs, digestive tract and pancreas.

For her, the swearing-in ceremony also helps raise awareness for cystic fibrosis.

"It definitely does raise more awareness for cystic fibrosis because it's common, but it's not so well-known or spoken about. It's an unseen disease," she said. "It definitely opens up people's minds about cystic fibrosis and teaches them more acceptance."

For fellow parents who have a child or family member with cystic fibrosis, she had this message.

"Stay strong. Keep fighting. It's hard but you just got to hang in there. One day at a time, Just breathe," she said.

She also shared these messages.

First, the police department.

"The police department, I give them my utmost thanks, my utmost appreciation, my gratitude," she said. "I got their back because they've always had mine--and they still do--and they got my kid's back. It's a friendship and a respect that will never change no matter what."

And finally, the city and community.

"I appreciate them for everything they've done, everything they continue to do. I'm so grateful. So, so grateful," she said.

A luau open house at The Arbors



TURLEY PHOTOS BY AMANDA MUNSON

Allyson Grammo, director of marketing and sales at The Arbors, was dressed Hawaiian-themed for the luau happening later on.

By Amanda Munson
Correspondent

CHICOPEE - "Enhancing the quality of life for our residents through genuine care and comfort," the mission of a family-owned and operated business taking pride in welcoming residents into their family as The Arbors of Chicopee showcased their luxury amenities and the full array of personal care and services with a Hawaiian-themed open house on Aug. 1.

Director of Marketing and Sales Allyson Grammo explained the inner workings of the facility and the care given to residents and family members.

A background in digital marketing and graphic design and working for a consulting company, Grammo had worked with senior living clients in the past, falling in love with the field and what it had to offer.

"The best part about my job is seeing my work impact the residents. It's amazing seeing those who were unsupported before coming here, they move in and they blossom. It's so rewarding. Our community is what makes us unique, the residents who live here who are very engaged in the events and activities going on," Grammo said. "The building is amazing, the courtyard is popular because of the sun, flowers,

and garden. We provide all three meals, housekeeping and the incredible care we provide. The caregivers and aides have been here for over five to 10 years, a testament to how we run and how nice it is to be here."

The community is designed to provide opportunities for residents to enjoy life as they choose through a variety of living options, including independent, assisted, short-term stays, memory care known as Reflections, coordination of hospice and other skilled nursing services, along with programming designed to stimulate a lifestyle of health and wellness and options for the mind, body and soul.

"If someone has a fall and goes for short-term rehab, if they don't need that level of care anymore, moving to assisted living is a great option for them. My approach is if they are living alone or the family is having trouble caring for them, I really try to act as an advisor and see if The Arbors is a good fit for that individual. Figuring out what works best for them and taking them through that process," Grammo said.

She added The Arbors is able to help and create a space to go through that process to make sure that it is right for the families interested and having

Please see **ARBORS**, page 9

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Military Appreciation Breakfast at RiverMills

CHICOPEE - The Chicopee Council on Aging host a Military Appreciation Breakfast on Friday, August 30th at 8:30 a.m. at Chicopee Council on Aging's RiverMills Center, located at 5 W. Main Street.

To say "Thank You" to all past and present military members, we invite you to RiverMills Center for a Military Appreciation Breakfast. All past and present Military Service Members eat free. All other participants pay \$5. You must register in advance at RiverMills.

Food and Culture of India

CHICOPEE - The Chicopee Council on Aging offer the program "Food and Culture of India" on Friday, Aug. 16 at 1:30 p.m. at Chicopee Council on Aging's RiverMills Center, located at 5 W. Main Street.

Join Raj Sanghvi, small business owner of Kamy's and Shell Food Mart in Chicopee, as he talks to you about the history and rich culture of India and it's diversity in food and traditions. There will also be a sampling of delicious Indian cuisine! Raj is a member of the Planning Board for the City of Chicopee, and his wife Kamy is on the Chicopee Cultural Council. You must register by stopping by RiverMills center or by calling 534-3698.

Chicopee resident named to Clark Univ. Spring Dean's List

WORCESTER -Haley R. Resnick, of Chicopee, was named to second honors on the Clark University Dean's List. This selection marks outstanding academic achievement during the Spring 2024 semester.

Students must have a GPA of 3.8 or above for first honors or a GPA between 3.50 and 3.79 for second honors.

CITY COUNCIL from page 1

ADA compliance, security for employees and other deficiencies.

"We're into this project right now with design and construction and engineering roughly \$3 million has been spent to get us to the point where we're right now ready to go out to bid," Vieau said. "And that's why I think this decision is so important tonight because the longer we wait, in my opinion, it's going to cost more. If you look at the plans and you look at the deficiencies, piecemealing this project just does not make sense and does not work."

Planning Director Lee Pouliot and Facilities Director Dave Rice provided the presentation, with Pouliot providing a history of phase one renovations and the building itself and Rice explaining the deficiencies phase two would correct.

Pouliot explained capital improvements took place pre-1971 which comprised of fireplaces/chimneys removed and installation of new heating system, while 1977 through 1979 was office re-configurations, doors windows and auditorium rehabilitation. After an auditorium fire in 1979, an auditorium water pipe burst occurred in 1980, leading to auditorium repairs and mechanical systems repairs along with work on plaster, ceilings and carpeting.

After no capital improvements occurred from 1980 to 2014, the panels of the rose window collapsing to the front steps of city hall in July 2014 began the emergency work and conducting phase one of renovations. Following this, a Historic Structures Report occurred from July 2014 to April 2016, with emergency stabilization occurring from April to November 2016.

"Based on that report, it was recommended that we immediately do emergency stabilization work to address failing stone, masonry and to preserve the stained glass windows throughout the building from any further damage," Pouliot said.

From March 2017 to December 2022, phase one rehabilitation took place, which focused on auditorium rehabilitation, main building exterior, annex building exterior, HVAC controls, AHUs, chiller, lightning protection, fire alarm system replacement, bathroom renovations and accessibility upgrades including the elevator.

"With the mayor's support and the

council's support, we began design and engineering work in March of 2021 through today, with nearly 100% bid-ready package for the phase two efforts that were before you for funding tonight," Pouliot said.

Rice said a lot of deficiencies would be addressed in phase two, including the generator, deterioration issues in the walls, the lift for the stairway needing repairs to be ADA compliant, wallpaper, security, locks and security for door hardware, carpet and trip hazards, alarm systems, foundation waterproofing, a breakroom for staff, rehabbing steps for the front part of city hall facing flag island and the glass awning on the front over Front Street.

Pouliot then closed out the presentation by breaking down the costs and funding, with a total cost estimate at \$24,676,215, with hard construction at \$11,771,166.00, soft construction at \$ 6,305,566.00, FF&E--which is furniture, furnishings and equipment--at \$ 3,434,818.00 and administration at \$ 3,164,665.00 for relocating employees during construction.

For secured and possible funding, he said \$116,000 was secured through the EECGB Entitlement Grant, with possible funding options including Green Communities, reapplying for the MA Municipal Accessibility Grant, Chicopee Electric Light and Eversource rebates and the sale of surplus furniture, furnishings and equipment.

"Similar to phase one, we did receive utility rebates from both Chicopee Electric Light and Eversource. We've had preliminary conversations with Chicopee Electric Light. I believe there's a \$50,000 cap per year for an entity, so that's a possible rebate based on some of the improvements, particularly lighting, that we're doing throughout the complex," Pouliot said.

On the next steps after approval, the rough schedule would be bidding and contracting from August through October 2024, mobilization for the contractor in November 2024 and a project closeout date of May 2027.

During the discussion, the City Council asked several questions about the security upgrades, ADA upgrades and audio-visual capabilities, a clarification on HVAC system replacement and if safe rooms would be included in the plans, which was confirmed they were not.

However, the affordability of the renovations was the biggest question and concern for the councilors.

After Ward 8 Councilor Gary Labrie asked if the city could afford the project, in Vieau's opinion, at this time, he replied yes and reiterated his earlier points about the \$3 million investment and higher costs later if there's a wait.

"I don't see construction costs getting any cheaper and I do think that we have the wherewithal--and the financial team can agree--that the employees who work here every day deserve some upgrades and those who

visit here frequently, the residents of Chicopee deserve--I'll say--a safe space and ADA-compliant space and I believe our employees deserve handicap accessibility as well," Vieau said. "I believe I wouldn't be bringing the project forward if I wasn't comfortable knowing that we could afford it."

Ward 1 Councilor Abigail Arriaga shared how the impact on the taxpayer is her concern, with other city projects taking place and water rates recently going up.

"So, in the long run, so we're talking years down the road this will be beneficial to the taxpayers, but what about in the near future?" Arriaga said. "I guess that's my biggest thing because you're talking about getting grants, but it's kind of a hope we'll get the grant, maybe we'll get the grant. So, that's not a really guaranteed quite yet. So, it's just such a big project with so many other projects going on, I'm just concerned that the burden will fall on the taxpayers."

Pouliot addressed Arriaga's concerns, citing immediate benefits including the lighting replacements and the HVAC upgrades to help reduce energy costs.

"So, it'll streamline and make our building more efficient, which is the sort of savings from an annual budget perspective," Pouliot said. "Is that going to offset what the bond is? No, but it is an immediate benefit when Dave writes his budget for the next 35 years."

Vice President/Councilor-at-Large Robert Zygarowski agreed on getting the project done and protecting the employees, but wondered about the tax rate.

"The taxpayers are going to say, 'We're spending a lot of money.' How's that going to affect the tax rate?" Zygarowski said.

Vieau replied, "It's not an easy answer because we're not going to borrow it all at once" and it would be "you're going to borrow what you need."

"Again, once this project starts, we're going to be using \$4 million. Again, depending on what our interest rate is, we'll be looking at those things very carefully as you move forward with the project," Vieau said. "We'll also be aggressively looking for grant opportunities and, again, the numbers are very conservative."

He added the goal was to come in with a number that was conservative and an estimate until going out to bid, also bringing up the estimated 31-month timeline.

"When those real numbers come, we'll look at what the potential debt service is going to be and this is a long-term plan. We're not going to pay it all off at once," Vieau said. "So, it's not going to be an immediate impact to the taxpayers."

Vieau said the tax rate in the next round would not be impacted as the money would not be set yet.

"We're trying to keep Chicopee affordable, but we're also trying to maintain progress," Vieau said.

Councilor-at-Large Tim Wagner was in favor of moving forward on the project, "albeit begrudgingly."

"It would be a disservice to the people who work here and to the people who come here every day to do business to leave them in a facility that is rotting

and that is not up to code and that is not, for many people, accessible even in the slightest if they have a disability," Wagner said. "So, I'm all for these renovations but with some asterisks. Needs to be done."

Ward 7 Councilor William Courchesne acknowledged the project was "a lot of money," but reiterated Wagner's points, adding he believed the project got more expensive because "it was already bidden out years ago."

"So, we can already see for a fact why we shouldn't wait anymore because it's already costing us..." Courchesne said. "Do I want to do it? No. But do we have to do it? Yes. We owe it to the public, we owe it to the people that work here and we owe it to our children and grandchildren not to burden them with the extra waiting, waiting and waiting."

Ward 9 Councilor Mary Beth Costello agreed with Vieau that the project has to get done.

"Unfortunately, it's a lot of money but everything's expensive, and this is money that's not being wasted. It's being invested and it's invested in our future," Costello said. "Our children and our grandchildren will be proud of the fact that this will be a safe building--not only in regards to security--but for ADA compliance, for any type of air problems, so I appreciate what the mayor, Mr. Pouliot and Mr. Rice did. Along with the financial team that went through the numbers, that have told us we can afford this. If we kick this can down the road, it's going to cost us a lot more money."

Arriaga did agree that the employees deserve it and "it's something that needs to be done," but also reiterated her earlier points.

"It honestly just comes down to the burden on the taxpayers for me because we just have so many big projects and big projects to come. I think that the employees deserve a good space to be in, but the taxpayers deserve to be understood too," Arriaga said.

She added she felt on the fence due to those unanswered questions and the many aspects involved.

"I want to make it clear that I support the employees here and what they deserve: a safe place and I love the plans, I think they're fantastic and everyone's done such an amazing job on it. It's just that kind of last piece for me," Arriaga said.

Ward 4 Councilor George Balakier, who had asked about percentages that might be available and the bonding capacity, shared a point of reference from phase one renovations where there was a \$16 million authorization bond.

\$2 million of that bond, Balakier said, went unborrowed "as it was not needed to complete the project based upon actual construction costs."

"This may very well happen with this project here, so there could potentially be some light at the end of the tunnel. So, the figures might not be as daunting as they appear on the surface," Balakier said.

Order One to approve a \$21 million municipal bond authorization passed 12-0, with Order Two to approve a \$4 million appropriation to the Capital Projects Special Account passed 12-0.



Sports

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Chicopee advances to B Division finals



Tiago Destapado sends a free kick away.



Travis Podolski dribbles his way up the field.



Yousif Hamid winds up and heads up the field.



Matheus Lima hustles past midfield.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM
Abdulwahhab Alnuaimi follows through on a free kick.

CHICOPEE – The Chicopee Pacers boys summer soccer team reached the finals of the Pioneer Valley Summer Soccer League. The Pacers defeated Granby, and then last Thursday, beat South Hadley handily with a 5-0 shutout to advance to the finals against Frontier. The Pacers would come up short in the matchup. Highlights from that matchup will be in next week's edition.

Here for Beer scores upset



TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM
Mackenzie Shean, of Agawam, fights to keep the ball.



Joanna Mull, of Belchertown, makes her way up the field.



Gwen Duggan, of Palmer, looks to get around a Monson player.

MONSON – Facing the higher-seeded Monson Mustangs last Monday in the PVSSL Women's Division quarterfinals, Here for Beer scored a 4-3 upset at Rogers Field. They would make it all the way to the finals before falling to the Lusitano Women last Friday night. Highlights from that matchup will be in next week's edition.

Heat falls in semifinals



Emily Ottomaniello, of Agawam, makes her way up the field for the Heat.

CHICOPEE – Last Wednesday evening, the Heat, which features players from throughout the region, fell in the semifinals to Luistano Women in the Women's Division playoffs of the PVSSL 3-1.



Kassandra Liquori sends a pass away.

TURLEY PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM



Samara Robles looks to make a save in goal.

Barnett leads way at Thompson Speedway

THOMPSON, CT — Although early rains made for a shortened practice schedule on Thursday, Thompson Speedway lit-up the night for the final round of Thursday Night Thunder this season. Dominance was the word to describe Thursday's racing action at Thompson Speedway with the night starting off under the command of the fan-favorite Street Stock class. Former multi-time track champion 'Leadfoot' Larry Barnett led the 20-lap main event for the Street Stocks from the drop of the green flag to the twin checkered flags for his first win of the season. While 'Leadfoot' dominated up front, all eyes were on Ryan Waterman as he charged

from eighth-place to third in the fast-paced feature event.

The dominance continued in the AZ Roofing SK Light Modified ranks. While Nick Hovey led from the point, point leader Tyler Chapman came to the front for a side-by-side battle with plenty of sparks. Chapman would pull up bumper to bumper before getting loose on the outside groove again and again, finally getting just the right push off to claim his fourth win of the year over Hovey and Meghan Fuller.

The Mini Stock showcase saw one of the fiercest battles of the night between defending champion and point leader Jarred Roy and Ryan Pomposelli. The two fought tooth and nail

across the 0.625-mile Thompson Speedway with Roy making his final pass with just two laps remaining to claim his fourth win of the year with Pomposelli taking second and Kevin Moore turning around a tough-luck season for third.

The growing Thompson Sunoco Modified division was once again under the control of young Jon Puleo. The Mr. Rooter Plumbing machine was on rails for the Twisted Tea Midsummer 50-lap main event on Thursday with the young-gun never leaving the lead position. Puleo took down his third win of the season followed by Keith Rocco and leading rookie Isaiah Newcomb at the line.

The Late Models rounded out Thursday's showcase. A final show of dominance saw former Late Model track champion Brian Tagg lead all 25-laps on the field for his first win at Thompson Speedway this season with defending track champion Nick Johnson coming home second followed by Kulwicki Driver Development Program (KDDP) finalist Derek Gluchacki in third.

Thompson Speedway returns to Wednesday night racing action in less than two weeks on Wednesday, August 7 for the Tripoint Showdown 50-lap main event for the Thompson Sunoco Modifieds. The Late Models, AZ Roofing SK Light Modifieds, Street Stocks and Mini Stocks

make it a five division card with a 6:00pm Post Time on Wednesday, August 7.

For more information about the American-Canadian Tour, contact the ACT offices at (802) 244-6963, media@acttour.com, or visit www.acttour.com. You can also get updates on Facebook and Twitter at @ACTTour.

For technical information concerning all PASS divisions, and for media or marketing questions, please contact pass-racing@roadrunner.com or visit www.proallstarsseries.com. Don't forget to "Like" the Pro All Stars Series on Facebook or follow on Twitter @PASSSLM14 to keep up with breaking news as it happens.

Julie Mason Inducted Into Psi Chi National Honor Society

SPRINGFIELD - Julie Mason of Chicopee joined the esteemed Psi Chi National Honor Society on April 12, at the Western New England University chapter's annual induction ceremony.

Psi Chi is the national honor society for psychology and is an affiliate of the American Psychological Association. The purpose of the honor society is to advance the science of psychology and to encourage, stimulate, and maintain scholarship.

Chapter membership is open to Western New England University students majoring or minoring in psychology. Students must have completed nine credit hours of psychology courses; have a cumulative GPA in the top 35 percent of their academic class or the college that houses psychology; and have a minimum 3.0 GPA average for psychology courses.

Mason is working toward a degree in Psychology.

T-Birds sign three for upcoming season

SPRINGFIELD — The Springfield Thunderbirds announced today that they have signed goaltender Cam Johnson, as well as forwards Tarun Fizer and Reece Newkirk, to one-year AHL contracts. Johnson, 30, has been the backstop for each of the Florida Everblades' three consecutive Kelly Cup championships. In 63 career playoff games in the ECHL, Johnson has a sparkling 47-13-3 record, 11 shutouts, a 1.97 goals-against average, and a .928 save percentage. He was the June M. Kelly Award winner as ECHL playoff MVP in 2022 and 2023. The former University of North Dakota National Champion also has 53 games of AHL experience with the Binghamton Devils and Cleveland Monsters. Fizer, 23, is entering his third full professional season. As a rookie with the ECHL's Utah Grizzlies in 2022-23, the Chesham, AB native scored 50 points (27g, 23a) in 62 games. Last season, he skated in 30 games for the Belleville Senators, posting two goals and three assists. He also chipped in 10 points (4g, 6a) in 10 games for the ECHL's Allen Americans. Before turning pro, Fizer skated in five WHL seasons for the Victoria Royals. In 2021-22, he captained the Royals and put up 51 points (17g, 34a) in just 35 games. Newkirk, 23, is set to begin his fourth professional season. Originally a fifth-round pick by the New York Islanders in the 2019 NHL Draft, Newkirk has skated in 45 AHL games with Bridgeport, putting up 10 points (2g, 8a). In 102 ECHL games with the Worcester Railers, the Moose Jaw, SK native has 78 points (37g, 41). Before turning pro, Newkirk starred with the WHL's Portland Winterhawks, where he accumulated 162 points (69g, 93a) in 205 games.

Quabbin League seeking to start fall league

The Quabbin Valley Over-28 Baseball League is looking to start an eight-game fall program for the over-28 population. The league, which plays a spring/summer regular season with six teams for 15 games followed by playoffs, is hoping to continue the fun into the fall with a short eight-game schedule for interested players.

Preliminary details are still being worked on, but the league is looking to have four teams with six "regular season" games followed by a semifinal in the seventh week, and a final/consolation game in the eighth week.

The league will be a bit more informal than the regular spring/summer league with the goal being for players to have fun playing more baseball, work on field and batting skills through more innings in the field and extra at-bats, or potentially working on or trying out pitching.

As has been traditional in other fall leagues, the Quabbin League will likely be wood-bat only for the fall.

There is an interest form and survey interested players can fill out at www.quabbinvalleybaseball.org. The league is open to all current Quabbin league players as well as players from other leagues who are age 28 and over during the calendar year of 2024.

The league will look to keep the cost very low for the league with preliminary indications having the league in the \$40-50 range to play eight games.

Games will likely be held in the West Springfield, Agawam, Southwick area and are likely to be held on Sunday mornings, though a few games may be held at alternate times. Games are scheduled to begin in September after Labor Day.

ARBORS from page 5

the opportunity to ask questions.

"It's a very emotional process of moving from your home that you lived in for 40 years and coming to an entirely community living lifestyle. It's a big change so helping them through that transition is important, I love doing it and it's also nice to see how people feel at the other end of it. Many children go from a caregiver role into being a daughter or son role again," Grammo said.

Grammo shared more about the

building itself.

"Traditional assisted living takes up most of our building and then we have a small section of our reflections for memory care. It is person first care, looking at each person and how they may be able to engage more. We have activities every 15 to 30 minutes throughout the community," Grammo said.

When talking in The Arbors pub, the smell of fresh cooked food with an array of dessert and drinks filled the kitchen island, catching residents' eyes when passing. The inspiration behind these events is

with the residents in mind first.

"The open house is luau themed, going for the summer vibe. We wanted to showcase the kitchen menu and taste what it would be like if they lived here. Also, for people who don't know what assisted living is, I want to be that resource and educator to tell them the differences between independent living or a skilled nursing facility. Assisted living at the Arbors is providing a lifestyle to enjoy the last years of their life. Everyone here is very engaged and active, great food and activities, music with entertainment to en-

joy their years here," Grammo said.

On what she enjoys best about The Arbors, Grammo said this.

"The Arbors is really different from other assisted living facilities since it's family owned, which I really love. The family is very involved with the day-to-day life, they really care about the residents. They aim to make it feel as homey as possible. You feel that working here, Grammo said."

To learn more, visit arborsassistedliving.com/chicopee-massachusetts-assisted-living-memory-care-near-you/.

DANCE from page 1

Vasquez made the Lyrical, Jazz and Acro teams and expressed excitement for the upcoming Dance Olympics, having been dancing for 14 years.

"I remember my first recital and I saw one of the older girls dancing and I thought it was the coolest thing ever and I wanted to do the same thing," Vasquez said. "So, she definitely inspired me a lot to begin dancing and to take it more seriously."

Vasquez stressed how dance is not only just a sport, but also an art.

"It's like an entertaining form of art that people watch, but it also comes with a lot of discipline and training to perfect your art. So, I think it's really important for people to understand that it is a sport as much as football and basketball is because of the training, time and effort put into it," Vasquez said.

Cosgrove, meanwhile, made the Lyrical team and has danced for 12 years, following her sister and friends into dancing and loving the art.

"It's a really cool opportunity, so I'm super excited to represent and it's just such a great honor," Cosgrove said. "It's really important to all of us."

She considers her fellow teammates her role models, enjoying how dance provides community, freedom and an oppor-



SUBMITTED PHOTOS CHRISTINA BORDEAU

Thea Cosgrove, Madisyn Vasquez, Paige Bordeau and Karielys Rivera pose for a fun photo with their medals.

tunity to express yourself. The greatest lesson Cosgrove learned in dance focused on mindset.

"Probably just to be in the mindset that you overthink about what you look like and what everyone thinks about you. But, they're focused on themselves and I think it's an important thing to keep in mind while you're dancing," Cosgrove said.

Rivera, who also went to Germany and made the Hip Hop team, will be competing on the Lyrical, Contemporary and Jazz teams, dancing since she was two years old. She also made the United States Dance Team and

Acro Team for the New England area.

"It's been a good experience. I think it's taught me a lot of things like teamwork and discipline, things like that," Rivera said. "I wouldn't trade it for anything else in the world honestly."

Rivera hopes the girls attending the IDO Dance Olympics will inspire future dancers.

"I think it's a good impact, especially in New England, because we don't really have prestigious dance schools over here. So, I think it's a really good impact and I hope little girls and little boys can see us as role models and they can see us growing so

they can grow themselves," Rivera said.

Christina Bordeau, Paige's mom, said the IDO is the Olympics for dance and "is the biggest opportunity" the girls wanted to do, hoping to take home the gold.

"It is a huge community, the dance community. There are so many positive things and I think Lisa (Attanasio) and Bianca (Attanasio) are the ones who kind of foster that with the teachers at the studio," she said. "And I think there's so many opportunities, but this is like, wow."

She added the fundraiser in September is an opportunity to bring the community together to support the girls and vice versa.

"We're really looking for the girls to thank the community for coming to support them," she said. "So, we're excited about that."

Bordeau wants the community and surrounding communities to know how much the girls want to make everyone proud.

"I do think it's important for the community to know that all four girls want to represent the United States in a positive way and when they have that United States flag and patches on them, they're representing not only the United States, but their communities in which they serve," she said. "And that they're really here over there to set a positive example, especially for girls today. They're really appreciative of the

support from their communities and the support from their studio and teachers."

The girls' messages were this.

"I give a thank you to my studio, my teachers and everyone that has supported me there because they've known this is one of my biggest dreams for a while," Bordeau said. "And I thank the community for all the support they're going to provide us."

"Thanks to the community the last time I went. It made things easier for my parents financially and, hopefully, they do it again for us and, also, for my friends so I can live this experience with my friends," Rivera said.

"Just a huge thank you for everyone's support because without them, we could not get here. Everything helps us get here and makes our dreams come true," Cosgrove said. "So, everyone's support means the world to us to help make our dreams come true."

"A really big thank you because I wouldn't be going to Poland without them, without the support of my community, without the support of my dance teachers and the training they have provided for me," Vasquez said. "And, also, for my friends, thank you as well. I wouldn't be the dancer I am today without any of their support."

PUBLIC NOTICES

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 August 9, 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.

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Luis Ocasio
321 Tokeneke Rd
Holyoke, MA 01040

2005 Acura TSX
VIN: JH4CL96815C000373
William Terrell
32 Putnam Ave
Lowell, MA 01851

2003 Toyota Camry
VIN: 4T1BE30K43U751835
Jonathan Dube
85 Thompson St.
Hyde Park, MA 02136

2009 Acura TL
VIN: 19UUA96589A002870
Melwin Rivera

2309 Main St Apt 7
Springfield, MA 01107

2008 Pontiac G6
VIN: 1G2ZG57NX84164513
Craig Pearlman
3106 S Main St
Bondsville, MA 01009

2007 Nissan Maxima
VIN: 1N4BA41E07C852158
Michael Rodriguez
178 Florence Rd, Apt 7D
Florence, MA 01062

2011 Jeep Liberty
VIN: 1J4PN2GK0BW565278
Richard Bennett
450 Morningstar Rd
Staten Island, NY 10303

2001 Acura MDX
VIN: 2HNYD18681H508990
Herbert & Cynthia Borenstein
72 Atwater Rd
Canton, CT 06019

2005 Volvo S60
VIN: YV1RS592152434470
Thomas Smith
17 Linda Ave.
Chicopee, MA 01013

2010 Toyota Prius
VIN: JTDKN3DU5A0034526
Kevin Kelly
118 Draper St
Springfield, MA 01108
07/26, 08/02, 08/09/2024

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 Docket No. HD20P2184GD

In the interests of Thomas E Theriault of Chicopee, MA Minor

NOTICE AND ORDER: Petition for Resignation or Petition for Removal of Guardianship of a Minor NOTICE TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES

1. Hearing Date/Time: A hearing on a Petition to Resign as Guardian of a Minor or Petition for Removal of Guardian of a Minor filed by Carrie Murray on 07/24/2024 will be held 08/27/2024 08:30 AM Guardianship of Minor Hearing. Located 50 State St, 4th Floor, Springfield, MA 01103

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

File the original with the Court; and

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

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

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

Date: July 29, 2024
Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
08/09/2023

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. HD24P1614EA

Estate of:
Frederick L Wilson
Also known as:
Frederick Lee Wilson
Date of Death: 02/05/2024
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 John R Wilson 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: John R Wilson 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 08/29/2024. 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: August 01, 2024

Rosemary A Saccomani,
Register of Probate
08/09/2024

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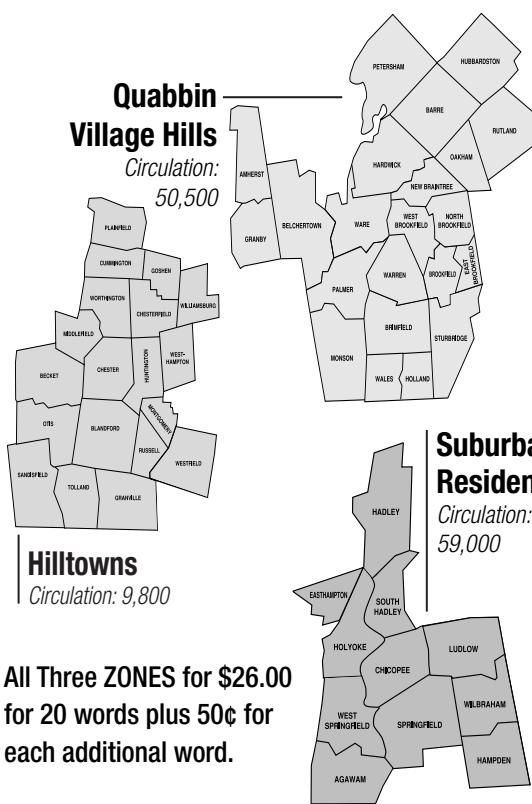
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PUBLIC NOTICES

CHICOPEE CITY COUNCIL ZONING COMMITTEE LEGAL NOTICE

The Zoning Committee of the Chicopee City Council will hold a public hearing **Wednesday, August 28, 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 from Res A to Res B for +/- 12,778 SF of property located at 586 Montgomery St. for the purpose of converting to 2 family. Applicant – Valerie Duprey, Ronald Sagan, 586 Montgomery St., Chicopee, MA 01020.

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

The August 28, 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. 08/09, 08/16/2024

CHICOPEE CITY COUNCIL ZONING COMMITTEE LEGAL NOTICE

The Zoning Committee

of the Chicopee City Council will hold a public hearing **Wednesday, August 28, 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 to Residence A for 7,378 SF of property located at 1230 Montgomery St. for the purpose of single-family residence. There is no business here. Applicant – Donald J. Ruel, 72 Parenteau Ct., Chicopee, MA 01020.

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

The August 28, 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. 08/09, 08/16/2024

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
Docket No. HD24P1470GD
In the interests of**

Mario Yumet Carrasquillo of Chicopee, MA Minor NOTICE AND ORDER: Petition for Appointment of Guardian of a Minor NOTICE TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES

1. Hearing Date/Time: A hearing on a Petition for Appointment of Guardian of a Minor filed on **07/12/2024** by **Katherine J. Feliciano** of Northampton, MA will be held **08/20/2024 10:00 AM Guardianship of Minor Hearing**. Located: **4th Floor 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 Hampden Probate and Family Court.**

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

File the original with the Court; and

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

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

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

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

Date: July 12, 2024
Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
08/09/2024

CHICOPEE CITY COUNCIL ZONING COMMITTEE

The Zoning Committee of the Chicopee City Council will hold a public hearing **Wednesday, August 28, 2024 at 6:30 PM*** in the Chambers, 4th floor, City Hall Annex, 274 Front Street., Chicopee, MA 01013 to discuss the following:

Ordinance Amendment to delete in its entirety Chapter 275-66A Burnett Rd. and insert new language for Chapter 275-66A Burnett Road Special Permit process. Complete text available in the City Council Office. Applicant - Councilor Samuel Shumsky (Ward 6), City Council Office, City Hall Annex, 274 Front St. Chicopee, MA 01013.

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

The August 28, 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. 08/09, 08/16/2024

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 09/03/2024. 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: August 05, 2024

Rosemary A Saccomani,
Register of Probate
08/09/2024

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
Docket No. HD24P1584GD
In the interests of
Thomas E Theriault
of Springfield, MA
Minor**

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

1. Hearing Date/Time: A hearing on a Petition for Appointment of Guardian of a Minor filed on **07/29/2024** by **Carrie S Murray** of Springfield, MA will be held **08/27/2024 08:30 AM Guardianship of Minor Hearing**. Located: **50 State Street, 4th Floor, Springfield, MA 01103.**

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

File the original with the Court; and

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

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

4. Counsel for Parents: If you are a parent of the minor child who is the subject of this proceeding you have a right to be represented by an attorney. If you want an attorney and cannot afford to pay for one and if you give proof that you are indigent, an attorney will be assigned to you. Your request

for an attorney should be made immediately by filling out the Application of Appointment of Counsel form. Submit the application form in person or by mail at the court location where your case is going to be heard.

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

Date: July 29, 2024
Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
08/09/2024

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 **August 30, 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.

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Pittsfield, MA 01201

2003 Ford F150
VIN: 1FTRF17WX3NA62373
Anthony Ellcocka
301 W Chestnut St.
Brockton, MA 02301

2004 Acura TL
VIN: 19UUA66234A055957
Lenny Marrero
54 Washburn St. Apt 54
Springfield, MA 01107

2005 Honda Pilot
VIN: 2HKYF18485H523582
Mohamed Barrie
38 Kenneth St #2FL
Hartford, CT 06114

2005 Toyota Rav4
VIN: JTEGD20V450066564
Kimberly Guzman Santana
462 Front St Apt 3R
Chicopee, MA 01013

2007 Subaru Forester
VIN: JF1SG636X7H716865
Patricia J. Tino
23 Neck Rd.
Clinton, CT 06413

2016 Nissan Versa
VIN: 3N1CN7AP2GL820115
Uma Paladugu
2034 Riverdale St Apt 205
West Springfield, MA 01089

2000 Chevrolet Malibu
VIN: 1G1ND52J2Y6283516
Robert Nieves
10 Mill St.
Springfield, MA 01108

2006 Saturn Vue
VIN: 5GZCZ33D06S828404
Ivelis Diaz
52 High St. Apt 413
Springfield, MA 01105

2008 Ford Explorer Eddie Bauer
VIN: 1FMEU74858UA23793
Russell & Jennie Cleaver
580 Kelly Lane
Newport, PA 17074

2011 Honda Pilot
VIN: 5FNYP4H21BB088026
Edna Mabel Vargas Acre
219 Hough Ave
Bridgeport, CT 06608

2012 Kia Rio
VIN: KNADN4A30C6075640
Jaime Violano
660 Mix Ave.
Hamden, CT 06514

2024 Honda Accord
VIN: 1HGCY1F32RA024192
David Rivera
36 Decker Pl. Apt 36
Springfield, MA 01104

08/09, 08/16, 08/23/2024

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HELP WANTED

PIONEER VALLEY TRANSIT AUTHORITY SENIOR ACCOUNTANT

PVTA is seeking a full-time Senior Accountant to manage the general accounting and trial balance functions. This position will assist with the implementing all accounting systems following accounting control procedures, and ensure that all related supporting documentation is processed accordingly. Must have at least 5 years of hands-on accounting experience in a General Accountant or Controller role and be proficient with Excel and various accounting software applications. Normal schedule is M-F, 9 a.m. -5 p.m., with occasional evenings. Salary is \$1,538-\$1,730/week depending on experience with excellent benefits package including health, dental, 457b, and defined pension. Please review qualification and job requirements under Careers at www.pvta.com. Please upload cover letter and resume via our website or email to humanresources@pvtransit.com. EEO/DF.

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

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All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status (number of children and or pregnancy), national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, or any intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination.

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertising in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development "HUD" toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.



Post your job openings in our classifieds. **WE GET RESULTS!**
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Chicopee students visit Firefighting Academy



CHICOPEE - In June, students from Chicopee Comprehensive High School and Chicopee High School were able to visit the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy Campus in

Springfield, MA. The students were able to experience what it is like to be a firefighter for the day.

The Chicopee Fire Department is grateful to the Fire Academy for

developing this opportunity for our community's students, as well as to the instructors that dedicated their day to this experience.



Photos and caption courtesy of Chicopee Fire Department

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USDA INSP. FROZEN BONE-IN CENTER CUT PORK LOIN CHOPS..... \$2.49 lb	USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF STRIPLOIN CUT FREE \$6.99 lb	USDA INSP. BEEF BACK RIBS \$2.79 lb	USDA INSP. FRESH WHOLE CHICKEN TWIN PAK..... \$1.49 lb
USDA INSP. FRESH COUNTRYSTYLE PORK RIBS \$2.49 lb	USDA INSP. FRESH BONE-IN PORTERHOUSE or T'BONE STEAKS \$8.88 lb	USDA INSP. FRESH CHICKEN DRUMSTICKS 10 LB BAG 77¢	USDA INSP. FROZEN CHOCOLATE SILK PIE 23 OZ..... \$5.99 ea
USDA INSP. FROZEN ST. LOUIS PORK RIBS \$2.22 lb	USDA INSP. GROUND FRESH DAILY 80% LEAN GROUND BEEF \$3.79 lb	USDA INSP. FRESH ROAST BEEF \$7.99 lb	USDA INSP. IQF FROZEN COOKED SHRIMP 21/25 COUNT 2 LB BAG \$9.99 ea
SLICED IN OUR DELI IN OUR DELI LAND O' LAKES SLICED AMERICAN CHEESE 3 LB \$8.99 ea	90 Meat Outlet	USDA INSP. STORE MADE BONELESS ITALIAN MARINATED 1/2 CHICKEN..... \$2.99 lb	90 Avocado St. Springfield 413-737-1288 www.90meat.com
USDA INSP. STORE MADE KABOBS WITH VEGGIES \$5.49 lb	HOURS: Mon. - Wed. 8-4 Thurs. 8-6 • Fri. 8-6 • Sat. 8-3	CHICKEN... \$5.49 lb BEEF... \$7.99 lb	SALES DATES: 8/8/24-8/15/24 BUY DIRECT FOR SAVINGS • SELECTION • SERVICE

Send Us Your Autumn Event Information

Turley Publications will print your Autumn event **FREE OF CHARGE** in our **Autumn Fest Supplement** which will be published **September 11, 2024.**

Total circulation of 85,000 reaching over 200,000 readers in the Pioneer Valley.

Deadline for Calendar submissions is August 12.

Community Autumn Events

Event Should Be Non-Profit & Open to the Public

FREE Calendar Listings Reaching over 200,000 Readers in the Pioneer Valley

Event Name _____

Date/Time _____

Location _____

Description _____

Cost _____

Contact name & phone number for more information _____

MAIL YOUR LISTING INFORMATION TO:

Turley Publications, Attn: Jamie Joslyn, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069 or email* them to: jamie@turley.com

***Be sure to indicate "Autumn Event" in the subject line of your email.**