

# Chicopee Register

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COMMUNITY

## Second Annual Dominoes Tournament unites community and friends

By Kristin Rivers  
Editor  
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CHICOPEE - Wisniewski Park was abuzz with activity from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Aug. 17 for the Second Annual Dominoes Tournament.

Drawing experienced and new players from the community and beyond, the tournament was an opportunity to bring everyone together while forging positive relationships between the police department and residents and celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month.

Vendors included Curry Honda, Girl Time Nails, Paris & Ty's, Mi Esouima Boricua, Rivera's Brunch Spot, El Charro's Mexican Tacos, El Sabor de Mami, Gigi's Gourmet Gateau and the police department's ice cream truck, with musical entertainment provided by DJ Dynamic, DJ Double R and gRupO nICe.

The prizes were customized domino tables donated by Key Food Marketplace and Mi Esoumia Boricua, trophies for the runner-up and a raffle with donated perfumes.

The event also received support from the mayor's office, the Chicopee Cultural Council, the Mass Cultural Council, State Sen. Adam Gomez (D-Springfield), An-



A crowd gathers as the final players—part of Cayey's Social Club—deal dominoes during the Second Annual Dominoes Tournament at Wisniewski Park in Chicopee.

TURLEY PHOTO BY KRISTIN RIVERS

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COMMUNITY



TURLEY PHOTO BY AMANDA MUNSON

Jerry Schneider showing the kids the glass case of pollinators, educating why they are so important and stating that their favorite fruit are grown because of the work of pollinators.

## Supporting pollinators with Jerry Schneider

Supporting pollinators with Jerry Schneider

By Amanda Munson  
Correspondent

CHICOPEE - "Did you know that bats are pollinators?" said Jerry Schneider, presenter of a pollinator presentation at the library on Aug. 14 that made kids think

and ask why pollinators are so important.

Throughout the event, held in the Bazan Community Room, butterflies, moths, flies, beetles and bees were on display in glass cases, with a slideshow of pictures of these pollinators at work maintaining a healthy ecosystem.

In his 40s, Schneider was a children's librarian booking and attending these types of

See **POLLINATORS** page 8

COMMUNITY

## Chicopee raises India flag for Indian Independence Day

By Kristin Rivers  
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CHICOPEE - Residents, community members, local and state elected officials and more gathered outside city hall on Aug. 14 to raise India's flag for Indian Independence.

It's the second time the city has raised the flag to recognize India's Independence Day, celebrated on Aug. 15, with this year marking 78 years since the country broke away from British rule.

Mayor John Vieau explained how he's learned about India and the city's Indian-American community through the friendships he's forged, people "who really mean a lot to me."

Vieau said one thing he learned about Indian-Americans is about their hard work.

"Their contributions are--like I had said--are incredible to not just the progress that we're making as a country, but to the economy. They're committed in investing in our city every single day, coming up with very unique projects that benefit those living in Chicopee and the surrounding community, whether it'd be a hotel or a restaurant," Vieau said.

State Rep. Shirley Arriaga (D-Chicopee) said, "We are here to celebrate the independence



TURLEY PHOTO BY KRISTIN RIVERS

From the left, Raj Sanghvi, Sam Newell, co-owner of Fruit Fair Supermarket, and Kamy Sanghvi lead attendees in singing India's National Anthem during Chicopee's flag-raising ceremony for Indian Independence Day on Aug. 14.

day of the Indian community, and more importantly, to share some information."

"I encourage all of you to take the time to learn about the Indian community, the culture and the values. I think we all heard about Mahatma Gandhi and his nonviolence and what he did to this world because he truly did change the world and that's something we can take with us to be a better person, to be a better community moving forward,"

Arriaga said.

Raj Sanghvi, a business owner in Chicopee, thanked Vieau and his staff for setting up the ceremony and the community for their support.

"Chicopee's been great to us. We don't feel we're outside India now. It's become a home, a second home. It's just amazing how America just appreciates everybody who works hard and can

See **FLAG RAISING** page 8

# School Committee presents Superintendent's Evaluation

By Kristin Rivers  
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CHICOPEE - School Committee presented their Superintendent's Evaluation of Superintendent Dr. Marcus Ware on Aug. 14.

Ward 5 School Committee Representative Grace Schofield, chairperson of the Superintendent's Evaluation Subcommittee, presented the full report.

Schofield explained 11 committee members participated—with Ward 4 School Committee Representative Sandra Peret later clarifying one member—Ward 7 School Committee Representative and Vice Chair, Don Lamothe—did not participate and had to abstain due to a conflict of interest—and evaluated Ware in four standards he presented to the committee: instructional leadership, management operations, family and community engagement and professional culture.

The rating scale was one point for unsatisfactory, two points for needs improvement, three points for proficient and four points for exemplary.

On instructional leadership, Schofield said five members selected proficient, while six chose exemplary, leading to an overall score of exemplary.

“Dr. Ware has shown a thoughtful approach to the superintendent position. Early on, he shared his review of the School Committee by reviewing past televised meetings. He met with various schools and personnel throughout walk-throughs as well as one-on-one meetings with principals,” Schofield read. “In addition, he had community meetings in wards of Chicopee to hear from residents, parents and any elected official living in the ward. Dr.

Ware's early days as superintendent sought to gain information about where the district was regarding its education process, supports, programs, etc. He evaluated for himself this district wanting input from all involved. It is only from this thorough examination that the leader of the district can put together a plan for the education of the students.”

Schofield said throughout School Committee meetings, Ware has “continued to communicate efforts to understand processes across the schools, ensuring consistency in sharing of best practices throughout the district.”

“This year, there have been discussions surrounding curriculum across schools and efforts to standardize and enhance existing curricula and training for implementation of the curricula,” Schofield read. “This alignment provides the opportunity for collaboration across the district with our instructional leaders.”

Other highlights were Ware's prompt responses to concerns from parents and new teachers with regular updates shared with the committee, staff engagement activities such as Zumba and outreach efforts including school tours with Mayor John Vieau and School Committee members.

On management operations, the rating was two members selecting needs improvement, seven for proficient and two for exemplary, which led to a proficient rating.

Here, Schofield highlighted Ware's approach to the 2024-2025 budget “as it was developed through a needs-based process” with thorough consultations with each school and district leadership.

“This collaborative and focused effort worked to ensure that resources were allocated appropriately to support the imple-

mentation of curricula, staffing and scheduling across the district,” Schofield read. “In addition, the superintendent presented a review of systems budget breakdown at a 2024 meeting, explaining in detail the plans of the 2024-2025 school year. This demonstrates his self-education about the financial health of the system. John Miarecki was available for providing supplemental information to questions if this was needed. Also, Dr. Ware had the director of maintenance provide detailed reports of projects and the state of our schools. Additionally, under his leadership, his executive board regularly reports ongoing information on their respective departments at School Committee meetings. This delegation is a characteristic of strong leadership.”

Other highlights included his administrative team developing a district budget “aligned with goals that addresses needs of all students,” spending hours to develop the budget book and redirecting funds from a maintenance project to enhance school security.

Transparency was also brought up. “With transparency as a constant goal, some committee members expressed concerns to see rationale for decisions and how decisions will affect future budgetary decisions,” Schofield read.

Next, family and community engagement, with one member selecting needs improvement, four selecting proficient and six with exemplary, giving an exemplary rating.

Schofield said the evidence focuses on unity, with Ware holding internal meetings with staff and community meetings open to all to connect, understand, address concerns and foster engagement.

She added the community meetings “were numerous.”

“Town hall meetings for staff provided a chance to express thoughts on any topic that was important to them. Sometimes, the public offered critical comments, yet Dr. Ware maintained a professional, respectful attitude towards individuals. His respect to others encourages others to offer information, positive or not so positive,” Schofield read. “Leading by example, the intent was to foster a culture of collaboration and mutual respect. He listened to all, answered questions and when he couldn't answer their questions, he made arrangements to follow through with investigations and get back to parties involved with a response in real-time. Dr. Ware is aware of the culturally diverse student body and wants everyone to recognize, appreciate and understand our differences.”

Other highlights concerned offering professional development programs “to assist in fostering a positive, inclusive school environment” to promote growth for students and staff.

Lastly, professional culture, with six

members selecting proficient and five exemplary, with the overall rating as exemplary due to the scoring system.

Here, Schofield explained Ware's presentations being insights into the system was the main highlight.

“He is critically assessing what programs and series Chicopee has in place. He is working to show their connectedness to the successful education of students. He demonstrates the ability to pull everything together so that we can see this interconnection with programs. The superintendent played a pivotal role in transitioning the district to a new communication platform which streamlined communication by providing enhanced tools for parents, teachers, students and leadership,” Schofield read. “The superintendent demonstrates a deep commitment to accessibility by considering language barriers in communication with parents. Bilingual media interviews, School Committee updates and community updates via Facebook and emails are evidence of indicator four.”

Other highlights included regular and detailed communication with the committee being maintained, ensuring transparency and accountability and having a proactive approach to addressing concerns.

As an additional note, the public input on student behavior and discipline concerns from meetings in May was brought up, with Schofield sharing how Ware responded to the concerns in a subsequent meeting with a presentation providing information about what programs and supports that were in place to assist with behavior.

“Additionally, he addressed school safety and the state laws that govern school discipline. Dr. Ware shows commitment in responding to concerns. Through Dr. Ware's analysis of the system, it seems he wants to improve it through empowering personnel to know that they're significant in success. He seeks to have things uniform throughout the district,” Schofield read. “Dr. Ware is student-focused and continues to try and enhance the caring, collaborative environments and cultures as evidenced by visiting our schools. Dr. Ware continues to challenge long-held assumptions and practices to improve our district with always students' best interests in mind.”

General comments included praising Ware for his work in his first year along with learning about the district, using ESSER money responsibly, his open door policy and leadership skills, with school discipline and school safety as the concerns.

Schofield ended her report with this message to Ware.

“It's been a very eventful year. You've worked hard, in your efforts and your team have been recognized and we are lucky to have you. We are not where we need to be—as we all know—but I think we're headed in the right direction,” Schofield said.

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## Chicopee High School 50th Reunion

CHICOPEE - The Chicopee High School class of 1974 will celebrate its milestone 50th reunion on Saturday, Sept. 21, 2024, from 5:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. at the Knights of Columbus, 460 Granby Rd., Chicopee, MA.

This special event will allow classmates to connect, reminisce, and enjoy the music of the popular 70's Project Band. Hors d'oeuvres and a delicious buffet dinner will be served. A memory slideshow and a few surprises will complement the evening's festivities. In addition, the Reunion Committee is working out the details for a tour of the old high

school on the afternoon of the reunion.

The price for this extraordinary party is \$60 per person. The deadline to purchase tickets is September 6, 2024. Checks should be payable to Lynn M. Chretien, 80 Beeler Avenue, Chicopee, MA 01020. Zelle payments can be made to larc2203@gmail.com at 413-519-7727.

The Reunion Committee kindly requests your assistance in making the reunion unforgettable by sharing this information with your classmates.

The Chicopee High School Reunion Committee

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## Chicopee Public Library Hosts Events for Kids and Families

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

Storytime will be held in the children's program room on Wednesdays, Sept. 4 and 18 at 10:30 a.m. Storytime, geared toward children ages 3-5 and their caregivers, is a great way for preschool aged kids to practice skills they will need for school. Library staff lead a circle time where they read picture books, practice letters and numbers, 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, Sept. 6 and 20 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!

On Tuesdays, Sept. 10 and 24, at 10:30 a.m. in the community room, the library will have a Little Kid Dance Party geared for kids five and under and their caregivers. Older kids are welcome, as well. There will be songs, dancing and big movement!

On Saturday, Sept. 14, the library will host the Springfield Symphony Orchestra's Instrument Petting Zoo. Kids and families will meet and learn about different musical instruments from the Orchestra's «Zookeeper.» This program is supported by the Chicopee Cultural Council, a local agency, which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

The library will host a Meet-up for Homeschooling Families on Thursday, Sept. 26 at 11 a.m. Homeschooling families can meet each other. Chicopee's point person for AHEM (Advocates for Home Education in MA) will be there. Library staff will provide a craft and be interested to hear ideas about what folks would like to do at a monthly meet-up for homeschooling families.

If you're finding the schedule of library events for kids and families a little light for September, fear not! We have plans for more fun coming soon. Events in October will include: A Halloween Party, Chess Club, the return of the Saturday Playgroup, and more!

## City Council approves senior center HVAC, golf clubhouse roof appropriation

By Kristin Rivers  
Editor  
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CHICOPEE - City Council approved on Aug. 6 two appropriations for the senior center HVAC/BAS system and the golf clubhouse roof at the Chicopee Country Club.

These mayor's orders have been part of a series of numerous orders being funded from available funds in the Stabilization for Capital Budgeting.

After the requests from the fire department--which the Chicopee Register highlighted in last week's edition--the next item for consideration was an appropriation of \$187,700 to the City Hall Maintenance Special Account for the replacement of the senior center HVAC/BAS system.

Mayor John Vieau explained how "the control system has just really never worked."

"Being blunt, it's been problematic for many, many years and we feel that having after--I believe consultants have taken a look at it--that's in our best interest to replace the control systems with a new modern system," Vieau said.

Vieau said the system is from Automated Logic and is used in other buildings.

"Frankly, the goal is to make sure to maintain proper temperature in the Council on Aging," Vieau said. "Our senior center is thriving and there's been too many complaints about it being too hot or too cold and we believe that this will be the ultimate solution."

Facilities Director Dave Rice

elaborated further, explaining a company called CTC, hired by the city, did "a majority of the controls in the building prior to me coming in."

"We gave them a shot at trying to fix it. They came out a couple of times and it ended up being more problematic," Rice said.

Since hiring Automated Logic, Rice said they've been used in other buildings including city hall, the public safety complex, fire station eight and the library, with "the results being extremely positive."

"At the senior center, what will be replaced will be a lot of the dampers will be electronically controlled. We'll be able to control airflow as well and better regulate the temperature in offices that normally, right now, you have to do manually," Rice said. "So, I have extreme confidence that this will solve a majority of the major issues that we're having with that building as well as have consistent temperatures throughout."

President/Councilor-at-Large Frank Laflamme commended Rice for his work on this process.

"As the mayor mentioned, we have a lot of this in a lot of our buildings already and this will help with the inventory that we have and the knowledge of teaching people," Laflamme said. "So, the process that the mayor and facilities is doing now is something that we hope to do at all the buildings so that they all can be trained on it and have the process going and that will save taxpayers money in the long run."

Next, an appropriation of \$97,500 to the City Hall Maintenance Special Account for the re-

placement of a golf clubhouse roof at the Chicopee Country Club.

Vieau explained the clubhouse has a roof over 20 years old and needs "complete replacement."

"Unfortunately, it's pretty expensive. It's partially a flat roof and partially pitched and you can see from the background information that it needs to be replaced," Vieau said.

Ward 3 Councilor Susan Goff asked about the numbers.

"I'm only seeing one quote here. Is all that they got for replacing?" Goff said.

Rice confirmed yes.

"At this time, we've only explored one quote. This was all through the normal bid process for the city and it'll go out to public bid," Rice said. "So, this is just a baseline number for us to go off of right now. My anticipation (is) that it'll come in equal or lower or possibly higher, but per the city purchasing guidelines, we go with the lowest bidder."

Goff next asked this.

"Are you looking into other types of material also?" Goff said.

Rice replied yes.

"There's different options we can do with this roof," Rice said. "Right now, like I said, this is just a baseline. This is the company that's actually been going out and doing a lot of the repairs on the roof for us as--I think last year--they came out four or five times. So, we wanted to have a number to at least present to the council, so we at least could get a base number to start the process."

Both items were later approved by the City Council.

## 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 tinkert245@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.

## CPL announces upcoming programming

CHICOPEE - Here are some of our upcoming library programs.

Tuesday, Sept. 3 at 3 to 5 p.m. Assistive Technology Lab. If you, or someone you know, is blind or has low vision, come to the computer lab and use our computers to learn Fusion (JAWS & Zoom Text) software as well as how to access all the features on your personal devices.

Thursday, Sept. 5 at 6:30 p.m. Writer's Group meets the first Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m. We invite all those who love to write to join us for a friendly, supportive place to work on your

writing. This group shares writing goals, discusses writing processes and strategies, and set the direction for future meetings. Stacie Klinowski, a local writing teacher, leads the group. This group is for adults.

Wednesday, Sept. 18 at 1 p.m. It's the Beatles 60th Anniversary. Join us for an engaging multimedia musical presentation with Craig Harris to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the Beatles first performance in American. 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.

Thursday, Sept. 19 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.

As always, the computer lab is available to work on genealogy on 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.

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## GUEST COLUMN



### Does some of my Social Security payment include repayment of my contributions?

Dear Rusty

I have a question about my Social Security benefits. Would I be correct to assume that part of the monthly Social Security income I get is a repayment of what I contributed to the fund while I was working? If so, how much of my monthly benefit payment is my own money coming back to me? Signed: Curious Beneficiary

Dear Curious

I'm afraid that is not how Social Security works. The money you contribute to Social Security during your working years does not go into a special account to be repaid to you. Rather, the Social Security taxes you pay while working are used to pay benefits to all those currently receiving Social Security benefits.

The system is, in effect, a "pay as you go" program where all those currently contributing help pay benefits for all those now receiving. What your contributions do, however, is earn you "quarter credits" and, when you have enough credits, you become eligible for Social Security retirement benefits for life. Generally, someone must have about 40 quarters, about 10 years, contributing to Social Security to be eligible for SS retirement benefits.

How much you receive monthly is determined not by how much you contributed but, rather, by how much your work earnings were over your lifetime. You will get a percentage of your average pre-retirement work income as your monthly Social Security payment, but that is also affected by your age when you claim benefits.

It is your average lifetime earnings adjusted for inflation, which determines your "Primary Insurance Amount." Your PIA is what you get at your Social Security Full Retirement Age, but your age when you claim benefits determines if you get more or less than your PIA.

Claiming SS before your FRA means a smaller monthly benefit, while waiting longer than your FRA means a benefit higher than your PIA. SS benefits reach maximum at age 70. FYI, each person's FRA is different based on the year they were born, but full retirement age today is between age 66 and 67. When you claim benefits relative to your FRA determines how much of your PIA you will receive each month.

So, your contributions to Social Security aren't used to determine your monthly benefit amount, but your average lifetime work earnings and age when you claim are. Nevertheless, you may be interested to know that most people get back everything they have personally contributed to Social Security within about three to five years of collecting their benefits. In that sense, Social Security is an exceptionally good deal, since most Americans now collect benefits for about two decades.

And therein lies much of Social Security's financial dilemma; people are now collecting benefits for many more years than the current program is designed to support. And that is what Congress needs to fix as soon as possible. The Social Security trust funds, which now provide supplemental money to pay benefits, are projected to be depleted around 2033, which will mean a cut in everyone's monthly Social Security payment, unless Congress acts soon to reform the program and restore it to fiscal solvency.

The Association Mature Citizens Founda-

## GUEST COLUMN



By Ellenor Downer

Great egret



I received an email from a Brimfield resident who said, "On Aug. 1 at the no named pond in Warren on New Reed Street there were three great egrets near the far shore. The birds would sometimes be

out of sight in the vegetation near the shore." He also saw two great blue herons and a belted kingfisher.

The great egret is a large, 39 inches, white heron with a yellow bill and black legs. In breeding season, both males and females have long white plumes on their backs. Like other herons, the great egret feeds by slowly walking, head erect and then striking its prey. It forages in shallow water for small fish and amphibians. It also feeds on land for insects, reptiles and small mammals.

Great egrets nest in colonies with other herons, ibises and cormorants or they nest singly. The female lays one to six pale bluish eggs in a flimsy platform nest of sticks, twigs and reeds placed in a tree from eight to 40 feet above ground or in cattails. They inhabit marshes, swamps, seashores and lake margins.

In the past, they were hunted for the plumes used in the feather trade. Since the ban on hunting and on the use of DDT, which caused fragile eggshells, their population increased.

#### Eagle sighting and more

My daughter, Paula, saw a belted kingfisher at Tully Lake in Royalston on Aug. 3. She saw two cormorants, two female mallards and a juvenile bald eagle at Hardwick

Pond on Aug. 10. The bald eagle was diving, unsuccessfully, for fish not too far from her canoe. She said, "[It] was really cool to see."

#### Brimfield birds

The Brimfield resident, who saw the great egrets, said, "I have a bird bath with a drip. On a recent hot afternoon the birdbath got a workout; catbird, blue jay, titmouse, house finch, Baltimore oriole, rose-breasted grosbeak, song sparrow and chipping sparrow all took a bath and goldfinch were getting a drink from the drip."

He also said, "In the yard yesterday (Aug. 2) I saw two Carolina wrens. I've seen two Carolina

wrens in the yard infrequently since spring but I don't think they have nested nearby because I've never heard them singing. And at the very top of a dead tree (where else) I saw a male scarlet tanager." He said the male ruby-throated hummingbirds are still around and there is more activity at the feeders now that the recently fledged young are out and about.

He also reported at the pond on South Street the four great blue herons nests are all empty, the twelve chicks have all fledged and the three osprey chicks are out of the nest and flying around the pond.

#### Bird bath

I wish I had the activity at my birdbath this Brimfield resident has. I have yet to see a bird use it. My daughter's dog drinks from it whenever he visits.

#### Hovering hummingbird

Recently, I let my daughter Jenny's dogs out. While I watched them from the window in the door a ruby-throated female hummingbird came name the door and hovered as if looking in the window at me. Ironically, I was wearing a tee shirt with hummingbirds and bee balm. Maybe it was attracted to the red bee balm.

#### Hummingbirds and more

The Brimfield resident said in response to my email telling him about my hummingbird experience, "I've had hummingbirds hover in front of me a couple of times, pretty cool. Also yesterday I saw some motion out of a window and when I looked it was a hummingbird and a female common yellowthroat having a 'discussion.' The hummingbird was upset I believe because the warbler was near where it perches between visits to a nearby feeder."

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.



tion 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](http://amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at [ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org](mailto:ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org). Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.

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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](mailto:chicopeeregister@turley.com) or send it to: Chicopee Register, c/o Turley Publications, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069.

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# City Council approves funding CPD requests

*Zoning development and regulations overhaul to be reviewed*

By Kristin Rivers  
Editor  
krivers@turley.com

CHICOPEE - City Council approved on Aug. 6 appropriations for the police department and for the Finance Committee to review a zoning development and regulations overhaul.

These mayor's orders were part of a series of numerous orders being funded from available funds in the Stabilization for Capital Budgeting.

First, an appropriation of \$391,737.97 to the Police Special Account for the purchase of cruisers.

Mayor John Vieau explained this would replace six vehicles for the police department.

"Again, they run 24 seven. I think we're all aware of that and want to make sure that the police have the tools they need to protect our community and themselves," Vieau said.

Chief Patrick Major explained they are planning to replace three of the marked cruisers, two Detective Bureau vehicles and one narcotics vehicle.

"That's why you might see a difference in some of the quotes," Major said.

Ward 8 Councilor Gary Labrie asked this.

"Chief, are we trading these in?" Labrie said.

Mayor replied this.

"The three marked vehicles we're planning to trade in. The unmarked units we're planning to keep and pass one down to our PIO Travis Odiome who's currently using, I believe, it's late 2000--maybe eight--Ford Taurus which has reached the end of its service life. So, that will be taken offline," Major said. "And one will be used for training purposes for officers going back and forth to different trainings and, sometimes, even the recruits if they have to go out to Boylston or another academy. And, the last one will also be given down to our Training Division to use."

Next, an appropriation of \$31,583.70 to the Police Special Account for weaponry equipment.

After Vieau said this pertains to replacing 10 AR-15 rifles that are outdated from 2012, Major provided further information.

"It's replacement rifles for our Special Response Team. The rifles that we currently have have approximately 20,000 rounds fired through them. They have been in for service through the manufacturer in the past, but over time, the barrel rifling wears down and they're recommended to be replaced, I believe, every 10 to 12,000 rounds," Major said. "So, we definitely ended the serviceability of these rifles and that's what the request is

for is to replace those."

Councilor-at-Large Jerry Roy asked Major this.

"Chief, so what you're saying is we're paying over \$3,000 per rifle?" Roy said. Major said yes.

"The quotes I received from the requesting officers, Capt. Henry and the members of the SRT team, they put in the request for the rifles through Daniel Defense, which is one of our state contracts and there's other items that go on the rifles such as sites, lights, that add to the cost of the rifles in general," Major said.

Lastly, an appropriation of \$350,000 to the Planning Special Account for the Zoning Ordinance & Development Regulations Overhaul.

On this, Vieau shared how since the City Council endorsed the "City of Chicopee: Comprehensive Plan: Envision Our Chicopee 2040" on July 17, "one of the main components" is an overhaul of the zoning ordinance.

"That zoning ordinance dates back to the seventies. It's nearly 50 years old and we believe that it's time to update our zoning ordinance," Vieau said.

Planning Director Lee Pouliot explained this would target site plan regulations, subdivision regulations and the local conservation wetlands bylaw, with the last major overhaul to the zoning ordinance and development regulations in 1974 with very minor updates done since.

Pouliot adding the updated code will help "to allow developers to build what the market is looking for," which has "become more and more challenging."

"The council has seen this in the volume of special permits that it's seen. The Zoning Board of Appeals is seeing it in the volume of variance requests that it's seeing," Pouliot said. "So, the goal here would be to start what is typically a two, three-year process to review and rewrite the zoning code based on the Comprehensive Plan. We anticipate that there will be a robust public process to do this and to create a new code that not only is consistent with our Comprehensive Plan but meets the development needs of the city both on the public and the private side."

Pouliot added, if funded, the plan is to begin at the end of this year or early next calendar year "and it will be a very slow, very comprehensive, very thorough process" to "result in a zoning code that the Planning Board and City Council will adopt."

Ward 9 Councilor Mary Beth Costello asked about other towns and their zoning ordinances.

"Lee, other cities and towns, are they involved in this revamping of their zoning ordinances?" Costello said.

Pouliot responded yes, "on two different scales."

"So, many communities write into their budgets to do a review every so many years and they will amend the code as needed, so that they don't have to do sort of a large comprehensive scale re-

write. Those should only be done sort of sporadically over long periods of time," Pouliot said. "The other group of communities--and this is happening more and more in light of contemporary development trends, the housing crisis and a lot of communities seeing a need to reinvest and redevelop previously redeveloped properties--have moved into an overall code rewrite."

He added how "a lot of these codes that we're dealing with today, from a zoning perspective, have numerous inconsistencies in them and that's sort of across the spectrum from large urban centers to rural communities."

"Everyone is also attempting to simplify and streamline their codes to make the review process faster. In working with developers, they will often tell us that time is money. One of our strengths has always been that our review process is very streamlined and quick," Pouliot said.

"But, there are inconsistencies that we sometimes have to navigate in our code. So, we fall into the larger scale rewrite bucket at this point and then once we do this, we would probably look to be on a five to 10-year schedule to do a comprehensive review and pass minor updates to keep our code current."

Costello next asked if Pouliot found any difficulties in the zoning ordinances now.

"The reason why I ask that, it seems that the public has a lot of input in regards to what zoning takes place in their neighborhood and that seems to be something that's attractive in Chicopee," Costello said. "So, I would hate to see that public input, that public dialogue, lessened."

Pouliot assured Costello that the pub-

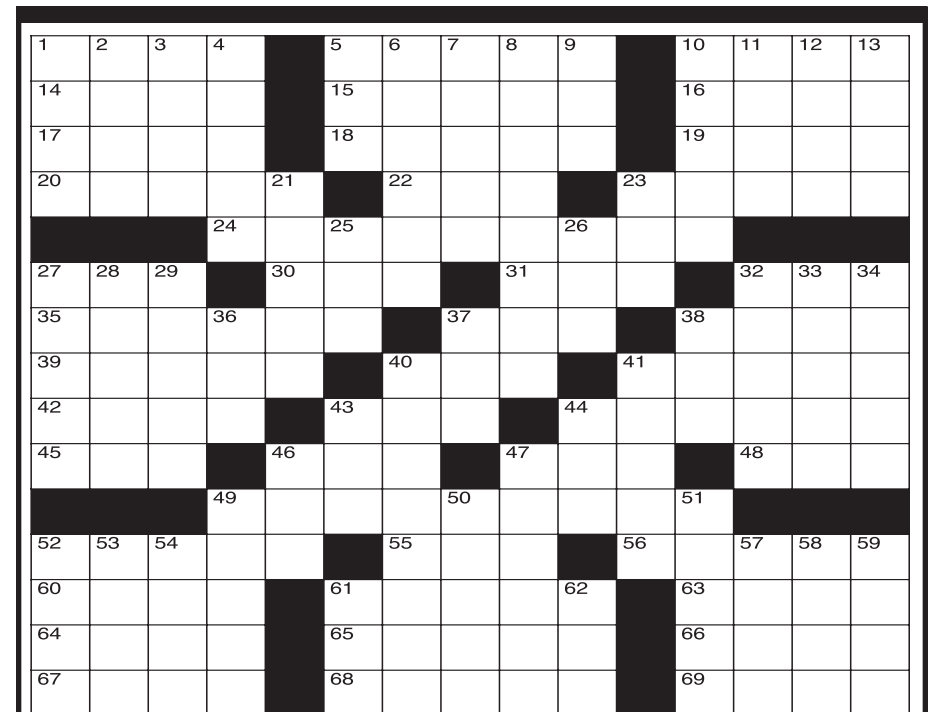
lic process would not be lessened and that it's required by the State Zoning Enabling Act.

"So, if anything, we would look to make it more robust," Pouliot said.

On inconsistencies, Pouliot cited parking formulas created in the 1970s where a residential project requires two parking spaces per residential unit, regardless of whether it's a studio apartment or a three-bedroom apartment as an example.

"So, we often see studio or one-bedroom projects being overparked which is, quite honestly, a waste of land and a very expensive proposition to build parking that developers know they do not need, simply because our code needs it," Pouliot said. "So, our code makes those types of residential projects more expensive for no reason and no benefit and that also requires a development to apply for a special permit to the City Council for parking relief because that is not something that the Planning Board or the Board of Appeals can do. So, we add an additional step to that process while the developer might be trying to line out health recesses from that development of the state, which when they are awarded they have very strict timelines for which to address those."

While the police department requests were approved, the City Council decided to have the zoning and development regulations overhaul be sent to the Finance Committee for further clarification of what the money will be spent on and further discussion after concerns were raised about preserving the voice of the public.



**CLUES ACROSS**

- 1. Mongolian city \_\_ Bator
- 5. Coconut palms
- 10. Rounded knob
- 14. Japanese city
- 15. Type of sandwiches
- 16. A type of shape
- 17. Son of Shem
- 18. French modernist painter
- 19. Grandmother
- 20. Mammary gland of female cattle
- 22. Hill or rocky peak
- 23. Secret political clique
- 24. Songs to one's beloved
- 27. "Boardwalk Empire" actress Gretchen
- 30. Father
- 31. Chinese philosophical principle
- 32. Restrict the number or amount of
- 35. Combined into a single entity
- 37. Brother or sister
- 38. Evil spirit

- 39. Materials in the earth's crust
- 40. Partner to cheese
- 41. Of the sun
- 42. Baseball great Ty
- 43. After B
- 44. Place to relax on the beach
- 45. Folk singer DiFranco
- 46. Partly digested food
- 47. Small dog breed
- 48. Japanese honorific
- 49. Salts
- 52. Beard moss genus
- 55. Mountain pass
- 56. Type of sword
- 60. Albanian language
- 61. Metric weight unit
- 63. Italian Seaport
- 64. Longtime late night host
- 65. Extremely angry
- 66. Wading bird
- 67. Days in mid-month
- 68. Omitted from printed matter
- 69. Upper body part

**CLUES DOWN**

- 1. Two-toed sloth
- 2. Cooking ingredient
- 3. Iranian city
- 4. Accuses
- 5. Corrie
- 6. Delivered a speech
- 7. Collection of sacred books
- 8. Theatrical
- 9. Very fast airplane
- 10. Arm bones
- 11. Ancient kingdom near Dead Sea
- 12. \_\_ fide: legit
- 13. Gemstone
- 21. Counsels
- 23. Corporate bigwig
- 25. Cool!
- 26. Touch lightly
- 27. Small Milky Way constellation
- 28. Satirical website
- 29. Border lines
- 32. Soft drinks
- 33. Capital of Guam
- 34. Six-membered ring (chemistry)
- 36. Bar bill
- 37. Car mechanics group
- 38. Notable Bill Murray character
- 40. Health care for the aged
- 41. Gurus
- 43. A passage with access only at one end
- 44. Reduce
- 46. Spy organization
- 47. The upper surface of the mouth
- 49. Plants of the lily family
- 50. Type of reef
- 51. Oral polio vaccine developer
- 52. Mottled citrus fruit
- 53. Lose
- 54. Former Brazilian NBAer
- 57. Baseball great Ruth
- 58. \_\_ Clapton, musician
- 59. Chance
- 61. Spanish soldier
- 62. CNN's founder

## Polish Center of Discovery and Learning launches annual scholarship offering

CHICOPEE - The Polish Center of Discovery & Learning has announced it is launching an annual scholarship program for students of Polish heritage. The scholarship is provided through a generous donation from Donald Tenerowicz and is named the Theodore P. Tenerowicz and Mary E. Bigos Endowed Scholarship Program to honor his parents.

Kenneth Lemanski, Board member of the Polish Center and Chairman of the Education Committee, says "we are proud to help graduate and undergraduate students throughout New England and are extremely pleased to be able to help as they pursue

their educational goals."

To be eligible, applicants must be enrolled full-time in an accredited university or college, be in good academic standing, maintain a GPA of 2.8 or higher and be of Polish heritage. Applications can be received after June 20, 2024, with an application deadline of September 15, 2024. Scholarship criteria can be found on the Polish Center's website <https://polishcenter.net>.

For more information about the Polish Center of Discovery and Learning, please visit <http://www.polishcenter.net> or call 413-592-0001.

# City Council denies ordinance change for unhealthy tree removal

Road and infrastructure items heading to public hearings

By Kristin Rivers  
Editor  
krivers@turley.com

CHICOPEE - City Council denied on Aug. 6 a proposed ordinance change for unhealthy tree removal after receiving an unfavorable Ordinance Committee report.

The amendment to the ordinance would have been the following:

"Any tree on public property that is cut down or removed by the city for any reason must be replaced by one tree if the diameter of the trunk of the removed tree is less than one foot, or two trees if the diameter of the trunk of the removed tree is greater than or equal to a foot. The replacement tree must be planted within one year of the removal of any tree."

The order called for the unfavorable report to be received and then denied.

Ward 5 Councilor Frederick Krampits explained a discussion took place with the Department of Public Works and the Forestry Department.

"While in general, they didn't have

anything really negative against this ordinance, it was just not really practical to do any of this at this time," Krampits said. "That simply the amount of staff that they have and the amount of work that would be involved to try and meet these requirements just wasn't really practical. They like the ordinance in spirit, but as far as being rolled out, they were against it."

Ward 1 Councilor Abigail Arriaga elaborated how "sometimes trees are removed because of disease and you can't really replant the trees in the same spot" was brought up during the discussion.

"So, it's not that they're not continuously replanting trees. They just have to be very specific about where they're putting them, just so they don't put a tree and then it dies again," Arriaga said. "So, they do go out and plant a lot of trees every year, you can look at the tree warden and all that. So, they do replace trees, they just can't all be put in the same place."

The motion to deny passed 12-0.

Another highlight was for the Finance Committee to meet to get an update on legislation beginning July 1, 2025, that would authorize \$200 million for FY25 to help

fund bridge, road maintenance and other projects in municipalities across the state under Chapter 90.

Also, the legislation to fund \$175 million more for six transportation infrastructure grant programs.

Ward 9 Councilor Mary Beth Costello said how there was money granted for infrastructure.

"I wanted to refer this to the Finance Committee so that we could have a public hearing with the city in regards to how that money is going to be spent, how much money we received and where we go from here," Costello said.

President/Councilor-at-Large Frank Laflamme said, "We'll look into it."

The motion to send to the Finance Committee for a first reading and public hearing passed 12-0.

Petitioning the state to obtain jurisdiction on the 391 overpass was another highlight, with an order requesting the Public Safety Subcommittee to meet to discuss this.

Ward 7 Councilor William Courchesne shared this is something he's been working on for a couple of years and wasn't getting any traction.

"So, I figured it goes to subcommittee, maybe it'll get on somebody's radar. But, we have an issue with the underpass because it's state property. A few years back, I noticed a trailer--RV trailer--selling drugs out of it and I interrupted his sales by parking next to him and called--or texted--a supervisor friend of mine and I think half the city showed up at that point," Courchesne said. "But, they can't do anything... six cruisers were annoying him enough to hook up their trailer and leave and move to Home Depot for a while."

Afterward, Courchesne explained he had called and petitioned the state for help but received no response, followed by reaching out to the state legislators, with no feedback received there either.

"So, hopefully, we can do something because, right now, the (police department) can't do anything technically..." Courchesne said. "So, hopefully we can get some meaningful discussion and get on agreement with the state."

Laflamme said this will be taken up in committee.

The motion to send to the Public Safety Subcommittee for a first reading and a public hearing passed 12-0.

## Harmony House Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser to benefit the home for the terminally ill

CHICOPEE - Harmony House of Western Massachusetts, a home for the terminally ill, has scheduled a spaghetti and meatball dinner to be held on Friday, September 6th from 4:30 - 8 p.m. at the Moose Family Center, 244 Fuller Road, Chicopee. Dinner will be served from 4:45 to 6:45. Bring your friends and family for a fun evening of food and fun, including entertainment and exciting raffles for prizes including a television, barbecue grill, dinner and a show at the Majestic Theatre in West Springfield, and many more. The donation is \$15 and dinner is free for children under the age of six. Tickets can be purchased by calling and leaving a message at 413-315-9784 or visiting the Alden Credit Union at 710 Grattan Street in Chicopee. Venmo is also available at @harmonyhousewma and entering #tickets Spaghetti Dinner. Tickets will also be available at the door.

Founded by the late Ruth Willemain, a hospice volunteer for many years, the

goal of Harmony House is to provide a comfortable, compassionate, and loving environment to people who have little or no resources or family and are entering the final stages of life. The organization provides personal care with honor and dignity at little or no cost to terminally ill individuals.

Harmony House is totally privately funded through the generosity of individuals, businesses, and foundations. Contributions are gratefully accepted at all times. "Someday you may need us; right now, we need you." Donations are always appreciated. Please visit the website at [www.harmonyhousewma.org](http://www.harmonyhousewma.org) or send your checks to Harmony House of Western Massachusetts, 66 View Street, Chicopee, MA 01020. Harmony House is a 501(c)(3) corporation. If interested in learning more or becoming a volunteer, please contact Harmony House at 413-315-9784 or by email at [harmonyhousewma@gmail.com](mailto:harmonyhousewma@gmail.com).

## 25th Anniversary of Ken O'Neill Dawn to Dusk Golf Marathon to benefit the Jimmy Fund

CHICOPEE - The City of Chicopee is excited to announce the 25th Anniversary of the Ken O'Neill Dawn to Dusk Golf Marathon, a charity event dedicated to raising funds for the Jimmy Fund. The event will take place on Monday, Aug. 26, at the Chicopee Country Club.

Mike O'Neill, the driving force behind this annual tradition, will be playing an impressive 108 holes of golf—six 18-hole rounds—in memory of loved ones lost to cancer. This year's marathon will also feature guest golfers who have been honored over the years, adding a special touch to the event's milestone celebration.

The festivities will continue with the 109th Hole Reception at The Boathouse in South Hadley at 6 p.m. Attendees are invited to enjoy an evening filled with live entertainment, delicious food, and the chance to win exciting items through opportunity drawings and a silent auction. Tickets for the reception are available for a \$35 donation, with all proceeds supporting

cancer research at Dana-Farber.

Mike O'Neill, Director of Golf at Chicopee Country Club, encourages local businesses and individuals to get involved as event sponsors. For sponsorship opportunities or further information, please contact Mike directly at 413-478-6409.

We look forward to seeing the community come together for a meaningful cause and to celebrate 25 years of dedication to cancer research.

For media inquiries or additional information, please contact:

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Chicopee Mayor's Office  
Office: 413-594-1571

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## Chicopee Parade Committee to hold Designer Bag Bingo on Sept. 7

CHICOPEE - On Saturday, Sept. 7, the St. Patrick's Parade Committee of Chicopee will host a fun filled night of Bingo at the Portuguese American Club, 149 Exchange St., Chicopee. All guests must be 18 years of age or older. Doors will open at 5 p.m. Bingo will start promptly at 6 p.m.

Prizes for the lucky winners will be designer handbags. Tickets for donated baskets will be available for purchase.

Admission is \$35...this will include 10 bingo card games and a door prize entry ticket. Dabbers will also be available for purchase. Additional bingo card games can be purchased for \$2 during the event.

Attendees are welcome to bring snacks but must purchase beverages from the bar.

Tables of eight can be reserved for \$240.00. The reservation must be paid no later than August 30. Checks should be made out to Chicopee Parade Committee and mailed to P.O. Box 495 Chicopee, MA 01021, or brought to 1 Central Ave., Chicopee MA during regular business hours (8 a.m. - 5 p.m.) Monday thru

Thursday

Photos will be posted on the committee's Facebook page for those interested in a preview of the prizes.

For more information or to reserve a table, please call or text Alivia @ 413-378-5694 or Aly @ 413-348-3053, and leave a full name and good contact # where you can be reached. Messages left will be returned as soon as possible.

Proceeds from this event will support the Chicopee contingent's participation in the Holyoke St. Patrick's Day Parade. The St. Patrick's Parade Committee of Chicopee strives to promote Irish pride and culture through its many events. For over 70 years, the committee has organized the annual Colleen Contest and Coronation Ball, constructed the Colleen's award-winning float, and awarded scholarships to young women who plan to further their education at a college or university.

Other upcoming events and fundraisers to which the public is invited will be posted on the group's website at [www.chicopeespc.com](http://www.chicopeespc.com) or on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/chicopeespc/>.

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 Chicopee Mayor's Office  
 Office: 413-594-1571

## St. Vincent de Paul Society of St. Stanislaus Basilica hosting Tea Party

CHICOPEE - The St. Vincent de Paul Society of St. Stanislaus Basilica is hosting a tea party on Sunday, Sept. 8, from 1 to 3 p.m. All are welcome to come and enjoy fresh-brewed teas, and a plentiful assortment of fine finger sandwiches, cakes and pastries.

Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$5 for children 12 years of age or under. Tickets may be purchased at the St. Stanislaus Parish Office (40 Cyman Drive), between the hours of 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. (594-6669).



Members of the Chicopee Police Department, who helped organize the Second Annual Dominoes Tournament. Ofc. Elly Rodriguez—with support from Sgt. Thomas Gazda—was the mastermind behind the event.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY KRISTIN RIVERS

A crowd shot of the many dominoes players - new, experienced, playing for fun or competing - during the Second Annual Dominoes Tournament at Wisniewski Park in Chicopee on Aug. 17.

### DOMINOES from page 1

drew Melendez, executive director of the Latino Economic Development Corporation, Curry Honda and the Cayey Social Club.

Gomez was happy to support the event and also participate for fun.

"This is something that, honestly, is an important event that's going to become annual," Gomez said.

Mayor John Vieau—who also participated in the tournament—thanked Ofc. Elly Rodriguez, the police department and the C3 Unit, expressing excitement for the tournament.

"It's all about building positive partnerships between law enforcement and our community," Vieau said. "I want you to be proud to live in Chicopee. Our guests who are not here from Chicopee, I hope you feel welcome today."

Rodriguez, who helped organize the event with support from Sgt. Thomas Gazda, the police department and co-organizer and judge Vinny Torres Jr. explained after last year's event, people were asking for it after participating or hearing about it.

"It's an event that we decided to do for the community to celebrate Spanish Heritage Month and, so far, it's looking pretty good," Rodriguez said. "It's a great time. Great time for everyone!"

Rodriguez was thrilled to see so many people at the tournament, with eight tables filled with 32 players taking part, with more on standby.

"It just means that the community does support the police department, them knowing that we're the ones that we're putting it on," Rodriguez said. "It just shows that relation-building that we're doing with the community and wanting to show the people that we're there for them."

Rodriguez shared that dominoes is big in the Hispanic community, especially in Puerto Rico where he was raised.

"Whenever we had a gathering, they were dominoes and it's an intense game. Some people play the game more intensely than others and we enjoy it. It's a family

game. It's not too hard to understand and it's just something that it comes with our culture," Rodriguez said.

Johnny Ramos, internet/new car sales for Curry Honda, shared the dealership was happy to be a vendor at the event and they took part last year as well.

"It's important because it definitely shows we want to make sure that everyone knows that we're not only are in the community, but we want to be involved in the community as well," Ramos said.

Ramos was also happy to see an event showcasing the police department's human side, appreciating their support when they arrived to set up.

"They've been great and they're putting on a great event today for a great cause," Ramos said. "At the end of the day, it looks like it's a pretty good turnout and we like to see that, we all do."

Reflecting on Hispanic Heritage Month, Ramos said the Puerto Rican community is "big on pride."

"Just as much as we love to represent Curry Honda when we come out to these things, this specific event is special to us because we're also able to represent our own heritage and we love to see that everybody here is also doing that," Ramos said. "And again, not just Puerto Rican individuals, but others that are from other Latino communities. At the end of the day to see everybody come and mingle and have a good time, it's so excellent to see."

Rodriguez is looking forward to next year's tournament, sharing there's already support and people expressing interest in being sponsors for the next tournament, thanking everyone for their support and coming out for some fun.

"I just want to thank everybody that showed up and is still on their way," Rodriguez said. "Just hope that everybody has a good time and we can continue this tradition for years on. It's well-needed. It's celebrating Spanish Heritage Month, but not necessarily it has to be the Hispanics here. Any race can come and have a good time with us."

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 Wedding Location: \_\_\_\_\_

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TURLEY PHOTOS BY AMANDA MUNSON

The t-shirt craft was a huge hit, kids were excited to show their designs and wear them as soon as they could.



Kids were able to spray the colored dye onto the shirt, with the help of a caregiver, they could pick out the color and objects they wanted



Jerry Schneider is shown answering questions from kids, the most asked question was "which pollinator was his favorite?"



Glass displays were shown for kids to see when waiting for the presentation to start, many were curious what pollinators were in there.

## POLLINATORS from page 1

events. Schneider thought that he may want to give this a try and now for over 20 years, he's been sharing his love of insects and wildlife to local communities.

"I have had a love for insects and butterflies since I was eight years old. I grew up in Lake Erie, Ohio and while working as a librarian, I brought in magicians, storytellers, singers, and many more. I thought this was really interesting so I picked something that was educational, along with a craft. Nobody else was doing that sort of program," Schneider said.

Glass casings consisted of a bat, butterflies, moths, and other pollinators that were discussed in the program, while children were able to ask questions, view physical examples, understand the need for our pollinators and

be able to create a unique t-shirt that blended nature and pollinators.

"I've been doing this for 23 years and now cutting back to work where I live in Vermont. I would travel as far as Virginia, west of Ohio, mid-Atlantic states," Schneider said.

The t-shirt craft that the kids were able to do consisted of a white shirt, a spray bottle filled with dye and cut outs of pollinators, grass clippings and other natural items. Placing those items on the shirt, kids were able to spray the dye and carefully peel off the items, revealing a striking design that everyone got excited about.

When asked what his favorite part of the job was, Schneider's response wasn't surprising. "The kids and the energy they bring to the program. When



The group favorite was this butterfly named Morpho Menelaus.

they see the t-shirt craft it's so nice to see their reactions," Schneider said.

When asked what his best tip was for the upcoming autumn season, his response was to shop local and do the research. Every area is different and many pollinators' needs are different. Understanding what type of plants

and pollinators need assistance is important.

"We have a plant nursery in the area that does native plants. My garden is very much established and I am putting my own plants to help the pollinators out in my area. If you can shop at local farms, that is the best place to get information on the area you live in," Schneider said. "It's the end of the season for pollinators, bees are going back into their hives in October and monarchs are migrating. For garden tips for the upcoming fall season, look up October flowers and flowers for monarchs. Asters are a great flower to consider."

This program was supported by the Chicopee Cultural Council.

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

## FLAG RAISING from page 1

achieve anything in this great country," Sanghvi said. "So, thank you all for coming and making time to celebrate with us, the 78th Independence Day of India."

Raj Rayonia spoke next, thanked everyone for celebrating alongside the community, adding "It means a lot to us."

"India--after freedom from the colonial rule--is now the third-largest economy in the world. So, we are very proud of that as well and that's a lot to do with American Indians and the people living in this country because we have a very good trade going between America and India," Rayonia said. "I'd like to say almost 65% of the hotels now owned in America are owned by Indians and almost 80 to 85% of all the convenient stores, liquor stores...are now owned by Indian-Americans. So, I'm very proud of that."

After Vieau read the proclamation to declare Aug. 14 as Indian Independence Day in Chicopee, he presented it to Ramsewak Rajpoot, who later cranked the lever to raise the flag.

The ceremony concluded with Sam Newell, co-owner of Fruit Fair Supermarket, Sanghvi and Kamy Sanghvi leading the attendees in singing India's National Anthem

Reflecting on the ceremony, Raj Sanghvi recalled when he first came to Chicopee in 2009 and the city's acceptance from the start.

They accepted us as we



TURLEY PHOTOS BY KRISTIN RIVERS

Ramsewak Rajpoot cranks the lever to raise India's flag for Indian Independence Day in Chicopee.

are and we have business here, which we are doing. The community, especially, believes in hard work and investing in the place they live," Sanghvi said. "So, we like to contribute to the economy wherever we are. We enjoy being here in Chicopee."

Sanghvi said celebrating everyone's culture and heritage is very important.

"Everybody comes from a different background, but once they come to the U.S., they melt into one pot. So, we celebrate everything from Christmas, Diwali--that's our festival like Christmas--we celebrate Muslim festivals, we celebrate the Polish festival. It's a melting pot in America," Sanghvi said. "So, it's important to recognize each and everyone's culture as we are and



Ramsewak Rajpoot is presented with the mayor's proclamation from Mayor John Vieau during the Flag-Raising Ceremony for Indian Independence Day.



State Rep. Shirley Arriaga (D-Chicopee) shares her thoughts during Chicopee's Flag-Raising Ceremony for Indian Independence Day.



Raj Rayonia reflects on India's history and relationship with the United States during his remarks during Chicopee's Flag-Raising Ceremony.

to take them as we are. That's the way we live in America."

Sanghvi was thankful for the community support.

"It's amazing. I've been getting support since we came here," Sanghvi said. "The police, this community, the mayor's office, the councilors. It just feels to be part of the family. You don't feel like an outsider anymore. It feels like you're melted into the pot. It's perfect to be in Chicopee."

Sanghvi encourages the community to celebrate and support one another, thanking everyone for their acceptance.

"Thank you to everybody in Chicopee for accepting us as part of their family," Sanghvi said. "We are in debt to them for accepting us and making such good friends out here."



# Sports

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## Pioneers, Mutiny wrap up great seasons

By Tim Peterson  
Sports Correspondent

LUDLOW — The soccer aficionados from Ludlow and the surrounding communities had a lot of fun watching the New England Mutiny and the Western Mass. Pioneers play their home matches at Lusitano Stadium in Ludlow this summer.

“You really never know how things are going to go prior to the start of the regular season,” said Joe Ferrara during a recent interview. “Both teams had a great season.”

Ferrara has several different titles, and he doesn’t have very much free time during the soccer season.

He’s the commissioner of the United Women’s Soccer League and is the owner and Managing Director of the Mutiny, who have been playing their home matches at the 106 year old soccer stadium in Ludlow since 2019. He’s also the General Manager of the Pioneers, who were founded in 1998.

Another person who didn’t have very much free time this summer is Federico Molinari, who has been the Pioneers head coach for more than ten years. He was also the head coach of the Mutiny for the first time.

“I’ve watched Federico coach the Pioneers for the past several years, and he has a passion for the game of soccer,” Ferrara said. “He’s one of the best soccer coaches that I’ve seen particularly on gamedays. He always makes the right tactical adjustments. He also runs a very good training session. I’ve received tremendous feedback from the players on both sides about him. I’m hoping that Federico can coach both teams again next year.”



Alexis Legowski, of South Hadley, was a regular in the Mutiny’s lineup this season.

The Mutiny finished the 2024 regular season with a perfect 8-0 record, while the Pioneers posted an 11-2-1 record.

The Mutiny began the U.W.S. playoffs with a 2-1 home win over Steel City FC on July 12. Two days later, they celebrated an exciting 1-0 victory against Sporting CT in the East Conference championship match. It was their final home match of the season.

The following weekend, the Mutiny played in the U.W.S. National semifinals and championship match, which were held at All-High Stadium in Buffalo, New York.

The Mutiny didn’t have very much trouble dispatching the Michigan Jaguars, who cap-

tered the U.W.S. Nationals title a year ago, in the semifinals. The final score of that match was 5-0.

“We performed very well in the semifinals,” Ferrara said. “We were able to score a couple of early goals, which took the pressure off of us.”

On that same night, Molinari and the Pioneers players were in Virginia playing Lionsbridge FC in a USL-Two playoff match. Unfortunately, the Pioneers season came to an end following a 2-1 loss.

Alec Hughes, who’s a post-grad student listed on the UMass men’s soccer team, led the Pioneers this summer with 17 goals. He’s the USL-Two Golden Boot winner and was also



Mamadi Jiana, a Chicopee High graduate, played with the Pioneers this summer.

named as the Player of the Year. He’ll most likely be drafted by an MLS team next year.

“Alec has really improved a lot in the two years that he’s been playing for the Mutiny,” Ferrara said. “He was a key player for us this year. I’m hoping he signs with a Pro team next year.”

Scott Testori, who plays college soccer at UConn, chipped in with 12 goals. Jared Smith led the way with nine assists.

One of the Pioneers local players was Mamadi Jiani, who graduated from Chicopee High School. He scored four goals this season.

The Pioneers assistant

See **SOCCER** page 10

## Wroth named ‘Umpire of the Year’ in NECBL

NORTH ADAMS — Nic Lops, manager of the Sanford Mainers has been selected as the New England Collegiate Baseball League (NECBL) Joel Cooney Manager of the Year, while Brian Wroth of the United Collegiate Umpires Association was voted Umpire of the Year for the 2024 season.

Lops’ Mainers clinched the top wild card spot with a 26-18 regular season record, helping the Mainers finish the season on an 11-1 stretch, including an 11-game winning streak going into the season finale.

The Mainers went into the 2024 postseason as the No. 4 overall seed, earning home field advantage for the first round against the Keene SwampBats. After finishing 7-1 against their north division rival, the Mainers swept the SwampBats in the first round, matching up with the #1 Vermont Mountaineers in the semifinal round, a team that won 31 games during the regular season. After rain suspended game one, the Mainers took care of business at home and swept both games to advance to the Fay Vincent Sr. Cup Championship with a perfect 4-0 record. The Mainers met the #2 Newport Gulls in the championship, winning game one at Cardines Field 7-1, however, dropping the next two games and falling a few outs short of the Fay Vincent Sr. Cup.

The 2024 season marked Lops’ fourth season at the helm for the Mainers and fifth overall

See **WROTH** page 10

## White falls short in finals

LUDLOW — The Lusitano White men’s soccer team was the runner up in last year’s PVSSL championship game. White would fall to Villa FC in

the championship game earlier this month. Luistano White has been a regular in the championship game over the past several years.



Dominic Cavallini sends a pass away.



Jordan Kaduah sends a pass away ahead of pressure.



Tyler Goncalves dekes and then sends a pass away.



TAJ Quiterio looks to clear the ball.

## 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 try-

ing 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](http://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.

## Events announced for Hall of Fame weekend

SPRINGFIELD – The Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame announced additional details, including start times for key events, regarding the Class of 2024 Enshrinement Weekend.

The Class of 2024 celebration will culminate with the Enshrinement Ceremony on Sunday, October 13, in Springfield, Mass. – the Birthplace of Basketball. The Class was revealed in April and includes a total of 13 honorees.

Enshrinement Weekend will tip off at Mohegan Sun on Saturday, October

12, starting with the always-popular autograph session, followed by the headlining Tip-Off Celebration and Awards Gala. The Class of 2024 and over 40 returning Hall of Famers will then journey to Springfield, Mass. for the annual celebratory events taking place at the acclaimed Marriott Springfield Downtown as well as Springfield's Symphony Hall. Fans and guests are also encouraged to tour and visit the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame on Enshrinement Weekend.

## Bonsignore grabs second-place finish in Thompson 150

THOMPSON, CT – The NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour returned to Thompson Speedway Motorsports Park on Wednesday night for the Thompson 150. Justin Bonsignore and the Kenneth Massa Motorsports team prepared a strong No. 51 Phoenix Communications Inc. entry, and Bonsignore came away with a strong second-place finish.

Bonsignore qualified third for the Thompson 150, then fell to fourth on the initial stint of the race. On the next restart, Bonsignore took second spot away, and never relinquished the position on the track again. After a pit stop, Bonsignore chased the back bumper of eventual winner Patrick Emerling for the remainder of the distance.

The runner-up finish was Bonsignore's eighth top-five of the season in the first 10 races. He also took the NASCAR Whelen Modified Tour points lead heading for the final six races of the year.

"Patrick's car was really good," Bonsignore said. "Track position would have been nice if I could have got the lead on the restart, but we had a great car. I got stuck in lapped traffic a bit in the final 10 laps and the tires just kind of gave out there at the end. It's getting towards the late summer and it's good to start putting some strong runs together with great speed like we've had the last few weeks. We will move onto Oswego and try to go win the Classic."

## Locals help lead Western Mass. to bronze

WALTHAM – The Western Mass. representative in the Bay State Games for girls soccer captured the bronze last month. Here is a look at a couple of their matchups during the games.

In the bronze medal game, West won 3-0 over Coastal. West had an early lead on Coastal and was able to hold it throughout the game. The three goals that solidified the bronze medal for West were made by Katie Gilhooly (Chicopee, Chicopee Comp HS), Fallon Clancy (Belchertown, Belchertown HS), and Maya Teller (Belchertown, Belchertown HS).

During the tourney, West scored a win over Central 4-0. In the matchup, despite Central taking some beautiful shots,

the goalkeeper for West, Chloe Laizer (West Springfield, West Springfield HS) wouldn't let any past her. Kylie Marino (East Longmeadow, East Longmeadow HS), Allison Fleury (South Hadley, South Hadley HS), Gilhooly, and Clancy all made goals that ultimately led to their win.

In an early round game, West beat Coastal 5-1. Fleury had a great game with two assists and one goal. Both Brianna Ribeiro (Belchertown, Belchertown HS) and Megan McGrath (North Adams, Dury HS) had two goals. For Coastal, Savannah Parker (Lunenburg, Lunenburg HS) made the goal in their fight against West.

### SOCCER from page 9

coaches are Dennis Gomes, Jay Willis, and Thomas Duben.

Molinari, along with Duben, coached the Mutiny in the championship match the following night.

The Mutiny, who played in the U.W.S. finals for the first time, faced the Santa Clarita Blue Heat, who lost to the Jaguar in the 2023 championship match.

The score was tied 1-1 at the end of the first 45 minutes.

Mila Dillard, who lives in Chicopee and is a sophomore on the Pope Francis girls' soccer team, netted the Mutiny's goal during the 43rd minute. It was assisted by South Hadley's Alexis Legowski.

The Mutiny took a 2-1 lead 25 minutes into the second following a goal by Chioma Okafor, which was also assisted by Legowski, who played college soccer

at Northeastern University.

Okafor was one of the UConn women's soccer players listed on the Mutiny roster.

The Blue Heat scored the equalizer late in the second half and they wound up winning the title, 6-5, in a penalty shootout.

Following the championship match, Legowski, who signed with a professional team in Poland, was selected as the MVP of the U.W.S. National Tournament finals. The M.V.P. award was the trophy of a Buffalo.

"Alexis is now playing for a pro team in Poland, which is awesome," Ferrara said. "She played very well in the tournament and was selected as the M.V.P. of the championship game."

Legowski and Dillard were two of the players from Western Mass. listed on the Mutiny roster. The other local

players were Maddie Theriault (Palmer), Hope Santaniello (Agawam), Sam Breton (Chicopee) Avery Klingensmith (Belchertown), Chandler Pedolzyk (Westfield), and Emma Pedolzyk (Westfield).

"I always want the best local high school soccer players to play for the Mutiny," Ferrara said. "It builds excitement and fanfare within the local community. The local players have been the core of our team during the past several years."

Santaniello, who plays college soccer at UMass-Lowell, is the only remaining Mutiny player from the 2019 squad.

Okafor, who's from Blantyre, Malawi, is listed as a junior on the UConn women's soccer roster. Several of her college teammates also played for the Mutiny this summer.

The UConn women's soccer coach is Margaret Rodriguez, who's a former Mutiny player.

Carey (Dorn) O'Brien, who's currently the associate head coach at UConn, played for the team when they were known as the Springfield Sirens.

"Margaret and Carey played soccer

for me, and we've built a very good relationship over the years," Ferrara said. "We're allowed to have five players from a Division 1 school on our soccer roster. We are going to try our best to get the best players from UConn to play for us again next year. I'm looking forward to going to watch the UConn women's soccer team play this fall."

Okafor is only a junior, but she'll most likely be playing for a professional soccer team next year.

Cat Berry, who plays soccer at the University of South Carolina, only played in a couple of matches for the Mutiny at the beginning of the regular season, but she was also a fan favorite.

Before heading back to Ludlow from Buffalo, the Mutiny players and coaches visited Niagara Falls.

"The long bus ride home gave us the chance to reflect on the outstanding season," Ferrara said. "When we got back to the stadium, nobody wanted to say goodbye because they knew it would be their last time together as a team. It was a fantastic season."

### WROTH from page 9

with the club. Lops was also named the 2022 Manager of the Year after leading the Mainer to the semifinals that season as the #6 seed. Outside of his Mainer's tenure, Lops has helped Southern Maine win three of their seven consecutive conference titles, as he also earned the Yankee Small Conference Coach of the Year all three seasons.

A member of the United Collegiate Umpires Association, Wroth was a part of the umpiring crew for the 2024 NECBL All-Star Game at Muzzy Field in Bristol, Connecticut. Wroth's son played in the NECBL for the Valley Blue Sox and won the Fay Vincent Sr. Cup with the team back in 2018.

2024 was Wroth's 41st year umpiring

baseball, 34th at the collegiate level and 28th with the NECBL. Wroth began playing baseball at the young age of seven and has been in the game since. Wroth was appreciative of all of the opportunities he received this year as part of the NECBL and more.

"This was a special year for me working my first Division 3 Regional, working in the NECBL All-Star Game and to receive this award which could be given to several other umpires."

When asked about the honor, Wroth brought up one of his favorite baseball movies and how it connects him with the game.

"Kevin Costner was in a baseball movie called 'For The Love of The Game,'" Wroth said. "That's how I'd sum up my life when it comes to baseball."

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# Events & announcements schedule

## 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.

## 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.

## Military Appreciation Breakfast at RiverMills

CHICOPEE - The Chicopee Council on Aging host a Military Appreciation Breakfast on Friday, Aug. 30 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.

## IDO Team USA Fundraiser Designer Purse Bingo

CHICOPEE - An IDO Team USA Fundraiser Designer Purse Bingo event will be taking place at St. Rose de Lima Church in the Church Hall on Friday, Sept. 20.

Doors open at 5 p.m. and the games begin at 6:30 p.m.

A \$40 donation includes 10 games, a bingo marker, door prize ticket and light refreshments.

Hot food will be available to purchase. Lots of raffle prizes to win! Food, raffle tickets and additional bingo cards will be cash only.

For ticket reservations, email [cbordeau19@gmail.com](mailto:cbordeau19@gmail.com). Or call 413-534-5657 Christina to make reservations.

Payment must be made or discussed at time of reservation.

Please wait for confirmation before sending payment. Venmo preferred: @Christina-Bordeau

Space is limited!

Make sure to add "Purse Bingo" and guest names/phone numbers in the description!

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

HOLYOKE - The Holyoke Chicopee Family & Community Program is currently hosting a "Raising A Reader" Family Shared reading program.

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

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

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

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

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

## RiverMills Center Transportation Services

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 West Mass 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 West Mass 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.

## Chicopee gears up for ValleyBike Share relaunch

CHICOPEE — The City of Chicopee is excited to announce its participation in the highly anticipated relaunch of ValleyBike Share, set to kick off on Monday, August 12, 2024. This revitalized bike share program promises to enhance transportation options and promote sustainability across the Pioneer Valley.

In collaboration with Drop Mobility, ValleyBike Share is making a comeback with a fresh new approach. The updated system will feature a fleet of 300 refurbished bikes along with 50 state-of-the-art e-bikes, all ready to hit the streets starting August 12. Chicopee residents will have access to these new bikes, supporting our commitment to green transportation and healthier lifestyles.

Mayor Vieau expressed enthusiasm about the program's return: "We are thrilled to be part of the ValleyBike Share relaunch. This initiative aligns perfectly

with our vision for a more connected and eco-friendly Chicopee. The addition of new bikes and e-bikes will offer our residents a fantastic option for commuting and recreation."

ValleyBike Share aims to offer an accessible and sustainable transportation solution to Chicopee and nine other municipalities, including Northampton, Amherst, Holyoke, Springfield, and South Hadley. The program emphasizes reducing carbon footprints while providing convenient travel options.

Starting August 1, additional information on membership plans, pricing, and special offers will be available on the ValleyBike.org website.

Join us in celebrating the return of ValleyBike Share on August 12, and take advantage of this exciting new addition to our community's transportation network.

## Chicopee High '64 plans reunion

CHICOPEE - Chicopee High Class of '64 will be celebrating its 60th (WOW!) and final reunion with a two-day event this September. On Friday, Sept. 20, there will be a meet-and-greet at the Castle of Knights Lounge (1599 Memorial Drive) from 5 to 8 p.m. On Saturday, Sept. 21, we will enjoy a buffet and musical entertainment from 2 to 5 p.m. at the Moose Lodge (244 Fuller Road). Classmates and their guests can participate in either

event or both. Full information has already been sent out; however, we still have many classmates we haven't heard from, or are unable to locate. Please get in touch with us if you have information regarding these MIAs. Any questions or information may be forwarded to Cynthia Matte at [cmatte@charter.net](mailto:cmatte@charter.net) or Christine Barry at [99chrisb99@gmail.com](mailto:99chrisb99@gmail.com). This reunion is our grand finale

Hope to see you there!

## Western Mass Master Gardeners Association coming to Center Fresh Market

They will host a table Aug. 29

CHICOPEE - The Western Massachusetts Master Gardeners' Association (WMMGA) will be hosting an educational table at Center Fresh Market in Wisniowski Park, Chicopee, on August 29 between 1 and 6. Come learn about sustainable gardening, about the projects that the Master Gardeners sustain throughout Western Massachusetts, and about the 2025 internship class, for which applications are now available at [wmmga.org](http://wmmga.org).

The Western Massachusetts Master Gardener Association is a member-managed nonprofit organization dedicated to the educational mission of promoting good and sustainable gardening practices. Each Master Gardener has completed an in-depth training program, including hands-on activities in gardening and public education, and has made a commitment to participate in WMMGA-sponsored public programs each year. WMMGA is an Affiliate of the national Master Gardener program of the American Horticultural Society.

## BUSINESS

Turley Publications is liberal with regard to its business coverage policies, but we do have some standards folks need to understand. First, local businesses and merchants are just as much institutions in our towns as the library and schools. Without them, there are no towns.

We will feature coverage of local businesses that are new, have a major expansion, moving, closing, under new management or ownership, celebrating a milestone anniversary, or have been thrust into the news realm. Merchants can request that coverage through the editor, or for our existing advertising clients, through their ad representatives.

For more information on business coverage for The Chicopee Register, please email [chicopeeregister@turley.com](mailto:chicopeeregister@turley.com).

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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](mailto:obits@turley.com).

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

## The Horace Smith Fund awards \$297,000 to area students

REGION - On Thursday, June 20, The Horace Smith Fund held its 125th Annual Corporators' Meeting and scholarship awards ceremony at the Carriage House at Storowton Tavern for recipients, their parents, school counselors and Corporators. This event was funded, in part, by a Community Care grant from PeoplesBank.

Wayne Webster, chair of the Board of Trustees, announced that this year there were 20 Walter S. Barr Scholarships awards, with 15 going to graduating high school seniors and five to students already attending college. The William R. Rooney Award was granted to one high school candidate who has received special education services. Additionally, three Walter S. Barr Fellowships were given to students pursuing graduate education.

The Keynote Speaker, Alina Antropova, was a 2020 graduate of Southwick-Tolland Regional High School and Walter S. Barr Scholarship recipient and a 2024 graduate of UMass Amherst and Walter S. Barr Fellowship recipient.

Entertainment was provided by Mark Gionfriddo, director of Jazz Ensembles at Mount Holyoke College.

The 2024 scholarship recipients in attendance from Chicopee and who graduated from Chicopee Comprehensive High School and GCC, respectively, were:

Devin N. Riley and Darlene Gaudette

Providing that students maintain at

least a B average in college, each scholarship provides a total of \$12,000 over four years and each fellowship provides \$15,000 over two years. Therefore, The Horace Smith Fund is happy to be able to grant a total award of \$297,000 to area students this year.

The Horace Smith Fund was established in 1899 by the successful and generous philanthropist named Horace Smith. He and Daniel Wesson were the founders of Smith & Wesson, located in Springfield. Mr. Smith's will provided that the residual of his estate, after several bequests to relatives and institutions, was to be used for public purposes at the discretion of his executors. They decided that it should be used to help deserving students finance their education.

The Walter S. Barr Scholarships and Fellowships are named for a West Springfield businessman, whose widow left the bulk of the family estate to The Horace Smith Fund in 1950. The William R. Rooney Award is named for a past Executive Director with a desire to assist special needs students. All recipients must be residents of Hampden County.

Students were selected on a variety of criteria, including their test scores, class rank, extra-curricular activities, and a personal written account of why the student feels deserving of financial assistance. Applications for next year's awards will be available September 15<sup>th</sup> on-line at [www.HoraceSmithFund.org](http://www.HoraceSmithFund.org) or by calling (413) 739-4222.

## Khushi Patel and Devin Riley awarded \$3,000 William J. Wagner Memorial Scholarship Awards



SUBMITTED PHOTO

(L-R): Abby, Lily and Karen Lazeration-Wagner with Devin Riley and Khushi Patel and Foundation President Guida Sajdak.

CHICOPEE - Khushi graduated first in her class from Chicopee High School, earning her the distinction of Class Valedictorian, upon completing an impressive transcript of AP, Honors and dual enrollment courses. Khushi will be attending UMASS-Amherst to pursue her doctorate in the field of medicine, after which she plans to specialize in anesthesiology, using her skills to provide solace and safety to patients during surgery. Khushi's passion for science led her to participate in the Health Science Academy program her freshmen year – a rigorous four-year cohort for students interested in the medical field – and became CPR/BLS certified. She further participated in the Elite Medic Training Academy, and was on track to graduate as an EMT. In and out of the classroom, Khushi thrives best when making a positive impact on others. Serving on student council and four years as Class VP, she spent considerable time advocating for her fellow classmates. Khushi joined the Girls Varsity Outdoor Track team to step out of her comfort zone, which then led to her participation on Unified Track and Unified Basketball, where her passion to help others brought a level of joy to the team. Khushi is a true community servant, volunteering regularly at Lorraine's Soup Kitchen since eighth grade by preparing and serving meals and cleaning floors and dishes. Through the National Honor Society, she raised funds for cancer research, organized school events, tutored an organized food drives. She was a weekly volunteer at Baystate Medical Center as a Patient Visitor and Safety Volunteer, keeping patients company and listening to their concerns. In her spare time, Khushi enjoys baking, providing home-made desserts for family gatherings.

Devin graduated from Chicopee Comprehensive High School upon completion of many AP and Honors courses. Devin plans to attend Champlain College and aspires to achieve a career in the growing and innovative industry of gaming and esports. Devin's passions revolve around esports event planning, managing video game communities and quality assurance. He hopes to leave a positive mark in the industry upon acquiring a degree related to the industry's business aspect. Throughout high school, Devin focused his energy on academics, choosing classes that would challenge him and build his skills.

Following his freshmen year, Devin chose to complete a pre-calculus course during the summer to allow him to take calculus his junior year. Devin's participation in SkillsUSA, allowed him to compete in numerous competitions, develop his drafting skills and obtain his OSHA-10 certification. Through SkillsUSA, Devin earned a bronze medal in architectural drafting for his district and a leadership medal from the fall state leadership conference. Beyond acquiring a diverse set of computer application skills through drafting classes, Devin enjoyed participating in the concert/ marching band. In his role as Pit Captain, he taught classmates how to play new music and different percussion instruments, managed the movement of the band on/off the field and kept everyone's spirits lifted. Devin volunteered for a variety of causes, inclusive of playing at unified games and at an elementary school in the Springfield school district. Devin believes that every child should have an opportunity to experience the joy that playing a musical instrument brings, and he derives great pleasure in bringing that experience to them.

The Chicopee Savings Bank Charitable Foundation was established in 2006, as a Private 501c3 foundation, through a gift of stock from Chicopee Bancorp, Inc., valued then at \$5.5 million, upon the successful conversion of Legacy Chicopee Savings Bank to a publicly traded company. Now in its eighteenth year, the Foundation has donated in excess of \$6.3 million back into our local communities. The Foundation grants funding to qualified 501(c)(3) organizations serving the communities of Chicopee, Ludlow, South Hadley, Ware, West Springfield and their immediate surrounding communities.

In 2022, the Foundation's Board of Directors proudly renamed its scholarship to the William J. Wagner Memorial Scholarship in recognition of the Foundation's founding President, who served in that capacity until his passing in 2021. Mr. Wagner was a community servant, who was notably passionate about helping youth succeed and lived by the ol' adage that, "What you do has far greater impact than what you say." Through and since Mr. Wagner's leadership, the Foundation has proudly awarded 137 academic scholarships totaling \$409,000 to eligible high school graduates.

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## Western New England announces Spring 2024 Semester Dean's List

SPRINGFIELD - Western New England University (WNE) takes immense pride in recognizing the outstanding academic achievements of over 670 students who have been named to the Dean's List for the Spring 2024 semester.

A WNE education provides career-span agility through a curriculum grounded in professional/experiential studies, enhanced by the liberal arts, and enriched by mentored research that equips graduates to adapt and succeed in the workplace of the future.

Emily Fountain is working toward a BA in Elementary Education/Math Science.

Lindsey Labbe is working toward a BA in Integrated Liberal Studies.

Haley Agostinucci is working toward a BA in Law & Society.

Dominic Folta is working toward a BA in Political Science.

Brandon FormyDuval is working toward a BA in Secondary Education/History.

Aidan Gilhooly is working toward a BS in Chemistry.

Victoria Zyskowski is working toward a BS in Construction Management.

Karissa Lambert is working toward a BS in Criminal Justice.

Julianies Cruz Hernandez is working toward a BS in Health Sciences.

Anthony Mezzetti is working toward a BS in Information Technology.

Corbin Wetherell is working toward a BS in Information Technology.

Alejandro Caraballo Pelaez is working toward a BS in Pharmacy Studies.

Natalie Rodriguez is working toward a BSBA in Accounting.

Nicole Rodriguez is working toward a BSBA in Accounting.

Lukas Radina is working toward a BSBA in General Business.

Angelina Cross is working toward a BSBA in Management & Leadership.

Colby Liswell is working toward a BSBA in Marketing.

Lindsay Reidy is working toward a BSE in Civil Engineering.

Ethan Kapinos is working toward a BSE in Civil Engineering.

Jonathan Garcia is working toward a BSE in Civil Engineering.

Damian Sanabria Ramos is working toward a BSE in Electrical Engineering.

## Local Students Receive Bachelor's Degrees from UMass Amherst

AMHERST – Approximately 7,000 students received bachelor's degrees in over 100 majors at the University of Massachusetts Amherst's Undergraduate Commencement on May 18, 2024 at the McGuirk Alumni Stadium.

Below is a list of students from your area who earned a degree.

### HAMPDEN

Luke Joseph Angelica, Maya Damia-

no, Daniel Michael MacGregor, Gabriella Lee Ofcarcik and Kelsey Jenna Sheehan

### WILBRAHAM

April Mae Beston, Jackson Ari Bloomfield, Julia Grace Britton, Ji Cao, Richie Chau, Iain James Ferreira, Olivia Ashley Ferreira, Jaehee Lee, Jaeyoung Lee, Janan Kamlesh Patel, Paul L Tassinari and Haley Wakeman

Vaitses

## Jessica Lindsey Inducted into Sigma Tau Delta National Honor Society

SPRINGFIELD - Jessica Lindsey of Chicopee was welcomed into Sigma Tau Delta National Honor Society on April 4 at the Western New England University chapter's annual induction ceremony, which took place in the University Commons.

Sigma Tau Delta is the international English honor society. Its central purpose is to confer distinction upon students of

the English language and literature who exhibit high standards of academic excellence. The society also strives to promote interest in literature and the English language in surrounding communities and foster all aspects of the discipline of English, including literature, language, and writing.

Lindsey is working towards a BA in Secondary Education/English.

## Western New England University lists Graduating Class of 2024

SPRINGFIELD - Western New England University held its graduate commencement ceremony on May 19 at the MassMutual Center, celebrating the Class of 2024. The keynote speaker, MA Department of Agricultural Resources Commissioner Ashley Randle L'14, encouraged the students to "be willing to do what's right despite opposition" after sharing how her time as a student at Western New England set an example for her career path.

Congratulations and best wishes to the newest Golden Bear Alumni. WNE is proud of you!

Pavan Yadavalli graduated with a MS in Construction Management.

Shames J. Radi graduated Magna Cum Laude with a Doctor of Pharmacy.

Mounir M. Awkal graduated with a Doctor of Pharmacy.

Ali Z. Al Juboori graduated with a Doctor of Pharmacy.

Tomasz Niewinski graduated with a Doctor of Pharmacy.

Brittney Leigh Brzoska graduated Cum Laude with a Doctor of Pharmacy.

Julia Sudol graduated with a Juris Doctor.

Tamara M. Delgado Ramos graduated with a Juris Doctor.

Emma Lee E. Rivet graduated Cum Laude with a Juris Doctor.

Emma F. Laughlin graduated with a MS in Organizational Leadership.

Ashley Taylor Iacoviello graduated with a MS in Organizational Leadership.

## Fournier graduates from University of Hartford

WEST HARTFORD, CT - Samuel Fournier of Chicopee has received the degree of Bachelor of Science from the University of Hartford's Barney School of Business.

Samuel is one of 964 students who

received graduate and undergraduate degrees this spring as part of the class of 2024.

The University is thrilled to celebrate the achievements of all our graduates!

# The benefits of local newspapers

Local newspapers play vital roles in communities across the globe. The Information Age has changed the way many people get their news, but local newspapers continue to serve as valuable resources for readers interested in learning more about and becoming more involved in their communities.

While local publishers continue to adapt to the changes brought about by technology, the following are a handful of benefits unique to local newspapers.

### • Local newspapers keep readers up-to-date on their own communities.

Globalization may be here to stay, but that does not mean local communities are no longer home to newsworthy events. National and international newspapers and 24-hour cable news channels can keep men and women up-to-date on national and world news, but in many instances, local newspapers are the only means people have to learn about what's going on in their own communities. Local politics impact residents' lives every day, and

local newspapers cover local politics extensively.

### • Local newspapers benefit nearby businesses.

Small business owners often connect with community members via local newspapers. A strong, locally based small business community can improve economies in myriad ways, creating jobs in the community and contributing tax dollars that can be used to strengthen local schools and infrastructure. And local newspapers do their part by providing affordable and effective advertising space to local business owners looking to connect with their communities.

### • Local newspapers can strengthen communities.

Local newspapers are great resources for residents who want to become more active in their communities and learn more about community events. Local newspapers often showcase community events like carnivals, local theater productions and projects like park cleanups. These are great ways for readers to become

more active in their communities and build stronger communities as a result.

### • Local newspapers can benefit children.

National newspapers may have little age-appropriate content to offer young children, but local newspapers tend to include more soft news items than national periodicals, and such stories typically are appropriate for young readers. According to Newspapers in Education, students who participated in an NIE group in Florida performed significantly better in spelling and vocabulary than nonreaders.



Additional studies have indicated that students who use newspapers in the classroom perform better on standardized reading tests than those who do not use newspapers in class.

Many local newspapers have played vital roles in their communities for decades, providing a go-to resource for local readers and business owners.

## 12 Weekly Newspapers Serving The Local Communities

Agawam Advertiser News • Barre Gazette • Chicopee Register • Country Journal • Journal Register • Quaboag Current • The Register Sentinel • The Holyoke Sun • Town Reminder • Ware River News • The Wilbraham-Hampden Times

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# PUBLIC NOTICES

Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Hampden Probate and Family Court  
50 State Street  
Springfield, MA 01103  
(413)748-7758  
Docket No. HD13P0812PM  
Estate of:  
Shelly R Kerkhoff  
CITATION ON PETITION FOR ALLOWANCE OF ACCOUNT

To all interested persons:  
A petition has been filed by: DANIEL KERKHOFF AND KATHLEEN KERKHOFF, Trustees, requesting allowance of the tenth and eleventh and final account(s) as Trustees and any other relief as requested in the Petition.

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 09/16/2024.

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 date, action may be taken without further notice to you.

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

Date: August 15, 2024  
Rosemary A. Saccomani  
Register of Probate  
08/23/2024

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. HD24C0254CA  
In the matter of:  
Mya Jordan Brisbois  
CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME

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

Mya Jordan Kaylor  
IMPORTANT NOTICE  
Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: Hampden Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 09/09/2024.

This is NOT a hearing

date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.

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

Date: August 12, 2024  
Rosemary A Saccomani  
Register of Probate  
08/23/2024

Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Probate and Family Court  
Hampden Probate and Family Court  
50 State Street  
Springfield, MA 01103  
Docket No. HD24P0104GD  
In the interests of  
Mario Y Carrasquillo  
Quian  
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 Magda Rodriguez and David Rodriguez Gomez on 7/11/24 will be held 9/17/2024 10:00 AM Motion. 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. 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: August 20, 2024  
Rosemary A. Saccomani  
Register of Probate  
08/23/2024

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. HD24P1765EA  
Estate of:  
Alan Leroy Gauouette  
Also known as:  
Alan Leroy Gauouette,  
Alan L. Gauouette  
Date of Death: 05/03/2024  
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 Cheryl A Ciaschini of West Springfield, 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: Cheryl A Ciaschini of West Springfield, 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 09/17/2024. 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 20, 2024  
Rosemary A Saccomani,  
Register of Probate  
08/23/2024

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 September 8, 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.

2001 Honda Civic  
VIN: 1HGEM22931L101150  
Joelizmarie Dejesus  
664 Lafayette St.  
Lancaster, PA 17603

2001 Lexus Rx300  
VIN: JTJHF10U110204380  
Christine Dematos  
319 Gatewood Dr.  
Enfield, CT 06082

2005 Chrysler Town & Country  
VIN: 2C4GP44R55R420991  
Jose Plata LLC  
32 Dagget St.  
New Haven, CT 06519

2005 Honda Accord  
VIN: 1HGCM554X5A098452  
Yanira Velazquez  
70 Harrison Ave. Apt 501  
Springfield, MA 01103

2005 Toyota Sienna  
VIN: 5TDZA23C65S231561  
Andrew Sanders  
4 High St.  
Great Barrington, MA 01230

2009 Toyota Corolla  
VIN: JTDDBL40E59J033702  
Oscar Danilo Canales  
826 Ivy Grove Rd.  
Sandston, VI 23150

2010 Cadillac Srx  
VIN: 3GYFNDEY9AS626605  
Carolyn Zaccardo  
59 Broad St.  
New Britain, CT 06053

2016 GMC Yukon/Denali  
VIN: 1GKS2CKJ6GR415098  
Carvana Inc  
300 E Rio Salado PKWY  
Tempe, AZ 85281

2019 Chevrolet Malibu  
VIN: 1G1ZD5ST3KF200802  
Gerardo Gomez Martinez  
6557 Mather St.  
Detroit, MI 48210

08/23, 08/30, 09/06/2024

Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
The Trial Court  
Hampden Probate and Family Court  
50 State Street  
Springfield, MA 01103  
Docket No. HD21P2289PM  
CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION FOR TERMINATION OF A CONSERVATOR  
In the matter of:  
John Gavron  
Of: Chicopee, MA  
RESPONDENT

Incapacitated Person/  
Protected Person  
To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by: Debra Asselin of South Hadley, MA in the above captioned matter requesting that the court: Terminate the Conservatorship.

The petition asks the court to make a determination that the Guardian and/or Conservator should be allowed to resign; or should be removed for good cause; or that the Guardianship and/or Conservatorship is no longer necessary and therefore should be terminated. The original petition is on file with the court.

You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 a.m. on the return date of 09/19/2024. This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

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: August 15, 2024  
Rosemary A. Saccomani  
Register of Probate  
08/23/2024

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.

1999 Chevrolet S10  
VIN: 1GCCS1441XK117014  
Michael Wright  
206 1st St  
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: 1FMFU74858UA23793  
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: 1HGCV1F32RA024192  
David Rivera  
36 Decker Pl. Apt 36  
Springfield, MA 01104  
08/09, 08/16, 08/23/2024



**EARLY DEADLINES**  
In observance of Labor Day,  
**PUBLIC NOTICES**  
EARLY AD DEADLINE  
Place your public notice  
no later than 12 noon  
**Friday, August 30**  
- Thank you!

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In observance of Labor Day,  
the **CLASSIFIEDS** have an  
**EARLY AD DEADLINE.**  
To advertise,  
place your ad no later than **NOON**  
**Friday, August 30**  
Thank you!

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OPEN DAILY 9AM-5PM;  
SEPT. 3-SEPT. 8TH  
BY APPOINTMENT.**

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

### SLISKI QUALITY WINDOWS

Vinyl replacement and new construction. Energy Star, made by Mercury Excelum, local manufacturer. Installation. **Call 413-221-5373**.

## ELECTRICIAN

### NEED AN ELECTRICIAN?

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

## EXCAVATING

**MINI EXCAVATOR FOR HIRE.** Fully operated. Shrub removal, electrical trenches, drainage work. Minor demolition. Licensed and insured. Call **413-315-1614**.

### CLASSIFIED DEADLINES

MONDAY AT NOON

## SERVICES

### HOME IMPROVEMENT

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

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

## LANDSCAPING

### A+ ROZELL'S LANDSCAPING & BOBCAT SERVICE

Excavator Services  
Overgrown property?  
Extreme Brush Cutting!  
Shrub, Stump, Tree Removal  
Lawn/Arborvitae Installed  
Loam, Stone, Mulch, Sand  
Storm Clean-up  
Small Demolition/ Junk Removal  
Insured  
**Josh Rozell 413-636-5957**

**\*\*ALL SEASON\*\*** Specializing in shrub trimming, pruning, design, deliveries, loader, backhoe, insured. Professional. Please call Bob **(413)537-5789 (413)538-7954**.

**J.S. RAGONA LANDSCAPING**  
Mowing - Mulching - Planting Small Shrubs & Tree Trimming, Removal  
Brush Hauling - Spring/Fall Clean-ups.  
**(413)786-6184**

### MATT GUERTIN LANDSCAPING

Serving Wilbraham & Ludlow  
Weekly lawn care  
Landscape design and installation  
Hedge trimming/mulching  
Custom edging/stone work  
For more services visit  
**mattguertinlandscaping.com**  
Call or text **413-266-9975**  
Insured - Commercial - Residential

## SERVICES

### MASONRY

**MASONRY FOUNDATION RESTORATION**, stairs, walkways, ext. Also roofing, new and repairs welcome. Licensed/Insured. Call **413-978-894-5412 or 978-894-6331**.

### STOP WET BASEMENTS

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

## PAINTING

### DUTCH TOUCH PAINTING

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

## PLUMBING

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

## ROOFING

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

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

## SERVICES

### RUBBISH REMOVAL

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

## TREE WORK

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

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

## TUTORING

**TUTORING - K-8.** Summer refresher; Fall and Winter tutoring. Homework help. Call **978-799-9096. petedon151@live.com**

### STUMP GRINDING

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

## HELP WANTED

The Trustees of the Otis Library seek applicants for a **Library Director Position**. The position pays \$21-\$25 per hour commensurate with experience. The Director can expect to work between 25-30 hours per week. An application packet is available by emailing [otislibrary@cwmar.org](mailto:otislibrary@cwmar.org) or at the **Otis Library at 48 North Main Road, Otis, MA 01253. (413) 269-0109**. The application deadline is September 13, 2024. *The Otis Library Board of Trustees is an equal opportunity employer.*

## TOWN OF WILBRAHAM

**ASST. ADULT SERVICES LIBRARIAN - P/T**  
**ASST. CHILDREN'S LIBRARIAN - P/T**  
**BORROWER SERVICES ASST. - P/T**  
**EMERGENCY DISPATCHER - P/T**  
**ENGINEERING TECH./FIELD INSPECTOR**  
**IT SUPPORT & WEBSITE TECHNICIAN**

The Town of Wilbraham is looking to fill several vacancies. For application and more information please visit [www.wilbraham-ma.gov](http://www.wilbraham-ma.gov). EOE

## REAL ESTATE

### FOR RENT



EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

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

**THREE RIVERS - 2ND FLOOR.** 3 Bedrooms, 1 bath, off-street parking, washer dryer hook-up. 1st, last and security. \$1300. No pets. **(413)544-9012 or (413)668-8348**

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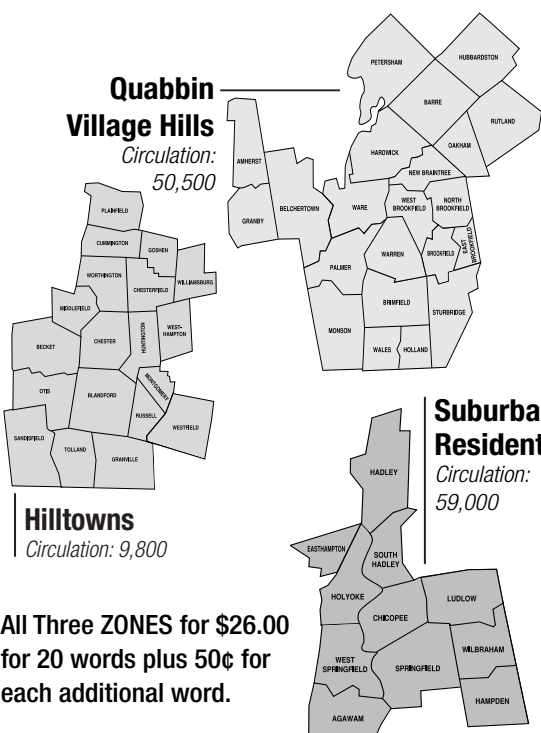
MAIL TO: Classifieds, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069  
or call: 413-283-8393

DEADLINES: **MONDAY AT NOON**

CATEGORY:			
1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28
29	30	31	32
33	34	35	36
37	38	39	40

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

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**ALL 3 ZONES NOW FOR THE PRICE OF ONE!**

## CFD welcomes four new recruits

CHICOPEE - Join us in welcoming and congratulating our newest recruits who are about to enter the Fire Academy! We are grateful for their selflessness and bravery in choosing a career dedicated to saving lives in our community.

A heartfelt thank you to their families for sharing these amazing individuals with us—you've just gained an even bigger family with the Chicopee Fire Department.

Let's give a warm welcome to: Eric, Yashiyah, Jallen and Elizabeth

We also want to extend our gratitude to State Rep. Shirley Arriaga (D-Chicopee), Bridget Healy from Sen. John Velis's office (D-Westfield), Chris Gongora and Mari Jackson from State Sen. Adam Gomez's office (D-Springfield) for their support and attendance.

Congratulations and stay safe!



PHOTOS AND CAPTION COURTESY OF CITY OF CHICOPEE MAYOR'S OFFICE



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