

Chicopee Register

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COMMUNITY

Dance students receive certificates of achievement



TURLEY PHOTO BY KRISTIN RIVERS

From the left, City Council Vice President/Councilor-at-Large Robert Zygarowski, Madisyn Vasquez, Karielys Rivera, Thea Cosgrove, Paige Bordeau and Mayor John Vieau in a group photo at the Certificates of Achievement ceremony in City Hall Auditorium on Sept. 17.

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
krivers@turley.com

CHICOPEE - Four local dance students, including a senior at Chicopee Comprehensive High School, heading to Poland for the IDO Olympics received certificates of achievement from Mayor John Vieau on Sept. 17.

The foursome are Comp student Paige Bordeau, Madisyn Vasquez, who attends Minnechaug Regional High School, Thea Cosgrove of Suffield, Connecticut and Karielys Rivera who attends Longmeadow High School. All four are dance students at Dazzle School of Dance

in Agawam and have danced for many years, also forging a close bond going beyond the studio.

The girls will compete this coming November as part of Team USA for the International Dance Olympics, an organization around for 40 years and is a nonprofit organization part of the World Dance and Dancesport Federation with over 90 members and contact nations, representing more than 500,000 dancers from all six continents.

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

Bordeau also competed in and won Miss Acro United States.

Bordeau will compete on the Lyrical, Jazz, Acro and Contemporary teams, Vasquez will compete on the Lyrical, Jazz and Acro teams, Cosgrove will compete on the Lyrical team and Rivera will compete on the Lyrical, Contemporary and Jazz teams.

They, also, have been fundraising for the trip, with a Designer Purse Bingo fundraiser event that was held at the Marconi Club in Springfield on Sept. 20.

During the ceremony, Vieau

See **DANCE STUDENTS** page 5

COMMUNITY



TURLEY PHOTO BY AMANDA MUNSON

Chair, Education Division Andrea Hickson-Martin Ed.D. and Vice President of Academic Affairs Joyce Hampton Ed.D. sign the MOU that establishes a collaborative partnership between Elms College and Square One.

Square One and Elms College hold memorandum of understanding signing

By Amanda Munson
Correspondent

CHICOPEE - Gathering in the Gaylord Mansion at Elms College, President and CEO of Square One, Dawn DiStefano, and Elms College President Dr. Harry Dumay signed an official Memorandum of Understanding on Sept. 17.

This agreement will make it easier for Elms education students to gain valuable on-site work experience and for Square One employees to pursue professional development opportunities and courses.

Beginning the opening remarks was Andrea Hickson-Martin Ed.D., part of the board of directors at Square One

and part of the Education Division of the Elms.

“My years at Square One were incredibly rewarding, to witness the work they do firsthand for the greater Springfield area. It has been an honor to collaborate with compassionate and dedicated leaders, leading us to this remarkable day. To come together and solidify the Education Division of Elms College and Square One,” Hickson-Martin said. “Today marks the day of an excellent opportunity, a beneficial collaboration that will enhance the education experiences of children, families, and students of the Elms. Square One has been a beacon

See **ELMS COLLEGE** page 6

COMMUNITY

ValleyBike expanding to Chicopee

New e-bikes coming soon

By Kristin Rivers
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CHICOPEE - ValleyBike’s expansion into Chicopee, along with new e-bikes on the way soon, was celebrated in a ribbon-cutting ceremony outside city hall on Sept. 16.

The ribbon-cutting comes after ValleyBike Share returned to Western Massachusetts at the end of May after Drop Mobility became the new vendor for the regional program.

Last year, ValleyBike was shut down after the previous vendor, Bewegen, notified the town of Northampton--the lead community for the program--

they were initiating bankruptcy proceedings. Afterward, representatives from member communities banded together for a plan and commitment to bring ValleyBike back and seek a new vendor.

In addition to Northampton and Chicopee, other communities that used ValleyBike were Springfield, West Springfield, Holyoke, South Hadley, Easthampton and Amherst, with the University of Massachusetts Amherst also utilizing the e-bikes.

In his remarks, Mayor John Vieau thanked Drop Mobility for reinvesting in ValleyBike, explaining how other communities and other parts of the country

See **VALLEY BIKE** page 9



TURLEY PHOTO BY KRISTIN RIVERS

State Sen. Jake Oliveira (D-Ludlow), Jeff Goodmark, regional operations manager for Drop Mobility and director at ValleyBike, State Rep. Shirley Arriaga (D-Chicopee), Mayor John Vieau and Jacob Roberts, operations manager for ValleyBike on behalf of Drop Mobility, celebrate after the ribbon is cut to mark the return of ValleyBike to Chicopee on Sept. 16.

City Council moves forward on Zoning Ordinance and Development Regulation Overhaul

Approval comes after favorable FinCom report

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
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CHICOPEE - City Council approved an appropriation for a Zoning Ordinance and Development Regulation Overhaul on Sept. 17 after receiving a favorable Finance Committee report.

The decision comes after the item was first presented on Aug. 6, with the councilors voting at that meeting to send the \$350,000 appropriation for the overhaul to the Finance Committee for further review to clarify what the money would be spent on along with addressing concerns on preserving the voice of the public.

The amount would go to the Planning Special Account, with the funds taken from available funds in the Stabilization for Capital Budgeting.

After Vice President/Councilor-at-Large Robert Zygarowski said the Finance Committee "felt at this point that this is the appropriate way to do it," Ward 4 Councilor George Balakier explained Planning Director Lee Pouliot had shed some light on this, including the amount asked to be appropriated is from the Capital Budgeting Account and the last time "a lot of the zoning laws and development regulations were looked at and retweaked" was in 1978, almost 50 years ago.

Balakier said the nuances Pouliot explained were how they would be working with lawyers and city officials and the process "would probably take two years."

"So, that's the expected timeframe on this and this will be working, also, with some of the state zoning laws, in particular regarding lot sizes, special permits, the ODRM Mill District and how it would work with developers and with the public," Balakier said. "So, Lee gave us a good presentation on this and I think this is something that's overdue seeing that I chair zoning and the Zoning Committee. So, I think this needs strong consideration,

approval tonight."

Ward 7 Councilor William Courchesne thanked Pouliot for having brought this forward, sharing it "is another example of when we don't take care of things in a timely manner, over time, no preventive maintenance, it costs us a lot more money to do it now" than "if we would have taken care of it a couple three times over the last 50 years."

"Time and time again, we keep learning the hard lesson in the city that we're not doing things and we're not maintaining things and we wait until it breaks and then we fix it," Courchesne said. "So, let's hope this is the last time something comes before us that we failed to maintain and it's costing us so much more to do than if we had just kept it going throughout the years because 50 years is a long time. Policies have changed more times than we are in the room. So, let's hope this is the last time we have to do something like this."

After Zygarowski added how Pouliot also clarified this was not a mandate by the state and was "in the best interest of the city to move forward," Ward 9 Councilor Mary Beth Costello said how "zoning is extremely important."

"Many times we run into the issue of spot zoning and that's created a lot of problems in a lot of neighborhoods. So, hopefully with this type of order, with the director of the city planner, we can address problems with zoning including spot zoning and improve the quality of life in the city," Costello said.

Councilor-at-Large Tim Wagner's concerns focused on the project getting away from the City Council "given that this body is going to be the one to approve eventually," asking Attorney Tim Riley if it was possible to add an asterisk to this.

"As a condition of approval, the Zoning Committee be given an update every few months on any potential changes that they would like to make," Wagner said. "To make sure that it's in line not only with the Planning Department's vision, but what the City Council's vision (is) so that we're not just presented with dozens

and dozens and dozens of pages of ordinance changes to approve like we were tonight."

President/Councilor-at-Large Frank Laflamme shared that was one of his questions also, having had a lot of people asking what would happen.

"As he mentioned, the whole process is going to be partially done, but it all goes through the City Council. Nothing can be approved without the approval of the City Council on everything if the people were there," Laflamme said.

Laflamme also agreed with Wagner's concerns, adding another item of concern that he thought was going through the state legislature right now "where if you have a lot size, you're going to be able to take in another person in single-family homes as well as build on pieces of property."

"I think we're a little bit behind. I wish this was updated now--a long time ago--but there's a new process that they mentioned that is coming down the road that Lee talked to us about, that he's doing all his homework, he's learning about it," Laflamme said. "It might pass the state legislature where we're going to have to change our process where it's just going to be able to get a building permit if it's approved in certain areas. So, I agree with you 100%."

After Riley clarified the mayor's order could not be amended, Wagner said this.

"Then I'll probably file a motion at the next meeting to have some sort of a control on that and I'll work with my various colleagues on that," Wagner said.

Laflamme said he will have the council's support on that proposal.

Zygarowski appreciated Wagner's points, saying even though the mayor's order could not be amended, the whole process would still take years.

"It's not something that we're going to change everything in the zoning laws. It's going to be worked on over the next couple of years, if not more. We just don't know," Zygarowski said. "This is a good thing, it's just going to take some time."

The motion passed 13-0.

Grow Your Parenting Skills

CHICOPEE - Parents of young children from birth to five years old Free Classes and Attendance Prizes !!!

Sept. 10, Sept. 17, Sept. 24, Oct. 1, Oct. 8, Oct. 15 from 6 to 7 p.m.

Holyoke Library, 250 Chestnut St, Holyoke, MA 01040, Board Room

Funded by the Coordinated Family & Community Engagement Grant from the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care Study

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Spaghetti and Meatball Dinner at Chicopee Elks on Sept. 26

CHICOPEE - A Spaghetti and Meatball Dinner will be taking place from 5 to 7 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 26.

The free community event will take place at the Chicopee Elks Lodge 1849 on 413 Granby Rd.

We look forward to you joining us! To learn more, call 413-592-1849.

Touch a Truck event takes place Oct. 6 at Chicopee Elks

CHICOPEE - A Touch a Truck event will be taking place at the Chicopee Elks Lodge 1849 on Sunday, Oct. 6 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

There will be games for the kids and hot dogs and hamburgers for sale (cash only).

\$5 for hot dog, chips and soda

\$7 for hamburgers, chips and soda

A 50/50 raffle will support the Boys & Girls Club of Chicopee and there will be an additional raffle table.

The Chicopee Elks Lodge is located at 431 Granby Rd.

To learn more, call 413-592-1849.

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.

On Tuesdays, Sept. 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!

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!

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Walking Club of RiverMills Center

CHICOPEE - The Council on Aging will start up their Walking Club again on Monday, Sept. 23 at 9 a.m. at Chicopee Council on Aging's RiverMills Center, 5 West Main St.

RiverMills Walking Club will start back on Monday, Sept. 23 at 9 a.m. The club will walk Monday's and Friday's at

9am for a walk down the Chicopee River behind the senior center.

This group will meet from September-November and will resume in April once the winter weather resides. The group will not walk in inclement weather.

No registration is required.



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City Council to review ordinance amendment for recreation gym supervisor

It will next go to Ordinance Committee for review

By Kristin Rivers
Editor
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CHICOPEE - City Council approved reviewing an ordinance amendment on Sept. 17 to add a recreation gym supervisor to the Parks & Recreation Department.

The recreation gym supervisor would work at \$25 per game and the ordinance would be operative upon passage.

It will next go to the Ordinance Committee for a first reading and public hearing.

Mayor John Vieau explained for the mayor's order, the Parks Commission voted in favor of moving it along for approval.

"The reason being is that what's happening is they're getting overwhelmed as officials at games at Park and Rec and the referees sometimes need help and guidance and the park staff cannot be there all the time for every single game," Vieau said. "So, since we play in so many gyms on Saturdays and as the winter season is going to be coming for basketball,

the reason for this position would be to have a supervisor in some of the facilities where some of the staff cannot be in order to help guide and, frankly, help out with issues that arise during a game."

Parks & Recreation Department Superintendent Benjamin Strepka then added this.

"During basketball season, we operate out of almost 10 gymnasiums across the city, and as a small staff of only three or four of us, we can't be everywhere at once and, unfortunately, in today's age, we continue to have issues both on and off the court that need our attention to," Strepka said. "So, with this position, we hope to have more eyes in more places during these games so, hopefully, these incidents don't occur. But, when they do, we have someone onsite who can handle them accordingly."

The motion passed 13-0.

Two other highlights pertained to requests from the police department for building renovations and a grant program.

First, an appropriation of \$8,647.76 to the Police Special Account for building renovations from available funds in the Stabilization Fund.

Vieau explained, "This is a change order to the public safety upgrades" that the council had approved for upgrades to

lighting.

Capt. Holly Cote explained the change order was approved "about six months ago" and "then the work was done."

"So, basically, when we came before you before, we went with standard lighting but the areas--two of the areas--we realized that we really needed dimmers so that we can utilize our camera system better," Cote said. "So, the Detective Bureau and to the chief's Administrative Office. They need the dimmers, one, for viewing camera footage, but, also, it's a little bright during certain times of the day. So, that's what this is for."

The other was the acceptance of the FFY 2024 Car Seat Distribution Program for \$4,051.90 from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Office of Grants and Research Highway Safety Division.

Here, the grant program allows the state to purchase car seats for the police department for distribution to low-income families in Chicopee along with installation and education on how to use them.

Vieau said he's excited about the grant opportunity "to make sure that the infants and toddlers in Chicopee are a little safer" and knowing "that we're also going to have instruction on how to not

only give out car seats but how to use them properly."

Cote was also thrilled with the grant program.

"This is just a grant that Capt. Lambert, our community engagement liaison, put in for and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts did give us the grant so we'll be able to purchase the car seats so that we can use them at different safety events," Cote said.

Both appropriations passed 13-0.

Lastly, an appropriation of \$9,139,752.88 to the Stabilization for Education Purposes Account--comprising \$3,409,382.78 for school prior year expenses and \$5,730,370.10 for school prior year salaries--was postponed to the next meeting or call of the chair as it was put on the City Council's agenda a day early.

"The School Committee will be addressing this tomorrow night and we ask that you pause on it right now and wait for the School Committee to take action first and then it'll be, hopefully, brought back on by your president as a postponement to the call of the president or the chair until the School Committee can officially vote on it," Vieau said.

The postponement was accepted 13-0.

CFD takes part in Mass of Remembrance to commemorate 9/11



PHOTO COURTESY OF CHICOPEE FIRE DEPARTMENT

CHICOPEE - Members of the fire department took part in a Mass of Remembrance to commemorate 9/11 at St. Rose de Lima Parish on Sept. 11.

The members were also joined by

members of the police department for the mass, held every year to honor the victims and fallen heroes of September 11, 2001. The departments were represented by the Honor Guard for the Mass.

Flu and COVID Vaccine Clinic Sept. 23

CHICOPEE - The Council on Aging will host a Flu and COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic on Monday, Sept. 23 at 10 a.m. at Chicopee Council on Aging's RiverMills Center located at 5 West Main St.

Holyoke Health Center will be at

RiverMills Center on Monday, September 23rd for a Flu and COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Pre-Registration is required by stopping at RiverMills Center or by calling 534-3698.

Lorraine's 35th anniversary celebration to be held on Oct. 5

CHICOPEE - Lorraine's Soup Kitchen & Pantry will be celebrating 35 years of service to the community at Sarah Jane Park on Saturday, Oct. 5, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Come, bring your lawn chairs and picnic baskets and join us for a fantastic celebration!

Come and celebrate with us as we mark 35 wonderful years of Lorraine's Soup Kitchen & Pantry serving our community! We've come a long way from the days of

distributing peanut butter sandwiches and hot soup and we can't wait to share our journey and successes with you!

There will be bounce houses, games, music, police and fire department vehicles, the Chicopee Police Ice Cream Truck and K9 demonstrations.

The event is free and open to the public.

To learn more, call 413-592-9528 or email executivedir@lorrainesoupkitchen.com.




CFD participates in training



PHOTOS COURTESY OF CHICOPEE FIRE DEPARTMENT

CHICOPEE - The fire department took part in rapid intervention refresher training that was overseen by their training and safety captain.



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GUEST COLUMN



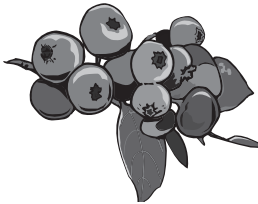
A blueberry question from Ed

"My name is Ed and I have a question that I hope you can answer: I have a small part of my back yard where three tomato plants used to grow. This year I bought a blueberry plant which I never have grown before. I planted it in May of this year and as of mid August I still have not had any blueberries yet. The plant actually looks the same as it did in May. I water the plant every day and just wondering why nothing has grown yet. I actually am considering just letting the blueberry plant stay as is through the winter and maybe by early 2025 there might be some blueberries. Any comment is much appreciated. Thanks!"

Thank you for your question, Ed. I am thinking that your blueberry plant might need a bit more time adjusting to its surroundings, and maybe a correction on soil pH.

Read on to learn about that.

Blueberries, more than tomatoes, are picky about pH. They are ericaceous, or "acid-loving," just like rhododendrons and azaleas. In this part of the country our soil tends to be acidic, but blueberries like an even lower pH than most soils have, to the tune of 4.8.



To find out the pH of your soil, have it tested by the University of Massachusetts Cooperative Extension service. If you specify at testing time that you wish to grow blueberries, they will give you advice on how to amend the soil for that crop.

Some amendments used to lower pH include sulfur, peat moss and leaf humus among others.

I would also recommend that you apply mulch around the blueberry bush to a depth of four inches. As you know, mulch will conserve soil moisture as well as continue to add organic matter and nutrients to the soil as it breaks down.

For blueberries the best choice is well rotted sawdust. Grass clippings and straw are also suitable but need to be replaced more quickly than sawdust.

A word of caution: make sure the sawdust is well rotted or it could potentially burn tender stems as well as rob nitrogen from the plant it is intending to help.

Blueberries can self-pollinate, but for the best berry production plant at least two different blueberry varieties within 10 feet of one another. If, for example, the variety you have ripens mid season, purchase another mid season bush, so that the flowers will be blooming and therefore pollinated at the same time.

You will be delighted with larger fruit and more of it!

There would be some crossover with early and later varieties, but with only two plants I'd err on the side of caution and just purchase another of the same season whatever that is. If you don't know, don't worry about it, just plant another bush regardless.

The last thing I'd like to mention is that it usually takes two-three years for blueberries to produce fruit even if all of their needs are being met. It has to do with the maturity of the branches and whether they are productive.

The most productive branches tend to be around three years old. I'm not sure how old your plant was upon installation, but maybe it just needs a little more time.

Well, we covered a lot of material here, but I can sense how badly you'd like to see

GUEST COLUMN



Common nighthawk



A Brimfield resident emailed that on Wednesday, Aug. 28, "I sat outside in front of the house and saw 35 common nighthawks, a group of 5, 7, 22 and a straggler. The group of 22 flew around overhead for 2-3 minutes, fluttery flight, erratic, back and forth, round and round." He said he has sat out three other nights and not seen a single nighthawk.

The common nighthawk is 10 inches long and is often seen flying at dusk or dawn and sometimes during the day. They have long, thin pointed wings with a conspicuous white bar near the tips of their wings.

Their flight tends to be high over 40 feet with slow, deliberate wingbeats. The male has a white band near the tip of his tail, which the female lacks. They have mottled feathers with white under their chin. Nighthawks scoop up flying insects when in flight. Sometimes they are seen feeding near city lights, which attract insects.

The common nighthawk gives a nasal "peernt" call. The lesser nighthawk is similar to the common, but flies much lower, 10 to 20 feet and has thin, rounded wings with the wing bar nearer the tip than its cousin.

The female common nighthawk lays two olive brown eggs with dark marks in a nest on gravelly soil, fields or gravel rooftops. They inhabit forests, plains and urban areas. Lesser nighthawks prefer rivers, lakes and desert scrub.

Warren bird sightings

In Warren there are still great egrets at the pond on New Reed Street and a juvenile osprey was seen Friday, Aug. 30 at the pond on South Street. It was perched in a tree eating a fish.

Cooper's hawk

My daughter had what most likely was a Cooper's hawk in her yard in late August. She heard a knocking on her basement slider. When she looked over her deck, the hawk was on the ground by the slider. She went downstairs to check on him and he flew up to her deck and then went into a tree before flying off.

Loon chick rescue

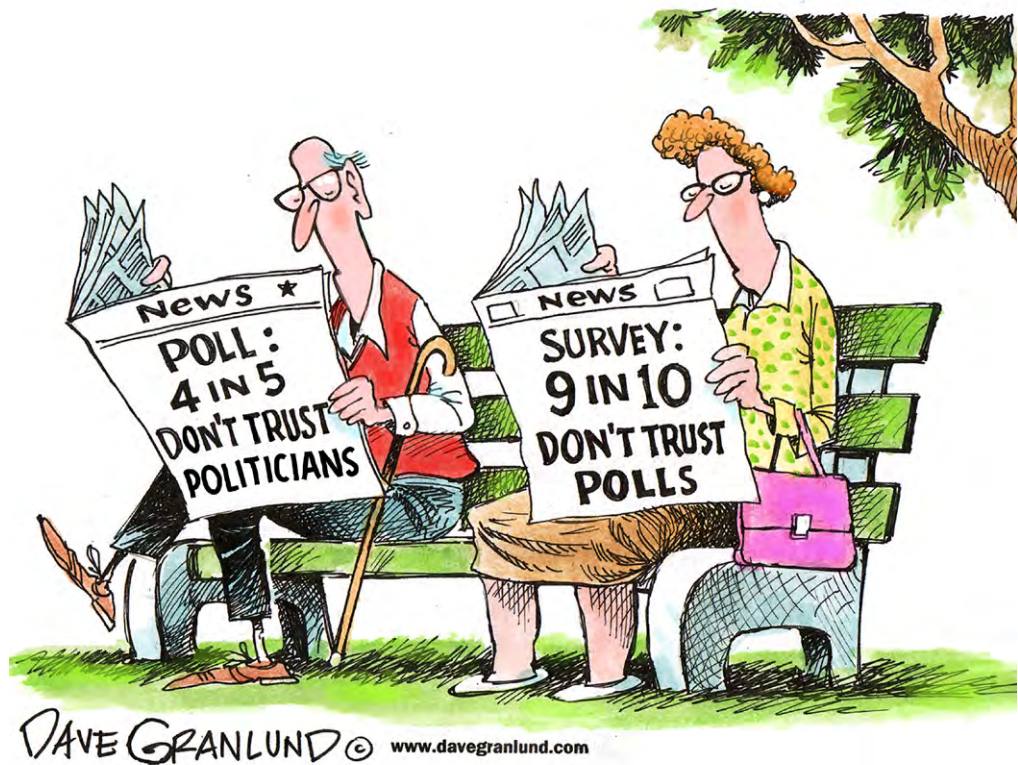
On Aug. 22, Loon Preservation Committee received a call from Pawtuckaway Lake. Lake residents had found a loon chick that had beached itself on an island with no parents in sight. The chick had fishing line tangled around its neck, head and bill.

"As they called, the residents were in the process of untangling the chick and they asked us for guidance regarding what to do next. We were thankful that they had noticed and were helping the loon, and were also thankful that they had called us. Sometimes when loons are tangled in fishing line, there are additional injuries from hooks or tackle that are not immediately obvious when looking at the bird externally and we wanted to make sure that was not the case with this loon."

"LPC's Pemigewasset Region Biologist, Jayden Mowery, was able to meet with the rescuers and collect the chick from them. He then brought it to VCA Capital Area Veterinary Emergency and Specialty (CAVES), where he met up with Maria Colby and CAVES veterinary staff to x-ray the loon. We were glad to have taken this extra step to ensure the chick was okay, because the x-ray revealed something that was not easily visible during the external exam: the chick had a fishing hook embedded in the flesh of its mouth, under its tongue."

An x-ray of the chick's head and neck revealed a large fishing hook embedded in the tissue of its mouth, underneath its tongue. It was removed and the chick was returned to the lake where it joined its parents.

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.



your bushes bare fruit. By making a few minor changes and providing the one plant you have with a friend you will hopefully see berries in a couple of years at the most.

Thanks for the question, Ed!

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the

Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For 32 years she has held the position of staff horticulturist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to pouimette@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.

WE CARE ABOUT YOUR NEWS!

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

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Instrument Petting Zoo visits library

By Amanda Munson
Correspondent

CHICOPEE - The library was full of sound and music from the instrument demonstration that the Springfield Symphony Orchestra put on for all ages on Sept. 14, full of caretakers and children curious about the art of music.

With over a dozen instruments to choose from, attendees were able to try out all of them, recognizing the joy of playing and learning music that everyone can play.

Maxwell Jordan, education program assistant of Springfield Symphony Orchestra Instrument Petting Zoo, joined attendees in the Bazan Community Room, eager to demonstrate the array of instruments in the background.

"This program is much older than me, it's been going on for at least 15 years. Myself and my coworker Patrick go around to libraries and show the instruments off. I added the saxophone because it's my favorite and the kids enjoy it. It's nice to see the sheer power of the community, they will rally behind their library and support the need for third spaces," Jordan said.

Reflecting on the need for spaces that are separate from home and work, Jordan likes the fact that families can enjoy these events for free and come together in a space like the library. While talking about the program, Jordan stood in front of 19 instruments that he personally plays daily, showing his musical talent to the kids during the event.

When asked what started his path



TURLEY PHOTOS BY AMANDA MUNSON

Playful, silly, and curiosity filled the room up along with learning all about sound and vibrations of the instruments.

down a music centered future, Jordan commented on his surroundings growing up and how that influenced what he's doing now.

"Music, specifically education, is what I am currently studying. I grew up with my Dad playing blues rock around the house. It took me a while to catch on, but eventually I started playing bass and guitar in fifth grade. One day I started playing saxophone and my band director told me I could do this for a living, which took me down this path I am on now and why I am studying music," Jordan said.

The program began with a presentation of the different kinds of instruments that were brought in including the strings, woodwinds, brass and percussion families.

Program guests were taught the power of breathing that's required to play the trombone or saxophone, how to hold the bow to play the cello or violin, and how to stay on beat on the snare drum.

Near the end, three kids brought chairs together and created their own band, a wonderful reminder of how music can bring everyone together.

"The most rewarding part of my position at the petting zoo is seeing the kids realize the power of how much they can accomplish. Most of these kids come in and see all these instruments, watch me and think I'm a trained professional and that's scary, I can't do that. But they come up, sometimes scared, and they try. They realize it's simple, I can make a sound and



Education Programs Assistant Maxwell Jordan showcased his musical talent by playing all the instruments brought from the Springfield Symphony Orchestra.

I can make music. Seeing that they can play with other people in the program. It takes a lot of practice and hard work, but seeing their faces change to a sense of accomplishment is profound. It's great!" Jordan said.

The Springfield Symphony Orchestra is starting the 2024 season on Oct. 19, with more information found on SpringfieldSymphony.org

For information about the Musical Petting Zoo, visit springfieldsymphony.org/musical-petting-zoo/.

DANCE STUDENTS from page 1

learned more about what the girls would be doing at the IDO and about their dance experiences, praising them for their accomplishments.

He then read the certificates of achievement.

"The certificate is proudly presented to all four of you individually in recognition of your dedication, hard work and outstanding representation of Team USA at the International Dance Organization Championships in Kielce, Poland in November of 2024," Vieau said. "As the only competitors in Western Massachusetts at the IDO World Championships, your achievement reflects great pride in your community and in the Dazzle Studio of Dance in Agawam. So, the City of Chicopee applauds you for your commitment to excellence and we wish you continued success on the world stage."

Vieau also shared this advice.

"Be proud of who you are. There's only one of you in the whole world. Don't let anyone take that from you," Vieau said.

The girls were honored to receive the certificates.

"It was a good honor and I feel very excited," Vasquez said.

"I feel happy and very excited and you kind of cannot put it into words," Rivera said.

"Like my teammates said, this is such a big honor and I'm super excited. This was just a really great opportunity and it was very exciting today," Cosgrove said.

"Very appreciative of Mayor Vieau for doing this for us, especially because I'm from Chicopee and I think we're all just excited to go to Poland," Bordeau said.

When the girls were first selected for their teams, they were shocked and humbled by the opportunity.

"I was very shocked because I was just going in there like, 'Oh this is a good experience, an audition.' But, actually be-

ing picked is better than I anticipated. So, I was really excited," Vasquez said.

"I was also shocked and overjoyed. I knew this was a big experience and a big opportunity for us and for myself, so it was just so amazing for it to happen," Rivera said.

"I was mind blown by it. I never thought that I'd be able to do anything this big with dance so I'm super excited for the opportunity," Cosgrove said.

"I'd say I felt pretty honored, shocked," Bordeau said.

On representing Team USA, the girls shared this.

"It's a big opportunity and I'm happy to do it with them so I'm not all alone. It makes it more exciting for me," Vasquez said.

"I feel proud of myself and my friends for us to be representing the USA all together in a different country and, hopefully, bringing back the gold medal," Rivera said.

"I think it's a great thing for us as dancers to go and do events like this and represent America and the USA and hopefully bring home the gold," Cosgrove said.

"Like they all said, bringing home

the gold and super honoring in we have a great support system, so it's definitely making it a lot easier," Bordeau said.

After sharing their gratitude to their families, friends, teachers, their communities for their support



Thea Cosgrove demonstrates a dance move after receiving a certificate of achievement from Mayor John Vieau as part of her participation in the IDO Olympics.

and Vieau for their certificates of achievement, the girls had this message for aspiring dancers.

"For aspiring dancers, I would tell them to keep going and even if you go through a struggle to push through it be-

cause it just makes you stronger," Vasquez said. "And a big thank you to everyone in Western Mass for their support."

"I'm very thankful for all the people in the communities in Western Mass that have supported us," Rivera said. "I would say for the new generations of dancers and people younger than me, I'd say always work hard and try to reach for your dreams and, one day, you will achieve those dreams."

"I just want to say a big thank you to all the communities. They're really helping us from where we're all from and we really couldn't do it without them and all their support and without their recognition just like we're doing today," Cosgrove said. "I think for dancers, just believe in yourself. Whenever you doubt yourself, just know you're working hard and that you're going to get there someday and just have the patience and you're going to be great."

"I think that for all of us, it's taken a lot of time and dedication. So, I would say stay dedicated, stay focused, just keep pushing towards your goals and dreams," Bordeau said. "And big thanks to everyone who's continuing to help us get there."

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Priority Urgent Care officially opens its doors in Chicopee

By Amanda Munson
Correspondent

CHICOPEE - "Your health is our priority" is what Daksh Rampal, M.D., Chief Executive Officer of Priority Urgent Care, stands for and wants to let the community know as his business opens.

Located on 1505 Memorial Dr., the urgent care opened its doors on Sept. 16 with its first Massachusetts location being in Chicopee.

In front of the building, Mayor John Vieau, State Sen. Jake Oliveira (D-Ludlow), Ward 9 City Councillor Mary Beth Costello, with Rampal, M.D. and family kicked off the ribbon cutting ceremony.

"We are excited to be here since there has been a void and a need for urgent care. We are thankful you have chosen Chicopee as your first branch in Massachusetts. Our local hospitals will be happy to have you guys here. Our emergency rooms are really swelling here in Western Massachusetts," Vieau said. "It's wonderful to see this location be brought back up again, because people need medical care. It's a lot better than people waiting for hours to be seen. If there's an issue, it can be addressed here since there is state of the art medical equipment here and a team of people who are ready. We want to welcome you with open arms, with many years of prosperity in Chicopee and we wish you the best of success."

Oliveira said this next.

"It's wonderful to be here in (the) Ward 9 district and I am lucky enough to represent this area of Chicopee. It's always nice to see an urgent care facility fill a storefront, like I was saying earlier I come to this plaza all the time. I think all of us see the need for urgent care facilities and I was in need of a primary care physician for three years, right after the pandemic. I finally found one but to fill the gaps in between, I relied on urgent care. If you have



TURLEY PHOTO BY AMANDA MUNSON

Daksh Rampal, M.D., chief executive officer of Priority Urgent Care, gets ready to cut the ribbon to officially open Priority Urgent Care on Sept. 16.

an illness or roll an ankle, instances we all experience, urgent care fills those gaps for so many families. It's providing direct care right away," Oliveira said. "On behalf of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the three senators and reps of the City of Chicopee, the Massachusetts House of Senate hereby extends its congratulations to Priority Urgent Care of Massachusetts of recognition of the ribbon cutting and opening to your commitment for care of residents of the region."

Counting down from seven, acknowledging the seven locations of Priority Urgent Care, the ribbon was cut by Rampal and officially opened the business.

After the ceremony, Rampal sat down and talked about his beginnings in opening a business in Chicopee and why it was important for him to be practicing at an urgent

care.

"There is a little bit of everything in emergency medicine, you see the patient that comes through the door and you don't know what they have. They might have an ear or foot complaint, it could be anything. I worked in the E.R. for more than a decade, I wanted to do something entrepreneurial and learn how to run a business. This was a nice collaboration to help people and build a business, to take medicine to the community. Many people who go to the emergency rooms don't have true emergencies. E.R.'s are overcrowded, expensive, and urgent care provides a nice alternative. You get a similar level of care with a clean facility, to keep the true emergencies to the emergency room. We are here to help the patient save money, save the resources for the hospitals, it works well with my training and

urgent care as a business," Rampal said.

Ending with his connection to the area, Rampal said this.

"This area is accessible for people, easy to get to, truly wanting to have a space that feels like home. It feels like home to me and my family. We want people to be cared for quickly and well, our team is ready to handle anything short of a true emergency. The things that we can do are broad and diverse, we can do medicine to a young child to a geriatric patient, with anything in between. The goal is to have people leave very satisfied with their care at Priority Urgent Care," Rampal said.

Priority Urgent Care is open Mondays through Fridays from 8 a.m. to 7:45 p.m. and weekends from 9 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.

Learn more at priorityuc.com or call 413-366-9977, walk-ins are welcome.

ELMS COLLEGE from page 1

of hope in the community, offering a wide range of family friendly education and support services. Tailored to meet the needs of each family. Square One's focus of fostering lifelong learning, promoting smart choices, and nurturing cognitive, emotional, social, and physical growth aligns with our values here at the Elms. With Elms being faith, community, justice, and excellence."

Hickson-Martin expressed excitement for the partnership.

"This partnership is not just an agreement on paper, but a dynamic and living collaboration that will bring enormous benefits to each of our organizations. For our Elms Early Education students, this is an unparalleled opportunity to engage in fieldwork, conduct observations and use Square One as a teaching lab. Providing a real world setting where they can apply theory to practice, develop critical teaching skills, and learn to teach with empathy and creativity," Hickson-Martin said. "This will be an environment of reciprocal learning. We aim to include several



All in attendance were smiling at the handshake between Elms College President Dr. Harry Dumay and Andrea Hickson-Martin.

other divisions of Elms that will closely work with students at Square One, including ABA program, communication, sciences and disorders, psychology, nursing, and social work to name a few. By doing so, we will create an interdisciplinary approach, meeting the needs of

children and families in our community. Together we are stronger."

Students in the Early Childhood Education program will, also, have fieldwork experience and the ability to conduct teaching labs at Square One as part of their curriculum. Square One and Elms College will greatly benefit from this partnership, which is why the signage of this MOU was so monumental.

Dumay continued the program by welcoming DiStefano.

"We are absolutely certain this is the beginning of a long friendship. You often hear that solutions can be a win-win scenario, this is true. Square One and Elms College are seen as respected, long-standing institutions that have been dedicated to serving others. Through our respected histories, we have done our share to help the lives of families in the greater Springfield area," Dumay said. "It only makes sense that Square One and Elms College combine our efforts for joint impact. Through your work and ours, students go on to lead lives of purpose, passion, and service to communities. I want to offer my sincere gratitude



President and CEO of Square One Dawn DiStefano and Elms College President Dr. Harry Dumay sign the memorandum of understanding, solidifying the partnership the college and organization will have for years to come.

to all of those from Square One and Elms to make this day possible, to see the fruits of their work of this partnership grow."

DiStefano ended the remarks reflecting on the strengths of the partnership and the future it holds for both Elms and Square One, highlighting the need and importance of early education for young children.

"This partnership is for intentional focus for families and students to learn, grow, and thrive together. We all know the importance of early learning in young children. Early investments lead to observable and measurable achievements in social emotional skill development and academic outcomes in language and literacy," DiStefano said. "Long term outcomes are stronger relationships, productive learning, and options for future career paths. All of these outcomes connect to stable and self-sufficient families that make up greater communities. Square One is excited for all the potential learning and development from students and staff working together, exploring and engaging together. What an exciting time this is, thank you for having us."

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Sports

Comp loses early lead, falls in Week 1

AGAWAM – Last Friday night, Agawam trailed visiting Chicopee Comprehensive 14-6. But the Brownies scored 24 unanswered points to come away with a win 30-14.

In the first play of the second half, Rian Villareal took a quick pass from Dom Pisano, broke a tackle, and went more than 70 yards to the end zone for a touchdown. The Brownies got the two-

point conversion and tied the score 14-14. The defense was phenomenal in the second half and paced Agawam to extra possessions, keeping the Colts out of the end zone. Joe Duffy scored two rushing touchdowns and led Agawam rushers with 82 yards on eight carries. Max Holloway had the other touchdown for the Brownies and ran for 55 yards. Caleb Phillips added 59 rushing yards.



Shane Upham looks to make a run to the left side.



The Colts defense works to make a tackle.



TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI
Anthony Cabrera-Cavette kicks off for the Colts.



Matthew Perez drops back after receiving the snap.

Pacers take down Mustangs

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

CHICOPEE—Back in 2018, the Chicopee boys' varsity soccer team didn't lose their first match of the regular season until October. The members of this year's varsity squad are looking for a repeat performance.

After posting a 5-1 win at Snot Park against Springfield Central in the season opener on September 4, the Pacers defeated Holley Division rival Monson, 3-0, in another home match, last Tuesday night.

"I've been coaching most of these players since they were five years old, so this is a special group to me. It has been tremendous watching them progress over the years" said Chicopee fourth-year head coach Hugo Destapado following the shutout victory against the Mustangs. "This is also the first time that we've been 2-0 since I've been the varsity coach here. We're going to play one game at a time."

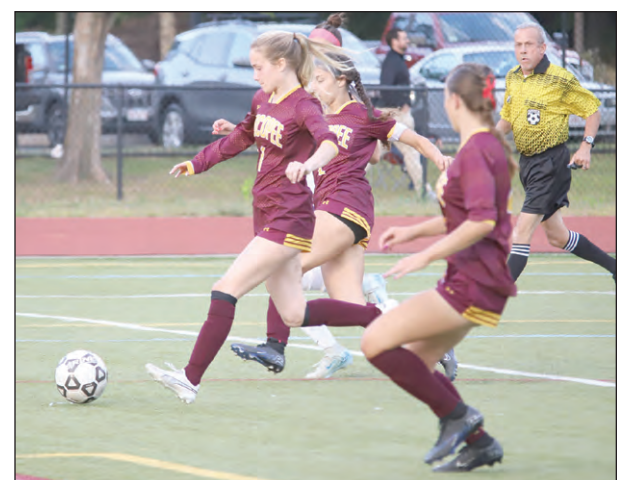
The Pacers, who swept the season series with Monson a year ago, also celebrated a pair of road victories last week. They are led offensively by sophomore Griffen Wrisley, who recorded a hat-trick in three of his team's first four

See PACERS page 8

Pacers seek first win

CHICOPEE – Last week, Chicopee girls soccer suffered a pair of losses, first falling to Monson 6-1, and then to Granby 5-1. The losses dropped the Pacers to 0-4 on the season. The Pacers hope to change their fortunes on Monday, Sept. 23 against Southwick at 6 p.m.

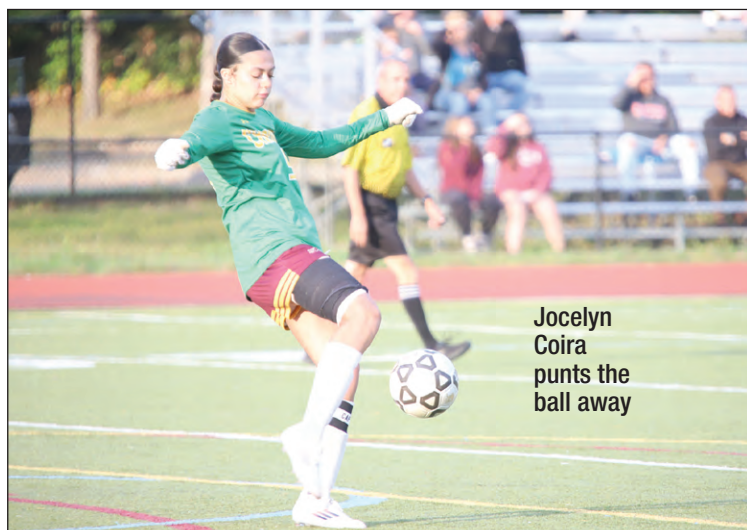
TURLEY PHOTOS BY GREGORY A. SCIBELLI



Julianna Renfer goes back to retrieve a ball in the defensive end of the field.



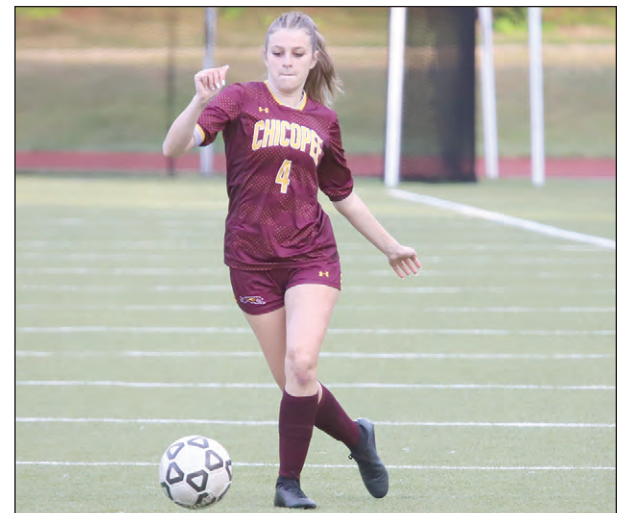
Ashley Galica tries to clear the ball away.



Jocelyn Coira punts the ball away



Cassidy Pytel flies to get possession.



Magdalena Lapierre tries to corral the ball near midfield.

HoopHall announces induction presenters

SPRINGFIELD – The Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame has announced the list of Hall of Famers who will present the Class of 2024 at the Enshrinement Ceremony on Sunday, October 13, at Symphony Hall in Springfield, Massachusetts, the “Birthplace of Basketball.” Over 50 Hall of Famers, including all presenters, are expected to be in attendance for the ceremony.

Members of the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame Class of 2024 were asked to select previous inductees to accompany and present them during the ceremony. The choice is solely up to the incoming Hall of Famers or, in the case of posthumous recognition, their family members.

The 2024 Hall of Fame Inductees and Presenters:

Seimone Augustus - Lindsay Whalen (Class of 2022)

Dick Barnett - Bill Bradley ('83), Earl Monroe ('90)

Chauncey Billups - Larry Brown ('02), Tina Thompson ('18), Ben Wallace ('21)

Vince Carter - Julius Erving ('93), Tracy McGrady ('17)

Doug Collins - Billy Cunningham ('86), Jerry Reinsdorf ('16), Grant Hill ('18)

Michael Cooper - Kareem Abdul-Jabbar ('95), Magic Johnson ('02), James Worthy ('03), Pat Riley ('08), Lisa Leslie ('15)

Walter Davis - David Thompson ('96), Bob McAdoo ('00), Jerry Colangelo ('04),

Roy Williams ('07), Charlie Scott ('18), Bobby Jones ('19)

Harley Redin - Alice “Cookie” Barron ('19), Cheri Rapp ('19)

Bo Ryan - Roy Williams ('07), Gene Keady ('23)

Herb Simon - Larry Bird ('98), Reggie Miller ('12), Tamika Catchings ('20)

Charles Smith - Joe Dumars ('06)

Michele Timms - Teresa Edwards ('11), Katie Smith ('18)

Jerry West - Kareem Abdul-Jabbar ('95), Bob McAdoo ('00), Magic Johnson ('02), James Worthy ('03), Pat Riley ('08), Jamaal Wilkes ('12), Shaquille O'Neal ('16), Vlade Divac ('19), Del Harris ('22), Pau Gasol ('23), Michael Cooper ('24)

T-Birds pick up Meireles on AHL contract

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Thunderbirds announced today that they have signed forward Greg Meireles to a one-year AHL contract.

Meireles, 25, skated in 47 games last season with the Iowa Wild, tallying four goals and ten assists for 14 points to go along with 12 penalty minutes.

In 161 career AHL games with Syracuse, Manitoba, and Iowa, the Ottawa,

Ont. native has accumulated 60 points (18g, 42a) and 55 penalty minutes.

The 5-foot-11, 195-pound forward was originally a sixth-round selection of the Florida Panthers (168th overall) in the 2019 NHL Draft. Before turning pro, Meireles spent parts of five seasons in the Ontario Hockey League with the Kitchener Rangers, where he put up 239 points (99g, 140a) in 244 games.

PACERS from page 7

regular season matches. He scored all three goals in the first meeting versus Monson.

“Griffen has always had a knack for scoring goals, which is something you can't teach” Destapado added. “He's also a very hard worker and he wouldn't be a successful player without the help of his teammates.”

Wrisley, who netted four of the goals in the season opening victory, scored four more goals in a 9-1 road win against SCIS, last Thursday afternoon. He scored another goal two days later in a non-league contest at Granby which the Pacers won by the final score of 4-1.

Another young Chicopee player is freshman goalie Zachariah Yarovoy, who only had to make a couple of saves in recording his first career varsity shutout against Monson.

“Zachariah is another special kid and he's going to have a bright future,” Destapado said. “His work ethic is unreal for someone his age. He's one of the few players that I didn't coach at the youth level. He's very mature for his age.”

The only three seniors listed on the Pacers varsity roster are Darek Janik, Jason Brown, and Arthur Alekseyenko. Brown and junior Tiago Destapado are the Pacers co-captains.

The Mustangs are also a very young squad. They don't have any seniors listed on their roster.

Jared Pignone, who has been an assistant varsity coach since the beginning of last season, replaced Peter Beaupre as

the varsity coach after the second game of the regular season.

“We're a very young team this year with no seniors,” Pignone said. “Chicopee is an outstanding soccer team and they're also two Divisions higher than us. Our main goal in tonight's game was to pack it in defensively.”

Monson sophomore goalie Kyle Beaudry was credited with 15 saves.

The members of the Mustangs starting defensive unit are freshman Anthony Tulloch, sophomore Lucas Pignone, sophomore Caleb Becker, and junior Shane Szado.

The Pacers had three corner kicks before Wrisley fired a low shot into the back of the net during the ninth minute of the opening half. Junior Jason Gregoire was credited with the assist.

A little more than ten minutes later, junior Chris Guerra-Ramirez sent a short pass to Wrisley who scored his second goal of the match.

Following a Monson corner kick, a shot attempt from junior Austin Meacham was deflected over the endline resulting in another corner kick.

The only other shot attempt in the game for the Mustangs was taken by Tulloch.

Wrisley completed his hat-trick by scoring an unassisted goal during the 56th minute.

Monson tied Holyoke, 1-1, last Friday.

The second meeting of the regular season between Chicopee and Monson is scheduled to take place in Monson on Oct. 8.

CPL announces upcoming programming

CHICOPEE - Here are some of our upcoming library programs.

Tuesday, Oct. 1 at 2 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 and/or Zoom Text) software as well as how to access all the features on your personal devices. This class is taught by Chicopee resident Robert Baran, M.Ed.

Thursday, Oct. 3 at 6:30 p.m. Join us for our monthly Writer's Group.

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 sets the direction of future meetings. Stacie Klinowski, a local writing teacher, will help lead the group. This group is for adults.

Tuesday, Oct. 8 at 6:30 p.m. Poetry and the Spoken Word

Join us for Poetry and the Spoken Word at 7pm in our Community Room. Registration to share your own poetry or readings starts at 6:30 p.m. The program begins at 7 p.m.

The featured guest reader for October will be Roxanne Bogart. Roxanne is a local wildlife biologist and poet. She will read from her full-length book of poetry, *All That Sustains*, published in 2022 by Off the Common Press, as well as more recent poems. Roxanne's poetry pulls from nature. Time in nature offers sustenance as does nature poetry. Come listen to poetry inspired by the beautiful landscapes of the Pioneer Valley, Vermont, Maine, and locations farther afield. Visit Roxannebogart.com to learn more about her work. Teens and adults are welcome.

This program is hosted by local poet Don Fisher. This program is supported in part by a grant from the Chicopee Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

Thursday, Oct. 10 at 1 p.m.

Art for Everyone

Join us in the Conference Room for all ages crafting with artist and teacher Dr. Amber Scoon. All ages and levels are welcome! Materials will be provided. Art class consists of simple and fun exercises designed to help you explore mark making, color and hand eye coordination. Amber is an artist, teacher, philosopher and mother. She has been teaching art classes for twenty years in the USA and Italy.

Thursday, Oct. 17 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.

Monday, Oct. 21 at 6:30 p.m.

Paranormal Investigations

Join us for an evening with paranormal investigator, author and historian Don DeCristofaro. Don has been a paranormal investigator for more than 20 years. He and the group he founded, the Greater Boston Paranormal Associates, have been featured on *Kindred Spirits*, *Most Terrifying Places*, *Ghost Hunters* and *ESPN's College Game Day*. They've photographed the nation's first female serial killer in Charleston, SC, conversed with the entities who inhabit the infamous *Conjuring House* in Harrisville, RI and spent the night infamous *Conjuring House* in Harrisville, RI and spent the night at the *Villisca Axe Murder* and *Sallie Houses*. The GBPA are the exclusive paranormal partners of *USS Salem* in Quincy, MA, which many consider to be the most actively haunted location in New England, and hosts of *Greater Boston Paranormal TV* which is carried by many cable access systems across Eastern Massachusetts. Don and his partner, Sondra Morgan are the hosts of the *Observations from the Road Less Traveled* podcast and his book, *The World Through Evil Eyes*, will be available before the end of 2024. No registration is required.

Tuesday, Oct. 22 at 6 p.m.

Planning for Medicare

Planning for Medicare is a presentation and discussion led by a Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts representative. It's geared towards individuals approaching Medicare Eligibility. Topics covered include health insurance information outside of employer sponsored coverage, such as an explanation of Medicare, the Medicare enrollment timeline, Medigap and Medicare Advantage plans and programs available to early retirees, and COBRA. This is a great presentation for seniors in the community who are looking at their retirement options. Please register with the Reference Desk at 413-594-1800x3 or cpl@chicopeepubliclibrary.org.

For people wishing to work on genealogy, 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.

If you need technology help, we offer one-on-one computer help on Mondays and Fridays at 2 p.m. or by appointment. We also have two special technology support sessions with Tech Hub on Oct. 18 from 1 to 3 p.m. and Oct. 28 from 3 to 5 p.m. These are free to attend and you can bring any technology question you have.

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

Szetela Preschool Six-Week STEM program

CHICOPEE – The Holyoke-Chicopee Family & Community Program is spreading the word about a new program starting soon.

Join us for an exciting and interactive day of STEM activities designed to ignite curiosity, creativity and critical thinking in children 2.9 to 5 and their families.

Explore, experiment and discover

the wonders of science, technology, engineering and math through hands-on experiences!

Call Shane at 413-310-1632 to learn more.

Location: Szetela Early Childhood School, 66 Macek Drive, Chicopee

Time: 4 to 5 p.m.

Dates: Sept. 19 through Oct. 24

Children must attend with an adult.



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Gyro Express celebrates grand opening in Chicopee with ribbon-cutting

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Editor
krivers@turley.com

CHICOPEE - Gyro Express, a family-owned Greek restaurant, celebrated its recent grand opening in Chicopee with a ribbon-cutting on Sept. 17.

The takeout restaurant, located on Chicopee Street, offers a spread of delicacies including salads, falafels, kebobs, pizzas, wings, sandwiches, baklava, a la carte meals from grilled cheese and spinach pie to chicken gyro and homemade Greek dressing, fish 'n chips and shrimp baskets and combos for sandwich and salad specials and more, with everything made fresh every day.

During the ribbon-cutting, attendees also enjoyed free samples of grape leaves, meat lovers' pizza, kalamata olives and feta with cherry tomatoes and lamb gyro and breaded chicken gyro, both containing homemade tzatziki sauce.

Their hours are closed on Mondays and open Tuesdays through Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. and open Sundays from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

During the ribbon-cutting, Mayor John Vieau also presented a citation from the Massachusetts State Senate on behalf of the local delegates, reading it in full to owners Nicoleta Muche and Jaime Muche Sr.

"It says, 'Be it known that the Massachusetts Senate hereby extends its congratulations to Gyro Express in recognition of the joyous occasion of your ribbon cutting and grand opening as you begin to serve delicious food to the people of Chicopee and the Hampden district,'" Vieau read, "And, therefore, let it



From the left, Angela Araiza, Jamie Muche Sr., Jennifer Muche, Nicoleta Muche, Mayor John Vieau and Frances Almodouar pose for a group photo inside Gyro Express.

TURLEY PHOTO BY KRISTIN RIVERS

be known that the Massachusetts Senate sends its best wishes for continued success..."

Vieau also extended his best wishes for many years of success and prosperity to the Muches, praising them for their extensive menu.

"It's wonderful to see someone taking over this space and bringing people down to Willimansett and I'm excited for your new endeavor," Vieau said. "I think people are going to be very excited."

Nicoleta Muche expressed her thanks for the support.

"Thank you very much for all this

and I thank you for the support of the people and the community. They are wonderful and we try to do the best we can," she said.

Muche then cut the ribbon.

As attendees mingled and enjoyed the samples, Jaime Muche Sr. and Jennifer Muche, the family's daughter-in-law, reflected on the ceremony.

"It was wonderful. I was glad that the mayor came and then the officers, they came, they showed up and brought their crews. Very good, very happy that it worked out fine," Jamie Muche Sr. said.

"I think it was incredibly welcoming

for most of the city officers and great to have the mayor here and everybody else. It was really wonderful for the family to experience. We're new to Chicopee--for the restaurant--and it was fantastic to see everybody," Jennifer Muche said.

Jennifer Muche also clarified that Gyro Express is not affiliated with The Greek Place, the Greek restaurant that closed its doors at the Holyoke Mall in November 2023.

"Gyro Express is a totally new venue. While you will see familiar faces--as both my in-laws did work there--it's not the same brand, it's not the same restaurant. They're opening their own, venturing out on their own," she said.

"It's owned by me and my wife only," Jamie Muche Sr. added.

Jennifer Muche expressed her gratitude to the community for their support.

"The city's been great from the time of when I found the space available to getting the permits and working with all the different city offices to make the dream a reality," she said. "They really ensured that we had a seamless transition."

She along with her father-in-law also encourages everyone to stop by.

"We have people across the street that come over here. People are very nice, but then there's people nice everywhere," he said.

"We've been really welcoming and we look forward to meeting the residents of the town. We are excited to be here and we hope they are excited to have us here," she said.

To learn more, visit the Gyro Express Facebook page or call 413-331-0508.

VALLEY BIKE from page 1

have bike shares, including in the Boston area.

Vieau emphasized informing people that the bikes are available and they provide another form of transportation.

"Come, take the opportunity. It gets you from A to B and it gets you back too," Vieau said.

Jeff Goodmark, regional operations manager for Drop Mobility and director at ValleyBike, shared how Drop Mobility believes that micro-mobility "can offer that same kind of freedom" that you get from driving a car.

"Micro-mobility has a lot to offer. In order for it to be successful, you not only need the big cities, but also need small cities--blue-collar cities as the mayor mentioned--to be part of this whole organization that makes this work as a system for a large geographic area," Goodmark said. "I'm really excited to have ValleyBike back here in Chicopee."

State Sen. Jake Oliveira (D-Ludlow) said he used the first iteration of bikes while campaigning in 2022 and they were a convenient way to get around in South Hadley and Granby, expressing excitement for their return.



A shot of the new e-bike model that will be coming to ValleyBike soon. The new model launched in Springfield and will come to other member communities soon.

Oliveira also stressed the importance of wearing a helmet for bike safety and the benefits of the pedal assist for older adults.

"I want to thank this company, I want to thank ValleyBike and I want to thank the mayor of Chicopee for always understanding that we need different modes of transportation. Also, green modes of transportation and having an electric bike like this helps out," Oliveira said.

State Rep. Shirley Arriaga (D-Chicopee) was also excited about the return of ValleyBike,

agreeing with Oliveira's points and stressing the importance of health, recognizing the privilege of being able to get on a bike.

"I think we take those simple things for granted, right? It could be a pulmonary issue or a heart issue or whatever it may be, but sometimes we just forget how blessed and how fortunate we are," Arriaga said. "And having these bikes here is not only an opportunity to stay healthy, give folks an opportunity to travel--maybe get groceries or just to go to work, right?--it's

essential. We are all blessed and fortunate so let's never forget how blessed we truly are. So, I'm happy, really, that I'm here and able to do this."

Before the ribbon was cut, Vieau also thanked the City Council for their support and for helping him understand the importance of the program.

"It takes seed money to get this program up and running and without the support of the City Council, I wouldn't have been able to do this project," Vieau said.

Goodmark explained with the program now relaunched, one main aspect that dropped this year is to upgrade all of the docking infrastructure of the bikes themselves "so we have a more robust, more modern version of the ValleyBike that we're going to be able to use."

Goodmark shared the new e-bikes are on the way to Chicopee and other communities soon.

"The idea is that in a year or so--or by, let's say, spring 2026--all of the bikes will be that model," Goodmark said. "How we're getting to that is today we're launching the first of the bikes in the city of Springfield. They have volunteered--for lack of a better term--to be the city where we do the transition first,

but, ultimately, the transition will go city to city and system-wide and so, eventually, we'll all be using the same vehicles."

To rent the bikes--whether the old or new models--Goodmark said they are controlled through the ValleyBike app.

"So, basically, go to the app store, download the app, create an account and then you have access to all the vehicles," Goodmark said. "And then you just scan them with your phone and then it keeps track of your time in the app and then when you're done, you redock your bike and then your trip is over and you pay for a small lock key and by the minute of how long you used the bikes for."

Goodmark encourages the community to take advantage of the program and check out the bikes.

"ValleyBike is back and, hopefully, here to stay and we have a lot of plans for--like I said--what the future of the system is. It's only going to get better. The more people download our app and get into our system, the more data we have to put bikes where people want them," Goodmark said. "We just hope for the best and hope that it really has an impact on the community."



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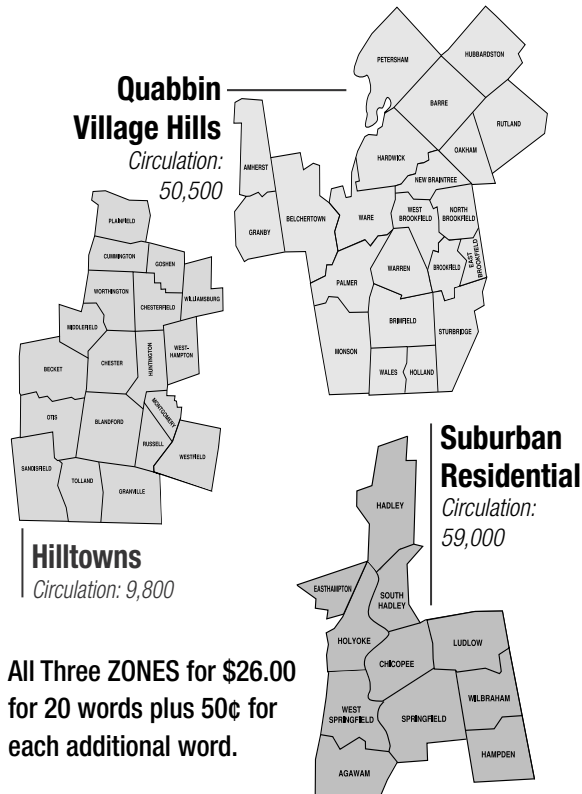
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Docket No. HD24P1955EA
Estate of:

Joseph D Donnelly
Date of Death: 10/09/2016
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

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

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

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 10/11/2024**. 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: September 13, 2024
Rosemary A Saccomani, Register of Probate
09/20/2024

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

Docket No. HD23P1458EA
Estate of:

Mildred Annette Gould
Date of Death: 04/27/2023
CITATION ON PETITION FOR ORDER OF COMPLETE SETTLEMENT

A Petition for Order of Complete Settlement has been filed by **Barbara Prive of Chicopee, MA** requesting that the court enter a formal Decree of Complete Settlement including the allowance of a final account, a determination of testacy and heirs at law, a determination of heirs at law and other such relief as may be requested in the Petition.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 10/15/2024**.

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.

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

Date: September 09, 2024
Rosemary A. Saccomani, Register of Probate
09/20/2024

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 20, 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.

1997 Jeep Grand Cherokee
VIN: 1J4GZ58S9VC631806
Joely Marie Brinduiar Rodriguez
101 Lowell St. Apt 920
Springfield, MA 01107

1998 Honda Civic
VIN: 2HGJEJ6670WH545454
Migdalia Rivera
63 Woodmont St.

Springfield, MA 01104
2003 Nissan Pathfinder
VIN: JN8DR09Y53W825733
Andrew Soltren
5 Algonquin Place
Springfield, MA 01104

2005 Dodge Neon
VIN: 1B3ES56C35D265866
Sandra Trudeau
276 Lime Kiln Rd GT
Great Barrington, MA 01230

2005 Honda Pilot
VIN: 5FN9YF18685B036883
Francisco Maradiaga
916 Old Spanish TRL 21
Waveland, MS 39576

2006 BMW 325Xi
VIN: WBAVD13506KT80104
Travis Blauth
400 Main St. Apt 3F
Southbridge, MA 01550

2006 Chevrolet Equinox
VIN: 2CNLD73F366199526
Amanda Boucher
28 B St.
Dracut, MA 018262006

Volkswagen Jetta Gli
VIN: 3VWTTJ71K86M691025
Carla F. Esparza
1921 Scoville Ave
Berwyn, IL 60402

2007 Honda Civic
VIN: 1HGFA16887L002518
Bruce Torrey
138 N Main St.
East Longmeadow, MA 01028

2008 Hyundai Santa Fe
VIN: 5NMSG73DX8H200200
Kaubar Dobbins
2D Hampshire HTS
Northampton, MA 01060

2009 Chevrolet Malibu
VIN: 1G1ZJ57B094197114
Erica Santana
1431 Palm St.
Reading, PA 19604

2009 Ford Escape
VIN: 1FMCU03G29KA95118
Hamilton Da Silva
8 Carleton St, Apt 4
Worcester, MA 01603

2009 Mazda Mazda6
VIN: 1YVHP81A195M07520
James Thornton
32 Greene St.

Springfield, MA 01109
2009 Nissan Sentra
VIN: 3N1AB61E69L641684
Frank Adamo
19 Dutchess CT.
Vincentown, NJ 08088

2010 Lincoln MKS
VIN: 1LNHL9DR7AG611199
Willie Coley
3082 Clairpoint Way
Columbus, OH 43227

2010 Mazda Mazda3i
VIN: JM1BL1SG8A1150532
Latoya Marshall
47 Governor St.
Springfield, MA 01104

2011 Chevrolet Hhr
VIN: 3GNBABFW1BS592928
Andrew M. Martinez
4360 Gibraltar St.
Sacramento, CA 95834

2011 Honda Accord
VIN: 1HGCP2F76BA094439
Pedro Vincente Zyra
Agualsaca
9 Purchase St. Apt 2
Milford, MA 01757

2012 Ford Taurus
VIN: 1FAHP2EW9CG131954
Cary Shealey
101 Mulberry St. Apt 317
Springfield, MA 01105

2013 Subaru Impreza
VIN: JF1GPAC6XD2894394
Mark Robie
365 Main St.
Worcester, MA 01606

2006 Nissan Altima
VIN: 1N4AL11D56N405565
Cheryl Allen
166 Athens St.
Boston, MA 02127
09/06, 09/13, 09/20/2024

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 27, 2024**, at Interstate Towing, Inc the following Motor Vehicles will be sold at private sale to satisfy our garage keeper's lien

thereon for storage, towing charges, care and expenses of notices and sale of said vehicles.

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VIN: 4T1BE32K14U273047
Joyce Vanzandt
3 Cornell Ave.
Albany, NY 12203

2015 Chrysler 200 Limited
VIN: 1C3CCCAB3FN659812
Michael Zabowski
59 Bell St.
Chicopee, MA 01020

09/13, 09/20, 09/27/2024

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. HD24C0289CA
In the matter of:
Kimberly Rodriguez Ramos
CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME

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

Kimberly Ann Pirog
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 10/09/2024**.

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: September 11, 2024
Rosemary A Saccomani, Register of Probate
09/20/2024

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PART-TIME SNOW PLOW DRIVERS NEEDED for the Town of New Braintree for the 2024-2025 season. Positions available for both CDL and non-CDL license. If you are interested, please contact Highway Superintendent Richard Ayer at **(508) 867-2451** or email hwy-secretary@newbraintree.org.

The Town of Oakham is seeking a qualified, experienced candidate to fill the **part-time position of TOWN CLERK**. The Town Clerk is the chief election officer for the town and the clerk of Town Meetings. For a full job description visit www.oakham-ma.gov/clerks-office. Salary negotiable based on experience.



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The Town of Worthington is soliciting letters of interest from qualified candidates to fill two full-time **Equipment Operator/General Laborer** positions in the Town Highway Department. Valid MA CDL operator, Hydraulic Hoister's licenses and OSHA-10 certification is preferred.

Further information can be found on the Town's website: www.worthington-ma.us Questions will be answered by the Highway Superintendent at 64 Huntington Road, Monday - Friday, 7 AM to 3 PM; the telephone number is 413-238-5830.

Send letter of interest, resume and three (3) references with relevant contact information to: worthingtonhighway@gmail.com or to Worthington Highway Department, P. O. Box 643, Worthington, MA. This posting will remain pertinent until the position is filled.

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Local committee raises money to support airforce base

By Emily-Rose Pappas
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SOUTH HADLEY – The Westover Galaxy Council has been holding annual golf tournament fundraisers for the past four years at Ledges Golf Course.

“We were discussing different fundraisers, and we have golfers on our board, so we decided to do a golfing fundraiser,” Donna Charette, a member of Galaxy Council said.

Donna Charette has a nephew who served in the Marines, and has been a part of the committee for ten years, using her time to come up with ways to support the airforce base.

The name of the council represents the C-5 Galaxy planes that are found on the airforce base, and the committee works to provide and create fundraisers in order to support the men and women on the base and their families.

Because so many members on the committee enjoyed competing in golf tournaments, they decided to host one of their own, and Ledges came forward to host the event.

“It’s good to be able to give back and help people see what we can help them with,” retired army veteran Norman Dufresne said.

The committee is focused on helping and being there for the base and its residents, helping them in whatever ways they need help.

The committee is formed of civilians who care for the military, and strive to give whatever they can to the



From left to right: Bob Longerin, Andrea Anderson, Tim Pelletier, and Missy Candiano enjoying their time golfing.

base, and celebrated their thirty-fifth anniversary as an organization in 2023.

Al Chwalek, who has been a member of the committee for thirty years, joined in on the tournament, and shared his love for the military, and desire to help.

“Being part of the team that organizes the event is my favorite part,” Chwalek said. “All the money we raise goes to the men and women on Westover Airforce Base and their families.”

“Our thanks to the 120 folks who

come to play in our tournament, and all the volunteers,” Chwalek said, excited about what the committee has been able to accomplish.

“My favorite part is helping the military,” Charette said. “It makes you feel good to see and support the military who do so much for us.”

The tournament, which featured raffles and prizes, a hot dog and chips for lunch, and eighteen holes of golf with beautiful scenery and mountains in the distance.



Donna Charette and Norman Dufresne at their Westover Galaxy Community Council table, ready to welcome golfers as they passed.

In total, there were thirty groups of four that signed up for the day, and the event actually sold out, with all 120 people coming for the day.

Mayor John Vieau of Chicopee also came to play the eighteen holes of golf, saying, “We’re happy to support Galaxy.”

The council has another event coming up on October 19, a car show at the Westover Metropolitan Airport from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. with raffles, food trucks, and music.

Send Us Your Community Dazzler Events

Turley Publications will print your holiday calendar events **FREE OF CHARGE** in our **Dazzler Supplement** which will be published November 13, 2024.
Total circulation of 85,000 which reaches over 200,000 readers in the Pioneer Valley.
Event Should Be Non-Profit & Open to the Public

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Event Name _____

Date/Time _____

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Deadline for Calendar submissions is October 14.

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CPD take part in End of Summer BBQ with Sunshine Village



PHOTOS COURTESY OF CHICOPEE POLICE DEPARTMENT

CHICOPEE – Members of the police department were invited to take part in Sunshine Village’s End of Summer BBQ on Sept. 13, having a fun time with their friends at the organization.

